

Annual Reports

OF THE

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assessors,

Overseers of the Poor,

SELECTMEN,

School Committee,

AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,

OF THE

Town of Middlefield,

For the Year Ending February 1, 1908.

WESTFIELD, MASS.,
WESTFIELD TIMES PRINT.
1908.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HAMPSHIRE, SS.

To Thomas H. Fleming, 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 elections and town affairs, to meet at the Town hall in said Middlefield, on Monday, the second day of March next, at 10 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 on one ballot a Town Clerk, a Town Treasurer, three Selectmen, two Constables, a Collector of Taxes, an Auditor, three Fence Viewers, one Assessor, and a Tree Warden for a term of one year; one Assessor for two years; one School Committee, one Assessor, 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 the 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 collection 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 twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight.

GEORGE W. COTTRELL,	}	Selectmen
THOMAS H. FLEMING,		of
GEORGE W. BRYAN.		Middlefield.

Town Clerk's Report.

BIRTHS, 1907.

January 25:

Edith J. Pease, daughter of Harry E. and Annie S. Pease.

February 5:

Edith Eliza Mosher, daughter of George Mosher.

May 22:

Nellie Lillie Tefts, daughter of Michael and Rose Tefts.

June 14:

Infant, child of Wilbur L. and Josephine M. Waters.

July 25:

Ella Frances Cottrell, daughter of Frank A. and Laura W. Cottrell.

September 18:

Helen Prentice Olds, daughter of Wesley A. and Mary A. Olds.

October 26:

Dora Elaine Mason, daughter of Howard N. and Edith M. Mason.

DEATHS.

January 16:

Bryce Arthur Pease, 13 years, 11 months, 26 days.

January 29:

Elijah Lyman Churchill, 89 years, 3 months, 11 days.

March 1:

Irene Marie Bryan, 4 years, 8 months.

March 26:

Elbert Asher Pease, 43 years, 11 months, 23 days.
 May 24:
 Orrin R. Wheeler, 77 years, 10 months, 14 days.
 June 9:
 Michael Higmore, 75 years.
 June 14:
 Infant, Waters.
 June 16:
 Josephine M. Waters, 18 years, 24 days.
 October 26:
 Ann Smart, 75 years.

DOG LICENSES.

June 1:		
25 males at \$2.00 each,	\$50 00	
1 female at \$5.00 each,	5 00	
	<hr/>	\$55 00
Deduct 20 cents each, clerk's fees,		5 20
		<hr/>
June 1—Paid County Treasurer,		\$49 80
December 1:		
16 males at \$2.00 each,	\$32 00	
Deduct 20 cents each, clerk's fees,	3 20	
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December 1—Paid County Treasurer,		\$28 80

HENRY S. PEASE,
 Town Clerk.

Middlefield, February 1, 1908.

Treasurer's Report.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at beginning of year,	\$762 09
March 1, received from town of Becket for school at Bancroft,	383 02
June 4. received from State Treasurer, rebate burial of pauper,	15 00
August 20, received from State Treasurer, schooling state wards,	702 75
August 20, received from State Treasurer, rebate inspecting animals,	5 00
October 4, received from Town of Chester, rebate superintendent's salary,	230 00
October 29, received from Hampden Savings Bank, interest on Church cemetery fund,	15 87
November 12, received from State Treasurer, corporation tax,	45 44
November 12, received from State Treasurer, National Bank tax,	26 96
November 12, received from State Treasurer, rebate state aid,	66 00
November 18, received from George F. Green, rebate burial expenses Mary Leach,	42 00
December 6, received from State Treasurer, rebate High School tuition,	217 50
January 1, received from County Treasurer, bounty for killing wildeats,	10 00
January 17, received from County Treasurer, rebate dog fund,	65 22
January 28, received from State Treasurer, school fund,	1,057 99
Carried forward,	<u>\$3,644 84</u>

Brought forward,	\$3,644 84
February 1, received from G. W. Cottrell, rent town hall,	28 50
February 1, received from T. H. Fleming, rent of Bancroft hall,	2 00
February 1, received from T. H. Fleming, taxes,	2,979 92
February 1 received interest on deposits,	8 52
	<hr/>
	\$6,663 78

EXPENDITURES.

