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S I X T H

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1858

L Y N N:

W. W. KELLOGG, PRINTER, OVER THE DEPOT
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R E P O R T.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS,

FARM SCHOOL.

Laura A. Roberts, Teacher.

Salary, \$150.

School Divisions and Studies:-
Five classes in reading, four in arithmetic, and two in geography.

Whole number of scholars in the district between 5 and 15, 37; attending school, 24. Average attendance, 22. Present teacher in charge of school, one term. Number present at the examination, 23.

The examination of this school occurred, Wednesday, A. M., Feb. 17th, and was very creditable. We were sorry to lose the services of Miss Bartlett, but were glad to have a former teacher put in charge, as she had been somewhat acquainted with the ground and its disabilities.

All the classes appeared well in the limited studies of the school. The committee unanimously are of opinion, that in order to meet the increasing wants of the "Farm district," a new and more convenient school room should be immediately provided. The fact that there are several families in the same house, where the school is now kept, is sufficient reason for its removal, and a yet more significant fact that there is not sufficient room provided

for those, who are entitled to a school privilege in that part of the town, by the present arrangement. We ask respectfully the attention of our fellow citizens to this subject. (We are glad to know that this matter is, already, in the hands of a competent committee.)

BEACH SCHOOL.

A. B. Galucia, Teacher.
Salary, \$225.

School Division and Studies.-Six classes in reading, three in mental arithmetic, three in geography, outline map exercises and singing.

Whole number of scholars during spring and summer terms, 47 and 56; fall and winter, 58 and 58. Average attendance during spring and summer, 39 and 44; fall and winter, $46 \frac{2}{3}$ and $47 \frac{3}{4}$. Whole number at the opening of current year, 42; at its close, 58. Whole number under 5 years of age, 1. Average age, 8. Foreign pupils, 13. Number of scholars who completed the term with 5 days' absence and less, spring, 20; summer, 28; fall, 18; winter, 28. Present teacher in charge of school, 2 years, and 6 months. Present at examination, 45.

The examination of this school occurred on Wednesday, P. M., Feb. 17. This school still retains its miscellaneous character, and situated as it is must for sometime to come. The committee have often wished that the school-building was placed a little farther from the great thorough-fare that the beach road already has become, and in some more retired spot both for the sake of the families immediately about the house, and for the sake of the teacher and children; and we indulge the hope, that at some future time, this will come to pass.

The great want of this school is very evidently a spirit of emulation among the scholars to excel - to make progress in those studies, that already engage the attention of about one-half of the school. The physical exertion here is more specially requisite in the discipline of the school than in our other schools,

from the fact that it is of such a mixed character; the present teacher has suffered in health somewhat from an overtaxing of her strength.

Few persons are aware what a heavy draft is made upon one's health and strength by the labors of a school teacher when constant and faithful.

FIRST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Clara B. Ingalls, Teacher.
Salary, \$200.

School Divisions and Studies.- Six classes in reading, two in arithmetic. (Towers' First Lessons in Numbers, has taken the place of Colburn's).

Whole number of scholars during the spring term, 58; summer, 69; fall, 67; winter, 67. Average attendance during spring term, 44; summer, 54 1/4; winter, 54. Whole number of scholars at the commencement of the current year, 55; at its close,

67. Whole number under 5 years of age, 3. Average age, 6. Foreign pupils, 1. Number of months the school was in session, 11 months, 5 days. Number of scholars completed the terms with 5 days' absence and less, spring, 9; summer, 17; fall, 17; winter, 21. Present teacher in charge of the school, 1 year. Number present at the examination, 55.

Examination, Feb. 27, A. M.

This is the town nursery, and if we could put in dolls and wooden horses, and all sorts of toys, the resemblance would be more marked than now. There has been a large attendance in this room for the entire year, and when there is such a crowd of little ones, it seems almost impossible to make any impression upon any one of them; but it is always true, that in such a group there are here and there one or more, that you can reach, and make some mark upon the forming mind; indeed as to that, when the teacher jaded and disheartened at the close of day says, "well, I have accomplished nothing today," and "my scholars might have been as well in the street," - altogether mistakes both her own powers and her influence over the budding and flowering minds - how beautifully and silently the dew distils itself upon the springing grass, - the new formed and opening bud - and how the colorings of the rose are brought out by that mystic power. But none the less so, are young minds and hearts affected by the distilling influence of a good teacher, - in this consists, after all, more of the education than that which is concealed in books.

