

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
School Committee

OF THE
TOWN OF CANTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1877.

BOSTON:
WILLIAM BENSE, PRINTER, 35 CONGRESS STREET,
1877.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Committee

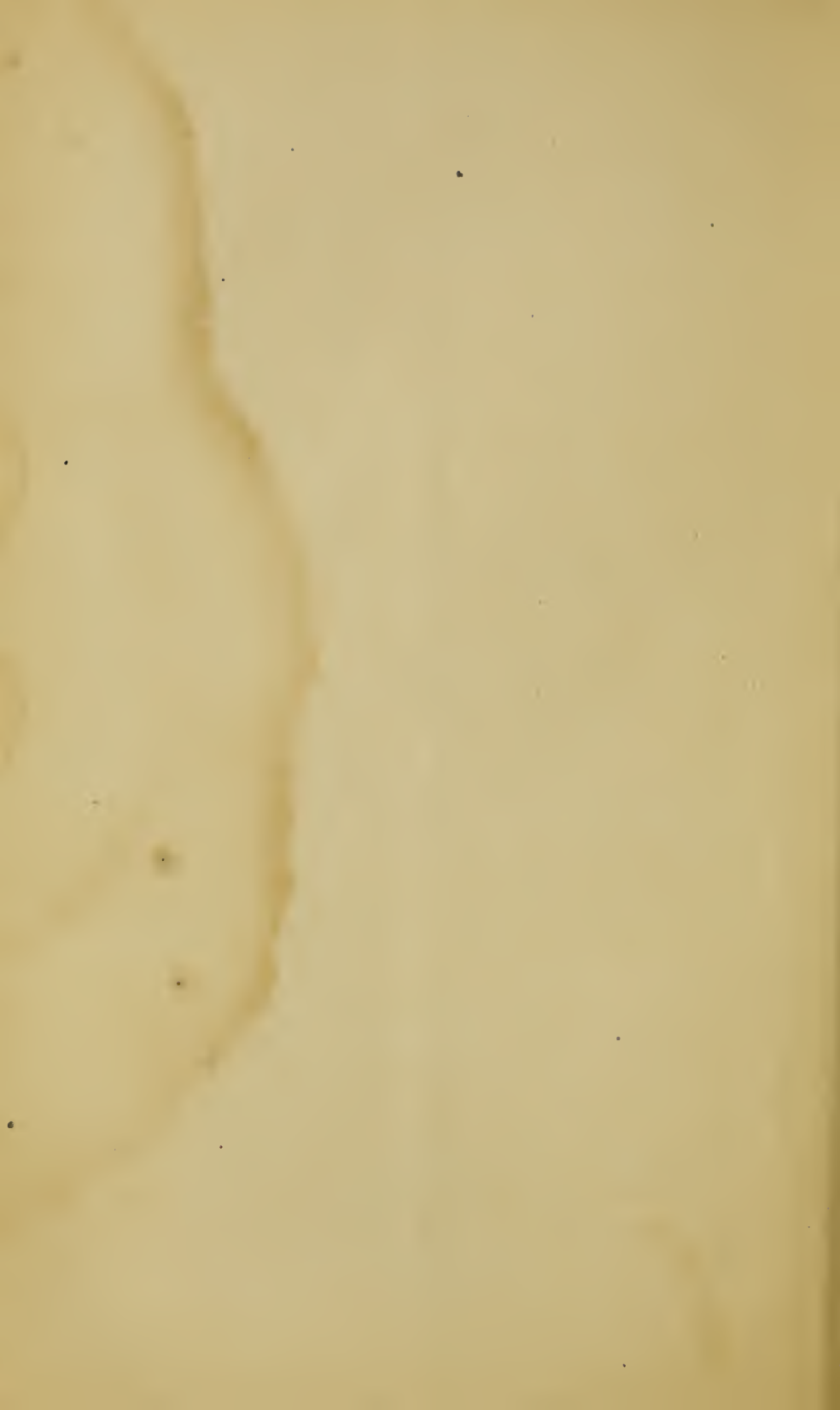
OF THE

TOWN OF CANTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1877.



BOSTON:
WILLIAM BENSE, PRINTER, 35 CONGRESS STREET,
1877.



R E P O R T.

ORGANIZATION.