April 16, paid E. A. Allen, fees at inquest of tramp,	\$5 00
September 15, paid County tax,	270 54
November 12, paid State tax,	240 00
January 1, paid for the return of births,	75
December 20, paid Charles Snow, bounty for killing wildeat,	5 00
January 11, paid John Ferris, bounty for killing wildeat,	5 00
February 1, paid selectmen's orders,	2,124 55
February 1, Paid school committee's orders,	3,063 64
February 1, By cash in bank to bal.	949 30
	<hr/>
	\$6,663 78

ASSETS.

Cash balance,	\$949 30
Due from Becket for Bancroft school, estimated,	375 00
Due from Hampden Savings Bank, interest on funds, estimated,	425 00
Due from State Treasurer, rebate of State aid,	144 00
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Net balance in favor of town,	\$1,893 30

HENRY S. PEASE,
Treasurer

Middlefield, Feb. 1, 1098.

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the Treasurer for the year ending February 1, 1908, and find them correct.

GEORGE S. BELL,
Auditor.

Assessors' Report.

Value of assessed real estate,	\$145,770 00	
Value of assessed personal estate,	43,265 00	
		—————\$189,035 00

Number of residents assessed on property,		75
Number of non-residents assessed on property,		63
Number of persons assessed for poll tax only,		30
Whole number of persons assessed,		168
Whole number of polls assessed,		82
Tax assessed on real estate	\$2,188 15	
Tax assessed on personal estate,	653 51	
Tax assessed on 82 polls,	164 00	
		————— \$3,005 66

Tax rate, per thousand, \$15 00

Number of horses assessed,	103
Number of cows assessed,	222
Number of sheep assessed,	307
Number of neat cattle other than cows assessed,	184
Number of swine assessed,	33
Number of dwellings assessed,	106
Number of acres of land assessed,	14,165
Number of fowls assessed,	499

Taxes abated—

George E. McElwain, poll tax,	\$2 00
John W. Church, poll tax,	2 00
Samuel Gordon, poll tax,	2 00
	—————

Carried forward, \$6 00

Brought forward,	\$6 00
George E. Holmes,	5 60
John Morrison, estate,	2 85
Sarah Chamberlain,	4 50
Dennis Galavin, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	5 30
John Mayette, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	14 59
Angie M. Cottrell, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	15 00

Total taxes abated,	\$53 84
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THOMAS H. FLEMING,	} Assessors of Middlefield.
GEORGE W. BRYAN,	
GEORGE W. COTTRELL,	

REPORT

OF THE

Overseers of the Poor.

Burial expenses of unknown man killed by the cars,	\$20 00
Aid furnished Samuel Gordon,	10 00
O. J. Sheparason, M. D., medical attendance, Harry Dinan,	10 00
Foxboro Hospital for Dipsomaniacs, care of Frank E. Malletts,	43 18
	<hr/>
	\$83 18
Reimbursed by the state,	15 00
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Total expense for support of poor,	\$68 18

GEORGE W. BRYAN,
THOMAS H. FLEMING,
GEORGE W. COTTRELL, } Overseers of Poor
of
Middlefield.

Report of the Selectmen.

HIGHWAY WORK.

WINTER OF 1906-1907—BREAKING ROADS.

E. A. Pease,	\$20 00	
Patrick Gateley,	3 75	
Henry Sternagle,	10 36	
W. T. Ryan,	3 15	
Geo. W. Cottrell,	27 50	
W. J. Chipman,	3 42	
W. A. Olds,	7 00	
H. S. Pease,	8 00	
G. T. Dyer,	5 50	
Geo. Bardin,	3 50	
	<hr/>	\$92 18

SUMMER WORK ON HIGHWAYS.

