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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN
AND OTHER
TOWN OFFICERS
OF
LANGDON, N. H.,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEB. 15,
1904.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.:
THE TIMES PRESS, P. H. GOBIE, PROP.
1904.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN.

Value of real estate taxed,	\$141,740 00
102 polls,	10,200 00
145 horses,	8,998 00
18 oxen,	980 00
318 cows,	9,854 00
141 neat stock,	3,174 00
412 sheep,	1,122 00
Hogs,	16 00
Fowls,	124 00
Stock in public funds,	1,700 00
Stock in banks,	200 00
Stock in banks out of the state,	274 00
Stock in trade,	3,812 00
Money on hand or at interest,	19,584 00
Mills and their machinery,	1,900 00
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	\$203,678 00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$369 75
County tax,	685 40
Highway tax,	509 -18
Additional Highway tax,	200 00
School tax,	522 00
School-house repairs,	10 00
Town library,	26 10
Town charges,	500 00
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	\$2,822 43

Rate of taxation \$1.45 on each \$100.

E. H. Clark, labor and team,	\$4 50
D. Bridges, labor and team,	2 18
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	\$12 53

M. F. BRAGG, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 2.

M. F. Bragg, labor and team,	\$19 25
G. F. Lewis,	12 50
F. R. Bates,	3 00
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	\$34 75

T. B. FISH, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 3.

T. Bushway, labor and team,	\$17 00
G. Ramsey, labor,	10 40
J. W. Jefts, labor,	10 80
E. Porter, labor,	9 00
F. B. Fish, labor,	17 10
E. W. Henry, labor,	2 25
C. E. Presby, labor,	5 00
N. H. Beckwith, gravel,	3 40
G. Bowen, posts,	3 88
C. M. Lufkin, poles,	1 25
H. A. Lovell, spikes,	46
drain tile,	3 25
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	\$83 79

CARLOS J. FIFIELD, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 4.

C. J. Fifield, labor and team,	\$39 75
Charles Graves, labor,	5 85
A. S. Cram, labor and plank for bridge,	14 63
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	\$60 23

IRA M. RUSSELL, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Ira M. Russell, labor and team,	\$9 65
H. A. Holmes,	1 80
D. P. Davis,	60
	<hr/>
	\$12 05

CHARLES C. PLIMPTON, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 6.

C. C. Plimpton, labor and team,	\$20 10
Robert E. Blood, labor,	3 00
L. Marsett,	75
James Bascom,	75
James Willard,	50
	<hr/>
	\$25 10

CHARLES A. JEFTS, Surveyor,

DISTRICT NO. 7.

T. Bushway, team,	\$45 00
C. A. JefTs, labor and team,	32 25
S. D. Tinker,	25 50
H. P. Howe,	9 00
W. A. Bidwell,	8 78
J. W. JefTs,	4 80
F. R. Bates,	4 12
A. Chandler,	2 00
H. E. Smith,	3 00
F. Howe,	30
B. F. Brown,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$136 25

BREAKING ROADS IN WINTER OF 1903 AND 1904.

Charles Graves,	\$ 4 75
V. W. Kelley,	3 50
C. J. Fifield,	16 43
James W. Bascom,	2 40
Henry C. Clark,	20 62
A. A. Woodard,	3 90
Robert E. Blood,	3 00
Charles C. Plimpton,	23 70
Will H. Wilson,	3 45
E. E. Parker,	2 35
Wm. Kirkpatrick,	2 40
T. B. Fish,	1 72
E. H. Clark,	1 50
Darwin Bridges,	3 60
Arthur Bingham,	91
	<hr/>
	\$94 23

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid School Treasurer amount borrowed,	\$123 55
P. H. Gobie, printing town reports,	17 00
repairs on road machine,	14 20
United Construction Co., paint,	7 50
E. L. Walker, insuring town hall,	4 25
Mrs. Howe, land for addition to cemetery,	50 00
Trustees of library, library tax,	26 10
Selectmen, bounty on hedgehogs,	8 00
School treasurer, unexpended dog license of 1902,	15 00
R. F. Oliver, return of births and deaths,	1 75
Mrs. Hutchins, on town note,	140 88
Will H. Wilson, maintaining watering trough,	3 00
E. M. Smith, counsel,	5 00

Paid A. S. Cram, services and expenses as Overseer,	5 50
W. H. Wilson, error in list,	2 01
M. F. Bragg, error in list,	3 97
Fay and Newton, abatement of tax,	13 36
Collector, abatement of J. Hall's tax,	1 45
School Board, amount expended for school supplies,	58 05
E. C. Eastman, blank books,	4 89
Selectmen, labor in cemetery,	28 30
Selectmen, wall and grading near iron bridge,	119 48
Selectmen, for fighting forrest fire,	16 80
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	\$670 04

RECAPITULATION.

