

ANNUAL REPORTS



Of the Town Clerk, Treasurer,
Assessors, Overseers of the Poor,
Selectmen, School Committee
and Superintendent of Schools for
the Year ending February 1st,
1905.

TOWN OF
MIDDLEFIELD.

TOWN WARRANTS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HAMPSHIRE, SS.

To Daniel C. Bryan, Constable of the }
Town of Middlefield. } GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the town of Middlefield, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the town hall in said Middlefield, on Monday, the sixth day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator.

ART. 2. To choose under Chapter 386 of the Acts of 1890 and the amendments thereof, a town clerk, a town treasurer, three selectmen, two constables, a collector of taxes, an auditor, three fence viewers, and a tree warden for a term of one year; one school committee, and a trustee of the public library for a term of three years; also to vote on the same ballot "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question, "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

The polls will be opened at thirty minutes past ten o'clock a. m. and may be closed at thirty minutes past two o'clock p. m.

ART. 3. To hear the reports of the Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of Poor, and School Committee and act thereon.

ART. 4. To choose such town officers as are not required by law to be elected by ballot.

ART. 5. To determine the manner of repairing highways and bridges and pass any vote in relation to the same.

ART. 6. To raise and appropriate such a sum of money as may be necessary to defray town expenses for the current year.

ART. 7. To determine what disposition shall be made of the dog fund.

ART. 8. To determine the manner of collecting the taxes and fix the compensation for the collector of taxes.

ART. 9. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as proposed by the Selectmen.

ART. 10. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the post offices in said Middlefield seven days, at least, before the time for holding said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the town clerk at or before the time for holding said meeting.

Given under our hands at Middlefield, this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and five.

GEORGE W. COTTRELL, } Selectmen
HENRY S. PEASE, } of
THOMAS FLEMING, } Middlefield

Town Clerk's Report.

BIRTHS. (7)

- Jan. 22. Carl Henry Sternagle, son of Henry and Maud C. Sternagle.
- March 7. Olive Louise Graves, daughter of Willis B. and Clara L. Graves,
- April 28. Mary Hattie Tefts, daughter of Michael and Rosa Tefts.
- May 4. Michael Ozowic, son of Mickolai and Mary Ozowic.
- June 11. Grace Helen Cook, daughter of George E. and Helen M. Cook.
- Aug. 11. Maurice Stanley Pease, son of Elbert A. and Gertrude L. Pease,
- Aug. 29. Marion Sweeney, daughter of Richard D. and Lizzie Sweeney.

MARRIAGES (5).

- March 30. Seth C. Bartlett of Brookfield, Helen M. Cook of Sharon, Conn., in Middlefield, by Rev. Seelye Bryant.
- June 30. Willard C. Brooks of Chester, Julia A. Coughlin of Chester, in Middlefield, by Rev. Seelye Bryant.
- Oct. 18. Reuben Franklin McElwain of West Springfield, Jessie Bell McElwain of Middlefield, in Middlefield, by Rev. Seelye Bryant.
- Oct. 26. John Michael Barry of Middlefield, Margaret C. Crowley of Dalton, in Dalton, by Rev. Daniel F. Cronin.
- Oct. 29. Lyman Lewis Twining of Middlefield, Anna Mary Church of Middlefield, in Middlefield, by Rev. Seelye Bryant.

DEATHS (6)

Feb.	22.	Selina H. Ferris, 80 years.
March	14.	Wesley Herbert Green, 30 years.
May	15.	Bridget Kelley, 41 years.
May	28.	Lavinia Sweeney, 66 years.
Sept.	16.	Jacob Robbins, 86 years.
Sept.	25.	Celestin Beron, 48 years.

DOG LICENSES (41).