Elbert A. Pease,	\$4 53	
Henry Sternagle,	16 03
Frank Curtis, bridge plank,	60 02	
Fred Boyer,	121 88	
Walter A. Smith,	67 50	
H. N. Mason,	18 00	
Geo. W. Cottrell,	65 25	
W. B. Graves,	52 17	
J. D. Carroll,	12 75	
	<hr/>	
Carried forward,	\$418 13	

Brought forward,	\$418 13	
Orrin Pease,	10 50	
W. A. Olds,	32 01	
Robert Smart,	11 60	
G. W. Bryan,	53 00	
H. S. Pease,	43 10	
G. T. Dyer,	2 00	
Green Mountain Lumber Co., bridge plank,	42 76	
John Cody,	17 05	
George Bardin,	69 87	
Ralph Bell,	7 25	
Joseph Pelkey,	12 00	
Edward Savery,	10 00	
E. H. Alderman,	9 00	
G. D. Crittenden, bridge plank,	121 05	
	<hr/>	\$859 32
Total expense of highways and bridges,		\$951 50

HIGHWAY WORK.

SPECIAL WORK ON BRIDGES.

Canton Bridge Co., steel joists,	\$130 00	
Hauling and laying same,	56 75	
	<hr/>	\$186 75
C. W. Graves, painting five iron bridges,	\$45 39	
T. H. Fleming, paint for same,	6 48	
	<hr/>	\$51 87

NEW CEMETERY.

John Cody, labor,	25 75	
G. W. Bryan, labor,	55 88	
John T. Bryan, labor, posts, etc.,	84 12	
	<hr/>	\$165 75

STATE AID.

Lewis E. Day,	\$72 00	
Dennis Galavin,	72 00	
	<hr/>	\$144 00

TOWN OFFICERS.

P. A. Freeman, services as school committee,	10 00	
Geo. S. Bell, services as auditor,	2 00	
H. S. Pease, services as treasurer,	25 00	
Geo. W. Cottrell, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	31 50	
W. J. Chipman, services as school committee,	10 00	
H. S. Pease, services as town clerk,	30 25	
Thomas H. Fleming, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	6 00	
G. W. Bryan, services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	10 00	
H. S. Pease, services as school committee,	8 00	
T. H. Fleming, collecting taxes,	40 00	
	<hr/>	\$172 75

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

H. S. Pease, express and postage,	\$7 70
Westfield Times Co., printing,	38 00
W. A. Olds, inspecting animals and provisions,	17 00
H. S. Pease, wood for the hall,	2 00
	<hr/>
Carried forward,	\$64 70

Brought forward,	\$64 70
Kate W. Smith, services as librarian,	22 50
Robert Brooks, rebinding books for library,	6 47
H. M. Dolbeare, letter heads,	1 50
George W. Bryan, compensation during quarantine,	54 00
G. W. Tibbetts, repairs to road machine,	14 25
Meekins, Packard & Wheat, table for town hall,	17 00
Election of officers for year,	10 00
Peter F. Boyer, repairing safe and piazza to town hall,	15 50
Geo. W. Cottrell, repairing valuation book,	3 00
Cecil T. Bagnall, blanks,	3 10
Frank Fay, stove pipe for town hall,	2 75
H. S. Pease, care of church lot and mowing cemetery,	20 00
W. & L. E. Gurley, fixtures for sealer of weights and measures,	17 94
J. T. Bryan, driving hearse,	6 00
J. T. Bryan, shelving for library,	7 05
Geo. W. Cottrell, postage, oaths and express,	7 92
T. H. Fleming, taxes abated,	31 10
T. H. Fleming, discount on taxes,	51 13
John Cody, kerosene oil for hall,	3 64
James Cody, services as janitor,	5 00
T. H. Fleming, tax bills and posting warrants,	4 20
	<hr/>
	\$368 75

SUMMARY.

Support of poor,	\$83 18
Highways and bridges,	951 50
Special expense on bridges,	238 62
State aid,	144 00
New cemetery,	165 75
	<hr/>
Carried forward,	\$1,583 05

Brought forward,	\$1,583 05	
Town officers,	172 75	
Incidental expenses,	368 75	
	<hr/>	
Total,		\$2,124 55

GEORGE W. BRYAN,	}	Selectmen
THOMAS H FLEMING,		of
GEORGE W. COTTRELL,		Middlefield.

