REPORT

OF THE

Secretary of the Board of Education,

TO THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

AND THE

EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA.

DES MOINES, IOWA.
JOHN TEESDALE, STATE PRINTER.
1859.

Office of Secretary of the Board of Education,
DES MOINES, IOWA, DECEMBER 5TH, 1859.

Gentlemen of the Board of Education
and of the General Assembly :

In conformity with an act of the Board of Education, entitled "An act to provide for the election and to define the duties of the Secretary of the Board of Education," I beg leave to submit the following

REPORT:

On the 14th day of January, 1859, I filed my Bond with the Secretary of State, and entered upon my official duties. With as little delay as possible, I had the Acts and the Journal of the Board of Education printed and distributed as required by law,—ten thousand copies of the former and five hundred copies of the latter. There are about one hundred and sixty copies of the Acts, and seventy-five copies of the Journals still on hand in this office. I also had two thousand five hundred copies of the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Board of Education, at their first regular Session, printed as provided by a resolution of the Board.

It is scarcely necessary that I allude to the embarrassments under which our school system labored during the early portion of the present year, in consequence of the failure of the Act of the General Assembly of March 12th, 1858, on the ground of its unconstitutionality. Suffice it to say, that the people were uniformly disposed to conform to the surrounding circumstances, and to do the best that could be done in view of the impediments growing out of the decision of the Supreme Court, relative to the leading features of the act in question. But for this highly commendable spirit of concession, our educational interests would have suffered great inconvenience, and the progress of our schools would have been seriously retarded. Since the Acts of the Board of Educa-

tion have taken effect, the confusion resulting from the causes above named has gradually disappeared, and I feel warranted in saying that our schools are now in as prosperous a condition as could reasonably be expected, in view of the heavy financial pressure that has overshadowed all the interests of the country for the past two years.

I visited the Judicial Districts of the State in the following order:

The third District, August 17th, 1859, at Quincy, in the county of Adams. The following County Superintendents were present:

Edmund Homan, of Adams County.
James W. McDill, of Union County.
Wendell Poor, of Ringgold County.
E. D. Balen, of Taylor County.
B. B. Hutton, of Page County.
Wm. C. Means, of Montgomery County.
James W. Brown, of Cass County.

Mr. Rue, of Pottawattamie, Mr. Bell, of Fremont, and Mr. Scott, of Clarke, were reported sick.

The fourth District, August 25th, 1859, at Dennison, in the County of Crawford. Superintendents present,

Thomas Dobson, of Crawford County.
Charles Amy, of Calhoun County.

The eighth District, October 1st, 1859, at Marion, in the County of Linn. Superintendents present,

Albert Manson, of Linn County.
H. W. Lathrop, of Johnson County.

The ninth District, October 4th, 1859, at Independence, in the County of Buchanan. Superintendents present,

O. H. P. Roszell, of Buchanan County.
Truman Steed, of Black Hawk County.

The tenth District, October 6th, 1859, at West Union, in the County of Fayette. Superintendents present,

S. W. Cole, of Fayette County.
J. C. Strong, of Chickasaw County.
Alonzo Brown, Clayton County.

The seventh District, October 13th, 1859, at Davenport, in the County of Scott. Superintendents present,

A. S. Kissell, of Scott County.
J. Van Antwerp, of Clinton County.

The first District, October 15th, 1859, at Burlington, in the County of Des Moines. Superintendents present,

R. J. Graff, of Des Moines County.
John A. Nunn, of Lee County.
E. W. Gray, of Henry County.

The sixth District, October 18th, 1859, at Oskaloosa, in the County of Mahaska. Superintendents present,

J. M. Loughridge, of Mahaska County.

The second District, October 20th, 1859, at Albia, in the County of Monroe. Superintendents present,

E. M. Bills, of Monroe County.
John Anderson, of Lucas County.

The eleventh District, November 4th, 1859, at Webster City, in the County of Hamilton. Superintendents present,

E. H. Blair, of Hamilton County.
Jacob Davidson, of Wright County.
W. N. Davidson, of Franklin County.
J. M. Comstock, of Hardin County.

The fifth District, November 24th, 1859, at Adel, in the County of Dallas. Superintendents present,

Joseph R. Reed, of Dallas County.
Geo. S. Walton, of Greene County.

I am unable to assign any reason why the attendance at these meetings was so extremely limited, especially in the older portions of the State, where the facilities for traveling are much better than they are in the new and partially settled Counties. I think, however, that it may be attributed to various causes, and among the most prominent is probably the fact that no provision is made for defraying the expenses of the Superintendents in going to and from the place of meeting. It is also true, that many of these officers either expected to be, or actually had been superseded at the regular election in October, and were therefore less inclined to incur the expenses of the trip, without some remuneration. In a large number of the Counties the salary of the Superintendent is merely nominal, and in some cases scarcely sufficient to defray his expenses while engaged in the legitimate duties of his office in the County. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to conclude that some of them were actually pecuniarily unable to attend the meetings appointed by the Secretary of the Board. Others doubtless failed to attend from sheer neglect, or indifference. Notwith-

standing my disappointment in meeting so limited a number of them at my regular appointments, I had the pleasure of conferring, personally, with many of them in my travels through the State, and of eliciting much information relative to the workings of our school system, under the present law. In these interviews, I endeavored to avail myself of the result of their personal observation, in ascertaining what really were the leading objections to the law. On this point I found quite a diversity of sentiment. Some were of opinion that the law in the main was a good one, susceptible, however, of improvement in some of its less important provisions, yet they doubted the practicability of making any amendments, lest any attempt at legislation might prove detrimental to certain features which they regarded essential. Hence they preferred that no changes should be made. Others, again, were favorable to its general provisions, but considered additional legislation essentially necessary, to render it efficient and acceptable to the people. A third class, limited in number, however, regarded all its leading features as objectionable, and were therefore in favor of its repeal, and the substitution of an entirely different system. The views of these officers, as far as my observation has extended, constitute a sort of index to the sentiments of the people. In order to get information in a tangible form, I requested the Superintendents to furnish me, in connection with their annual report, a brief statement of their views, relative to the operations of the law, and also suggestive of any amendments they might deem necessary. I have appended these statements in full, to this report, and beg leave to refer you to them for a more complete exposition of the opinions of the Superintendents.

There seem to be but three objections of any note to the law:

First—That the system is too expensive.

Second—The district organization is too intricate.

Third—The office of County Superintendent is inexpedient or superfluous.

I propose very briefly to notice these objections in the order above stated. And first as to the expense of the system. The objection is not founded in truth, and is doubtless the result of hasty impressions, rather than of correct information. In proof of this, let us contrast the expense incurred under our present and former systems in one of the older counties:—take, for example, the county of Cedar, which contains, according to the recent State

Census, a population of 12,175. The expenses of a certain school district in that county for the year commencing April 1st, 1857, and ending March 31st, 1858, under the old law, were as follows:

Amount paid Secretaries for collecting School-house tax	$179 79
Amount paid Secretaries for collecting Rate Bills	158 65
Amount paid Secretaries for Incidental Expenses	24 00
Total	$362 44

For the year commencing April 1st, 1858, and ending March 31st, 1859,—under the new law,—they were, for salary of Secretary, $40 00.

Thus showing a decrease in the annual expenditures of the district, under the operation of the new law, of $322 44.

The expenses of the County for the period first named, were as follows:

Amount paid School Fund Commissioner for salary and contingent expenses	$365 00
Amount paid Secretaries for collecting School-house Tax	429 79
Amount paid Secretaries for collecting Rate Bills	575 09
Amount paid Secretaries for salaries	359 00
Total amount	$1,728 88

The expenses of the county for the period last named, were,

For salary of County Superintendent	$450 00
For salary of District Secretaries	275 00
Total amount	$725 00

Showing a decrease in the annual expenditures of the county, for school purposes, under the new law, of $1,003 88.

Again: suppose two-thirds of the annual expenditures of Cedar county, under the old law, to be an average of the annual expenditures of the eighty-one counties from which we had reports for the year, from which our figures are taken, and we then have as a total annual expenditure of the State, $93,359 52, of which $29,204 21 was paid for the salaries of School Fund Commissioners, and the remainder, $64,155 31, for the compensation and

fees of District Secretaries. Take also the same average under the new law, for the eighty-six counties, from which we had reports for the year, from which our figures are taken, and we have $41,566 77 as the total annual expenditures of the State. Deduct from the foregoing amount the sum paid County Superintendents for salary, which, in the absence of authentic information, we assume to be $25,000, (believed from the partial data in our possession to be very nearly correct,) and we have $16,566 77 as the amount paid for the annual compensation of District Secretaries, showing a decrease in the annual expenditures of the districts under the new law, of $47,588 54, and of $51,792 75, in the annual expenditures of the State.

Take another test, which varies the amounts a little, but shows very nearly the same proportion between the old and new laws. For the respective years from which our estimates are taken, the number of persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years, reported under the old law were, for the State, 203,408, and for the county of Cedar, 4,534; and the number reported under the new law were, for the State, 233,927, and for the county of Cedar, 4,612. As before stated, the annual expenditures of this county, under the old law, were $1,728 88, and under the new law, $725. Now, divide the annual expenditures of the county, under the old law, by 4,534, the number of pupils reported, and it shows the annual expense of the old system to be thirty-eight cents and one mill for each pupil, or $77,498 45 for the whole number of pupils reported in the State under the old law. By the same process, taking the annual expenditures of the county under the new law, as a basis, it will appear that sixteen cents is the annual expense for each pupil, or $37,428 32 for the whole number of pupils reported under the new law; showing under the new law a decrease in the annual expenditures of the State, of $40,070 13, although the population between the ages of five and twenty-one had meanwhile increased fifteen per cent.

I will also present another case from a different county. The annual expenses of five adjoining districts, as organized under the old law, for compensation and fees of District Secretaries, were $91 50. Under the new law, the five districts are embraced in one, and the amount paid the Secretary for the year was $15; and this was the sum total of the expenses incurred, showing a decrease in the annual expenditures under the new law, of $76 50,

or $15 30 for each district as formerly organized. There were seventy nine districts in the county under the old organization, and there are nineteen under the present. Assuming the districts named to be a fair average, (and their locality warrants this assumption, they being in a remote part of the county,) it will appear that the decrease in the annual expenditures of the county, under the new law, is $1,208 70, equal to the compensation of the County Superintendent for two years.

It is not pretended that the foregoing estimates are strictly accurate, but they approximate the truth, and show clearly that our present system is more economical than our former one; and if the facts could be fully given, it is believed that they would present a statement more favorable to the operations of the new law than our estimates do. It will be perceived that the decrease in expenditures arises chiefly from our present district organization, and this will not appear strange when we become acquainted with the fact that under the old law we had 3,265 districts, and only 932 under the new one, as shown by the reports of the late State Superintendent. It is also worthy of note that the whole amount paid for the salaries of School Fund Commissioners and the fees of District Secretaries for the collection of taxes and rate bills, was taken directly from the funds that would otherwise have accrued to the districts for school purposes, amounting at a low estimate to $61,281 86, so that they get just that much more for school purposes, under the present law, than they did under the former one. For it will be remembered that the salaries of School Fund Commissioners were paid from the interest of the School Fund, and the fees of the District Secretaries, by far the heaviest item of expense to the districts under our former law, from the funds which they collected.