June	1.	23 males at \$2.00 each,	\$46 00
		2 females at \$5.00 each,	10 00
			<u>56 00</u>
		Deduct Clerk's fees, 25 dogs at 20 cents each,	5 00
June	13.	Paid County Treasurer,	\$51 00
Nov.	1.	15 males at \$2.00 each,	\$30 00
		1 female at \$5.00 each,	5 00
			<u>35 00</u>
		Deduct Clerk's fees, 16 dogs at 20 cents each,	3 20
Nov.	1.	Paid County Treasurer,	\$31 80
		Total paid County Treasurer,	82 80

METCALF J. SMITH, Town Clerk.

Middlefield, Feb. 1, 1905.

Treasurer's Report.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at close of financial year,	\$2,220 02
March 2. Received from town of Becket, for school at Bancroft,	329 02
March 9. Received from T. H. Fleming, rent of hall,	1 00
March 18. Received from state treasurer, rebate of hospital expenses,	34 57
June 10. Received from Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,	20 00
Aug. 12. Received from state treasurer, rebate for cattle inspector,	5 50
Aug. 12. Received from state treasurer, schooling state wards,	424 67
Nov. 2. Received interest Church cemetery fund,	24 01
Nov. 2. Received from Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,500 00
Dec. 2. Received from state treasurer, highway repairs,	2,758 15
Dec. 10. Received from state treasurer, corporation tax,	55 36
Dec. 10. Received from state treasurer, National bank tax,	5 34
Amount carried forward,	<u>\$7,377 64</u>

	Amount brought forward,	\$7,377 64
Jan. 5.	Received from town of Chester, rebate superintendent's salary,	215 60
Jan. 14.	Received from county treasurer, refunding of dog fund,	72 45
Jan. 28.	Received from state treasurer, Massachusetts school fund,	1,076 95
Feb. 1.	Received from T. H. Fleming, rent of hall,	4 00
Feb. 1.	Received from D. C. Bryan, taxes,	2,914 60
Feb. 1.	Received from Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co., interest,	8 71
		<u>\$11,669 95</u>

EXPENSES.

	Paid interest on notes at Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	\$80 83
Feb. 23.	Paid note at Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,000 00
Sept. 22.	Paid county tax,	401 02
Dec. 6.	Paid note at Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,500 00
Dec. 29.	Paid state tax with interest,	150 59
Feb. 1.	Paid on selectmen's orders,	4,801 60
Feb. 1.	Paid on school committee's orders	2,722 11
Feb. 1.	Balance in cash and bank,	1,013 80

\$11,669 95

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

	Cash balance,	\$1,013 80
	Due from Becket for Bancroft school, estimated,	300 00
		<u>\$1,313 80</u>

LIABILITIES.

Note at Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	\$1,500 00
Net indebtedness of the town,	\$186 20

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the treasurer for the year ending February 1, 1905, and find them correct.

S. E. SMITH,
Auditor.

Assessors' Report.

Value of assessed real estate,	\$142,340 00	
Value of assessed personal estate,	39,023 00	
		\$181,363 00
Total,		
Number of residents assessed on property,		73
Number of non-residents assessed on property,		60
Number of persons assessed for poll tax only,		41
Whole number of persons assessed,		174
Whole number of polls assessed,		98
Tax assessed on real estate,	\$2,135 17	
Tax assessed on personal estate,	585 43	
Tax assessed on 98 polls,	196 00	
		\$2,916 60
Total tax,		
Tax rate per thousand,		\$15 00
Number of horses assessed,		106
“ of cows assessed,		264
“ of sheep assessed,		326
“ of neat cattle other than cows assessed,		193
“ of swine assessed,		39
“ of dwellings assessed,		109
“ of acres of land assessed,		14,165
“ of fowls assessed,		500
Tax abated John Morrison estate,	\$2 85	
“ “ James Rogers estate,	45	
		\$3 30
Total,		

GEORGE W. COTTRELL, { Assessors
 HENRY S. PEASE, { of
 THOMAS H. FLEMING, { Middlefield

REPORT OF THE Overseers of the Poor.