This Primary has been crowded at different times during the past year. It was relieved by transferring the first class to the Intermediate room, and yet it was more than full.

The committee were pleased with the general exercises of the school- we refer to the novel feature of singing in little groups here and there, and in some simple recitations, interspersing and relieving the more formal part of the examinations. Any exercise is allowable in an infant school like this, that will occupy and interest the "little ones," who cannot yet understand the importance and nature of school books.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Jane M. Martin, Teacher.
Salary, \$200.

School Divisions and Studies.-
Four classes in reading, two in geography, four in arithmetic, map exercises and singing.

Whole number of scholars during spring and summer terms, 57 and 49; fall and winter, 57 and 57. Average attendance during spring and summer terms, $46 \frac{1}{20}$ and $38 \frac{1}{9}$; fall and winter, $45 \frac{4}{5}$ and $51 \frac{1}{6}$. Whole number of scholars at the commencement of the current year, 49, at its close, 57. Average age of pupils, $9 \frac{1}{2}$. Number of pupils completing each term with 5 days' absence or less, spring, 27; summer, 23; fall, 23; winter, 33. Number present on examination day, 52.

Examined February 27, P. M. This school is nothing more than a Primary of a little higher average age than usual in such a grade. The first class was advanced at the commencement of the Fall Term, and thus its right arm of power was crippled. And then the change of teachers, somewhat retarded its progress, as it always must. Yet the several classes have made progress, evidently endeavoring to make up in diligence what had been lost in power.

The great struggle in a school of that age is to resist

the temptation to whispering and motion. We wish to commend all those scholars who have been successful in overcoming such a strong temptation- we know it has been a great effort to them, and a severe tax upon the patience of teacher and pupils, but success in a good degree has crowned the effort.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

W. H. Merritt, Teacher.

Salary, \$800.

Louisa C. Martin, Assistant

Teacher. Salary, \$225.

Five classes in reading, four in grammar, six in geography, seven in arithmetic, one in algebra, one in philosophy, one in Geometry, one in English composition.

Whole number of different scholars during the year, 125. Whole number during the spring term, 89; summer, 63; fall, 81; winter, 111. Average daily attendance spring term, 65; summer, 48; fall, 61, winter, 94. Per centage of attendance, spring term, 73; summer, 76; fall, 75; winter, 85. Number of scholars over 15

years of age, 31. Average age of scholars, 13 years, 9 months. Number of scholars present at the annual examination, 85. Number of parents and friends present, some 200. Had charge of the school, 1 year, 5 months,

Examined, February 28, A. M. and P. M. This well appointed room and school, with their teachers presented on the morning of the day of examination a most lively aspect—every seat filled, and the vacant spaces about the room occupied by parents and citizens. The morning hours passed off most agreeably, and with speaking evidence of the value of a good school-room and competent teachers. In the afternoon, (from its crowded condition) the school room and the school were not in so desirable and comfortable state, so that the examination did not and could not proceed with that precision and order, so desirable on such an occasion. The recitations, excellent in themselves, were not so readily heard as in the morning. If we could have had a room of double the capacity of the present one, it would doubtless have been filled. The committee were highly gratified with this demonstration of respect and interest thus manifested in the community, in the Principal school.

We could have spent the entire day in the examination of the 30 classes that appeared before us, with great satisfaction, and believe that these classes would have sustained admirably a more ex-

tended review as well as they did the brief one given.

The committee recommend that, another year, two days instead of one be devoted to the annual examination, as better justice can be done to the scholar in a less hurried manner than in the usual method.