The next head under consideration, is the intricacy of our present district organization; and there is a degree of plausibility in the objections urged against it. I am satisfied, however, that much of the dissatisfaction has arisen from a partial misapprehension of the law on this point, and the temporary inconvenience produced in the older counties, by the change from the old to the new system. The construction of that portion of the law is quite different in different parts of the State. The only objection of any force that I have heard urged against the present district system, is relative to the construction of school houses. Some one or

two sub-districts frequently want school houses, when the township district is unwilling to incur the expense of building them. The sub-districts, therefore, ask that they be invested with the power to build when they desire to do so, and at their own expense, without consulting the township district. Whether this change would be politic, is exceedingly questionable, and certainly would not be as equitable as the present provision. The people of the more densely populated portions of the township district, being already provided with school houses, are disposed to be a little arbitrary, and perhaps rather selfish also, in providing for the more isolated and thinly settled sub-districts. Hence the objection, so far as the construction of school houses is concerned, is not in reality the fault of the law, but of those who administer it, or rather who fail to administer it. The same difficulty occurs in the establishment of schools. Sub-districts, having no school houses, are consequently left without schools, and the money drawn by the enumeration of their children, and designed by the law to be used for their special benefit, is applied elsewhere. This is all attributable to the delinquency of the township district and its authorities, and not to the law, as the law provides for the erection of the houses and the establishment of the schools. This state of things, therefore, only shows that the law may be evaded, and rather indicates the necessity of more stringent provisions.

The provision for varying the per centum of the tax voted by the district meeting for school house purposes, is somewhat ambiguous, and has created much prejudice against the present district system. For the construction given it by the undersigned, you are respectfully referred to my letter, of April 1st, 1859, to T. O. Bishop, Esq., of Fairview, Jones County, presented herewith. My impression is, that if this feature of the law was correctly understood and faithfully administered, much of the trouble growing out of a misconstruction of it, would be removed. There is evidently sufficient indefiniteness about it to render a correct construction very difficult, and it is proper to add that the complaint against it is very general, and I believe that a large proportion of the people are in favor of its repeal, and the substitution of some other system. I think it desirable to avoid radical changes, unless they are essentially necessary, as every new provision involves a series of difficulties arising from misapprehension and misconstruction. Hence I am not fully persuaded that any material change

in the present case would be productive of good, and I am quite at a loss, in the event an alteration is made, to determine what should be substituted. To remodel and simplify the 17th clause of section 27 (the provision under consideration), and empower each sub-district to determine by a vote the question of building a school house, and if they decide in favor of it, make it the duty of the Board of Directors to levy a tax on the taxable property of the township district, and construct the house without any further vote by the township district, may partially if not wholly remove the difficulty.

Sub-districts already provided with school houses, object to being taxed for the construction of school houses in other sub-districts, but our present law, if properly understood and strictly complied with, works no injury to the older sub-districts; for the time will soon come when they will have to substitute new houses for those they now have, and they will then have the reciprocal aid of the new sub-districts in doing it. This feature of reciprocal aid is also applicable to all repairs made on school houses built under our former organization. The formation of school districts is the chief source of trouble in the establishment of a school system, and hence the most mature deliberation is necessary in the enactment of any provision for that purpose. As I shall have occasion to allude to the subject again, I shall dismiss it for the present.

Next and last in order is the office of County Superintendent of Common Schools. The principal argument against it is, that it is attended with too much expense, and is therefore impracticable for the present. With the view of testing this objection, I requested the Superintendents to report the amount received for salary from the first Monday in April, 1858, to the first Monday in April, 1859, but many of them have failed to do so. The following is a list of the counties that have reported, showing in addition to the salaries of County Superintendents, the salaries of School Fund Commissioners for the year ending March 31st, 1858, and the present population of the counties:

COUNTIES.	Salary of County Superintendents.	Salary and Contingent expenses of Fund Comm'rs.	Population.
Adair	$50.00	$215.00	1,011
Adams	88.00	85.00	1,413
Alamakee	500.00	735.00	10,843
Audubon	45.83	118.50	365
Boone	350.00	400.00	4,018
Bremer	400.00	420.00	4,336
Butler	300.00	325.00	3,504
Carroll	65.66	46.80	250
Cedar	450.00	365.00	12,175
Cerro Gordo	250.00	420.68	855
Chickasaw	300.00	450.00	3,816
Clarke	400.00	410.00	5,006
Crawford	25.00	335.20	429
Decatur	440.00	624.00	8,238
Des Moines	850.00	375.00	20,781
Dubuque	1,300.00	490.00	30,581
Franklin	75.00	250.00	1,159
Fremont	412.50	340.00	4,327
Greene	100.00	194.40	1,424
Grundy	56.25	120.00	680
Guthrie	179.16	175.00	2,754
Hardin	500.00	608.00	3,323
Henry	900.00	500.00	16,299
Humboldt	50.00	340.00	519
Jasper	637.50	265.00	9,195
Jefferson	475.00	356.50	14,478
Jones	700.00	500.00	13,475
Kossuth	50.00	190.00	310
Lee	1,200.00	600.00	31,242
Linn	900.00	540.00	17,720
Marion	750.00	385.00	16,167
Mills	300.00	325.00	4,381
Page	200.00	434.77	3,674
Polk	425.00	385.00	11,238
Ringgold	125.00	365.00	2,507
Tama	300.00	301.00	5,346
Taylor	215.00	162.76	3,468
Webster	200.00	570.00	2,596
Winnesheik	500.00	420.00	12,211
Wright	42.00	115.00	632
Total	$15,106.90	$14,257.55	286,748

Thus it will be seen that in forty Counties, including three of the largest in the State, and at least ten of the second class, the annual compensation of the County Superintendents, under the new law, exceeds the annual compensation of the Fund Commissioners under the old law, only $849.35. This is the only credit which the old system has against $51,792.75, saved in the annual expenditures of the State under the new. The Superintendent of Dubuque County, informs me that his compensation has been reduced the present year from $1,300, as it appears in the foregoing statement, to $800. Similar reductions are reported from other Counties. But while the expense incident to the office of County Superintendent, under the new law, seems to be greater than that pertaining to the office of Fund Commissioner, it is really less, owing to the fact that the former, *as required by law*, was paid in *specie*, and the latter in County Warrants, which in many of the Counties are subject to a considerable depreciation. In order, therefore, to institute a fair comparison, it is proper to reduce these County Warrants to a specie basis. Their specie value ranges, in the several Counties, from twenty-five to ninety cents on the dollar. In the County of Pottawattamie, I learned, incidentally, that the compensation of the Superintendent (a man well qualified for the position, by the way) for the past year, was $200, equivalent to about $60 in cash. From another County, I learned that the salary was $100, equivalent to $25 in cash. I might present many similar cases, but those already given are sufficient for my purpose. Assuming, then, that the average depreciation of County Warrants is twenty per cent, (and any one familiar with the financial condition of the several Counties, must admit that it is a low estimate,) we reduce the aggregate amount paid County Superintendents in the 40 Counties above named to $12,085.52, thus making it $2,172.03 less than the aggregate amount paid Fund Commissioners. This method of reasoning may be met with the reply, that the County pays the whole amount, and hence the deduction for depreciation is unwarranted. Our rejoinder is, that it pays it in *depreciated* paper, and if it was paid in *cash*, a much less sum would answer the purpose. The people in their corporate capacity, constitute the County, and pay their taxes with this depreciated paper *at par*, while the actual amount they pay into the County Treasury in *specie*, is twenty per cent less than the amount of their

taxes, and hence the amount paid County Superintendents is really twenty per cent less than than it purports to be.

From the facts gathered from the 40 counties that have reported, it is evident that the sum paid for the salaries of all the County Superintendents in the State, does not exceed $29,204.21, (it is very doubtful whether it is equal to it,) the amount paid for salaries of Fund Commissioners, from which deduct the twenty per cent, and we have $23,363.37, as the total amount paid the Superintendents under the new law, or $5,840.84 less than that paid the Fund Commissioners under the old law. We are unable therefore to see the force of the objection against the County Superintendency on the score of expense. If the office is necessary, a reasonable expenditure for its support constitutes no valid objection to it. That it or some similar office is necessary, cannot be denied, and in case it is abolished, I am unable to suggest a substitute for it, that will cost less, and at the same time be productive of as much good. If it is well filled, and its duties faithfully administered, I consider it the life and soul of the system. At the same time, I am satisfied that it is unpopular with the people, yet I believe that with some modifications and a few years' experience, it will be regarded with as much favor, as it now is with distrust. Some of the Superintendents themselves advocate its discontinuance. Many of them, however, regard its continuance essential to our educational interests; and it is proper to add that this opinion has been as freely expressed by those who have retired from it, as by the present incumbents. I do not believe that any of them have been actuated by sinister motives, but have expressed their views frankly and candidly for or against it. To render our school system efficient, it must have some representative head in the Counties. The experiments of other States confirm this assertion. Pennsylvania, after many years' experience, adheres to her County Superintendency. New York instituted and then abolished it, and has subsequently restored it—or what is substantially the same thing, a Superintendent for each Assembly District, making in some cases two or three officers for one County. The new Counties of our State have some cause of dissatisfaction. They are really unable to compensate a competent and efficient officer, and if they elect one, he is unable to devote his time to his official duties without compensation. In this way the office becomes merely nominal, and at least fails to enlist the

sympathies and co-operation of the people, if it does not really incur their opposition. But the settlement of the country will gradually remedy this difficulty.

I trust it will not be inferred, from the facts and estimates I have presented, that my design has been to make a sort of special plea in favor of our school system, as now constituted. Such is not the fact. I have simply endeavored to contrast our former, with our present organization, in order that we may determine whether we have advanced or receded, and my investigations fully satisfy me that the latter is true. Still, there is room for improvment, and I am fully persuaded that the Board of Education and the General Assembly will exercise the soundest discretion in their deliberations, and suffer no opportunity of advancing our educational interests to pass unimproved. I am wedded to no particular system of education, but wish to secure that which is the most efficient, and costs the least.

A great variety of questions concerning the administration of the school law, have been presented in the course of the year, all of which I have endeavored to answer in accordance with the strict letter of the law. Many of them have necessarily been answered during my absence, by Mr. Josiah T. Tubby, formerly Secretary pro tem of the Board of Education, whose services I engaged as clerk when I took charge of the office. His familiarity with the law and the discussions attending its enactment, has enabled him to do so with despatch and accuracy. All difficult questions, however, were submitted for our mutual consultation. I have issued but three circulars during the year, copies of which are presented herewith, as they contain my answers to some of the inquiries propounded. I have found that it gave better satisfaction to answer these questions by special correspondence, than by general circulars, and have therefore adopted the former method, with the exceptions above named. I have frequently been requested to exercise the semi-legislative authority conferred upon me by section 50, of act 8, of the Board of Education, but, lest I might transcend it, I have declined doing so, except in a few unimportant cases. A case of much interest to those concerned was presented which seemed to demand some intervention, but after a full examination, and a consultation with several members of the Board of Education, I became satisfied that the provisions of section 50 were not applicable, as they are limited to defects which

are "evidently the result of oversight." I allude to a village in the western part of the State, located on the boundary line of two adjoining counties. Under the old law the village and a portion of the adjoining territory, from each of the respective counties, constituted a school district. They levied a tax and built a neat and substantial school house. Under the new law, school districts cannot extend beyond the limits of the county in which they are created, and in consequence of this restriction nearly half the inhabitants were excluded from the old district, and thrown into a new organization in the county in which they resided, and were taxed for the construction of a school house some two miles distant, and at the same time deprived of the privilege of sending their children to one within a few rods of their doors, for the erection of which they had previously been taxed. There are several other cases in the State somewhat similar, and I think provisions should be made for their relief. I would much prefer that school districts should not extend beyond the county limits, but in a few cases necessity seems to require a departure from this general rule.

Table "A" in the appendix to this report, contains an abstract of the reports of County Superintendents. From this abstract it appears that there are in the State 993 organized township school districts, 4,574 sub-districts, 240,531 persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years, (125,144 males, and 115,387 females) 4,243 schools, 142,849 pupils attending school, with an average attendance of 79,411, and 2,901 male and 2,364 female teachers. The average compensation of teachers per week is, for males $6.92, and for females $4.29. The average cost of tuition per week for each pupil is, for summer term 25 cents, and for winter term 30 cents. The aggregate amount paid teachers is $383,589.29, and the amount of teachers fund in the hands of district treasurers is $53,967.11. There are 2,620 district school houses, to wit: 230 brick, 65 stone, 1,481 frame, and 844 log, valued at $1,049,707.41. From this item we may infer that 1,623 of our public schools are taught in rented houses; but the next item seems to indicate at least the partial removal of this defect. The amount of tax levied in school districts during the year is, for the erection of school houses $163,747.53, for teachers fund $160,511.74, for contingent expenses $67,241.43, and for district libraries $570 35 The amount of public money received from the county treasury is $361,265.59.