At an early meeting, the Committee organized as follows :

GEO. FRED'K. SUMNER, *Chairman*.

ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, *Secretary*.

GEO. FRED'K. SUMNER, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, and J. W. WATTLES, *Committee on Text Books*.

Sub Committees :

District, No. 1, J. W. WATTLES,

“ “ 2, ISAAC HORTON,

“ “ 3, EDWIN WENTWORTH,

“ “ 4, JESSE FENNO,

“ “ 5, GEO. E. DOWNES,

“ “ 6, THOS. LONERGAN,

“ “ 7, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK,

High School, GEO. FRED'K. SUMNER.

Superintendent of Schools, FREDERIC ENDICOTT.

Agent for sale of School Books, D. C. F. ELLIS.

Truant Officers, J. E. EARLE, LUCIUS EDSON, and R. C. WOOD.

FINANCIAL.

The amount appropriated by the Town for teaching, fuel and care of School-rooms, was - - - - - \$11.000 00

Received from State, (School Fund,) - - 242 64

“ “ County, (Dog Licenses,) - 612 82

Total, \$11.855 46

Amount paid for teaching, - - \$10.202 95

Fuel and care of School-rooms, \$1.369 51 11.572 46

Unexpended, - - - - - 283 00

| | |
|---|------------|
| The amount appropriated for repairs, incidentals, and supplies, was - - - - - | \$1.975 00 |
| Amount paid out for same, - - - - - | 1.931 03 |
| | <hr/> |
| Unexpended, - - - - - | 43 97 |
| The amount appropriated for Evening School, was | \$400 00 |
| Amount paid out for same, - - - - - | 257 81 |
| | <hr/> |
| Unexpended, - - - - - | 142 19 |
| Received from Young People's Union, and paid over to Town Treasurer, for rent High School Hall, - - - - - | 35 00 |

ESTIMATES FOR 1877.

For a basis we take from the estimate of 1876 :

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For Principal of High School, - - - - - | \$1.200 00 |
| “ Assistant, “ “ - - - - - | 600 00 |
| “ 3 Grammar Masters, - - - - - | 2.400 00 |
| “ Music Teacher, - - - - - | 600 00 |
| “ 14 Teachers of Mixed, Intermediate, and Primary Schools, - - - - - | 5.670 00 |
| “ Fuel and care of School-rooms, - - - | 1.200 00 |
| “ Unpaid bills, - - - - - | 150 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$11.820 00 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Estimating that the School Fund and Dog Li- censes, will pay, - - - - - | 820 00 |
| Leaves a balance to be appropriated by the Town for teaching, Fuel and care of School-rooms, <hr/> | \$11.000 00 |

If the Town sees fit to reduce the appropriation from last year, the voters ought to carefully consider what the effect may be. For we cannot reduce the number of schools, consequently cannot reduce the number of Teachers. Then the question resolves itself into two points, of length of Schools or reduced salaries. We do not suppose that parents or friends of education desire that the children of our town,

shall be abridged in their school privileges, so finally, we come to the remaining point, do we pay the teachers too much? — which is to be decided by two modes of consideration. First, do we pay more than we can afford to, judging of our ability to pay, as we would in any other outlay of money, or shall we decide by comparison with surrounding towns? We pay less than average for male teachers, and just average for female teachers in Norfolk County. In our final action, recommending a reduction of five hundred dollars from last year, for support of School, we did so, thinking it might possibly meet with ready acceptance, as minimum sums appeal readily to a person disbursing the money. But whether this loose suggestion of reduction shall meet with favor from the Tax Payers, the wisdom of the voters will be made manifest whether it be the same amount as last year, or the reduction as suggested. As to the amount for repairs, incidentals and supplies, we were in hopes a less sum than last year's would answer, but in looking over the payments of last year, which were not of unusual amount, we think the same amount for this year is necessary, which was \$1.975.