Paid town of West Springfield for expenses
 of Blush family in small pox epidemic, \$700 00

GEORGE W. COTTRELL, } Overseers of
 HENRY S. PEASE, } the Poor
 THOMAS H. FLEMING, } of Middlefield.

Report of Selectmen.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Rev. Seelye Bryant, services as town clerk,	\$11 50
Asher Pease, services as treasurer,	15 00
George S. Bell, services as auditor,	1 00
Wesley J. Chipman, services as school committee,	11 50
Henry S. Pease, services as school committee,	7 50
George W. Cottrell, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	35 00
Henry S. Pease, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	18 75
Thomas H. Fleming, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	8 50
M. J. Smith, services as town clerk,	16 09
D. C. Bryan, collecting taxes,	40 00
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	\$164 84

HIGHWAY WORK.

Orders for the repairs of highways and bridges from Feb. 1, 1904, to Feb. 1, 1905, have been given as follows:

BREAKING ROADS, WINTER OF 1903-1904.

C. H. Ferris,	\$11 10
H. E. Pease,	3 30
J. Dolman,	2 92
W. B. Graves,	4 50
G. E. Cook,	7 00
Thomas Bryan,	13 95
S. R. Lang,	7 80
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Amount carried forward, \$50 57

Amount brought forward,	\$50 57
F. A. Osgood,	14 60
E. A. Pease,	7 95
N. Pelkey,	1 65
Walter A. Smith,	4 50
C. J. Churchill,	2 00
G. W. Cottrell,	6 00
H. S. Pease,	17 00
W. J. Chipman,	8 61
Michael Tefts,	10 00
A. D. Pease,	9 95
J. T. Bryan,	9 60
G. W. Bryan,	12 60
R. D. Sweeney,	1 05
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\$156 08

SUMMER WORK.

G. E. Cook,	\$138 51
E. A. Pease,	59 55
H. E. Pease,	13 00
W. A. Olds,	15 50
W. A. Smith,	95 60
C. J. Churchill,	5 55
G. W. Cottrell,	102 00
H. Stunagle,	45 75
G. E. Holmes,	24 18
E. H. Alderman,	16 11
Geo. T. Dyer,	10 65
H. S. Pease,	57 25
L. Twining,	2 50
George Bardin,	61 61
W. B. Graves,	50 00
W. J. Chipman,	7 95
T. H. Fleming,	3 00
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\$708 71

Special work on Bancroft and under appropriation from the State of	\$3,000 00
Paid Henry S. Norton,	\$2,764 70
T. H. Fleming, railing,	41 23
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	\$2,805 93

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Asher Pease, cash and postage,	\$3 97
Home Newspaper Publishing Co., printing,	26 74
Election officers,	7 60
H. E. Stanton, expenses to Boston,	6 30
H. S. Pease, expenses to Boston,	8 50
H. S. Pease, scraper blade and repairs to road machine,	9 75
H. S. Pease, painting hearse and transportation,	19 00
Rev. Seelye Bryant, making contract,	4 00
E. A. Pease, care of cemetery,	18 00
H. S. Pease, wood for town hall,	2 00
E. A. Pease, extra work at cemetery,	12 50
M. J. Smith, books for library,	65 00
H. S. Pease, inspecting animals,	9 50
J. T. Bryan, driving hearse,	4 50
Rev. Seelye Bryant, assistant town clerk, express and postage,	2 25
M. J. Smith, services as librarian,	15 00
M. J. Smith, oaths, cash and express,	3 02
G. W. Cottrell, oaths, express and postage,	5 23
D. C. Bryan, order of discount,	35 98
D. C. Bryan, order of abatement,	3 30
D. C. Bryan, posting warrants,	4 50
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\$266 04

RECAPITULATION.

Special work on Bancroft road,	\$2,805 93
Poor,	700 00
Highways and bridges,	864 79
Incidental expenses,	266 04
Town officers,	164 84
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	\$4,801 60

GEO. W. COTTRELL,)
 HENRY S. PEASE,) Selectmen
 THOMAS H. FLEMING,) of
 Middlefield.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, and find them correct.