Town officers,	\$196 50
School board,	19 00
County paupers,	146 66
Damage by dogs,	10 00
Highways and bridges,	364 70
Breaking roads,	94 23
State tax,	369 75
County tax,	685 40
Miscellaneous,	670 04
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	\$2,556 28

ASSETS.

Cash in treasury Feb. 15, 1904,	\$277 87
Due from Sullivan county Feb. 15, 1904,	51 61
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	\$329 48

TOWN NOTES OUTSTANDING.

Due on Prentiss note,	\$536 00
Due on Hutchins note,	300 00
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	\$836 00

Respectfully submitted,

ALVIN S. CRAM,	} Selectmen of Langdon.
WILLIAM H. WILSON,	
EMERSON E. PARKER,	

This certifies that I have this day examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of Langdon and find them correct and properly vouched.

CHARLES WINCH, Auditor.

Langdon, N. H., Feb. 15, 1904.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

DR.

To Cash in treasury, Feb. 15, 1903,	\$ 85
Library tax,	26 10
Cash received for fines,	48
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	\$27 43

CR.

By R. H. White Co., books,	\$23 82
J. C. Day,	2 12
Express,	95
Cash to balance,	54
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	\$27 43

Thirty-nine new books have been added to the Library the past year, making the number of books now 679.

CHARLES WINCH, Sec'y of Trustees.

DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 15, 1904.

Cash in treasury Feb. 14, 1903,	\$201 02
Cash received from collector,	532 00
Literary fund,	17 11
State for support of Superintendent,	50 00
Dog license money, 1903,	15 00
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	\$815 13

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid on orders,	\$694 28
Cash in treasury, Feb. 15, 1904,	120 85
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	\$815 13

MRS. ELSIE J. LASELLE, School Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Number of schools maintained,	2
Number of terms of school,	5
Number of weeks in spring,	20
Number of weeks in fall,	25
Number of weeks in winter,	10
Whole number weeks,	55
Number of pupils as reported by Truant Officer,	46
(Boys,)	31
(Girls,)	15
Number in actual attendance,	29
Number attending, one term or more, in adjoining towns,	13
Number between the ages of 6 and 16 not attending any school,	4
(Girls,)	3
(Boys,)	1

Names of teachers employed:—

SPRING TERM.

School No. 1,	Gertrude E. Marshall
“ No. 3,	Nora J. Cone

FALL TERM.

School No. 1,	Gertrude E. Marshall
“ No. 3,	Laura J. Clark

WINTER TERM.

School No. 3,	Mabelle E. Breed
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Orders drawn on district treasurer for support
of schools, \$694 28

EXPENDITURES.

Gertrude E. Marshall, teaching 25 weeks,	\$125 00
Nora J. Cone, " 10 "	75 00
Laura J. Clark, " 10 "	75 00
Mabelle E. Breed, " 10 "	75 00
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	\$350 00
Salary of Superintendent,	\$100 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Care of school houses,	\$ 13 75
Cleaning school houses,	5 00
Wood,	22 00
Conveying scholars,	103 00
High School tuition,	24 00
Tuition to Charlestown,	17 92
Tuition to Alstead,	42 75
Tuition to Concord,	4 00
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	\$232 42

REPAIRS.

Material and labor,	\$11 86
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RECAPITULATION.

Orders drawn on district treasurer,	\$694 28
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EXPENDITURES.

Wages of teachers, including board,	\$350 00
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Superintendent's salary,	100 00
Miscellaneous,	232 42
Repairs,	11 86
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	\$694 28

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. BASCOM, }
 CHARLES A. JEFTS, } School Board.
 HENRY J. LASELLE, }

This certifies that I have this day examined the accounts of the School Board and Treasurer and find them correct and properly vouched.

CHARLES WINCH, Auditor,
 Langdon School District.

Langdon, N. H., Feb. 15, 1904.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

*To the School Board of Langdon, N. H.,
 Gentlemen:*

In accordance with your requirements I submit this my first annual report:

Course of Study and Grading.

At the beginning of my duties here I found about the same conditions prevailing as in other districts where no effective system of grading has been attempted.

Most of the pupils were pursuing their work without proper method or purpose. Some studies were receiving too much attention while other branches were neglected. There was not apparent a proper order or co-ordination of work.

The first step towards remedying these conditions was the introduction of a graded course of study and the placing of pupils in grades according to their degree of proficiency. This grading must be necessarily imperfect at first, owing to the irregular way in which much of the work has been taken in the past. If the same system is continued for a series of years, the efficiency of our schools cannot fail to be largely increased.

Teachers.