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

GEO. S. BELL, Auditor.

LIST OF JURORS PROPOSED BY THE SELECTMEN
FOR 1907.

Edwin H. Alderman,	Frank Chipman,
John T. Bryan,	Frank A. Cottrell,
Fred L. Boyer,	Willis B. Graves,
Cooley W. Graves,	Henry S. Pease,
	Henry Sternagle,

JURORS DRAWN IN 1905.

George S. Bell, Arthur D. Pease, Wesley A. Olds.

JURORS DRAWN IN 1906.

George E. Cook, Edwin S. McElwain, Elbert A. Pease.

JURORS DRAWN IN 1907.

George W. Bryan, Wesley J. Chipman, Chas. H. Ferris.

Report of the School Committee.

The following report of the resources and expenditures for the year ending February 1, 1908, is respectfully submitted.

For other particulars your attention is called to the report of the Superintendent.

RESOURCES.

Balance February 1, 1907,	\$1,230 89	
Town appropriation,	800 00	
Town appropriation for supervision,	125 00	
Received from State Treasurer, rebate for supervision,	230 00	
Received from State Treasurer for tuition of state wards,	702 75	
Received from State Treasurer, rebate High School tuition,	217 50	
Received from State Treasurer, school fund,	1,057 99	
	<hr/>	\$4,364 13

EXPENDITURES

Teachers' salaries,	\$1,911 00
Supervision,	308 72
Town of Chester, High School tuition,	180 00
City of Springfield, High School tuition,	97 50
	<hr/>
	\$2,497 22

City of Springfield, tuition,	8 75	
Books,	44 73	
Supplies,	37 90	
Conveying children,	155 70	
Repairs,	94 72	
Fuel,	65 75	
Care of rooms,	40 50	
Cleaning rooms,	11 00	
Postage and telephone, Supt. office,	17 16	
Taking school census,	4 00	
School furniture,	69 80	
Incidental expenses,	6 65	
Order book,	1 48	
Express, freight and carting,	8 88	
		<hr/>
		\$3,063 64
Balance,		1,300 49
		<hr/>
		\$4,364 13

W. J. CHIPMAN,	} School Committee
P. A. FREEHAN,	
H. S. PEASE,	
	of
	Middlefield.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of Middlefield:—

The eighteenth annual report of the Superintendent of Schools is herewith presented for your consideration.

THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION.

It would not be easy in an enlightened community to find a person who did not agree, in general terms, that an education was worth obtaining, but I suppose it is a fact that about all the ills from which the schools suffer are the result of a lack of appreciation of what the school education amounts to, and I beg your attention to the consideration of some aspects of the case.

There might be many answers as to the worth of an education in its highest value—that unmeasurable quality which sets the educated apart from the illiterate—which makes a man's service and his presence more of an acquisition to a community and which increases his worth to himself. But figures may be given to show the money value of an education.

The United States Commissioner of Education a few years ago called attention to a very striking coincidence. Each child in Massachusetts, he says, receives on an average seven years of schooling; each child in the nation at large, a little less than four and a half. That is, the ratio of schooling in Massachusetts to that of the nation is seventy to forty-three. The average daily wages of each man, woman and child in

Massachusetts, at the same time was seventy-three cents, while for the nation at large it was only forty cents. The Commissioner of Education attributes the greater wage-earning power of Massachusetts very largely to the better education of its citizens.

If he is right, and this close agreement between wage-earning power and education is not accidental, what does it signify? What happens if each inhabitant of Massachusetts earns on the average thirty-three cents per day more than the average of the nation? It means that the productive energy of Massachusetts yields more than \$200,000,000 a year more than it would yield if its wage-earning power were the same as that of the nation at large. This is twenty times the annual running expenses of all the public schools. That is, the money which Massachusetts expends for education, apparently returns every year, the principal, and pays in addition a dividend of nineteen hundred per cent on the amount invested, in increased wage-earning power.