This item refers to the interest of the school fund and the county school tax, which by law is paid into the county treasury, and apportioned annually to the districts by the County Judge. The number of volumes in district libraries is 627, and the value of apparatus is $2,484.90.

These estimates in some cases are not strictly reliable. For instance, under the head of "amount raised in the district during the year by tax, &c.," in some districts the *per cent* simply is stated, and hence in all such cases the amount raised does not appear in the respective columns under the above head. It is also uncertain whether the amount *collected* during the year is given, or the amount *levied*. I presume as a general thing the latter is true. In reporting the "aggregate number of days the schools of the district have been taught," some districts have given only the *average*, while others have given the *aggregate*, as the law contemplates. It is impossible, therefore, to derive any satisfactory information from the figures given under this head.

There is an item embraced in the abstract to which, from its intimate connection with any contemplated changes in our district organization, I desire to call special attention. I refer to the 4,574 sub-districts. These sub-districts are a fair representation in size and population of our regular school districts under the old law. The report of the Sup't of Pub. Instruction, of November, 1857, the last made under the old law, shows that we then had 3,265 organized districts, and the abstract before us shows that we now have 993. The increase of population, and the constant necessity for creating new school districts, would have increased the number, if the old law had continued in force, to 4,574 at the present time. Now suppose the average annual compensation of the Secretary and Treasurer of each of these districts to be $10, ($5 each,) we have $45,740, as the annual compensation of these officers for the State. The compensation of similar officers under the new law, does not vary very materially from that of their predecessors under the old law. But suppose the average for the State under the new law to be fifty per cent greater than it was under the old—say $15—($7.50 for Secretary and $7.50 for Treasurer) and we have as the total amount for the State $14,875, or $30,845 less than the sum required under the old law—being more than the total annual compensation of County Superintendents. This estimate is confined to the amount paid for the *salaries* of Secretary and Treasurer, and

does not include the collection fees, of from five to ten per cent on the amount collected, paid them under the old law.

Table "B" is a statement of the annual apportionment of the interest of the permanent school fund among the several counties, made by the Auditor of State on the 17th day of March, 1859. Its connection with our educational history, is deemed a sufficient reason for inserting it in this report. The number of persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years is 233,927, and the amount appertioned is $145,034.74, being 62 cents for each person. A large proportion of the persons reported do not avail themselves of the privilege of attending school. Our statistics show only 142,849 in regular attendance, so that we have really about one dollar for each pupil. The interest added to the county school tax, gives $361,265.59 as the total amount of public money apportioned in the State, being about $2.52 for each pupil attending school. The balance required for the support of the schools is raised by district tax.

By section 56 of "An act for the public instruction of the State of Iowa," of March 12th, 1858, the sum of one thousand dollars is appropriated annually to aid in defraying the expenses of Teachers' Institutes. Fifty dollars of the sum appropriated for the present year was applied for the benefit of an Institute in Bremer County, on an application made in the latter part of 1858, to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. I have appointed 14 Institutes under the above provision, and have appropriated the sum of $50 for each, to wit:

Van Buren County,	at Keosauqua, April 4, 1859,		$50,00
Buchanan "	at Independence, May 9,	"	50,00
Polk "	at Des Moines, August 22,	"	50,00
Benton "	at Vinton, August 29,	"	50,00
Marion "	at Knoxville, " "	"	50,00
Black Hawk "	at Waterloo, " "	"	50,00
Mahaska "	at Oskaloosa, Sept. 12,	"	50,00
Hardin "	at Iowa Falls, " "	"	50,00
Madison "	at Winterset, " 19,	"	50,00
Decatur "	at Leon, " "	"	50,00
Jasper "	at Newton, " 26,	"	50,00
Marshall "	at Marshall, " "	"	50,00
Wayne "	at Clio, October 3,	"	50,00
Cedar "	at Tipton, " 24,	"	50,00
Total amount,			$700,00

This leaves a balance of the appropriation, not yet drawn, of $250,00, for which applications are already on file. It is to be regretted that the appropriation is not sufficient to admit of a greater number of these meetings. They are a source of much information to the teachers, and exercise a very salutary influence upon the people. I am satisfied that we cannot rely upon other States for a supply of teachers. We must educate and train them at home. The truth is, the success of our school system depends in a great measure upon the efficiency of our teachers. A few well qualified and energetic teachers in each county, who have become permanently identified in feeling and interest with the people, will do more for the cause of education than any other influence we can apply, with double the expenditure of means. Hence, if we are actuated by no higher motives, self-interest alone should prompt us to aid and encourage them in every manner possible. If the profession of teaching were as lucrative as it is laborious, then our aid would be uncalled for. In no profession do we witness so much patient endurance and self-sacrifice, for so small a remuneration, as in that of teaching. I would therefore beg leave to suggest the propriety of increasing the appropriation, and of making it the duty of the County Judge of each county in which the meetings are held, to furnish a room for the purpose at the expense of the county.

It is proper to add that I appointed an Institute in Jackson County, at Bellevue, on the 26th of September, 1859, and forwarded a warrant for $50,00, but owing to the protracted illness of the County Superintendent, it was not held, and the warrant has since been returned, and is included in the above balance.

During my absence last fall, a communication was received from the Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe, under date of September 8th, 1859, formally tendering to the Secretary and to the Board of Education the use of the columns of the Literary Advertiser and Public School Advocate, upon certain conditions, as a permanent medium of official communication with the several school officers and school districts in the State. Not feeling authorized to act upon such a proposition, I have deemed it proper to present the matter for your consideration.

Allow me, in conclusion, to add a few suggestions relative to amendments. As before stated, I am averse to radical changes, unless they are regarded indispensable, and I very much doubt

the expediency of any such changes at present. Were it not for this conviction, my recommendations would assume an entirely different character. Under existing circumstances, I would recommend the continuance of the office of County Superintendent, with such modifications as will probably obviate some of the objections to it. The salary should be definitely fixed, and not left in part subject to the action of the presidents of school districts as at present. It is also my impression that it will be better to elect the County Superintendent at the time of electing school district officers.

I concur fully with the late Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. Fisher, in regard to large districts. He recommended the township system with some hesitation, not because he doubted its utility, but because he foresaw the temporary inconvenience that must necessarily arise from the change from an old to a new system; and in this particular I can fully appreciate his feelings. Large districts give us a much more efficient and less expensive organization. Indeed, if each county were constituted a school district, they would be none too large, if the people were prepared for what would now be deemed so ultra a measure. It is to be regretted that the early educators and legislators of the county ever incorporated the feature of small districts into their common school systems. The precedent established by them, has obtained so firm a hold on the public mind, that none of those who have succeeded them are willing to assume the responsibility of departing materially from it. But the organization of districts and sub-districts under the present law, and the connection existing between them, does not entirely meet my approval. It is too complicated to be readily understood and administered, and consequently leads first to confusion and discord, and ultimately to neglect and indifference among the people of the district.

If it were deemed advisable to re-recognize the entire district system, I should without hesitation recommend that each Congressional township be created a permanent School District, and that the Sub-Districts be abolished. This general rule would require some special provisions for the fractional townships, and those traversed by the larger streams, and for the formation of districts from parts of two or more adjoining townships; and in extreme cases, from parts of two or more adjoining counties. Each town or village, with a restricted portion of the adjoining territory,

should constitute a separate School District, subject to somewhat different regulations, and the remainder of the township should be erected into one or two districts, as might best subserve the interests of the inhabitants. Then let each district be divided into not less than nine election precincts, for the election of one director from each, who together should constitute the Board of Directors for the district, with power to elect a president from their own number, and a secretary and treasurer of the district, (the secretary of the district to act in the same capacity for the Board of Directors,) from the district at large. Divide the Board of Directors into three clases, to be determined by lot among themselves, the first class to continue in office for one, the second for two, and the third for three years, and their successors to be chosen annually thereafter, for a term of three years. Give them power to levy taxes (not exceeding a certain per cent. for each year,) build school houses, and establish schools at such points in the districts as the convenience of the people might require, and make it their duty to do so upon the written application of a certain number of legal voters in any settlement in the district not provided with a school. Make it their duty, before levying any tax for school house purposes, to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the amount of district tax for that purpose, heretofore paid by each property holder in the district as now formed, under former district organizations, within a stated period, and then authorize them to exempt such persons, annually, from a certain per centage of the tax levied until they are fully reimbursed after which time all the property in the district would pay an *equal* per cent. of the taxes levied.

Such are the outlines of a plan for the organization of school districts that my past experience and observation induce me to consider best adapted to our wants; but it is perhaps unwise to attempt its introduction at present. It is in many respects similar to our present system, and is presented more with a view to some modification of this particular feature of our present law, than to its adoption. The idea relative to an equalization of the school house tax, it is believed would be a judicious change in the provisions of our present law for varying the tax.

My only preference for the Congressional over the Civil Township organization is, that through the former we secure *permanency and uniformity* (two important features) of district limits, while

under the latter, our district boundaries are subject to perpetual changes. If the present system is continued, it is hoped that the General Assembly will remedy this defect. Every change made in the boundaries of a civil township by the County Judge, affects the boundaries of our districts and sub-districts, and is attended with much inconvenience, and often great injustice to our schools. *Permanency, simplicity and efficiency*, are the three essential ends to be attained in the formation of school districts; and indeed I may add, in the establishment of a school system. Prudence seems to dictate that our only safe policy is, to amend the present law with these ends in view; and in doing so, to make as few changes as possible in order to render it acceptable and useful to the people.

It is at once my duty and my pleasure to co-operate with you in your arduous labors. I am confidently assured that you clearly comprehend the full scope of the vital interests entrusted to your care, and humbly trust that Divine Wisdom may guide you in your deliberations, and that your efforts may be crowned with the most permanent and salutary results.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. BENTON, Jr.,

Secretary of the Board.

APPENDIX.

My original intention was to present the written Reports of the County Superintendents *entire*, but finding it impracticable to do so, I have simply given such extracts as refer more particularly to the operations of the law.

Sec'y of the Board of Education.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

ADAIR COUNTY.

I think the schools of this county are in as flourishing condition as could be expected in a newly settled county. There is a great scarcity of Text Books throughout the county, or rather there are too many kinds. We have had excellent teachers this last year.

GEORGE W. WHITE, Co. Sup't.

ADAMS.

In my view, the present school system is well adapted to the advancement of the interests of Education in our State, though susceptible still of great improvement. I also think that it is rapidly growing into favor with the people of this county. The schools of the county, though not what they should be, or what we hope soon to see them, exhibit decided evidence of labor on the part of teachers and pupils; consequently our schools are in a better condition than at the time of our last annual report.

There have been taxes levied and school houses built during the past year, but a number of houses are still needed in the county.

I would suggest as an amendment to the law, either that the District Board of Directors be authorized to levy tax for building purposes without a vote, or that each sub-district be empowered to levy its own tax and build its own house. The above, I think perhaps would save some trouble, and cause some more houses to be

built than otherwise will be erected soon. In the majority of the schools all the branches required by law in a teacher's certificate are taught, and few of them have gone beyond this.

EDMOND HOMAN, Co. Sup't.

BENTON.

I would suggest the following changes in the law now in iorce:

1st—That the civil townships, in all cases, be made school districts, and that the property held by districts formed out of two townships, be appraised and sold for the benefit of the sub-districts from which the money was raised by tax to purchase the same.

2d—That the Township Board of Directors be constituted of a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and that all the business for the entire township be transacted by these officers, who shall be paid for their services a reasonable compensation.

3d—That the sub-district system be abolished.

4th—That a Teachers' Institute, at the expense of the county, be held in each county in Iowa annually.

5th—That the salary of the County Superintendent be fixed at the same as that of the Clerk of the District Court, and be paid out of the school tax.