EVENING SCHOOLS,

Have been established and maintained in Districts No. 3 and 6 for persons over fourteen years of age and not attending the Day Schools. The result of which can be found in the Superintendent's report. If the Town thinks an appropriation for this year of sufficient importance to continue the Evening Schools, they can so determine without an annual recommendation of the School Committee.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

In estimating the necessary amount of money for the support of Schools, that part for Teachers' Salaries constitutes the larger or principal one. The long depressed condition of business and unremunerative or reduced income, whether from business investments or employment will necessarily cause Tax Payers to well consider all appropriations in a

thoughtful manner. But this question of education or the improvement of the intellectual faculties has become so self-evident and so well understood and appreciated that little, if anything needs be said, or your attention called thereto, only so much as relates to raising the necessary or proper amount to run the schools on such basis as will not impair the efficiency of them, but give best results, paying long and well-tried teachers, of whom we have many, fair and reasonable salaries, without the probable losing of such to the regret of constituency and Committee. Your attention has once been called to the subject of salaries of Teachers in Norfolk County, of which we occupy a central location, showing that we hardly pay an average price, at best not more than an average; eighteen towns paying more for male teachers, and for female teachers, eleven pay more and eleven pay less. Some of the Committee thought it would be pleasant if a reduction could be made in view of the existing condition of the times, both for incidentals and for support of schools; but at a subsequent meeting, after considering more deliberately in detail the usual outlay, we think it would be unsafe to name a less sum for Incidentals than for 1876. We do not think that a cent has been wasted, consequently anticipate the wants of the future from the past, and recommend the same as last year. So it was for support of the Schools. At a meeting \$1,000 reduction was suggested, but at our last meeting it was thought to be a too radical change, and it was voted to recommend a reduction of \$500, and even whether any change is best, can be best decided by the wisdom of the tax payers at their annual meeting, as to the value of the Public Schools, and their management.

VOCAL MUSIC.

The introduction and teaching of Vocal Music in our Schools has been attended with happy results thus far. We think that parents of scholars in our schools to-day, must appreciate its elevating and refining influence in their homes, and feel well compensated for this additional outlay of their money. It is successfully taught, and reasonable progress has been made.

HIGH SCHOOL.

We are able to say of this school, that it has won for itself an excellent reputation for thoroughness and usefulness, and its special management has our entire confidence. In this place we might add that, as a general rule, the working force through all the schools is in such excellent condition as not to cause envy in comparison with schools outside.

There were admitted into the High School :

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| From No. 1, Grammar School, | 4 |
| “ “ 2, Mixed, “ | 4 |
| “ “ 3, Grammar, “ | 4 |
| “ “ 4, Mixed, “ | 1 |
| “ “ 6, Grammar, “ | 2 |

15

The graduating exercises of the High School took place, and diplomas were presented as follows :

Sarah Amanda Horton, Agnes Monroe Little, William Henry McKendry, Jennie Frances Ellis, John Henry Griffen, Sarah Elizabeth Ferry, Henry Billings Hewett, Helen Maria Sumner.

MONTHLY EXAMINATIONS,

were adopted about three years ago, in the Grammar and Mixed Schools, and as yet have been confined to the first classes. The result of this method, should act as an incentive to emulation, as it makes here if not previously, a reputation by comparison of each scholar, and furthermore gives to the parents of such scholars, and all other persons interested monthly information of their progress or fitness and prospective qualifications for entering the High School.

ATTENDANCE.

There seems to be year after year, a steady improvement in attendance, showing the growing interest of parents for the future welfare of their children, thereby ensuring a happier condition than they would realize by misusing or neglecting the

privileges that our schools offer. We call your especial attention to the many names below, of those who, for their constant attendance are a standing endorsement of the value of our schools.

ROLL OF HONOR.

The figures at the right indicate the number of times tardy.

Names of those not absent during the year.

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ella G. Richards. | Ellen Reardon | Emma F. Pitcher. |
| A. Liscomb Hewett. | Rose A. Chapman. | Gertrude Capen. |
| Geo. H. Capen. | Alice W. Ames. | Daniel P. Smith. |
| Arthur B. Kollock. | Julia A. Crane. | Martha E. Grey,—1 |
| Daniel Chisel. | William B. Kollock. | Geo. H. Jenkins. |
| Lucius W. Conant. | Mildred M. Dunbar. | John D. Sawyer—13 |
| J. Oliver Morrow. | Frank W. Dunbar. | Ida R. Billings. |
| J. Henry Morrow,—1 | Annie Block. | Annie S. Mackintosh. |
| Margaret Kailher. | Clara Hunt. | Alice M. Horton. |
| Helen M. Marshall. | Amy A. Downes. | Sarah A. Chapman, |
| Ellen M. Cronon. | Daniel Sullivan,—1 | Georgie E. Downes, |
| Honora Cronon,—1 | John Herron,—3 | Annie E. Capper, |
| Patrick J. Cronon,—1 | Thomas Herron,—4 | William A. Capper, |
| Percy M. Leavitt. | Thomas Galligan,—2 | James Lynch,—1 |
| John W. Thomas. | Mary L. Galligan,—1 | Frank Lynch, |
| Henry Thomas, | Margaret E. Galligan. | Herbert A. Billings,—1 |
| Mary E. Thomas,—1 | Jeremiah Buckley. | William H. Creeden,—1 |
| Thomas Mackedon | Mary A. Buckley. | Bridget Cunningham, |