S. E. SMITH,
 Auditor.

LIST OF JURORS PROPOSED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Edwin H. Aldermen,	Willis B. Graves,
George S. Bell,	Wesley A. Olds,
George E. Cook,	Elbert A. Pease,
Frank Chipman,	Arthur D. Pease,
	Clark B. Wright,

Annual Report OF THE School Committee.

The following report of the resources and expenditures for the year ending Feb. 1, 1905, is respectfully submitted.
For work accomplished and other information, your attention is called to the report of the superintendent.

RESOURCES.

Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1904,	\$1,110 92
Appropriated for schools,	800 00
Appropriated for supervision,	125 00
Received from state for supervision,	215 60
Received from state for tuition of state wards,	424 67
Received from state for school fund,	1,076 95
Due from state, rebate of high school tuition,	40 00
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	\$3,793 14

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' salaries,	\$1,790 00
Supervision,	257 58
High school tuition,	40 00
Town of Becket, tuition,	4 20
Books,	68 97
Regular school supplies,	31 80
Supplies for superintendent's office and teachers' records,	25 15
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Amount carried forward,	\$2,217 70

Amount brought forward,	\$2,217 70
Conveying children,	166 20
Repairs,	172 40
Fuel,	69 25
Care of school rooms,	38 50
Cleaning school rooms,	10 00
Taking school census,	3 50
Express and freight,	5 91
School furnishings,	35 15
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Total,	\$2,718 61
Balance unexpended,	1,074 53
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	\$3,793 14
W. J. CHIPMAN, } School Committee	
H. S. PEASE, } of	
P. A. FREEHAN, } Middlefield.	

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MIDDLEFIELD.
GENTLEMEN:

I herewith submit to you my second annual report of the schools of Middlefield.

The year past has been one marked by improvement along many lines. There has been manifest a spirit of harmony and cooperation among all connected with the schools which alone has been productive of the best results. I believe everyone has worked for the best interests of the schools. With the exception of the past few weeks no changes in teachers have been made, attendance has been exceptionally good, and the work has progressed steadily from month to month throughout the year.

Accurate and complete information regarding every school and every pupil in school has been collected, classified and arranged in the files of this office so that information regarding each detail is at once available. The result of this system is evident in the systematic progress of the work. While it does not seem advisable to maintain our schools for as long a period as the schools of many other towns, and while we cannot claim for our schools as high a standard of work as we desire, I believe we are, nevertheless, performing efficient service in the cause of education. Our resources from the State have been increased during the past year, enabling us to raise the salaries of our teachers, purchase needed material, and, in general, raise the standard.

I give here a statement just received from the State Board of Education.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

The towns of your district receive from the income of the State school fund a larger sum of money than they received

last year. Please urge your *school committees* and *other citizens* to secure from the towns a corresponding increase in their appropriations for school purposes. The state is just and very generous in its policy to aid the towns in supporting their schools. Let the people manifest their appreciation of the aid given, by securing the best possible results through improved school accommodations, teaching and supervising. Wages that will secure teachers of exceptional ability can now be paid.

G. T. FLETCHER,

Agent State Board of Education.

FEBRUARY 1, 1905.

BUILDINGS.

Last year I made certain recommendations for the improvement of our buildings. Many of these the committee have seen fit to carry out. The building at Bancroft was subjected to a renovating process, last spring. A new floor was laid in the upper room; new windows were put in; the room was painted and papered. The hallway to the lower room was ceiled up; new out closets were built; a new stove was purchased, and the place made more habitable throughout. As I pointed out, last year, the situation of this building is far from ideal, but the building itself is now much improved.