6th—That he shall not be compelled to visit the schools in his county more than once per annum, and that in making his tour of visitation he be directed to deliver a lecture explanatory of the law, and in favor of the Common School system in each county.

JOSEPH DYSART, Co. Sup't.

BOONE.

The machinery of the present school system, is too cumbrous and expensive. The District Board system never will work well nor give the people any satisfaction. The sub-districts ought to have power to hire their teachers, and levy taxes for all purposes. Money ought not to pass into the hands of District Treasurers, nor sub-directors, but be paid out by the county financial officer, who has control of the general school fund, (who in my opinion, ought to be the County Superintendent,) to be paid out semi-

annually, say the first Mondays in April and October, to accommodate both summer and winter schools, thereby doing away with a fruitful source of contention in school districts. The basis of distribution to be, one half in proportion to the children between five and twenty-one years resident in each township; the other half in proportion to the scholars sent, and days kept, in each school, as shown by the Teacher's register, which, when signed by the proper officer, should be his or her warrant for drawing from the county officer, his share of the funds, when deposited in proper time. By this change in the law, all would see the propriety of keeping schools in session as long as practicable, in order to entitle them to a greater share of the funds so distributed.

The schools of this county are not in as prosperous condition as I would wish to see them, owing in part to the want of money to build proper school houses and hire a better class of teachers, and also the want of interest manifested by district officers, parents, and guardians, in carrying out the provisions of the school law.

JAMES PHELAN, Co. Sup't.

BLACK HAWK.

First, nine tenths of all the difficulties we have in this county, grow out of the sub-district system, which might be obviated, if not entirely avoided, had we the Pennsylvania township system. Second, I understand it to have been the design of those who framed the Constitution, to remove the educational interests from the arena of politics, which would be approximated, were our County Superintendents elected when the other school officers are, and *not* at the General Elections. I would, therefore, ask your honor, for and in behalf of our children, to use your influence to have this (as far as may be) removed from demagogues. Third, we would be at *least* six montes in advance of our present position, were our school taxes collected as our road taxes are at present. Fourth, we of this county, hold that it is not required of the District Treasurers to present a dratt to the County Treasurers for *any* moneys, except that levied by the County Judge, and interest derived from permanent school fund; from the fact that these are the only moneys "apportioned" by said judge. If

we are correct, it is impossible for the District Secretary to keep account with the District Treasurer, seeing the latter can draw money from the County Treasurers, without the knowledge of the former. I have condensed these remarks as much as possible, as doubtless you will have your attention called by many others. Yet I *do* regard these as not wholly unimportant.

TRUMAN STEED, Co. Sup't

BREMER.

The school law operates badly in Bremer county. 1st. The greatest objection urged against the law is the size of the districts. If each sub-district had full powers and were entirely independent of the balance of the township it would remedy that objection, and also remedy likewise, No. 2, which is the number of officers created in each township, under the present system. Their duties might be performed by the present sub-directors, and thereby save the expense of a Township Board. No. 3. In the blindness of the law, (if I may use that expression,) and the consequent variety of interpretations put upon different portions of it.

The above are the main objections, and in my opinion, four-fifths of the inhabitants of this county would prefer the old school law, with all its defects, to the present one. Had we a law with the free school system of the present, without its cumbersome details, it would give satisfaction in this county.

W. W. NORRIS, Co. Sup't.

BUTLER.

I would suggest that the township District Secretary be elected at a different time, or that the time of reporting to the County Superiniendents be so changed that they shall not be compelled to report matters that have been transacted some six months previous to the election, and also that the headings of the blanks for the secretaries' reports correspond with the blanks for the County Superintendents' reports; also, that the sub-directors be empowered to vote a tax for building school houses, and for teachers' fund,

without the aid of their neighboring sub-districts; also that when the township districts neglect or refuse to vote a tax for incidental expenses, that the board shall levy a tax for that purpose.

D. W. MASON, Co. Sup't.

CARROLL.

I think the School Law will work very well after the people get used to it. We get along very well in our county, and have not had any trouble. All of our houses are in pretty good order, and I think we will have schools in them this winter.

W. H. PRICE. Co. Sup't.

CEDAR.

I have no suggestions to offer in relation to the School law, except to allow it to remain as it is. The greatest difficulty experienced in getting the present law in operation, lies mainly in the repugnance of communities to adapt themselves to a new state of things. I earnestly hope the law will remain unchanged.

JOSHUA MAYNARD, Co. Sup't.

CERRO GORDO.

That the present School law has its excellencies no one who has carefully examined it will deny. It tends to diffuse through the county and through the State all the wisdom possessed by our best educators; it renders it more difficult for sub-districts to do themselves injury by employing unskilful teachers. But these seem to me to be nearly counterbalanced by the difficulties interposed in the way of *special* effort on the part of the sub-districts themselves. *Reform, progress*, generally commences with individuals, and with the smaller bodies. Any modification of the law that would increase the power of sub-districts to advance their own schools, and thus furnish the appropriate stimulus to action, would, in my view, operate beneficially. Sec. 2 will undoubtedly be made explicit; if it be its meaning *that a Township District*

may in all cases draw public money, provided a school is taught in some one of its Sub-Districts for twelve weeks, once in two years. I think the penalty is althgether inadequate. I think two public examinations of Teachers annually, say last Saturday in April, and last in October, with provision for special cases, would be better than having one each month. There is great advantage in bringing the teachers in the county together, in order that they may see each others' standing. If any are rejected, the cause of their rejection will be apparent.

THOMAS TENNEY, Co. Sup't.

CHICKASAW.

You wish a brief statement of my views relative to the operation of the School Law. I admire the main features of the School Law. I am decidedly of the opinion that the property of the State ought to educate the children. The schools of the county under the new law have made a decided advancement. In some respects, I think the School Law could be modified so as to be better adapted to work in the county.

J. C. STRONG, Co. Sup't.

CLARKE.

Owing to the uncertain condition of our present school system, and in view of the fact that the General Assembly may materially alter it the coming session, I do not deem it necessary to make many general remarks upon it. As I view it, under the constitutional provision, it will be an utter impossibility for us to have a permanent school law; or rather it will be impossible to make a law providing for an efficient system of Public Schools, as neither the Board nor the Legislature alone have the power to do so. The only remedy we have, is to get along by common consent, until the Constitutional difficulty is got over, or that feature in the Constitution is abrogated. Hence all suggestions in regard to our school laws, from me, I deem would be mostly, if not entirely, superfluous.

However, I would say that I decidedly approve of all the main

features of our school system as organized by the present law. It is based upon the only correct principles upon which a good system of Public Schools can be based. I am clearly in favor of the Township District feature; but would suggest a few alterations in some of its details. It has always been my opinion, and my experience in this county strongly confirms me in it, that the power to levy taxes for the erection of school houses and contingent expenses, should be put into the hands of the Board of Directors, under proper restrictions. I shall not trouble you with my reasons for it, as I deem it must by this time be obvious to a large majority of the County Superintendents in the State.

I also think that the money should not be apportioned to the sub-districts in proportion to the number of youths of lawful school age in each; as this is retaining one of the most reprehensible features in the old system. It gives the strong sub-districts the benefit of much the larger share of the public fund, and an undue advantage by this means over the weaker ones. One of the strongest objections urged against the new school system, was, that it would give towns, villages and densely populated neighborhoods a decided advantage in sharing the public fund; but had the distribution of said fund been left to the discretion of the Boards of Directors, as I think was the intention of the framers of the law, this might have been entirely obviated, and perhaps would generally have been done.

The duty of the respective Boards of Directors in relation to the transfer of scholars from one District Township to another, and the manner of paying over the money to the district to which they are transferred, do not seem to be sufficiently plain in the law.

I would suggest the propriety of the law fixing the minimum number of scholars, as nearly as possible, that each sub-district should contain. It would prevent the Boards of Directors from sub-dividing the districts into two small sub-districts, as some of them seem inclined to do; and I would suggest that no sub-district should contain less than forty or sixty youths of lawful age, unless circumstances were such that this could not be done. I am of the opinion that, as a general thing, each township district should be sub-divided into not more than four sub-districts The greatest fault in our old "independent district system," was, perhaps, the tendency to cut the territory up into too small districts, and our

present system does not guard sufficiently against this danger, or injurious consequence.

I am in favor of the County Superintendency feature; but would urge the propriety of the law fixing the whole salary of that officer, and not leaving any portion of it to the Boards of Presidents—it is too uncertain and capricious. When a person enters upon the duties of that office he has no assurance whether he will get a full salary or not, hence he does not know whether to devote all his time and energies to their discharge. His efforts and zeal must necessarily be crippled. The consequence is, that we cannot receive the full benefits designed by the creation of that office, nor can we get the men to take the office who would be competent to give us that benefit.

When the act of March 12, 1858, was passed, establishing our present system of Common Schools, that system met with the cordial approval of a large majority of the citizens of this county; but the decision of the Supreme Court threw a damper upon us, and created an impression that the system was insecure and uncertain —that it is of no use to do anything, as the Legislature or Supreme Court would more than likely undo all we might attempt to do, &c. —and this state of uncertainty in the public mind has been very fatal to anything like rapid or healthy progress in school matters. This state of feeling will continue until the whole matter becomes permanently settled, and the people become satisfied that what they may do this year, will not be undone the next year. Therefore, the interests of our system of Public Instruction, the interests of the hundreds of thousands of the youth of Iowa, demand that this whole matter be speedily adjusted, and our system of Common Schools be placed in proper condition, and upon a permanent basis, just as soon as possible.

J. H. L. SCOTT, Co. Sup't.

DECATUR.

There is so strong an opposition to the school system, in its present form, among all classes, that it is impossible to get any one man to perform the duties of his office, as required by the law. A statement of my views, relative to the operation of the school

law, can be given in a few words; that is, repeal the whole system, and give us one more easily understood, and abolish the office of County Superintendent.

THOMAS JOHNSON, Co. Sup't.

DES MOINES.

I feel justified in saying, that the schools of our county have been much improved since our present school law went into operation.

Schools would have been kept open longer in our city, and in several of the District Townships, if the money which was voted and levied last fall, had been collected and returned to the districts last spring.

There is yet considerable opposition to the present School Law, in our county. The people have been made to believe that it is very much more expensive than the old law. The office of County Superintendent is particularly objected to, on account of the salary.

I have visited the schools of the county twice, and many of them oftener, since the date of my last report.

We have organized a County Teacher's Association, which I think has greatly benefitted our teachers. The regular meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month. We propose holding an institute this fall or winter.

I think, if the money could be apportioned to the Districts on the first Monday in March, instead of the first Monday in April, it would be better. Many of our teachers close their winter terms about that time, and consequently have to wait, according to present arrangements, several weeks for their wages.

Dividing the money among the Sub-Districts, according to the number of persons between five and twenty-one years, does not work well in our county, as it enables some Sub-Districts to have school very much longer than others. I think the District Board should have the privilege of using the money to keep schools in each Sub District about the same length of time.

R. J. GRAFF, Co. Sup't.

FAYETTE.

The townships have generally kept up schools where they had houses. There are several townships without good school houses, and that will not vote to build any under the present law. The masses are opposed to the present Township-District system, and ask for the power to vote to build houses and manage their own affairs. They are in favor of the free school law, the County Superintendency and the law generally, but they want it fixed so they can vote, and build houses, and not be governed by the townships.

S. W. COLE, Co. Sup't.

FLOYD.

In regard to the School Law of Iowa, the prevailing opinion in our county is, that it generally lacks finish; that it has none of the working gear of law; that points are made but there left; there appears to be no working power to it; and the opinion is with us, that the law is generally defective in this particular. My opinion is that the law embodies none of the characteristics of a law; that one set of men may work it one way, and another set work it another, and either be right or wrong, or both.

The general condition of our schools is good, taking into consideration the hard times, &c.

L. L. HUNTLY, Co. Sup't.

FRANKLIN.