Names of those not absent during two terms.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Angenette Wiswall | Herbert Tucker, | Albert Stokes, |
| Alice M. Hunt, | I. Chester Horton, | A. Hermon Gill, |
| Winthrop Packard,—1 | Marion A. Bowman, | J. D. Dunbar,—2 |
| John J. McCabe, | Ernest T. Capen, | John Carey, |
| Amy G. Smith,—2 | Catherine Chisel,—1 | Mary Block, |
| John M. McDonough,—2 | Sarah E. Fisher, | Ella E. Briggs, |
| Rosa Roarke,—1 | Frederick A. Howard,, | Avery S. Briggs,—1 |
| Michael Roarke,—4 | Jessie M. Cram,—2 | Albert Meadows,—1 |
| Dennis J. Murphy,—1 | John G. Estey,—10 | Helen M. Tucker, |
| Alice S. Smith,—1 | Herbert L. Fenno,—3 | Abby J. Davcnport,—3 |
| John Kailher, | Edward H. Savary,—1 | Mary G. Snow, |
| Ada M. Cave, | James Lyons,—1 | Charlotte M. Endicott, |
| Ellen Clarke,—2 | H. Franklin Williamson,—1 | Helen E. Endicott, |
| Genevieve Farrington, | Michael J. Grealish,—1 | Annie E. Buckley, |
| George Bresslyn, | Catherine Flynn, | George Thomas,—2 |

Eliza J. Flaherty,
 Michael Doody,
 John B. Leddy,—1
 John W. Coombs,
 Catherine Kelleher,
 John A. Fisher,
 Ellen Drislane,
 Blake A. Pitcher,
 Joseph Capper,
 Grace O'Neill,
 Cornelius G. Kaliher,
 Ella F. Billings,

Julia Burke,
 Mary E. Richards,
 Ida L. Richards,
 William H. Chadbourn,
 Annie Galligan,
 George E. Howard,—2
 Herbert A. Morse,
 Julia M. Leary,
 Mary E. Mackedon,
 Thomas Lynch,
 William Gray,
 Thomas Henneberry,

John M. Kaliher,
 Martin J. Kaliher,
 Lucie H. Foster,
 Hannah Murphy,
 Elizabeth Flynn,—1
 Letitia McCabe,
 Harry H. Saunders,
 James Lloyd,
 Timothy Leary,—1
 Annie M. Leary,
 Florence Buckley,
 Sarah McKenna,—1

Names of those not absent during one term.

John C. Gerald,
 Millie E. Wentworth,
 *William H. McKendry,
 Sarah E. Ferry,
 Ella M. Harrington,—2
 D. Viola Harrington,—4
 Georga A. Harrington,
 Sidney P. Smith,
 Rebecca E. Wentworth,
 Mary McCarty,
 Ira C. Marden,
 James B. Noyes,
 Adeline T. Ward,—2
 James E. Meehan,
 Amos H. Estey,—3
 Henry W. Estey,—14
 Lester A. Johnson,
 Annie Clinton,—5
 Robert Bird,
 J. Alvin Williams,
 William Partridge,—1
 Nancy T. Draper,—3
 Susan Herron,
 Amy A. Cave,—2
 Mary C. Hewett,—2
 Eliza E. Perkins,—1
 Gertrude Cobb
 John H. McGuire,—3
 Mary O. Wentworth,—4
 Sarah L. Coombs,
 Mary J. Grealish,
 Thomas Grealish,—2
 Margaret E. O'Neill,
 Johanna Shea,
 Ellen Coughlan,
 George H. Beasley,
 Isabella Grines
 Daniel Leary,