The most important consideration in any school is a good teacher. All other improvements are of small moment compared to this. Her service is cheap at any reasonable compensation, while a weak, inefficient teacher is expensive, though serving for the lowest salary.

More is being required of our teachers year by year. They must be strong, sympathetic, tactful, scholarly and trained to appreciate and apply whatever is best in school methods and management. If we chance to secure one possessed in large measure of these characteristics, she is likely to be attracted from us by the higher salary and more congenial surroundings to be found in larger places.

We can expect to secure only rarely, teachers of both training and experience for the wages we can pay them. It does not follow, however, that we should engage one who has neither of these qualifications. The highest interests of our schools demand that, if possible, no one be engaged unless she can furnish a record of successful experience, or has had some definite training for the work.

The teachers in both our schools have worked faithfully and with a fair degree of success. It is to be regretted that Miss Marshall cannot continue the good work she has been doing in Division No. 1, during the past year.

No school can do its best when a new teacher is in charge each term. It would seem wise to secure, as far as possible, efficient teachers who can be retained for at least one year. To accomplish this would be the highest service any school official could render his district.

Attendance.

The attendance in Division No. 1 has been excellent. This was due largely to the interest shown by the parents. If an equal interest had been shown at the Center the record there might have been more creditable. Many of the absences have been due to sickness and the unusually cold weather prevailing during the winter. Yet it remains true that parental indifference must be held accountable for much of the irregular attendance.

The pupil who is absent for any considerable period not only loses knowledge and interest in his work, but he becomes a hindrance to the rest of his class when he returns to school.

If teachers could be asked to report any unexcused absences occurring in their rooms to a truant officer who would look up promptly each case as reported, the attendance would doubtless be much improved.

Text Books.

The progress in educational ideas and methods is shown in nothing more plainly than in the superiority of modern approved text-books over those in common use not many years ago. There is no good reason for continuing to use an unsatisfactory book, since, by taking advantage of exchange rates, a new series can be introduced at an expense but little larger than would be required to replace the worn out copies of the series already in use. Of the text-books in use at the beginning of the year, only the geographies and standard readers were in good condition and adapted to the needs of the pupils.

New language books, grammars and arithmetics have been introduced and are proving very satisfactory, since more and better results can be secured than with the books displaced.

The Ward system of reading has been used as far as practicable with the younger pupils. There is great need of more supplementary work in the lower grades. I believe that the greatest cause of poor reading in the higher grades is the lack of proper training in the lower grades.

When conditions will permit it, no pupil should be allowed to use a first reader until he can read any ordinary primer at sight. He should not be given work in the second reader until he can in like manner read any ordinary first reader at sight. To carry this out would require several sets of lower grade reading books. But the cost is comparatively slight and the results would amply repay the expense incurred, since good reading is the basis of all our knowledge.

Records.

Beginning with the fall term, 1903, a record is being kept of the standing of each pupil, including attendance and deportment. Reports based on these records are sent to the parents at the end of each term, or oftener if necessary.

Considerable time has been given to labeling and numbering all text-books in town of any permanent value. Teachers are required to keep a record of all books on hand or received. They are also to make a record of books loaned to pupils, noting number and condition, and reporting any loss or mutilation which may occur.

Catalogues have been made of all books belonging to the district, according to a plan which seems at once simple and comprehensive. By reference to it one may readily find the number, kind and location of all books,

together with an arrangement for recording their transfer from one place to another as the needs of the schools may suggest.

This plan, if consistently carried out, cannot fail to result in a considerable saving in expense to the district, besides the much larger advantage in the increased efficiency of the schools by means of better books furnished as needed.

Half-term reports of the attendance and progress of pupils in each grade are also required from each school. These reports, together with the results of the tests which are sent to all schools throughout the supervisory district, make it possible to keep informed in regard to the work that is being done in all the schools in the different towns.

By means of the reports, tests and personal visitation of schools, it is possible to direct the work of all in an orderly manner. The loss and delay occasioned by the changing of teachers is also much less than it would otherwise be, for the new teacher can take up the work without any break where the former teacher left it.

School Buildings.

Both school houses in use appear to be in fair condition. More blackboard space is needed at the Center, also some rearrangement of desks. A well-lighted, cheerful room has a strong influence for good over its inmates, whether at school or in the home. If, at a trifling expense, the interior of the houses should be made clean and attractive, the teachers and pupils would be encouraged to add something in the way of decoration.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the intelligent interest of citizens and the cordial co-operation of teachers and school officers in the work which I have attempted to do for our children. Respectfully submitted,

CLINTON J. RICHARDS, Supt. of Schools.

Feb. 15, 1904.

VITAL STATISTICS.

MARRIAGES Registered in the Town of Langdon for the Year Ending December 31, 1903.