We have been especially gratified to see so large a number of the young men and older lads of the town, spending the winter months in the school-room-even though some of these labor under some disadvantages by reason of a limited education, still much may be done by them, if diligent, to make up lost time, and repair the breach made by former neglect. We hope and earnestly recommend that, the town will, in its wisdom, make such arrangements, that another winter all of our older boys and youth of both sexes, will find ample accommodations in a school-room set apart for their special use. We should be abundantly compensated for a special effort in this direc-

tion by the increase of intelligence and respectability in our village. As to the past winter, the committee felt as though they were meeting the wishes of the people while providing so far as they were able, for the wants of those, who desired the advantages of the school-room - hence the appointment of an assistant in the Grammar School.

Some of the hopes that have been indulged by your committee, from time to time, are at length realized in the large and constant attendance of the pupils who, by age and advancement, belong to the grammar school-room.

We had some of the best illustrations of grammar teaching and recitation, in the several classes that appeared before us, that we ever witnessed, - it is one of the most important of all studies, and yet grossly neglected. But, in the grammar classes before us, there was not only evidence of the most excellent instruction, but of a deep interest in the study by the scholars themselves. The class in descriptive geography was a model one.

The advanced class in Philosophy, Grammar, Algebra, and Geometry, was an ornament to the school, and would have done themselves credit in any "High School" in the commonwealth. This class should be encouraged, not only for the sake of those who enter it from time to time, but for the sake of its influence upon the lower classes. The effect of it will be to elevate the whole

school, and the standard of education in the town. (We were gratified to have the philosophical apparatus brought into requisition).

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS.

We have but a few words to add to the brief report of the several schools under our charge.

We have more than three hundred children in our several schools- as will be seen by reference to the statistical table. Our school-rooms have been actually more than filled during the past six months. Some way must be devised by which these several rooms may be relieved. If we begin with the Primary, where there have been sometimes sixty-eight or sixty-nine scholars, and draw off some twenty of these, and with the Intermediates, and draw off some fifteen or twenty more, we shall at once be relieved; and these schools that have been so over filled, and that have suffered from such excess, will at once have a breathing time, and may gather up some of their wasted

energies. As it has been, however, we have been obliged to transfer classes too soon from one room to the other (as has been the case the past year). Our population has so increased, and the number of school children, that the committee can devise no other way, as a permanent thing, than the formation of a new school. We have never so felt the necessity of the formation of another primary, or a school of a miscellaneous character in the "Depot District," as now. The way seems now to be open, to recommend to the town, and the committee of this next present school year, the formation of a school at or near the Depot, so that all the children in that part of the town may be better accommodated, and that the school rooms in the grammar school-house may be less crowded than now.

The morality of the school-room is an important subject for consideration, and the committee most earnestly call the attention of teachers and parents, and citizens to this subject. Vulgar language and profanity are too fearfully prevalent among school-children to pass unnoticed; rudeness, disrespect to elders and superiors, ought also to be rebuked by teachers, whenever observed- but, particularly, vulgarity and profanity.

Children and youth should be taught good manners as well as good morals.

Merchants, trades people, citizens, and strangers- whatever their employment, should receive from

the children and youth of the community proper respect. These things are among the small items perhaps, but these make up some of the most important elements in a good and complete education. If children pass through childhood - schoolhood- without that kind of training needful to secure on their part respect for age and acquirements, it rarely is obtained afterwards.

CONCLUSION.

We have called your attention to a mere outline of the results of another school year. We all (whether teachers, parents, or citizens) have been more or less interested in such results; every home, mind and heart have been affected by such a year's activity.

A slow and sure process is going on in our school-rooms by which the coming generation may be made wiser than the preceding generation. If, as a people, we avail ourselves of the opportunities

offered in an educational point of view, we shall ascend in the scale of morality and education- otherwise, we shall descend; periods in the history of the races illustrate this.

It is not the school room- nor the comfortable, cleanly, and tasteful appearances of these hundreds of our children, as found in them, but the fact that here are minds that are to be trained for usefulness, and that their mature life- their manhood, womanhood, must depend on these early beginnings, in a great degree,- that adds the most imposing features to these scenes. Were it not so, we might look upon these expenditures and efforts in reference to our children as useless, and as having a pleasing effect, for the time, but not permanent; and thus we never come to the ending of a school-year, and to the summing up of results as connected with our system of education, without instituting the enquiry- "Who is sufficient for these things?"