Ida J. Capen,
 Florence A. Cobb,
 Sarah A. Horton,
 Jennie F. Ellis,
 Mary E. Connor,
 Walter H. Preble,
 Dennis Riordan,
 James McGuire,—1
 Cora M. Oliver,
 Thomas Tapper,
 Carrie J. Hesketh,
 Harriet E. Oliver,
 Catherine A. Linehan—8
 Honora T. Murphy,—1
 Minnie F. Smith,
 May E. Long,
 Lawrence Horton,
 Roger Davenport,
 Jane A. Hewett,
 May A. Sumner,
 Edmund J. B. Huntoon,
 Ella L. Bright,
 Irene Mason Everett,—1
 Lewis M. Williamson,
 Mary Clark,—1
 Mabel F. Linfield,
 Edward Welch,
 Thomas H. Dunn,—3
 Louisa Quill
 Alfred E. Billings,—1
 Annie H. Simms,
 James Thomas,—1
 Henry D. Deane,
 Edith Richards,
 Robert E. Lloyd,
 James Galligan,
 Catherine A. Cohan,
 Edmund H. Holmes,

Mary A. Seavey,
 Homer C. Bowman,
 John H. Griffen,
 W. Benjamin Nutting,
 Fred. R. Foss,
 Arthur L. Foss,
 James Chisel,
 Robert Kerrigan,—1
 Thomas H. Ward,—3
 Catherine A. Murphy,
 David W. Finigan,—3
 William H. Hodges,—2
 Elizabeth Roarke,
 Francis P. Reardon,
 Abby A. Withington,—1
 Martha A. Clay,
 Ella L. Hunt,
 Minnie A. Hunt,
 Agnes M. Bright,
 Margaret A. Marshall,—1
 Mary Sullivan,—2
 Sarah K. Savary,
 Annie Clarkie,—1
 John Roach,—3
 Nellie F. Saunders,
 Lillian M. Harding,—1
 William E. McPherson,
 James E. McPherson,
 Ellen M. Kaliher,
 Mabel E. Farrington,
 Christopher Mackedon,—1
 Mary J. Quill,
 Edward E. Champney,
 Mary L. Dempsey,
 John F. Kelleher,—1
 Ernest W. Deane,—2
 Arthur A. Tucker,
 G. Albert Billings,

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Herbert T. Seavey, | Catherine Goldin, | Gertrude Galligan, |
| Ellen F. Bride, | Sarah A. Galligan, | Sarah Early,—1 |
| Ellen Danahy, | Cornelius Haley, | Timothy Doody, |
| Elizabeth Grimes, | Franklin W. Morse, | John Conway, |
| Catherine Sweeney, | Margaret E. Ryan, | Margaret Murphy, |
| Carric E. Morse, | Mark Shields,—1 | Michael Quill, |
| Edward F. Clasby,—1 | Patrick Shields, | William Crowley, |

*Neither absent nor tardy during four years in the High School.

CENSUS OF CHILDREN.

As required by Statute, we find there were on the first of May, nine hundred and forty-four, between the ages of five and fifteen.

In conclusion, we will call your attention to the Superintendent's Report for general information with which he has been personally intimate.

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| GEO. FRED'K SUMNER, | } <i>School Committee.</i> |
| J. W. WATTLES, | |
| ISAAC HORTON, | |
| EDWIN WENTWORTH, | |
| JESSE FENNO, | |
| GEO. E. DOWNES, | |
| THOMAS LONERGAN, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK. | |

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Gentlemen of the School Committee:

I have the honor to submit the following report:—
The names of the teachers who have been employed continuously during the year are as follows :

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| High School, | Mr. CLARENCE H. BERRY, |
| Dist. No. 1, Grammar, | Mr. GEO. W. CAPEN, |
| “ “ “ Primary, | Miss CHARLOTTE TUCKER, |
| “ “ “ 3, Assistant, | Miss ELLA M. HILL, |
| “ “ “ Intermediate, | Miss ALICE H. LOWRY, |
| “ “ “ “ | Miss LUCIE A. HALL, |
| “ “ “ Primary, | Miss ELDORA A. DRAKE, |
| “ “ “ “ | Miss EMMA P. BENSE, |
| “ “ “ “ | Miss CARRIE L. SHATTUCK, |
| “ “ “ “ | Miss M. ELLA DEANE, |
| “ “ “ 5, Mixed, | Miss MARY J. HOLMES, |
| “ “ “ 6, Grammar, | Mr. JEREMIAH E. EARLE, |
| “ “ “ Primary, | Miss E. FLORENCE FAUNCE, |
| “ “ “ 7, Intermediate, | Mrs. ABBY J. SNOW, |
| “ “ “ Primary, | Miss MARY SCOLLARD. |