New closets were built at the Center school, and recently a new closet has been built at the North East schoolhouse. A new floor has been laid in this building, also. In the spring, the underpinning will need rebuilding, and the building should be painted inside and out. The doors in the hallway, and the floor need attention. With these repairs the building will be suitable for its purpose.

Our other housing accommodations are ample for the present. Should the Committee see fit, however, to unite the Pease and the Center schools, other arrangements would be needed. The improvement which this change would make is scarcely to be estimated. Each of these schools is comprised of too many grades for one teacher to handle. Could the two

be united, an opportunity for better grading and more efficient work would be afforded. Several representative citizens have spoken to me regarding this change, hence the recommendation.

ATTENDANCE.

The total number of pupils registered since September 1, 1904, is 112. The total numbered registered for the same period last year was 113. The numbers by grades are:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
28	10	10	13	21	10	9	11

The average age for each grade, September, 1904, was:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
6.9	9.7	9.1	10.9	10.4	12.1	13.4	13.3

The percentage of attendance for the Fall term was exceptionally good, averaging 95 per cent. in four schools. Factory Village and Bancroft Primary schools fell to 88 per cent. owing to the frequent absences of children from one family in each case.

TEXT BOOKS AND INSTRUCTION.

This year we have added to our list of supplementary readers, the Sprague Classic Readers, The Ward Fourth, and the Stepping Stones Third and Fourth, also for the upper grades a little book, Industries of To-Day, which have proved of much value. We have supplied our schools with small dictionaries for individual use, a change which enables the pupils to make a more frequent use of the dictionary than has before been possible.

The change begun in writing last year has been continued and now the first, second and third grades are using the Medial system. Last year I spoke of the especial attention given to the subject of reading. This careful supervision has been con-

tinued and the reading may now be said to be fairly established upon a working basis. I have, this year, spent much time upon the subject of language. This is a subject closely correlated to all other school work, and upon its successful teaching of all other school subjects depends. The work in history, geography, reading and spelling must contain much instruction in language. A pupil should be able to express himself in clear, concise and accurate English. If he cannot do this he is deficient either in knowledge of his subject or in power of expression. To my mind the only true language work is the work which enables a pupil to use the English language for clear and vigorous expression of thought.

Our work in arithmetic is unsatisfactory, mainly for lack of suitable text books. The books in use, the Prince, are poorly graded, lacking in definitions, containing glaring errors, and filled with impracticable problems. They are valuable only as books from which the teacher may select problems for extra work. We need a series of books for practical teaching which have the work so arranged and graded that the inexperienced teacher may be guided in her presentation of the various subjects, the experienced teacher aided in her planning of the work, and the pupil given the opportunity for work independent of the teacher. There are several such series now in use in other schools in the State, and I shall at an early date present to the various committees of this district two or three of these series for examination and approval.

I have continued to insist upon absolute accuracy in all arithmetical processes and I have recommended to the teachers much rapid, simple mental drill for every grade.

All school work should be formative as well as informative, and if we are to give our boys and girls the right training our cardinal principles should be accuracy, neatness, concentration and dispatch. Pupils should be taught to exercise in school and out the power of self-control, the value and necessity of concentrated effort and above all must they be imbued with the love of truth in all her forms. The great-hearted, whole-souled man is the surest safeguard of our representative and democratic government, and it is our duty as educators, citizens and patriots to hold before our boys and girls of today,

the men and women of tomorrow, the highest ideals and noblest principles we know. Putting the work of education upon the grounds of broadest humanism no sacrifice we can make in its cause is too great.

COURSE OF STUDY.

Owing to the large amount of office work involved in bringing together the necessary data relative to each school and town, and the greater amount of time actually spent in the schools, during the past year, I have not found opportunity to put the new course of study into permanent form. Indeed, such a course has not seemed desirable, until certain changes in text books and grading could be effected. At the commencement of the fall term, I presented to the teachers the outlines of the work in the first two grades. This is the basic work for all grades, and it is important that pupils entering school should start right. I give below the general plan of the work. As presented to the teachers this was somewhat more carefully defined.