Every man who lives in a Christian community is benefitted thereby whether he goes to church or not. Every Massachusetts town is the gainer from the high average excellence of the schools of the state. The last State Report gives the sum paid per pupil, by Middlefield for the education of its children, as \$6.56. The average for the state was \$28.79. If the people really and truly believed that the money invested in schools would return to them and their children an income as small even as five hundred per cent, would they not be anxious to invest all the money possible in this school business?

How much does an education increase a man's opportunity of gaining honor, and of becoming eminently useful to his fellow men?

There has recently been published a biographical dictionary of the most notable men of this country in all departments of usefulness and reputable endeavor. The Scientific American has compiled from the nearly eleven thousand names contained in this dictionary, and from the latest census reports, some interesting figures.

According to the last census there are in the country fourteen million men over thirty years of age, divided according to their education as follows: illiterate, 1,757,000, or about twelve out of every hundred; with a common school education, 12,054,000 or eighty-one out of each hundred; with the equivalent of a high school education, 675,000, or about five out of each hundred; with a college education, 325,000, or about two out of each hundred. Now if the eleven thousand men who were considered sufficiently notable to be included in this dictionary there is not one with no school education; with only a common school education then is 1.066; with high school training, 1.627; and with a college education 7.709.

Of the men over thirty years old in this country two years ago, the uneducated failed entirely to become sufficiently notable in any department of usefulness and reputable endeavor to attract the attention of the editors of this biographical dictionary. The man with only a common school education had, in round numbers, one chance in ten thousand. A high school education increased this chance nearly thirty times, giving him about three chances in a thousand. College education added gave the man more than ten times the chance of the high school boy and three hundred times the chance of the boy with only a common school education, that is, about one chance in thirty.

After all reasonable allowances are made, the figures force the conclusion that the more school training the American boy has had, the greater has been his chances of distinction. If people really believed to the full measure of appreciation that better education so multiplied one's chances to win honor and become eminently useful, would not parents with bright children make sacrifices beyond limit, if necessary, so that their children should miss no step on the pathway of success so vital as the fullest and best rounded education they were capable of receiving benefit from?

A recent writer on school attendance fixes a money value on a boy's time well spent in school—works out his daily wages there. If an uneducated man earns \$1.50 a day for

three hundred days in a year, he does very well; and if he keeps it up for forty years he will earn \$18,000. An educated man is not generally paid by the day, but by the month and by the year. If we strike an average of the earnings of educated men, beginning with the president of the United States, who earns \$50,000 a year, the presidents of the insurance companies and of large railroad companies, and run down the scale until we come to the lower walks in point of earning among educated men, we will probably admit that \$1,000 a year is a low average for the earnings of educated labor. For forty years we have forty thousand dollars as the earnings of an educated man. Subtract \$18,000, what the uneducated man earns, from \$40,000, the earnings of the educated man, and we have \$22,000 as the value of a boy's time spent at school getting an education.

The average school life of every boy and girl in Massachusetts is seven years of two hundred days each. Let us add to this average four years more, as needed to secure a fair education, and reckoning eleven years of two hundred days each, we will find that it takes 2,200 days well spent in school to earn the \$22,000 which is the life wages of the educated man more than what the uneducated earns. If \$22,000 are earned in 2,200 days then each day of a boy's time well spent in school is worth ten dollars.

If parents really believed that the boy's time in school was worth ten dollars a day, would the school attendance fall as low as it does at present, because the boy is "needed at home" to do chores or to pick up potatoes? If this is true, is not the state justified in saying, as it does, that the only legitimate reason for keeping a boy from school is that the boy himself is ill?

All these statements of the money value of learning may seem exaggerated, but I think they are worthy of a bit of our careful consideration.

CHANGES OF TEACHERS.

There have been changes of teachers in four of the six schools of the town since the time of my last report.

Miss Gallon gave up her position at the Factory Village school at the close of the winter term and was succeeded by Miss Susan A. Phelon for the remainder of the school year. Miss Phelon is a graduate of Westfield High school and had taught for two years.