Miss Annie E. Chase, assistant in the High School, resigned during the summer vacation to take a place as assistant in the High School in Chelsea, and was succeeded by Miss Mary L. Prescott, who had once before occupied the same position. In District, No. 2, Miss Ellen McKendry resigned in August, and Miss Helen G. Kinsley, a graduate of the High School of the class of 1875, was selected to take

her place. In the Grammar School in District No. 3, Mr. Arthur B. Morong, the principal, resigned in August, and Mr. Bradford W. Drake, of Stoughton, a graduate of the Bridgewater State Normal School, was elected to fill the vacancy. In January he resigned, and Mr. Herbert L. Morse, also, a graduate of the Normal School became his successor. In District, No. 4, Miss S. Jennie Dean who had taught the school successfully for several years, resigned on account of ill health, early in the spring term, and her place was temporarily filled by Miss Nellie E. Kempley, who was succeeded in May by Miss Eliza A. Sumner.

The monthly written examinations of the first class in the grammar schools have been continued throughout the year. The results have been satisfactory except in District, No. 3, That school receiving the advanced pupils from the whole of Districts 3 and 7 only sent four pupils into the High School although the two districts contain 60 per cent. of the whole number of scholars in town. The greatest failure is in arithmetic, although the per cent in grammar is also low. The number of scholars in the school cannot be the cause of this poor scholarship as the whole number of scholars is less than 80 for two teachers. Probably the trouble is partly owing to the fact that most of the teachers have been those who took up teaching as a temporary means of getting a living while preparing for some other business. In school teaching, as in other things, a man cannot serve two masters but must direct his whole energy to his school in order to be successful. And he must not only be energetic, but his strength must be properly applied. He must be constantly looking for the cause of the pupil's failures. In the study of arithmetic a teacher must require as many of the scholars as can conveniently do so, to perform examples upon the blackboard where he can see their methods of work and tell whether they are in the habit of depending upon themselves or of leaning upon the smartest pupil in the class. A little observation will determine this, and a little ingenuity and perseverance will furnish the remedy. A good teacher must be

something more than a machine going through the questions and examples in the book. He must thoroughly master the subject which he teaches, present it in as many forms as possible, and find all the possible chances for mistakes, for if he does not find them, the scholars will.

The attendance in the schools has been slightly better than last year. By reference to the Report of the School Committee, and comparison with reports of the three previous years, it will be seen that the number of names on the "Roll of Honor" since it was first published in the School Report, is as follows :

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| 1874, | Three Terms, | 10; | Two Terms, | 30; | One Term, | 94 |
| 1875, | " | " | 20; | " | " | 64; |
| | " | " | 38; | " | " | 66; |
| | " | " | 54; | " | " | 81; |
| | | | | | | 128 |
| | | | | | | 133 |
| | | | | | | 135 |

By the above it will be seen that there has been a steady increase in each part. The number of tardinesses on the list is 171 this year, and was last year, 221. The average attendance in all the schools as compared with the whole number attending school was last year $81\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and is this year, 83 per cent. The High School shows a slight falling off caused by sickness and the Centennial Exhibition.

The closing public Examinations took place during the last part of February. In some districts hardly any of the parents and friends of the scholars were present, but in others the attendance was better than last year. Mr. H. J. Whittemore the special teacher in music was present at several of the examinations and conducted the exercises in that branch.

The High School has maintained its reputation for thoroughness and good deportment throughout the year, and I think the town has reason to be proud of it. The number of applicants who successfully passed the examination for admission last July, was fifteen. Of this number twelve entered the school, and have continued to the present time; one entered the High School of another town, one returned to the Grammar School, and one left school. The first class

has not lost a single member since entering, nearly four years ago.