TENTATIVE COURSE OF STUDY FOR GRADES ONE AND TWO.

NUMBER WORK:

No formal number work in Grade One. Teachers may use simple number facts for seat work, pictures, pegs, objects counting to number pages, simple measurements to get idea of linear and surface measure, front and back, side, surface, line. No number classes. Number acquired in connection with Reading, Drawing, Paper Cutting, Marching, Singing. Calendar on the board. For Grade Two. Numbers from 1 to 25.

READING:

Pupils to read in first grade three or four times per day. In second grade three times per day. This is the one subject

pupils must receive the best training in, in these grades. Pupils must be able to read well in any second reader before they are promoted to Grade III. Ward method followed. Blackboard work, sight reading, sentences from the first; phonic drill, word study, preparation of the lessons.

BOOKS—REGULAR TEXTS:

Ward Primer, First and Second Readers.
Cyr Primer, First and Second Readers (for sight work).

SUPPLEMENTARY READERS:

Child Life Primers and First Readers.
Sprague Classic Readers, I, II, III.
The Morse Books and selected texts.

LANGUAGE:

Oral lessons. Stories told and reproduced orally by the children. Short fables, rhymes, etc. Talks on familiar objects. Stimulate pupils by simple questions to bring out powers of expression. Tell stories complete. In Grade One written work from copy only. Develop use of capitals at beginning of sentence, proper names, etc., periods, question marks, etc. Purpose: To induce the habit of oral expression in correct forms of speech. Careful attention to be given to pupil's modes of expression in the study of reading, nature, numbers, drawing, etc. The teacher should seek to enlarge the pupil's vocabulary through conversation, description, narration, stories. To secure correctness, such definite exercises should be given as the faults of the class demand.

PHYSIOLOGY:—HEALTH TALKS.

Clean hands and face and body; pure air, pure water, ventilation, simple explanation and teaching of digestion, circulation, etc.

MUSIC.

Songs by rote. Scale as whole, sung with simple words and syllables. Memory gems, two-line and four-line stanzas.

WRITING.

From copy on board and later copy on paper. Tracing to secure form for backward pupils. Use Medial system, large, round, slight-slanted letters. No writing books in first year.

DRAWING.

Paper cutting and folding. Teach form, surface, front and back, side line, square, round, triangle. Boxes, houses, boats. Drawing of same, simple objects, animals, familiar forms.

MEMORY GEMS.

Short poems from American and English authors. Whittier, Longfellow, Field, Stevenson.

This course is to be followed to its logical conclusion in each of upper grades with the addition, grade by grade, of such other subjects as the advancement of the pupils warrants. When completed it is designed to be guiding and elastic, not requiring a given number of pages in the text book in any month or any term, but suggesting to teachers so broad and liberal a course that each may carry out her own plans while in concordance with a definite whole. Local conditions are so varied that no two teachers can do precisely the same amount of work, or do the same work in the same way. Every teacher, to be successful, must have and put into practice such ideas and ideals as the peculiarities of her school demands. It will serve as a guide to the inexperienced teacher and a test of the originality, fertility and progress of all. Every teacher is expected to give to her work the best that is in her. No true teacher can be a time server or a laggard. The teacher who is bright, active, energetic, the one not content to simply do well, but the one who is continually growing in power and efficiency is the kind of teacher who will always succeed. Given this spirit among our teachers and the value and usefulness of our education is assured. Then will the money spent upon our schools return to us large dividends in bright, useful, loyal citizens.