The School Law works satisfactorily in most respects, in this county. It would, perhaps, be better if the sub-director of a sub-district had no power to act on the Board in relation to matters in which his sub-district has no interest; such as the question, whether or not more than one school shall be taught in a sub-district named—hiring a teacher, &c. The County Superintendent should have some notice given him of the commencement of particular schools, the location of school house sites, the intention to build school houses, &c. In my opinion, also, the law in

relation to appeals to the Superintendent from decisions of District Boards should be so altered as to regulate the time within which such appeals may be taken, and the general mode of procedure. The County Superintendent should have the management of the School Lands and Fund. The present arrangement has rendered the duties of County Treasurers too multifarious and liable to confusion. Some method should be distinctly pointed out by which contingent expenses may be paid out of the School Fund, as by warrants of the County Judge for surveys of the Sixteenth Sections, &c.

The schools of the county are in a flourishing condition, having increased from 12 to 16 since my former report, while the school houses in process of erection will cost in the aggregate, $4,000.00

W. N. DAVIDSON, Co. Sup't.

GREENE.

I have no suggestions to make with regard to the law, only that I would not wish to see the system materially changed at present, or till it is thoroughly tried. Some slight amendments might, however, be of advantage.

JACKSON ORR, Co. Sup't.

GRUNDY.

I think there is a deficiency in the School Law in regard to the manner of borrowing money from the School Fund by the Districts. They should give the County security for the same. Sub-districts should have the privilege of levying their own school house tax, or else the sub-districts should be abolished, and the whole matter be left with the townships. As a whole, I think our people will be as well suited with our present school system, when slightly amended, as with any that could be passed.

ELIAS MACY, Co. Sup't.

HARDIN.

Even the casual observer must acknowledge that our school

system, in this county, has been a *positive success.* If we had good school houses, our schools would soon vie with any in the State. Our schools have made rapid strides toward perfection, under the pressure of many clogs and weights.

During the past year, nearly every child in the county has had an opportunity to attend school. School houses have been better arranged, more ample and eligible sites have been securred, upon which school houses are to be erected. The physical wants of pupils have been more cared for. Our schools have been better classified, by securing greater uniformity in text books.

Teachers have been better qualified, and have manifested a strong desire to improve themselves. While the population have remained nearly stationary, since 1857, as shown by the enumeration of scholars, the aggregate number of months of school taught in the last year, is at least four times greater than it was in 1857. Public opinion has responded to the sentiment, "we must educate."

Our present system is constantly gaining friends, though I think the law of Pennsylvania, which gives to the District Board the power to levy taxes is more *efficient* than ours. Were each sub-district permitted to build its own school house, we might perhaps secure houses sooner in some localities, but I am satisfied that we should have poorer ones.

I think the county superintendency a *very important lever* in the system.

EDWIN FULLER, Co. Sup't.

HARRISON.

I have, during my term of office, done all in my power to assist and promote the cause of education; and I can safely say, that the new school law, as passed by the Legislature, and remodelled by the Board of Education, is working like a charm. Few find find fault with it in any respect, and were the same more efficiently put into effect, and more zeal manifested for the cause by each individual, its design and benefits would shine forth with greater luster.

JOSEPH H. SMITH, Co. Sup't.

HENRY.

I think our school system will never be satisfactory, or meet the wants of the people, whilst the sub-district plan is continued, and discriminating power is given to the several boards of directors. I would abolish all sub-districts, and give the Township Boards powers sufficient to meet all exigencies created thereby.

SAMUEL L. HOWE, Co. Sup't.

HOWARD.

As a general thing, the people would like to have the law so altered, that each sub-district may levy and collect taxes, and manage its own affairs. The free school feature of the law, and the county superintendency, the people are well pleased with.

CHAS. E. BROWN, Co. Sup't.

HUMBOLDT.

The School Law of the State operates well in this county, and I do not now see how it could be amended to advantage.

GEORGE W. MANN, Co. Sup't.

IOWA.

There has been, in this county, a strong opposition to the present School Law.

C. S. JENNIS, Co. Sup't.

JACKSON.

I will only suggest one or two amendments to our School Law, which I consider important. In my opinion the law should be so amended as to empower a Sub-District to levy a tax for building, or repairing, when a majority of the voters of such sub-district

shall so determine, even though the *district* might determine otherwise.

I would also suggest that, as the County Superintendent is made the medium of communication between yourself and the District Boards, returns should be made to him, of the election of district officers.

But I should rather discourage than encourage amendments *at present.* The law is doubtless imperfect, and needs slight amendments; but I do sincerely hope its main features will be permitted to remain undisturbed until there shall be an opportunity of judging of its *merits* by its *effects.* It is impossible that these should be apparent in a year or two. Having full confidence in the ability and integrity of our worthy Secretary and Board of Education, I will await your action, hoping you will be guided in your deliberations upon this important subject, so as to rejoice the hearts of all true lovers of education, and tend in the highest degree, to place the principle of *free schools* upon a firm basis in our young and growing Iowa. *Don't change the principles of our present law.*

J. P. EDIE. Co. Sup't.

JEFFERSON.

1st. The schools in this county have very much improved during the year past. Our teachers have labored with great enthusiasm and fidelity. No *interest* (political excepted) is more cared for among teachers and pupils than Education.

2d. I would respectfully suggest the following alterations in the school law: (*a*) That the beginning and ending of the school year be fixed by law. (*b*) Also, that the number of days which make a school month be specified, and that the number be twenty. (*c*) That the school law specify where fractions of townships included in the sub-districts of other townships, shall be enumerated and taxed, and where the voters in such fractions shall vote in school matters.

I would also suggest as a very important amendment to that portion of the law defining the duties of the County Superintendent, that he be required to hold an Institute, or school, exclusively for the teachers of his county, at least two weeks in each year.

Also, that certificates for a definite limited time be given to teachers. Also, the County Superintendent shall examine teachers by proxy only in case of sickness on his part. As the law now reads. a man totally incompetent, can hold the office and perform its duties by a deputy, and a certificate may be for any number of years, even twenty. There are other points in the law which need alteration, but which, no doubt, being the result of haste in making it, will naturally be remedied next winter.

REED WILKINSON, Co. Sup't.

JOHNSON.

There are but few subjects connected with the administration of the school law, on which I have anything to say more than was contained in my report to your predecessor, made one year ago. Many of the reports of the Secretaries are defective, in consequence of a failure of teachers to file with the proper officer a report of the schools taught by them. In many cases the teachers, on the close of their schools, have drawn their pay and gone from the district, thus putting it out of the power of the Secretaries to obtain from their registers, which they have lost or taken away with them, the desired information. There should be some provision of law requiring the teacher to file with the Secretary of the District, the Register required by the 31st section of Act No. 8, of the Board of Education, and a prohibition against drawing his pay until such Register is filed.

In several portions of the county great difficulty has arisen in consequence of sub-districts, as they existed prior to March 12th, 1858, being divided by township lines; in some of these sub-districts school houses had been erected, and in some they had not. I am of the opinion that the District Boards should have the power to change the boundaries of their districts by concurrent action, in such a manner as will obviate the difficulties that now exist, and accommodate settlements in regard to the location and building of school houses.

In my examination of teachers during the first six months of my term, I found them generally so ignorant of the elementary sounds of the English language, that I purchased four dozen of Page's Normal Charts, and furnished them to the districts of the county

at cost price, which was $1.65 each, and I find their use has become very popular, and highly beneficial. There should be one in every school room in the State.

H. W. LATHROP, Co. Sup't.

JONES.

By comparing the statistical report herewith submitted with the one of the preceding year, we elicit the following results: The number of youths between five and twenty-one years has increased from 4,665 to 5,009, or 7⅞ per cent; consequently, other things being equal, our school accommodations and expenditures should increase in the same ratio. We find, however, that our school interests have advanced in a much greater ratio. The number of schools have increased from 61 to 88, or 44 per cent. The average attendance from 1,352 to 2,184, or 61½ per cent. The number of teachers from 81 to 167, or 106 per cent. The average number of days' school has been taught from 86¼ to 114, or 34 per cent. The aggregate number of days school has been taught from 5,163 to 10,039, or 94 per cent. The number of school houses from 53 to 64, or 20¾ per cent. The value of school houses from $10,739.00 to $15,854.50, or 47 3-5 per cent. The amount raised the present year for the erection of school houses is $6,244.61, or 58 per cent on the value of our school houses one year ago. The average pay of male teachers per week has been increased from $4.89 to $5.35, and that of females from $2.48 to $2.75.

As requested, I will present a brief statement of my views relative to the operation of the school law. My observations have been confined chiefly to this county; but judging from what I have *seen of its operations*, I am a decided favorite of the law. Notwithstanding the machinery is new, and needs some time to work smoothly, yet I can perceive that it has already accomplished much, and I should deem it one of the greatest misfortunes that could befall our Educational interests, to have it repealed and the old law revived. A wonderful stimulus has been given to the cause of education since its inauguration. The law may, without doubt, be amended in some particulars.

I will suggest the following:

For Section 2, Act 8, passed by the Board of Education, I would substitute Section 2 of the Act passed by the General Assembly, substituting therein "twenty-four weeks" for "sixteen weeks."

I think that Sections 35, 36 and 37 of Act 8, need some amendment. First, by limiting the validity of certificates given to teachers to one year, as provided for in the Act passed by the General Assembly. Second, by requiring the County Superintendent, in all his examinations, to call to his aid two or more assistants.

The 12th sub-division of the 27th Sec. of Act 8, which requires the District Board to visit schools, &c., is almost altogether neglected, although one of the most important provisions of the school law. If possible, some amendment should be made which would remedy this evil. I would suggest that it be made the especial duty of the several District Secretaries to have a particular oversight of the several schools in their respective districts; to visit each school monthly, in addition to the commencement and close; to see that the teachers keep a full and correct register of the school, as required by law—to examine into the branches taught, text books used, and all other matters connected with the interests of the school, and to make a full report of each school to the Co. Superintendent; in short, to act as the County Superintendent's deputy for his respective district. The Secretaries of each district could attend to these duties, and at much less inconvenience and expense than the County Superintendent. But in order to insure the faithful performance of them, he should receive a fair compensation, graded by the number of schools in his district. By this arrangement, the County Superintendent might be required to visit each school once only during the year, unless particular circumstances should require otherwise; and I would recommend that he be required to meet the citizens of each district in his county, twice at least, in the course of the year, and to lecture on such subjects as shall best promote its educational interests; at which every teacher and school officer at least in the district, would be expected to be present. I think that the salary of the County Superintendent should be definitely fixed by law, as that of other county officers, instead of depending, in part, on the discretionary pay which he receives at present.

BARRETT WHITETMORE, Co. Sup't.

LEE.

Considerable efforts have been made during the past year to improve the schools in this county, and I am glad to say, with

considerable success. Much interest has been taken in the cause of education, and in many districts they have had excellent schools, and have made much progress.

I would respectfully suggest the propriety of the Sub Directors taking the census of their sub-district, and report the same to District Secretary. Living in the immediate neighborhood, they will always possess better means of obtaining a correct report than the District Secretary, who may often be a comparative stranger to many Sub-Districts.

I would also suggest the propriety of an equal division of the public money due to each Township District among the several Sub-Districts of the same, instead of the present division *pro rata;* thus a weak Sub District would be assisted by the stronger ones. At present, it is a difficult matter for the weak Sub-Districts to carry out the law of having four or six month's school without laying a very heavy special tax. One or more of the Township Districts have acted on this plan of equality and thus assisted each other.

I would also suggest that the Board of Education definitely fix the salary of County Superintendents. By the present method, it is likely to be influenced by electioneering movements.

JOHN A. NUNN, Co. Sup't.

LINN.

Under the present law the schools have greatly improved. The system is cheaper and better than the old; yet the present act is deficient in many respects, and is unpopular. The office of County Superintendent must be abolished, or it will be at half pay and disregarded; not that the office is annecessary or useless, but because it has a *salary.* Very many of the voters of this county will put down any thing in the shape of a tax, however useful.

A. MANSON, Co. Sup't.

LUCAS.

The schools of this county are in a much more prosperous condition than ever they have been. Nearly every district has voted

a tax the present year, for building purposes, Teachers' Fund, and contingent expenses. *If political feeling would let it alone, it would be soon an efficient law.*

JOHN ANDERSON, Co. Sup't.