The feasibility of the experimental study of chemistry has attracted considerable attention during the year. Originally it was proposed that the pupils should begin at once with qualitative analysis, but inquiries being addressed to several prominent teachers of chemistry, it was found that it would not be either successful or wholly safe. Experiments will not always succeed even at the hands of a person who has had considerable practice, and when attempted by a pupil of only ordinary aptness would be likely to fail, or perhaps, be positively dangerous. The study was therefore commenced with the understanding that experiments were to be conducted only under the personal supervision of the teacher. In December the text-book on that subject was changed as the old book was not up to the present state of the science.

As it may perhaps be supposed that the method now pursued is wholly new, I will say that Mr. Wilkins, when master of the school, conducted the study experimentally, but not having much apparatus to work with, was not able to carry it as far as will be possible with a small appropriation for the purpose. I think the experiment is worthy of further trial. The greatest difficulty in my opinion is that it requires an undue proportion of the teacher's time. One of the requirements of the course of study in the High School has, I think, been neglected this year, and that is the weekly exercise in English Grammar. An acquaintance with this is almost as useful in life as a knowledge of French and Latin Grammar.

The evening schools have not been so well attended as last year. Schools were established in Districts 3 and 6. The average attendance in the former was 37 and in the latter 18. If those under age in District No. 6, had been excluded, this number would be considerably smaller. As I remarked last year, there ought to be some method by which those who wish to go regularly and study should have an opportunity to do so, and those who only go two or three nights in each year, should be excluded. One reason why the attendance

has been smaller than last year is, that factories have been partially closed, and those who would ordinarily attend have been pupils in the day schools.

The supply of printed copies of the Rules and Regulations of the School Committee is exhausted and some of the teachers are without them. I would recommend that a new edition, containing all the regulations now in force be published, and perhaps it would be well to first examine them and see if any alterations are needed.

One word is necessary in regard to school registers. Too much care cannot be exercised in keeping the record and in making out the attendance and filling the blanks at the end of each term. Occasionally I find that the teachers are a little careless in this respect, although this is not often the case. Some teachers I think merely look through the school to see who is absent, instead of calling the roll, or entrust the keeping of the register to one of the pupils. The time saved by this is not of sufficient value to make up for the liability to make mistakes.

The subject of ventilation was mentioned last year as one that required attention. It is impossible to ventilate properly most of our School-houses, and in this respect Canton does not stand alone. In the winter time it is necessary to be constantly heating air from outside instead of continually circulating the same unwholesome air, or taking the supply from a close damp cellar.

Constant attention, also, needs to be paid to the position of the pupils while studying, especially to see that they do not keep the book too near the eyes, or at an improper angle instead of directly before the eyes. In the course of my visits I see many cases where near-sightedness has already commenced but still has not gone so far but that it can be remedied.

I think that too many pupils from the other Districts have been transferred to the Grammar School, in District 1. While it may be well that advanced pupils should have an opportunity to attend where there is a male teacher we have

gone rather too far, admitting those who were not sufficiently advanced and over-crowding the school.

Some of the schools very much need a supply of water, being obliged to borrow that needful article from the wells of the neighboring houses, or to carry it a great distance.

Though it will undoubtedly receive attention from the town, I feel that the subject of building a fence between the School Yard, in Dist. 3 and the Forge Pond, requires notice here. The teachers in that district have used every endeavor to protect their pupils, but it is not in the range of human possibility that four or five hundred children should play year after year upon the borders of an unfenced pond without some of them going into it in the Summer or upon the ice in Winter. The situation was always the most undesirable one for a School-house in every respect. A north-west wind pours the forge smoke into the house in volumes, the noise of the rolling mill, trip-hammers, and bevel-gears renders it almost impossible to hear recitations in Summer, and the cellar is always damp. But while it is used for school purposes it should be made as safe and convenient as possible. The recent sad accident by which two brothers lost their lives, again calls attention to the danger, and the town will be blameworthy if every precaution is not taken to guard against any further accident.

In conclusion, I would say that the condition of the schools is satisfactory, and the teachers generally take pains to teach by precept, and example, not only the studies in the text-books, but also, good morals, and the various other requirements of the laws of the State.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC ENDICOTT,

Superintendent of Schools.

CANTON, *March 12, 1877.*

At a meeting of the School Committee of Canton, held Monday, March 12, 1877, the foregoing reports were adopted as the Annual Report of the School Committee.