Date, 1903	Place of Marriage	Name and Surname of Groom and Bride	Residence of Each at time of Marriage	Occupation of Groom and Bride	Place of Birth of Each	Names of Parents	Birthplace of Parents	Name, Residence and Official Station of Person by whom Married
Feb 12	Langdon...	Winfred Guy Davis... Fannie E. Smith	Athol Mass..... Langdon.....	Lumberman..... Teacher	Royalston Mass.. Langdon.....	Cyrus Dunn Davis... Lucy Maria Goddard... Henry E. Smith	Royalston Mass.. "	Rev John P Richardson Alstead
Mar 27	Walpole	Charles W Graves... Florence M Angict..	"" ""	Farmer" Farmer	Westmoreland... Langdon.....	Achsak E. Royce... Martha A Wright .. Kolla E Angier	Walpole" Westmoreland... Granville Vt.....	Rev William S Nichols Walpole
Aug 19	Langdon....	Leonard F Bragg... Clara J Bates.....	"" ""	Farmer" Farmer	Cavendish Vt.... Langdon.....	Henrietta Meacham... Marshall F Bragg... Frank R. Bates..... Nellie J Rodgers....	Reading Vt..... Langdon..... Springfield Vt... West Fairlee Vt...	Rev John P Richardson Alstead
Sept 16	Langdon....	John Lyman Putnam Mary Unice Smith ...	Charlestown ... Langdon.....	Farmer" Teacher	Charlestown ... Langdon.....	Samuel Putnam..... Annette Minard..... Henry E. Smith..... Achsak E. Royce....	Charlestown ... Alstead..... Langdon.....	Rev John P Richardson Alstead

BIRTHS Registered in the Town of Langdon for the Year Ending December 31, 1903.

Date, 1903	Name of Child (if any)	Sex	Living or Still-born	No. of Child	Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	Residence of Parents	Occupation of Father	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother	Age of Father	Age of Mother
Jan 3	Nellie Beckwith	F	Living	5	Natt H Beckwith	Flora Sarsons	Langdon	Farmer	Quincy Mass	Acworth N H	27	30
Mar 8	Ella Bushway	F	Living	3	Leon Bushway	Hattie Eno	"	Laborer	Canaan N H	New Haven Vt	24	27
Apr 4	— Kinson	M	"	2	Charles H Kinson	Rose F Shackett	"	Lumberman	Ashburnham N H	St Albans Vt	24	20
May 6	— Hurd	M	"	2	Horace C Hurd	Jessie Bridges	"	Farmer	Newport N H	Peru N Y	25	19
June 15	Lewis V Chambers	M	"	5	Fred Chambers	Minnie M Presby	"	Farmer	Clarendon N H	Franklin Falls	32	31
Aug 19	Evelyn Lucy Bridges	F	"	2	Darwin Bridges	Lacy Marvin	"	Farmer	Peru N Y	Elizabethtown N Y	58	38
Sept 19	Evelyn McDermitt	M	"	1	James McDermitt	Mary L Martin	"	Farmer	Ireland	Clotsburg N Y	50	38
Nov 22	Eileen Raymond	M	"	6	Natt H Beckwith	Flora Sarsons	"	Farmer	Quincy Mass	Acworth N H	29	31

DEATHS Registered in the Town of Langdon for the Year Ending December 31, 1903.

Date, 1903	Name of Deceased	Age		Place of Birth	Sex	Condition	Occupation	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother	Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	Cause of Death
		Years	Months									
Jan 12	Nellie Beckwith	9		Langdon	F	F	Housewife	Quincy Mass	Acworth	Natt H Beckwith	Flora Sarsons	Convulsions
Feb 1	Alice Coughlin Hickory	37		Perkinsville Vt	F	M	Farmer	Langdon	Walpole	Thomas Coughlin	Mary Cady	Tuberculous
May 5	Henry Prentiss	73	5	Langdon	M	S	Farmer	Langdon	Walpole	Samuel Prentiss	Almira Seaver	Uremia
June 3	Sophronia Russell	76	2	Marlow	F	W	Housewife	Stowe Mass	Marlow	Samuel Brackett	Esther Gee	Debility
June 20	Calista Huntley	71	3	"	F	M	Housewife	Stowe Mass	"	"	"	Apoplectic san
Sept 5	John Hanning	71	3	"	M	W	Farmer	Ireland	Ireland	"	"	Heart disease
Nov 25	William R Kelley	34	7	Jacksonville Fla	M	M	Farmer	New Hampton	Woodstock Vt	Joseph R Kelley	Fannie M Seales	Acute lobar pneumonia

I hereby certify that the above returns are correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

HERBERT A. HOLMES, Town Clerk.

