

The Overseers of the Poor for the year ending in
March 1829 submit to the Town the following
report —

In attending to the wants of that portion of the
poor who are to be relieved or supported at the
expense of the Town, or of the Common wealth,
the Overseers have endeavoured to maintain
a rigid system of economy — The diet and
clothing of those in the Work House, though
always wholesome and comfortable, is of that
kind which might be expected to obtain among
the poorer class of society who maintain
themselves without public charity. In
adopting this standard as a general rule
~~some of the~~ ~~matter~~ there will always be
in ~~some~~ the case of each individual some
deprivation in relation to some article of
comfort or luxury, in which they have
indulged themselves. ^{the surplus} The total exclusion
of spirituous liquor, excepting for the sick,
has been since the first erection of the House
a standing law. ~~As the~~ ~~enactments~~ ~~of this~~
~~law are more~~ ~~obscure~~ ~~than~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~and~~
~~correctness~~ Whenever this law is evaded
and spirituous liquors are obtained by the
subjects, a necessary consequence is that
the order, tranquility and industry of the
House is interrupted. The great movement
in the community at this time to encourage temper-
ance justifies the appeal which the Overseers

of the Poor now make to their fellow townsmen
to cooperate with them in endeavouring to
~~benefit from~~ preserve those under their care
from the baleful influence of strong drink.
Persons who belong to the Work House and who
go out to labour are constantly exposed to
the temptation to excessive drinking. It is
hardly practicable to suffer an intemperate
man to go out to perform a days labour
without his returning at night under very
considerable excitement from drink.
To give or to sell poison to a person whom
we believe will use it to destroy or to injure
himself would be pronounced by the strictest
moralist as wrong. — In what other light can
we view the conduct of those who sell or give
ardent spirits to those whom they know
will use it to their hurt? To those whom
they know have lost that self command
that control of their appetite, which would
have preserved their independence and
have saved them from an abode in a Work
House. We are satisfied that it is from the
want of reflection and a due consideration
of the consequences that many worthy
and good men still continue the
practice of supplying those who labour
for them with ardent spirits. but we
think that they will at least hereafter

withhold their hand from those who are
supported at the public expence -
With respect to those who are licensed to
sell spirituous liquors it will be a good
reason with the Selectmen to withhold
their approbation from any who shall
be known to sell at to the subjects of the
Work House unless by order of the master.

1169.63
1009.35
160.28