Attest, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, *Secretary.*

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS.

| SUB COMMITTEES. | Districts. | Grade of Schools. | No. in School 1st Term. | Average Attendance. | Per cent. of Attendance | No. in School 2d Term. | Average Attendance. | Per cent. of Attendance | No. in School 3d Term. | Average Attendance. | Per cent. of Attendance | Over 15 Years. | Under 5 Years. | Length of School in months. | Amount expended for teaching, during the year. | Amount paid for Fuel and care of Rooms. | Amount paid for repairs and incidentals. | Printing, Advertising, and Supplies. |
|---|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| J. W. WATLES. ISAAC HORTON. | 1 2 | Gram. | 36 | 32 | .90 | 47 | 42 | .90 | 50 | 46 | .92 | 7 | 1 | 10 | \$800 00 | \$125 36 | \$200 75 | \$734 41 |
| | | Prim. | 55 | 43 | .78 | 47 | 40 | .85 | 38 | 31 | .86 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 450 00 | 34 15 | 7 35 | |
| EDWIN WENTWORTH. | 3 | Mixed. | 42 | 31 | .74 | 31 | 26 | .79 | 33 | 26 | .79 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 394 20 | 34 15 | | \$734 41 |
| | | Gram. | 56 | 42 | .76 | 77 | 65 | .85 | 77 | 66 | .85 | 10 | 93 | 500 00 | | | | |
| JESSE PENNO. GEORGE E. DOWNES. THOMAS LONERGAN. | 4 | 1st. Int. | 40 | 32 | .80 | 40 | 33 | .82 | 46 | 38 | .83 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 500 00 | 511 51 | 403 36 | \$734 41 |
| | | 2d. Int. | 48 | 33 | .69 | 41 | 36 | .88 | 43 | 39 | .91 | 10 | 10 | 445 50 | | | | |
| A. C. KOLLOCK. | 5 | 1st. P. | 42 | 35 | .75 | 48 | 40 | .83 | 46 | 40 | .87 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 360 00 | | | \$734 41 |
| | | 2d. P. | 39 | 35 | .90 | 41 | 37 | .90 | 40 | 37 | .92 | 10 | 10 | 360 00 | | | | |
| GEORGE F. SUMNER. | 6 | 3d. P. | 72 | 54 | .75 | 62 | 51 | .87 | 60 | 49 | .82 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 320 00 | | | \$734 41 |
| | | 4th. P. | 73 | 58 | .80 | 64 | 54 | .84 | 57 | 48 | .84 | 10 | 10 | 280 00 | | | | |
| GEORGE F. SUMNER. | 7 | Mixed. | 29 | 21 | .72 | 29 | 22 | .76 | 29 | 24 | .83 | 4 | 5 | 101 | 455 25 | 81 80 | 32 18 | \$734 41 |
| | | Prim. | 52 | 38 | .73 | 43 | 32 | .75 | 38 | 33 | .72 | 10 | 10 | 318 40 | 59 53 | 33 02 | | |
| GEORGE F. SUMNER. | 7 | Prim. | 43 | 31 | .72 | 43 | 36 | .83 | 43 | 31 | .73 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 800 00 | 196 70 | 92 53 | \$734 41 |
| | | Int. | 69 | 54 | .78 | 63 | 51 | .81 | 53 | 41 | .77 | 10 | 10 | 450 50 | | | | |
| GEORGE F. SUMNER. | 7 | Prim. | 41 | 31 | .76 | 37 | 30 | .82 | 38 | 32 | .85 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 450 50 | 138 13 | 104 33 | \$734 41 |
| | | High. | 56 | 45 | .80 | 55 | 46 | .84 | 51 | 44 | .86 | 10 | 10 | 380 00 | 222 33 | 350 63 | | |
| GEORGE F. SUMNER. | 7 | Music. | 34 | 32 | .95 | 36 | 35 | .97 | 35 | 34 | .97 | 20 | 9 | 10 | 1200 00 | | | \$734 41 |
| | | Music. | 827 | 647 | .78 | 804 | 679 | .84 | 775 | 633 | .85 | 47 | 9 | 170 | \$10,202 95 | \$1,369 51 | \$1,233 15 | |

Whole number of children May 1, 1876, between the ages of 5 and 15, 944.