In June Miss Davis resigned from the Center school because of reported dissatisfaction in the district, and Miss Bell and Miss Fleming gave up their positions at the Bancroft school to attend the North Adams Normal school.

The young woman at first engaged to take the Center school proved unreliable, and at the end of a week the school was put in charge of Miss Inez Burnham, a teacher of several years' experience. At Thanksgiving time Miss Burnham gave up the position, having decided to discontinue teaching permanently. Miss Bridget Cody of Middlefield was engaged to complete the year, with the understanding that she would spend the winter vacation in attendance at North Adams normal school.

Miss Edith Green of North Adams was engaged to take charge of the grammar room of the Bancroft school and Miss L. May Johnson of Washington was hired for the primary room there. Miss Green is a graduate of North Adams High school and North Adams Normal school and taught in Blandford last year. Miss Johnson is a graduate of Pittsfield High school and Westfield Normal school and had taught the primary school in Washington for two years.

The vacancy at the Factory Village school was filled by the election of Miss Harriet S. Crafts of Ashfield. Miss Crafts is a graduate of Ashfield High school and North Adams Normal school. This is her first experience as a teacher.

In securing these new teachers we have been, perhaps, as successful as could reasonably be hoped, considering the

comparatively unattractive character of small rural schools, with a short school year, and low salaries. It is by no means desirable to change so many of our teachers each year, and yet, leaving out the occasional instance where something exceptional keeps the competent teacher for us year after year, schools of the type of ours must expect either to serve as stepping stones for the competent and ambitious or as resting places for the inert. One month's service of a live teacher is better for the school and for the community, too, than ten years' infliction of one who is dead.

To secure promising teachers at all is not so easy a matter as one could wish. More than once during the year it has been necessary in the district, to take for a vacant position any one who could be obtained. The growing scarcity of competent teachers is not confined to this small territory alone, it is wide spread, and is a just cause of apprehension to all who have to do with public school education. At the meeting of the Massachusetts School Superintendents, soon to be held in Boston, a whole half day is assigned to the discussion of the topic, "The Shortage of Teachers." This discussion is to be participated in by four of the principals of Massachusetts Normal schools and five superintendents of city schools, and is to consider, in brief, about all the topics connected with the perplexing situation.

Whatever wisdom the discussion may develop the situation will remain the same and the key to the solution of the problem will still remain in the hands of the people. The brightest and most capable young men and women will become trained teachers in just such degree as the inducements to pursue that means of obtaining a livelihood are made to approximate the attractiveness or the profitableness of other available ways of earning money. About the only potent argument today in favor of teaching is its eminent respectableness. The four years of high school study and the from two to five years of additional normal school or college preparation which ought to be the least requirement for engaging in so important a work as teaching, is an amount and expense of preparation equalled

by no other calling that does not offer a much greater financial return for the time and money invested.

No teacher in the smaller country schools gets enough salary for her teaching to pay her legitimate expenses for the entire year. Unless she can depend on some one else for support during her vacations, she must spend these times, when she should be resting from the nervous strain of her work and in studying to fit herself for better work in toiling at whatever she finds for her hands to do.

The need of competent teachers was never greater than now, the supply was never further from being equal to the demand. The public is slowly realizing the seriousness of the situation, and maybe the lengthening of the school year, the increasing of wages, the general improvement of school conditions, that is steadily going on, will continue till these things added to the undoubted charm the work has for those who are by temperament fitted for it, will attract into the ranks of the teachers a more nearly sufficient number of those who ought to teach.

Every improvement that brings in or retains in a school a good teacher helps not only the teacher but the community and the Commonwealth.

CONCLUSION.

The action of the school committee in extending the school year to thirty-six weeks, as indicated in the school calendar for next year, is a wise move. It will help the town to retain its present amount of aid from the state, which aid the state will diminish if the town does not expend it for school purposes, or if the town reduces its own appropriation for schools; and it will give the children of Middlefield a school year more nearly equal to that furnished by the majority of the towns about us. Three of the four towns in the district will now have a school year of thirty-six weeks for all their schools.