MARION.

I would suggest a remodeling of our School Law almost entire. I am in favor of Sub-Districts being entirely independent, and have the power to manage the building of school houses and conducting schools, by a board in their own district. I am also in favor of levying a certain tax, throughout the entire county, for school purposes, say, four or five mills to the dollar, and no other; and that this tax, with the interest from the permanent School Fund, be apportioned to every child in the county, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, and held sacred for the use of such child a certain length of time, and if not used in that certain time, then let it be re-apportioned and held sacred again for a time. Let the County Superintendent be the general presiding officer of the county, to visit schools, form districts, grant changes, in fact, enlarge his duties; keep him in the field every day, and pay him a salary that will justify him to stay there and work. Let him have a list of every child's name, and how much money it has on hand for its own special benefit.

CLAIBORNE HALL, Co. Sup't.

MILLS.

The schools in this county are improving. Better teachers are employed than formerly. Considerable improvement has been made in school houses, and more attention is paid to the cause of education generally.

Very little complaint is heard against the new School Law.

J. W. DANIELS. Co. Sup't.

MUSCATINE.

The decision of the Supreme Court, in regard to the validity of the School Law, interrupted the schools of this county for a season

The uncertainty of legislation, and doubts as to the power of the Township Districts to levy taxes have had a bad effect, and seriously impaired the efficiency of the system. This last difficulty is, however, only temporary, and can be removed by the ensuing Legislature. In this county, public opinion strongly favors the abolition of the Township District system. It is in favor of each sub-district being entirely independent in the control and management of its schools.

WM. F. BRANNAN, Co. Sup't.

POWESHIEK.

It becomes my duty as well as privilege, to communicate to you a few facts, which are not embraced in my accompanying statistical report.

1—OUR SCHOOLS.

The improvment in our schools during the year and a half of the operation of the "free school system," has been so marked as to preclude all cavil. During the winter of 1857-58, we had only twenty public schools, but during the first winter after a common school education was offered to every child, "without money and without price," there were thirty-one schools, being an increase in the number of schools, of *fifty-five per cent.*, while the number of pupils was increased, probably, not less than *one hundred per cent.*

2—SCHOOL HOUSES.

These are few compared with our wants. Those built during the past year are more commodious, better built and better furnished than their predecessors; while those planned for the ensuing year will not indicate less taste or be less comfortable.

3—TEACHERS.

Sometimes one is employed who "will do for *us*," but those who propose to engage in the business of training the Dauphins of our country, are generally "live teachers." Nearly every one who has been examined for the second time has made decided progress during the interval of teaching; while some have vacated the chair of the teacher to occupy that of the pupil. Knowledge is considered essential, but our teachers are beginning to consider the ability to impart it, as well as the power to govern no less so.

Most of them are determined to "amount to something," either *in* the profession or *out* of it. Our drones have nearly all retired to more private life.

4—THE SCHOOL LAW.

Neither the wisdom nor the good fortune of our law-makers has ever suggested a law more popular with us than that which makes education as free to every pupil, as our common sun-light. The old "Rate Bill" scheme excluded many of the children of poverty from our schools, and, had that system been in operation during the last year and a half, no one supposes that one half of the "average attendance" which we now exhibit could have been shown.

But, while the main provisions of the law are exceedingly popular, there are some portions which the people would be glad to have changed.

1. A provision to enable a sub-district to build its own house by tax upon itself, even if the majority of the township should be opposed to it.

2. That no land should be liable to taxation for building school houses in several different sub-districts in as many successive years, when such sub-district is required by the Board of Directors, to build its own house, and to be thus liable to double and triple taxation by a mere change of sub-district lines.

3. The permission by express enactment, to send to school in any sub-district in the township under such regulations as the Board of Directors may adopt.

4. Some modification of the provision for Teachers' Institutes which will enable a county containing so few teachers as this, to receive some aid from it.

5. Some legislation in favor of those who wish to prepare themselves for teaching and which will be of service to them, without attending the State University.

L. F. PARKER, Co. Sup't.

POLK.

In regard to the operation of the School Law, I would suggest the propriety of so amending it as to take it entirely out of the hands of the County Judges, and have the duties now pertaining to his office devolve upon the County Superintendents. So far as the provisions of the law have been fully executed, I am not aware

that there are any serious objections urged against it; the loudest complaints are for want of more thorough execution of it; the people desire stability in the institutions of the county more than anything else, and for this reason I would not advise any changes unless glaring defects are apparent.

Amongst the numerous improvements witnessed under the provisions of the present school system, none seems to be of greater public utility than that in relation to Teachers' Institutes. We have had the honor of holding the first one in this county, in August last, and although it was but sparsely attended, I feel confident it has been worth more than it cost. Such Associations, when properly conducted, are the surest basis for forming correct systems of the manner of teaching. It is therefore hoped that this important link in the educational interests of the State will not be overlooked by the legislative authorities of the State.

There is one other matter which I neglected to mention in its proper place; it is this: A great diversity of opinion prevails in regard to single districts as against township districts. I am decidedly in favor of the township district system, for reasons obtained by practical observation. The following are amongst many which might be adduced:

1st—I have observed in thinly settled portions of the county, that if the government of the single districts were in the power of the residents therein, in many caaes their school houses would be located so as to deprive a portion of the children of all the benefits of school, entirely.

2d—That in almost every sub-district there is some relative who would likely be forced upon them as a teacher, to the prejudice of persons better qualified if the matter was submitted to the unbiased judgment of a Township Board.

3d—That in many sparsely settled portions of the county, there are not a sufficient number of youth to justify the employment of a teacher, notwithstanding that district may, and probably does, contribute the largest amount in the shape of taxes, towards the common school fund.

SAMUEL BELL, Co. Sup't.

RINGGOLD.

As a whole, the School Law has exceeded our expectations, and

given more general satisfaction than the most sanguine anticipated; and the people have commenced in good earnest to *use it* as it is; making the best of its provisions, confidently believing that such amendments as are necessary to perfect the system, will promptly be made by the law making power.

That there are amendments necessary, I presume will not be denied. Some of these I will endeavor to point out:

First—So amend the law defining the boundary of districts as that each Congressional Township shall form a school district; providing for the alteration of such boundary in extreme cases, such as towns, cities and county lines, or streams of water, &c., &c., and let those lines remain permanent.

Second—Let the Board of Directors be elected as is now provided by law, and their duties be extended to the entire business of the Township District.

Third—Repeal the law establishing Sub-Districts, and Sub-Directors, and empower the District Board to build such numbers of school houses, and at such times, as their judgment may suggest, and the wants of the district require.

Fourth—To define the length of time school districts may borrow money for building school houses and procuring sites, as provided in the 5th Article of Section 8 of School Law, and also the manner by which said loan is to be secured, and the amount and kind of security required.

Fifth—To change the time for the apportionment of the county school tax and permanent fund by the County Judge, to the first Monday in March, instead of April, in each year, as provided in Section 29 of Act 8; thereby securing a sufficiency of time for the notice required of the Judge, to be made to the Board of Directors, as set forth in the 17th clause of the 27th Section of Act 8 of the School Law.

WENDELL POOR, Co. Sup't.

STORY.

The schools throughout the county are in as flourishing condition as could be expected, from the short time they have been conducted under the new law; which, from its ambiguity in regard to taxation, the division and jurisdiction of districts, leads to many misunderstandings and collisions between the members of the dif-

ferent Boards, and consequently destroys that harmony of action so desirable in all matters pertaining to school government. It is to be hoped that, as the school officers become better acquainted with the law, its practical operation will justify the expectations of its best friends.

WM. H. GRAFTON, Co. Sup't.

TAMA.

The number of schools is about ten per cent over last year, and their condition shows much ground for encouragement. One of the most gratifying signs is the quality of school houses built and building, few of which are here put down. The School Law has grown in favor with our people, until scarce a growl of the old feeling is heard. I have not answered more than one twentieth of the questions concerning the law, that beset me last year, the best possible proof that it only needs to be understood and appreciated, to insure a favorable consideration. There is a far deeper and livelier interest in schools among all classes, and a correspondingly increased watchfulness.

W. HELM, Co. Sup't.

TAYLOR.

In regard to the present law, there is no great amount of dissatisfaction at present, though many prefer the old one. The greatest trouble is in building school houses. Our non-residents not being compelled to pay their taxes only once in three years, it is hard to collect school house tax where they are willing to build houses. If each district could build its own house, I think it would be more satisfactory to the people.

E. D. BULEN, Co. Sup't.

WINNESHEIK.

My ideas relative to the School Law are, that it would hardly be possible to enact a law that would be less adapted to the wants of the people, or that would be more unpopular.

H. C. BULLIS, Co. Sup't.

ERRATA.

On page fifteen, tenth line, read *former* instead of latter.

TABLE B.

STATEMENT OF APPORTIONMENT OF THE INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL FUND, AS MADE ON THE 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 1859, BY THE AUDITOR OF STATE.

COUNTIES.	Am't Rep'ted	Am't Delin'qt	No. of children.	Am't App'd	Amount of Warrants on State Treasury.	Cents payable into State Treasury.
Adair	250 87	267 28	349	216 38	.....	34 49
Adams	432 16	52 00	457	283 34	.....	148 82
Alamakee	6,945 15	8,109 69	3,639	2,256 18	.....	4,688 97
Appanoose	1,758 16	729 78	4,707	2,018 34	1,160 18	.....
Audubon	198 68	.....	119	73 78	.....	124 90
Benton	1,275 94	5,054 37	3,068	1,920 76	644 82	.....
Black Hawk	1,885 92	1,983 93	2,392	1,483 04	.....	402 88
Boone	811 14	802 67	1,617	1,092 54	191 40	.....
Bremer	2,920 47	2,290 14	1,417	878 54	.....	2,041 93
Butler	575 53	785 02	1,140	706 80	131 27	.....
Buchanan	1,089 84	614 72	2,445	1,515 90	426 06	.....
Calhoun	.....	.....	47	29 14	29 14	.....
Carroll	67 00	39 64	103	63 86	.....	3 14
Cass	43 29	53 18	376	233 12	189 83	.....
Cedar	3,829 14	1,560 57	4,612	2,859 44	.....	969 70
Cerro Gordo	.....	.....	297	171 74	171 74	.....
Chickasaw	106 56	1,490 00	1,167	724 78	618 22	.....
Clarke	2,608 17	1,540 73	1,963	1,217 06	.....	1,391 11
Clayton	1,918 28	2,930 75	6,442	3,994 04	2,075 76	.....
Clinton	2,063 23	1,761 12	5,596	3,469 52	1,406 29	.....
Crawford	541 36	313 93	129	79 98	.....	461 38
Dallas	2,654 04	1,532 56	1,894	1,174 28	.....	1,479 76

TABLE B—*Continued.*

Statement of the Apportionment of the Interest of the School Fund, as made on the 17th day of March, 1859, by the Auditor of State.