The more we think upon it- the more experience and observation we have in this one direction, the more solemn seems the responsibilities resting upon the guardians, instructors, and advisers of youth and children of the town.

We resign our charge of this great interest, grateful to the teachers for their faithfulness, and to our fellow citizens for their confidence and support, and with profounder gratitude to the God of our children, that he has not smitten one of the flock for the past year. May God's providence be

over us still, and may His arm defend our children.

TABULAR VIEW FROM MARCH 1, 1857,
to MARCH 1, 1858.

Schools.	Salary	Schol- ars.	Atten- dance.
1 Farm School,	\$150	24	22
1 Beach School,	225	58	47 3/4
1 Primary School,	200	69	54
1 Inter- mediate School,	218 75	57	51 1/6
1 Grammar,	856 25	125	94
5 Schools.	\$1,650 00	333-	268 11/12

By reference to the "Tabular View," for 1856-7, it will be observed that we have had connected with the several schools 46 more scholars this year than last year. This increase of scholars has made it necessary for the committee to appoint an assistant in the Grammar School. It costs the town about \$6.00 per child, (reckoning salaries, fuel, &c.,) for the education of her children.

S C H O O L B O O K S.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

- Reading,- Bible, Tower's 5th and 4th Books, Sequel and Gradual Readers, Swan's Speller, Northend's Dictation Exercises, Worcester's and Webster's Dictionaries.
- Mathematics.- Colburn's Mental, Tower's Mental, Greenleaf's Introduction and National Arithmetic, Sherwin's Elementary Algebra, Northend's Book Keeping.
- Geography,- Cornell's Intermediate Geography.
- Grammar,- Tower's.
- Philosophy,- Parker's.
- Writing,- Payson's and Dunton's System.
- Physiology and Anatomy,- Cutter's.
- History,- Willard's United States.
- Geometry,- Legendre's.

INTERMEDIATE.

Bible, Sequel to the Gradual Reader, Gradual Reader, Colburn's Lessons, Cornell's Intermediate and Cornell's Primary Geography.

Bible, Sequel to Gradual Reader, Tower's Pictorial Primer, Introduction to Gradual Reader, Gradual Primer, Tower's Lessons, Cornell's Intermediate and Cornell's Primary Geography.

REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Regulations common to all the Public Schools under the immediate superintendance of the School Committee.

Section 1. The school-room shall be opened fifteen minutes before the time appointed for beginning school.

Sect. 2. The school hours shall be, for the morning, from 9 o'clock to 12, throughout the year; and for the afternoon, from 2 to 5, from the first Monday in April to the first Monday in October; from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in April, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.

Sect. 3. Each instructor shall punctually observe the time appointed for opening and dismissing the schools, and shall make no occasional change from the regular hours, without consulting some member of the committee,

Sect. 4. The morning exercises of the school shall commence with the reading of the Bible; and it is recommended that the reading be followed with some devotional service.

Sect. 5. An excuse written, or otherwise authenticated, must be brought by each pupil, for absence, tardiness, or dismissal before the appointed hours for leaving school.

Sect. 6. Tardiness beyond five minutes shall be considered a violation of school hours, and shall subject the delinquent to such penalty as the nature of the case may require,

Sect. 7. There shall be a recess of ten minutes each half day, for every school; and for every primary school there may be an extra recess each half day.

Sect. 8. The instructor shall exercise a kind and parental discipline. If there is direct and violent opposition to the authority of the teacher, or continued disobedience in a pupil, or improper interference of parents, such as to render his example permanently injurious, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report such pupil to the committee, who alone shall have power to expel from privileges of

the school, and to re-admit, evidence being given of repentance and amendment.

Sec. 9. No pupil having been in attendance at one school shall be admitted into another, without previous consent of the committee.