I am glad to report a marked improvement in the matter of tardiness. With the record of the schools as a whole little fault can now be found, while three of the schools have done exceptionally well. In fact, Middlefield this year has the best record in this respect of any town in the district.

The number of pupils perfect in attendance has more than doubled. Two boys in one of the schools have not missed a day nor been tardy for two years.

My thanks are due, as they have been each year of my service here, to those with whom my work has brought me in contact, for the unvarying friendliness and confidence which they have given me.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. SANDERSON.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICS.

Itemized Report of the Schools of Middlefield for the Year Ending June, 1907.

TEACHERS.	SCHOOLS	Grades	Enrollment.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	Number of Tardy Marks.	Pro rata of Tardiness.
Delia A. Fleming.....	Bancroft	1-4	22	14	8	16.8	14.	89.2	10	.5
Ida E. Bell.....	Bancroft	5-8	12	3	9	10.4	9.9	95.2	5	.4
Mary A. Davis.....	Center	1-8	25	15	10	18.1	16.4	90.2	52	2.8
Susan E. Phelon.....	Factory Village	1-8	27	15	12	20.4	17.7	87.2	49	2.4
Emma J. Smith.....	North East	1-8	13	11	2	9.7	8.8	90.7	56	5.8
Nellie G. Cody.....	Pease	1-8	32	27	5	20.3	19.8	97.5	10	.4
			131	85	46	95.7	86.6	90.4	182	1.8

MEMBERSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER, 1907.

	1st Grade.	2d Grade.	3d Grade.	4th Grade.	5th Grade.	6th Grade.	7th Grade.	8th Grade.	Total.
Bancroft, Center, Factory Village North East, Pease,	5 3 3 2 6	6 3 6 1 5	6 2 4 — 6	3 2 3 3 5	— 1 — 1 —	— — — — —	— — — 2 —	— — — 1 1	28 11 21 10 23
Total,	19	21	18	18	2	2	2	11	93

Summary of Statistics for nine years.

Years.	Enrollment.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance	No of Tardy Marks.	Pro Rata of Tardiness.	Cost per Pupil.	School Tax on \$1,000.00.	
1898-1899	143	103.9	97.	93.3					
1899-1900	136	106.2	98.4	92.8					
1900-1901	134	105.7	98.2	92.9					
1901-1902	134	99.3	90.3	91.					
1902-1903	117	94.5	85	90.9					
1903-1904	116	100.4	89.7	90.2					
1904-1905	137	100.6	91.3	90.7	252	2.5	\$7.84	\$5.30	\$961.39
1905-1906	148	108.9	100.6	92.4	542	5.	7.46	4.33	813.45
1906-1907	131	95.7	86.6	90.4	182	1.8	8.93	4.48	835.28

ROLL OF HONOR.

Pupils neither absent nor tardy during the year:

Bancroft Grammar—Sarah Struthers.

Center—Francis Bouraus, two years.

Paul Bowen.

Antoine Callomani, two years.

Factory Village—Harold Boyer.

Hazel Boyer.

Pease—Harold Ogden.

Sylvanus Ross.

SCHOOLS HAVING NO TARDY MARKS.

FOR SEVEN MONTHS.

Bancroft, Grades 1-4—Delia A. Fleming, Teacher.

FOR FOUR MONTHS.

Bancroft, Grades 5-8—Ida E. Bell, Teacher.

FOR THREE MONTHS.

Pease—Nellie G. Cody, Teacher.

FOR TWO MONTHS.

Center—Mary A. Davis, Teacher.

SCHOOL CALENDAR.

SPRING TERM—TWELVE WEEKS.

Begins Monday, March 30, 1908.

Ends Friday, June 19.

Vacation—nine weeks.

FALL TERM—THIRTEEN WEEKS.

Begins Monday, August 24.

Ends Friday, November 20.

Vacation—one week.

WINTER TERM—TEN WEEKS.

Begins Monday, November 30.

Ends Friday, February 5, 1909.

Vacation—seven weeks.

SPRING TERM—THIRTEEN WEEKS.

Begins Monday, March 29.

Ends Friday, June 25.

Vacation—eight weeks.