COUNTIES.	Am't Rep'ted	Am't Delin'qt	No. of children.	Am't Appr'd	Amount of Warrants on State Revenue	Excess payable into State Treasury.
Davis	1,779 15	896 27	5,780	3,583 60	1,804 45	.....
Decatur	4,190 64	3,236 57	3,214	1,992 68	.....	2,197 96
Delaware	2,436 86	1,907 62	3,551	2,201 62	.....	235 24
Des Moines	2,850 81	1,677 15	7,030	4,358 60	1,507 79	.....
Dubuque	2,755 77	.....	11,340	7,030 80	4,275 03	.....
Fayette	3,473 12	3,692 99	4,343	2,692 66	.....	780 46
Floyd	.....	.....	1,152	714 24	714 24	.....
Fremont	206 37	294 38	1,524	944 88	738 51	.....
Franklin	242 14	323 03	397	246 14	4 00	.....
Greene	324 37	237 89	515	319 30	.....	5 07
Grundy	18 44	.....	247	153 14	134 70	.....
Guthrie	674 85	161 55	1,020	632 40	.....	42 45
Hamilton	342 20	1,867 56	570	353 40	11 20	.....
Harrison	260 29	389 84	954	591 48	331 19	.....
Hardin	1,171 31	330 84	1,894	1,174 28	2 97	.....
Hancock	.....	.....	47	29 14	29 14	.....
Henry	2,580 87	1,728 22	5,858	3,631 96	1,051 09	.....
Howard	1,530 22	1,540 62	1,013	628 06	.....	902 16
Humboldt	18 97	124 43	133	82 46	63 49	.....
Iowa	3,766 86	1,386 68	2,387	1,479 94	.....	2,286 92
Jackson	1,925 25	678 74	6,990	4,333 80	2,408 55	.....
Jasper	998 16	1,433 47	3,460	2,145 20	1,147 04	.....
Jefferson	1,993 37	400 00	6,142	3,789 44	1,796 07	.....
Johnson	1,643 47	1,798 62	6,009	3,725 58	2,082 11	.....
Jones	2,811 83	2,969 88	4,665	2,892 30	80 47	.....
Keokuk	1,797 13	330 96	4,970	3,081 40	1,284 27	.....
Kossuth	477 85	644 48	188	116 56	.....	361 29
Lee	2,342 79	2,074 61	10,007	6,204 34	3,861 55	.....
Linn	2,193 42	2,249 71	6,844	4,243 28	2,049 86	.....
Louisa	1,320 42	1,823 72	3,974	2,463 88	1,143 46	.....
Lucas	781 82	1,490 35	1,971	1,222 02	440 20	.....
Madison	1,600 47	704 68	2,805	1,739 10	138 63	.....
Mahaska	2,042 81	1,639 95	5,744	3,561 28	1,518 47	.....
Marion	1,521 72	908 84	6,551	4,061 62	2,539 90	.....
Marshall	1,444 91	616 24	1,981	1,228 22	.....	216 69
Mills	887 20	749 85	1,464	907 68	20 48	.....
Mitchell	.....	.....	1,101	682 62	682 62	.....
Monona	.....	.....	240	148 80	148 80	.....
Montgomery	464 73	451 78	433	268 46	.....	196 27
Monroe	709 65	847 81	3,610	2,238 20	1,528 55	.....
Muscatine	1,082 30	891 24	5,168	3,204 16	2,121 86	.....
Page	1,298 68	1,214 70	1,311	812 82	.....	485 86
Polk	2,068 49	1,366 64	4,047	2,509 14	440 65	.....
Pottawatt'mie	.....	.....	1,525	945 50	945 50	.....
Powesheik	2,781 58	3,409 96	1,866	1,156 92	.....	1,624 66
Ringgold	1,608 74	894 93	858	531 96	.....	1,076 78
Scott	1,964 15	609 50	7,638	4,735 56	2,771 41	.....
Shelby	.....	.....	248	153 76	153 76	.....
Story	1,059 11	1,405 35	1,363	845 06	.....	214 05
Sac	.....	.....	138	85 56	85 56	.....
Tama	2,361 25	2,547 50	1,850	1,147 00	.....	1,214 25

TABLE B—*Continued.*

Statement of the Apportionment of the Interest of the School Fund, as made on the 17th day of March, 1859, by the Auditor of State.

COUNTIES.	Am't Rep'ted	Am't Dolla'q'	No. of Children.	Am't Appo'd	Amount of Warrants from Auditor	Interest paid into State Treasury.
Taylor	151 36	55 65	1,234	765 08	613 72	.....
Union	615 13	814 74	724	448 88	.....	166 25
Van Buren	2,260 54	719 79	7,098	4,400 76	2,140 22	.....
Wapello	1,987 80	480 73	6,087	3,773 94	1,786 14	.....
Warren	1,633 74	701 56	3,590	2,225 80	592 06	.....
Washington	1,258 76	564 77	5,173	3,207 26	1,948 50	.....
Wayne	2,245 93	1,686 08	2,163	1,341 66	.....	904 87
Webster	1,213 14	1,442 66	1,094	634 88	.....	578 26
Winneshiek	3,026 69	2,619 30	4,114	2,550 68	.....	476 01
Woodbury	63 02	76 25	248	153 76	90 74	.....
Wright	139 66	272 28	192	119 04	.....	20 62
Worth	.....	.....	148	91 76	91 76	.....
Winnebago	.....	.....	44	27 28	27 28	.....
Total reported from counties	116,375 24	95,294 74				
Interest on five per cent. fund loans, by Eads	1,611 60	26,490 24				
Interest on State loans	27,047 90					
Totals	$145,034 74	$121,784 98	233,927	$145,034 74	$54,392 70	54,392 70

THE

TABLE "A."

An Abstract of the annual report of the County Superintendents of Common Schools, to the Secretary of the Board of Education, for the period commencing October 5th, 1858, and ending October 5th, 1859.

