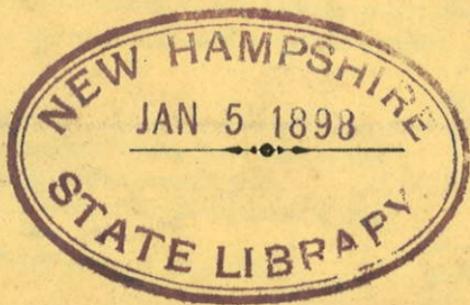


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Commissioners.

SULLIVAN COUNTY, 1871.



CLAREMONT, N. H.:
PRINTED AT THE NATIONAL EAGLE OFFICE.

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 1871

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR

SULLIVAN COUNTY.

The County Commissioners for Sullivan County submit the following report of the affairs of the County over which they have control, for the year ending September, 1, 1871.

Cost of Farm,	\$6,960 00
“ Buildings and Fixtures, and permanent improvements which have been added previous to the present year,	13,526 25
“ Permanent improvements made this year,	322 00
Total value of Real Estate,	\$20,808 23

VOICE STOCK, PRODUCE, PROVISIONS, FARMING TOOLS AND FURNITURE.

Great Cattle,	\$1,830 00
Horses,	250 00
Sheep,	141 00
Pine,	555 00
Amount carried forward,	\$2,776 00

PRODUCT OF THE FARM.

55 Tons English hay,			
10 " Swail "	at \$20 00		
6 " Straw,		8 00	\$1,100 00
30 " Corn fodder,		10 00	80 00
70 Bushels Oats,		12 00	60 00
100 " Wheat,		50	360 00
20 " Beans,		2 00	35 00
6 " Peas,		3 00	200 00
450 " Corn,		2 50	60 00
900 " Potatoes,		1 00	15 00
60 " Apples,		40	450 00
12 " Onions,		60	360 00
40 Loads Pumpkins,		2 00	36 00
900 Pounds Squashes,		2 00	24 00
30 Bushels Beets,			80 00
75 " Carrots,		50	20 00
1600 Pounds Butter,		50	15 00
150 " Cheese,		30	37 50
Pigs raised, and use of animals,		15	480 00
Pork fatted,			22 50
Pasturing 67 head cattle,			226 75
" 47 sheep and 3 horses,			500 00
1050 Pounds maple sugar,			225 00
110 Cords manure,	12		35 00
76 Bushels ashes,			126 00
163 Pounds wool,			300 00
Poultry,	25		19 00
			81 50
			30 00
Total product of the farm,			<u>\$4,978 25</u>

It is no longer a matter of doubt whether the County Farm system is a good system, either for the economy of the County or for the comfort and good care of the inmates. By a comparison of the expense of supporting the paupers the last three years of the old system, with the last three years of the present system, will show the latter to have cost, in the three years, \$9,244.84 less than the former for the same length of time, after

paying interest on the outlay and all proper expenses; and as to the situation of those who are compelled to go there, the Commissioners would invite all who are in doubt, to go and see for themselves. The fact that the County can support their poor at a County farm at a low rate, is not all the benefit the County derives from having such farm; but it enables the Commissioners to make terms for keeping many of the paupers not at the farm, which could not be made if the County had no place to take care of them themselves, and also another class that call for help who are offered the hospitalities of the Farm, but choose to try to support themselves rather than go there, which they would not do if the County had no such place to offer. Some ask the question why the pay of the Commissioners is not included in the expense of supporting the poor, for the reason that it was never done under the old system by which we make the comparison of the expenses, therefore should not be reckoned under the present system, only a part of which could be so reckoned properly.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE COUNTY.

Bonds to the amount of	\$24,100 00
One note to R. C. Durkee, for	300 00
	<hr/>
Cash in Treasury,	\$24,400 00
	10,623 43
	<hr/>
Net balance, Sept. 1, 1871,	\$13,776 57

But as a part of the cash on hand must be used to defray the current expenses of the county the year ensuing, the actual indebtedness will not be lessened only by the payment of the bonds becoming due April 1, 1872, amounting to \$3,300.00 and the note of \$300.00, so that the indebtedness after April 1, 1872 will be \$20,800.00, which becomes due in various sums each year of from \$1200.00 to \$4000.00 until 1879, at which time the last bond is due.

It is thought by the present board of Commissioners that the proper course for the county to pursue is to raise, by tax, a sum

sufficient to pay whatever of the bonds become due each year, in addition to what is needed for the current expenses of the county, so that when the bonds become due they will all be paid and the county be free from debt.

During the last year we have been under the necessity of changing overseers at the county farm, owing to the failing health of Mr. Dodge, our former very efficient overseer, and we trust we have been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Jonas Hastings and wife to perform the arduous duties of the place, who have thus far given entire satisfaction.

The children have all the advantages of the district school, and religious services are held at the farm every other Sabbath.

Upon the propriety of passing an act making all paupers county paupers, the Commissioners are of the opinion that, so far as Sullivan county is concerned, it could be done to the advantage of towns, and be no great extra burden upon the county. As the law now is, the towns have so few paupers that it is not profitable to run a farm to support them, and most towns have sold their farms and are in no situation to take care of paupers when they have them. Upon the whole, it seems to be a self evident fact that for the support of the poor we either should have all town paupers and no county paupers, or all county paupers and no town paupers, and not have both. Perhaps it would have been as well if nothing had been done about county farms, but since the county farm system has been adopted and gone into full tide of operation and seems to be so successful, it would be for the best good of all concerned that they should be all made county paupers, and towns would be thus relieved of any burdens of the kind, and their poor better cared for than they could possibly do it themselves, and at much less expense. In Sullivan county it would not probably add more than 20 or 25, and they have ample room, without crowding. They have now only fifty inmates, and have room for as many more.

AURELIUS DICKINSON, } County Commis-
ELIAS POWERS, } sioners for
WILLIAM BALLOCH. } Sullivan County.

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