I spoke last year of the need of special instruction in drawing and music. The matter was discussed at the meeting of the Joint Committee in April but no action taken. I have investigated conditions in other districts in the State during the past year and I am fully convinced that we should not longer delay this important matter. Many new districts have adopted the plan with the best results. The cost is inconsiderable, the value great. Our regular teachers are, as a class, wholly unfitted to give the instruction needed without supervision. The work of the superintendent must of necessity be given to general supervision of all subjects. The employment of special teachers is the only practical solution of the problem.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

This year, since April, 1904, opportunity has been given the teachers to attend the following conventions and meetings:

May 4, an Institute was held at Chester for the teachers in the towns in the Huntington and Chester districts. State Agents Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Sargent were present and gave instruction. Mr. George H. Martin, secretary of the State Board of Education, delivered a helpful and inspiring address. Superintendent Warren of Huntington gave a talk on reading. Miss Palmer, supervisor of music in the Huntington district, spoke on music, illustrating her work by class exercises. The meeting was fully attended, and proved of much value.

September 17, I called the teachers of this district together and outlined the plans for the year's work. Some teaching exercises were also given.

The county convention at Springfield, October 28, was fully attended.

January 20, 1905, a special meeting of the teachers of this district was held at Chester to consider the subject of practical language teaching. Papers were read, illustrative class exercises were given, and free discussion made. Pertinent queries and answers added much to the value of the meeting. The program was as follows:

- 1:00-1:20. What Should be Our Aim? Supt. J. L. Chapman
 1:20-1:40. Story-telling: Grade I. Miss M. A. Meacham
 1:40-2:00. How Much and What Kind
 of Language Work Should
 be Done in Grades I and II? Miss M. A. Meacham
 Miss E. P. Botsford

DISCUSSION.

- 2:15-2:30. Development Lesson,
 Grade III. Miss M. K. Mills
 2:30-2:50. Suggestions for Practical
 Language Teaching in In-
 termediate grades. Miss E. A. Jones

DISCUSSION.

- 3:00-3:15. How Much and What
 Kind of Composition Work
 Should be Done in Gram-
 mar Grades? Miss M. E. Geary
 3:15-3:30. Some of the Things Pupils
 Should be Taught in Lan-
 guage Before Entering
 High School. Prin. F. E. Perkins
 3:30-4:00.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

This meeting proved of very practical assistance to the teachers, and other subjects will be taken up and discussed in like manner next year.

For the coming year I beg leave to make the following recommendations: Monthly meetings of the committee that they may keep in closer touch with the needs and work of the schools. The employment of special teachers of Music and Drawing. The purchase of a rational and practical series of texts in Arithmetic. The purchase of more material for busy work in the lower grades. The purchase of additional material in reading, geography and history. This, the Town of Middlefield can well afford to do, as will be seen from the last table in this report.

I append the usual tables relating to enrollment and attendance; comparative statistics for the past six years; the names, salaries and education of teachers employed; the division of the superintendent's time and salary among the four towns, and a table of especial interest to committee and taxpayers showing the cost per pupil to the Town of Middlefield, the total cost per pupil, and a comparison between Middlefield and the other towns of this district.

In closing I wish to thank the committee and the teachers and parents for the courtesy and co-operation given the superintendent during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. CHAPMAN,
 Superintendent of Schools.

Chester, Mass., Feb. 1, 1905.

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD.

Statistics for the School Year Ending July 1st, 1904.

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Number Enrolled.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. of Attendance.	Times Tardy.	Times Dismissed.	Visits by Superintendent.	Visits by School Committee.	Other Visitors.	Total.
Bancroft Grammar.	17	17.0	15.8	93	28	218	11	1	8	19
Bancroft Primary,	24	20.7	17.6	85.0	61	0	10	1	32	43
Middlefield Center.	24	21.3	19.8	93.0	132	13	11	1	21	33
Factory Village.	22	15.3	13.7	89.5	71	40	10	1	33	40
North East.	8	9.6	7.6	89.0	37	12	8	0	8	16
Pease.	21	16.5	15.2	91.8	38	0	7	0	26	34
Totals.	116	100.4	89.7	90.2	367	283	57	4	130	185

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD.

Comparative Statistics for the Years 1899-1904.