Sect. 10. Each teacher is directed not to receive any children, as pupils, whose residence is out of town, and if any such are now in attendance, they are now to be dismissed. Neither is any child other than a pupil to be allowed temporarily in any school.

Sect. 11. In case of difficulty in the discharge of their official duties, or when they may desire any temporary indulgence, the instructors shall apply to the committee for advice and direction.

Sect. 12. No studies shall be pursued in any of the schools, nor any text books used or introduced, except those authorized by the committee.

Sect. 13. The statute in regard to the faithful keeping of the

school register is to be observed. And it is directed that this register be kept at the school-room, for the inspection of the committee.

Sect. 14. Whenever the necessary school-books are not furnished by the parents or guardian, on the written request of the teacher, it shall be his duty to send such pupil with a written order to the town librarian, specifying the name of the book required, the child's name, the parent's or guardian's name, and the name of the street in which he resides.

Sect. 15. The spring term shall commence on the first Monday in March, and continue twelve weeks. After two weeks' vacation, the summer term shall commence and continue ten weeks, and to be followed by three weeks' vacation. The fall and winter terms shall be of twelve weeks, and each followed by one week's vacation.

Sect. 16. The following holidays will be allowed, viz:- Wednesday and Saturday afternoons; days of Public Fast; the Fourth of July; Thanksgiving Day and the remainder of the week; and Christmas day; and those instructors who may wish to attend the Essex County Teachers' Convention, will be allowed, for this express purpose alone, the two days in spring, and the two in the autumn, on which said convention meets. And no change in the regular days of keeping school is to be made, without previous consultation with the committee of the school.

Sect. 17. No subscription or advertisement shall be introduced into any public school without the consent of the committee.

Sect. 18. Scholars shall not be promoted from the Primary to Intermediate - from the Intermediate to Grammar, till they shall be approved by the Committee.

Sect. 19. Scholars are not to be admitted to any public school without a certificate from some member of School Committee.

Sect. 20.. Any scholar who shall be guilty of defacing, or in any way injuring or damaging school houses or school furniture, or out houses or fences, shall be subject to such penalty as the School Committee shall ordain.

Sect. 21. Scholars are not to be admitted into the schools until five years of age.

Sect. 22. The above rules are to be strictly observed.

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE RIGHTS OF
THE CHILDREN OF NON-RESIDENT
PARENTS TO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

All children between the ages of five and fifteen years, shall be entitled to attend the public schools of the city or town in which they shall reside for the time being: provided, however, that if any child shall attend a public school in any city or town of this Commonwealth, other than that in which the parent or guardian of such child may reside, and shall have resided in such city or town for the sole purpose of attending such school, the consent of the school committee of such city or town shall first be obtained, and the parent or guardian of such child shall be liable to pay, to such city or town, for the tuition of such child, a sum, equal to the average expense, per scholar, for such school, for the period such child shall have so attended (May 8, 1857).

AN ACT RELATING TO COMMON SCHOOLS.

Sect. 1. Any city or town in this Commonwealth may establish and maintain, in addition to the schools now required by law to be maintained therein, schools for the education of persons over fifteen years of age; and may determine the term or terms of

time in each or any year, and the hours of the day or of the evening, during which said school shall be kept; and may also appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary for the support thereof.

Sect. 2. Whenever any such school or schools shall be established, the school committee of such city or town shall have the same superintendance over said school or schools, in all respects, that they now have over the schools of said city or town; and shall also determine what branches of learning may be taught therein.

Sect. 3. The one hundred and thirty-seventh chapter of the laws of eighteen hundred and forty-seven, entitled, "An Act relating to Common Schools," is hereby repealed.

Sect. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. (May 18, 1857).

TEACHERS APPOINTED.

Vacancies shall be filled as soon as may be, after the resignation of any teacher or teachers, but the annual re-election of all the teachers shall occur during the month of March, and their salaries fixed.

Annual examinations of the public schools shall take place in the month of February.

Respectfully submitted for the School Committee.

J. B. CLARK, Chairman.

J. B. CLARK,)
P. HOLDEN,) School Com.
W. PHILLIPS.)

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