	1899.	1900	1901	1902.	1903.	1904.
Enrollment,	143	136	134	134	117	116
Average Membership,	103.9	106.2	105.7	99.3	94.5	100.4
Average attendance,	97.0	98.4	98.2	90.3	85.0	89.7
Per cent. of attendance,	93.3	92.8	92.9	91.0	90.9	90.2
No. of occupied buildings,	5	5	5	5	5	5
No. of schools,	5	6	6	6	6	6
No. of different teachers,	7	8	10	8	8	7
No. of changes.	2	2	4	2	2	1

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD.

Names of Teachers—April, 1904—March, 1905.

NAME OF SCHOOL.	No. of weeks.	Salary per month	Name of Teacher.	Where Educated.	Home Address.
Bancroft Grammar.	33	\$40	Harlan A. Frink.	Franklin High, Ct.	Chester.
Bancroft Primary.	33	40	Sara L. Savery.	Public Schools.	Becket.
Middlefield Center.	26	40	F. Maude Pease.	Westfield Normal.	Middlefield.
Middlefield Center.	7	40	Anna F. Parish.	Providence High.	Middlefield.
Factory Village.	33	36	Lottie B. Messenger.	Pittsfield High.	Becket.
North East.	33	28	Sara E. Cottrell.	North Adams Normal.	Middlefield.
Pease.	34	32	Nellie G. Cody.	North Adams Normal.	Middlefield.

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STATISTICS

Showing Cost of Schools in Chester, Becket, Middlefield and Washington, 1903-1904.

(Not Including Chester High School.)

TOWNS.	Population, Census, 1900.	Valuation, May 1, 1902.	For Schools.				Average Membership.	Cost to Town per Pupil.	Total Cost per Pupil.	Average of Teachers' Wages per month.	Total Teachers' Wages.	Books and Supplies.	Conveying Pupils.
			Raised by Local Taxation, 1903-1904.	Received from State and other sources.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.							
Chester.	1,450	\$630,669	\$3,883	\$1,962	\$5,845	\$5,634	256	\$15.16	\$22.00	\$37.00	\$2,996	\$781	\$407
Becket.	994	453,513	2,540	1,496	4,037	3,653	137	18.54	26.66	32.00	2,077	135
Middlefield.	410	192,943	925	2,665	3,590	2,479	94.5	9.78	26.24	32.00	1,582	207	87
Washington.	377	268,129	1,061	1,750	2,812	2,317	65	16.33	35.66	31.50	1,500	58	209

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Proportion of Taxable Property Appropriated for Support of Schools.

Chester, \$6.16 for each \$1,000 of valuation.
 Becket, 5.60 for each 1,000 of valuation.
 Middlefield, 4.82 for each 1,000 of valuation.
 Washington, 3.95 for each 1,000 of valuation.

The superintendent's time and salary is apportioned to the several towns for the year 1904-1905 on the basis of the average membership of the towns for the year 1902-1903, as follows :

TOWNS.	Average Membership.	Salary per month.	Actual total cost to town	Division of time in days per week.
Chester.	256.1	\$57.90	\$115 80	2.32
Becket.	137.1	31.01	62 60	1 24
Middlefield,	94 5	21.37	42 76	.85
Washington.	65 1	14.72	29 44	.59
Totals.	552.8	\$125.00	\$250 00	5.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

BANCROFT UNION SCHOOL.

Number of Pupils Enrolled, March, 1904—March, 1905.

Becket	21
Middlefield.....	21
Total.....	42

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' Salaries.

33 weeks.....	\$660 00
Books and Supplies.....	34 36
Fuel	26 00
Care of rooms.....	18 50
Total....	\$738 86

Becket's Share of Ex- pense.....	\$369 43
Middlefield's Share of Ex- pense.....	369 43
Total.....	\$738 86

I certify the above to be correct to the best of my knowl-
edge.

J. L. CHAPMAN,
Superintendent of Schools.