NAME OF COUNTY.	Number of Districts	Number of Sub-Districts	Number of Persons between the ages of five and twenty one		Number of Schools in the county	Number of Pupils attending School in the County	Average number who have been in attendance	No. of Teachers in the county		Average compensation of Teachers per week		Aggregate number of days the Schools of the County have been taught		Average cost of Tuition per week for each pupil		Aggregate amount paid Teachers during the year	Amount of Teachers' Fund in hands of Treasurers	Number of School Houses and of what material constructed				Value of School Houses	Amount raised in the County during the year by Tax, and for what purpose.				Amount of Public Money apportioned by County Judge	No. of Volumes in District libraries	Value of Apparatus.
			Male.	Female.				Male	Fem'l	Male	Fem'le	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter			Brick	Stone	Frame	Log		Erection of Sch'l Houses	Teachers' Fund	Contingent Expenses.	Library			
Adair,	5	47	178	172	10	187	192	7	5	$6 75	$3 56	442	267	$0 33	$0 33	$757 99	$458 51	....	..	4	1	$4,300 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	$1,062 67	....	$15 00
Adams,	6	16	266	244	13	510	208	11	7	6 41	4 81	230	570	37	38	1,570 75	36 45	....	..	6	5	3,654 71	$1,624 33	$347 50	$17 20	.....	1,111 05	....	.....
Alamakee,	18	96	1,959	1,922	69	2,354	1,446	44	59	14 44	11 23	3,158	3,636	18	25	4,799 58	973 65	1	1	23	24	11,845 00	942 20	1,091 99	520 47	.....	6,242 21	....	55 00
Appanoose,	17	88	2,356	2,146	80	2,190	1,164	55	22	20 41	7 39	1,457	3,388	25	51	5,033 32	909 48	2	..	21	31	8,524 00	115 00	1,032 13	242 14	.....	4,406 23	....	.....
Audubon,	1	6	70	71	4	121	72	3	3	8 87	4 75	226	165	37	49	498 84	46 05	....	..	3	....	2,075 00	.....	316 37	26 96	.....	72 37	....	.....
Benton,	20	95	1,685	1,511	94	2,440	1,530	53	64	4 54	3 36	3,655	3,446	19	27	6,756 53	685 66	4	..	29	16	14,782 00	4,033 22	4,162 05	734 02	$60 00	8,290 00	....	.....
Black Hawk,	17	71	1,253	1,191	75	1,786	1,072	33	54	5 02	2 87	3,292	2,423	16	17	4,170 00	592 00	1	2	17	9	8,660 00	3,902 00	4,243 00	682 50	.....	2,728 06	....	.....
Boone,	10	37	817	756	25	930	564	19	6	4 82	2 75	867	1,069	22	24	1,590 80	516 88	....	..	10	12	7,425 00	5,272 76	100 00	.. ..	.....	3,078 72	....	.....
Bremer,	14	54	842	747	53	1,299	764	23	37	5 10	2 78	2,216	1,850	19	31	2,937 48	522 87	....	3	11	6	4,545 00	219 00	1,949 98	181 65	.....	3,089 90	....	36 00
Buchanan,	16	65	1,287	1,145	66	1,745	816	39	48	5 25	3 50	2,741	2,460	18	21	4,589 87	352 90	3	2	16	10	8,935 00	225 00	3,168 79	792 60	16 00	4,394 37	....	3 75
Butler,	12	48	643	639	44	1,146	685	28	25	14 03	6 24	1,436	1,678	1 22	1 15	2,847 90	650 98	....	1	9	5	4,055 00	2,609 33	967 87	475 67	.....	3,113 55	....	18 00
Calhoun,	1	3	21	21	2	21	10	1	1	2 50	6 50	80	60	28	43	118 00	184 27	....	..	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	[illegible]	....	.....
Carroll,	2	4	60	59	10	88	33	6	4	5 33	4 04	306	260	38	48	316 00	.....	..	..	3	2	1,093 00	.....	.....	44 00	.....	244 03	....	.....
Cass,	7	22	266	208	11	258	173	5	8	5 62	3 21	570	260	25	33	712 20	120 86	1	..	1	....	1,600 00	.....	139 66	.....	.....	818 95	1	.....
Cedar,	17	95	2,489	2,237	14	3,102	1,822	60	71	5 68	3 96	3,556	4,468	12	29	8,023 44	1,432 80	9	1	51	4	32,195 00	980 44	4,225 37	1,970 68	.....	8,271 33	20	34 75
Cerro Gordo,	4	12	154	158	12	267	154	9	10	6 94	4 55	803	712	34	40	2,933 00	329 32	....	3	5	2	10,350 00	2,700 00	1,200 00	610 00	400 00	1,603 16	....	.....
Cherokee,	1	2	24	4	1	14	13	1	....	5 00	....	20	.....	38	A newly	organized	county												
Chickasaw,	12	40	720	699	41	1,233	857	22	24	10 95	8 33	1,738	1,551	29	40	2,643 62	232 77	2	1	7	6	3,695 00	1,047 45	1,240 05	855 98	.....	1,721 08	....	.....
Clarke,	12	46	1,052	980	42	1,321	629	28	14	5 05	3 36	822	1,555	22	23	2,314 62	367 19	....	..	11	15	4,161 00	.....	278 00	51 90	.....	2,595 34	....	19 00
Clayton,	24	118	3,500	3,369	108	3,723	2,347	84	79	5 78	3 47	5,394	5,663	19	26	10,225 01	1,208 52	7	5	36	38	20,630 00	4,981 40	7,034 51	908 11	.....	9,210 58	....	164 00
Clinton,	21	105	3,157	2,950	12	2,929	1,886	61	64	5 33	3 69	4,569	4,391	15	21	8,006 79	1,060 99	4	1	41	4	36,672 58	4,534 40	3,818 80	1,431 14	.....	7,652 30	....	50 00
Crawford,	3	6	87	78	4	72	53	2	2	6 77	4 58	123	118	16	18	210 50	.....	....	..	....	1	91 00	.....	.....	25 61	.....	91 30	....	2 00
Davis,	15	90	2,962	2,690	74	.....	.....	30	4	6 13	4 00	.....	.....	.....	32	6,202 15	1,221 30	....	..	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,483 14	....	.....
Dallas,	10	66	965	870	48	790	307	34	16	4 71	3 27	480	1,597	17	29	2,690 96	176 57	....	..	15	6	4,751 77	.....	.....	43 25	.....	2,462 34	....	.....
Decatur,	16	67	1,903	1,522	48	1,387	583	34	21	4 98	3 21	1,603	1,680	20	18	2,324 04	1,181 50	1	..	5	28	7,277 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,457 58	....	.....
Delaware,	16	77	1,861	1,642	67	2,291	1,361	49	63	5 18	3 15	3,566	3,617	15	19	5,292 65	1,075 63	6	2	38	9	15,315 00	2,011 71	1,985 86	759 08	.....	4,723 67	....	.....
Des Moines,	13	79	3,887	3,443	75	3,068	1,670	80	43	6 86	4 10	2,764	5,430	24	23	10,012 84	3,512 67	19	5	30	14	39,200 00	300 00	363 50	183 50	.....	10,151 10	....	.....
Dubuque,	18	95	5,225	5,101	93	5,674	3,489	73	69	25 57	14 08	3,516	4,807	19	21	21,939 98	1,301 46	9	3	19	23	102,515 00	999 32	13,021 45	22,698 90	.....	15,402 61	275	225 25
Fayette,	19	110	2,245	2,103	124	4,043	2,318	58	75	5 18	3 04	4,870	4,215	15	21	8,097 82	452 60	1	2	17	25	6,756 00	193 30	2,644 42	785 16	.....	7,122 02	....	25 00
Floyd,	9	46	647	606	33	960	546	17	26	9 99	8 49	1,910	1,757	25	23	2,438 56	422 03	....	4	7	7	6,040 00	1,332 40	1,386 80	.....	.....	2,551 66	....	.....
Franklin,	7	19	237	193	21	340	243	7	15	4 61	4 62	909	919	26	44	1,320 25	392 24	1	..	7	1	4,554 00	5,033 95	246 84	.....	.....	1,816 00	....	.....
Fremont,	8	27	836	698	27	731	421	18	10	6 19	4 06	1,372	514	17	26	1,957 40	922 31	....	..	13	5	3,670 80	375 00	687 17	35 75	.....	1,301 30	....	40 00
Greene,	3	18	300	270	14	253	122	15	8	4 75	3 00	241	529	19	17	1,062 06	987 06	....	..	9	3	2,240 60	.....	.....	200 00	.....	1,916 03	....	.....
Grundy,	5	18	161	134	7	202	138	4	15	5 33	3 68	880	525	55	68	1,072 00	280 33	....	..	3	....	765 00	1,721 00	200 00	110 44	.....	1,368 44	....	.....
Guthrie,	9	29	649	570	21	711	432	16	13	5 21	3 18	65	73	18	26	1,734 15	889 83	1	..	12	2	4,450 50	1,957 00	600 00	83 00	.....	2,702 73	....	.....
Hamilton,	7	15	300	283	12	364	.....	10	5	.....	.....	567	441	16	21	1,710 75	221 00	....	..	7	....	3,200 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,163 84	....	.....
Hancock,	2	3	25	30	3	57	25	1	2	8 33	3 77	152	80	52	43	213 00	158 06	....	..	4	....	4,550 00	5,572 37	371 06	.....	.....	3,524 25	....	2 00
Hardin,	10	50	1,035	938	48	1,450	196	30	42	6 82	4 05	2,721	2,493	20	25	4,826 61	312 01	2	3	11	8	6,325 00	6,287 08	3,028 17	521 63	.....	5,513 76	....	15 00
Harrison,	14	32	608	524	32	639	368	12	20	5 59	3 44	1,108	1,009	17	23	1,236 53	367 07	....	..	9	7	1,720 00	1,500 00	509 80	200 00	.....	865 85	....	.....
Henry,	14	70	3,170	2,997	90	3,664	2,322	68	30	7 39	4 25	620	920	19	20	3,618 65	101 97	9	..	34	13	35,638 00	8,790 00	1,264 71	1,847 39	.....	7,354 80	....	.....
Howard,	11	40	559	541	34	810	584	21	23	10 72	4 62	1,374	1,382	29	24	1,779 96	115 04	....	..	7	2	3,385 00	2,925 45	2,116 59	238 89	.....	1,212 33	....	.....
Humboldt,	4	5	69	52	4	63	41	2	4	6 62	3 50	350	140	12	18	442 60	.....	....	..	1	....	850 00	244 96	273 50	91 16	.....	133 12	....	.....
Iowa,	14	72	1,439	1,337	59	1,365	754	32	39	4 66	2 61	1,944	1,960	16	15	2,926 53	806 74	4	1	27	8	12,685 00	345 00	490 90	30 00	.....	2,631 23	20	55 00
Jackson,	20	120	3,582	3,345	124	.....	423	82	68	5 77	3 43	3,748	6,132	16	21	10,369 02	507 06	9	1	53	36	23,697 00	1,909 35	5,189 01	861 33	.....	8,978 31	....	31 00
Jasper,	16	54	1,896	1,658	54	2,055	900	42	32	6 36	3 92	1,453	2,574	24	31	5,189 42	837 97	2	..	24	16	11,820 10	3,565 76	2,233 70	1,097 77	.....	4,481 80	....	.....
Jefferson,	13	80	3,119	2,956	77	3,857	2,187	73	40	6 22	4 28	3,055	5,168	17	19	9,065 36	1,294 92	6	..	34	32	13,555 00	780 00	1,973 75	957 71	.....	9,199 98	....	.....
Johnson,	19	101	3,103	3,098	92	4,508	2,229	72	66	6 42	3 86	4,957	5,339	16	20	14,535 93	1,211 70	7	..	57	10	69,501 00	7,053 94	8 930 12	4,563 10	.....	8,802 26	....	231 35
Jones,	17	110	2,682	2,327	88	3,643	2,184	74	83	5 35	2 75	4,951	5,088	13	20	7,748 48	1,092 81	2	..	48	14	15,854 50	6,244 61	4,571 21	2,645 92	.....	6,200 66	....	700 00
Keokuk,	16	79	2,640	2,543	89	3,290	503	53	36	6 03	4 35	1,244	4,634	16	19	6,722 55	659 78	2	1	22	28	11,475 50	386 32	3,340 06	878 79	.....	6,038 81	....	24 00
Kossuth,	3	4	90	82	7	142	47	3	4	10 87	9 50	356	160	76	23	638 20	.....	....	..	....	....	.....	1,273 22	649 05	157 26	.....	221 57	....	.....
Lee,	18	116	5,233	4,970	179	5,888	3,200	105	80	7 14	3 84	4,246	6,713	19	23	19,517 96	950 76	24	3	38	27	35,210 00	700 00	7,029 13	1,392 91	.....	14,895 76	..	30 00
Linn,	20	116	3,660	3,368	162	6,017	3,489	106	74	6 11	3 70	4,795	7,266	18	19	12,666 37	648 90	15	4	48	18	42,526 08	4,951 49	10,225 61	2,256 07	.....	9,153 96	24	.....
Louisa,	13	60	2,289	2,042	87	3,144	1,801	64	29	6 34	3 82	1,376	5,088	22	30	6,616 45	880 65	8	..	33	8	19,505 00	1,950 93	5,549 50	622 13	30 35	6,293 30	..	.....
Lucas,	13	54	1,041	988	30	954	612	22	16	5 64	3 60	1,400	1,080	21	26	2,216 90	868 67	1	..	13	7	4,835 00	589 89	377 00	80 00	.....	2,798 92	63	.....
Madison,	14	69	1,494	1,368	43	1,588	905	24	28	14 53	8 68	1,540	1,151	20	22	2,430 71	506 26	....	1	20	14	7,200 00	541 75	1,432 11	470 41	.....	3,330 54	....	.....
Mahaska,	16	80	2,960	2,783	81	3,760	2,155	67	32	6 58	3 95	2,386	5,054	22	24	8,448 00	388 75	8	..	25	30	19,365 00	1,379 00	3,010 00	952 00	.....	8,241 00	....	20 00
Marion,	17	97	3,314	3,171	97	4,823	3,283	85	30	6 58	4 18	1,905	5,372	17	20	11,635 00	502 70	8	..	30	33	14,951 00	4,325 00	4,871 00	598 00	.....	6,743 80	....	.....
Marshall,	12	54	1,085	1,078	47	1,302	791	23	33	5 78	3 22	1,927	1,387	21	27	2,899 65	898 31	....	..	21	3	10,125 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,040 52	....	.....
Mills,	11	39	836	752	25	855	469	22	14	6 45	3 72	967	1,220	19	34	2,733 87	537 26	2	..	6	10	5,895 00	.....	946 60	.....	.....	2,399 07	....	.....
Mitchell,	9	21	548	548	18	615	298	9	14	6 62	4 58	476	1,135	23	28	1,907 60	154 02	....	1	8	1	8,955 00	900 00	450 00	.....	.....	1,444 27	....	.....
Monona,	8	10	157	107	15	152	95	7	8	7 57	3 97	500	350	47	48	978 00	10 77	....	..	4	1	1,450 00	1,443 65	444 68	196 83	36 00	1,106 68	....	16 00
Monroe,	12	69	1,924	1,682	60	2,039	1,031	36	21	5 32	4 03	1,558	2,377	23	29	3,119 32	607 23	....	2	22	18	8,872 00	.....	471 27	287 90	.....	2,951 04	....	.....
Montgomery,	6	17	204	201	13	359	172	10	3	6 90	3 42	480	360	34	37	977 00	423 10	....	..	2	2	745 00	1,304 89	94 10	18 07	.....	781 93	....	.....
Muscatine,	13	70	2,759	2,573	71	2,298	1,234	55	25	6 99	4 00	343	770	16	30	5,767 53	175 10	5	2	29	5	34,147 00	1,375 00	6,006 37	709 00	.....	6,352 66	....	.....
Page,	8	25	809	705	23	374	200	6	8	5 52	4 52	540	160	33	28	1,154 90	347 81	....	..	7	8	2,505 00	.....	.....	.....	28 00	1,245 33	....	.....
Plymouth,	1	1	12	14	.....	.....	.....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	..	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	.....
Polk,	17	79	2,109	1,947	68	2,786	1,516	51	24	7 44	3 86	1,198	4,113	26	44	6,809 29	277 54	2	..	30	10	15,470 00	4,541 34	2,557 79	592 31	.....	5,682 71	....	.....
Pottawattamie,	13	29	830	780	26	970	490	19	8	6 36	3 83	863	1,174	30	28	3,202 95	59 26	....	..	1	6	880 00	1,775 71	632 39	1,147 00	.....	1,820 00	....	.....
Powesheik,	12	45	1,329	960	35	1,285	754	25	26	6 32	3 77	509	910	19	29	3,708 26	338 36	1	..	14	5	6,755 00	4,494 11	2,127 49	80 75	.....	5,027 85	220	38 30
Ringgold,	9	46	574	344	32	606	311	16	22	4 74	3 10	949	630	34	31	1,127 87	1,319 73	....	..	1	3	436 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,271 71	....	.....
Sac,	3	6	57	50	3	59	35	3	....	6 08	.....	102	160	31	79	319 50	.....	....	..	4	....	3,560 00	2,874 24	166 50	20 50	.....	2,361 00	....	.....
Scott,	14	81	3,961	3,881	84	4,990	2,975	77	55	7 10	4 81	638	1,178	13	26	17,642 15	3,928 22	14	4	41	2	70,627 00	2,805 72	588 06	2,607 88	.....	17,814 53	....	282 00
Shelby,	2	8	152	128	6	156	100	4	2	7 25	3 37	80	310	08	34	525 00	205 28	....	..	....	1	100 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	728 28	....	.....
Story,	10	45	775	709	33	1,208	695	23	18	5 53	2 98	1,275	1,925	19	24	2,735 87	220 91	1	..	15	10	8,770 00	3,512 50	861 49	225 08	.....	2,031 78	....	83 00
Tama,	15	66	1,050	912	60	1,619	939	32	37	4 96	3 19	2,247	2,148	21	24	4,343 63	1,070 54	....	1	29	11	11,954 27	4,702 26	2,461 99	616 48	.....	5,102 60	....	.....
Taylor,	12	30	748	557	26	651	223	17	10	5 67	3 29	1,260	395	27	28	1,801 90	592 66	....	..	9	7	3,797 00	.....	.....	27 00	.....	1,430 50	....	.....
Union,	7	16	396	352	23	845	392	12	11	5 97	3 56	820	618	22	26	1,410 13	597 72	....	..	7	4	4,715 00	36 00	147 21	48 10	.....	2,022 53	....	.....
Van Buren,	16	105	3,514	3,125	107	4,630	2,302	84	36	6 15	3 51	608	975	11	21	8,359 40	186 22	9	..	53	31	22,680 00	800 00	797 35	213 15	.....	7,938 24	....	18 50
Wapello,	18	86	3,130	2,864	83	3,512	1,816	66	19	7 30	4 55	509	1,457	21	31	6,105 94	212 18	5	1	24	27	16,295 00	259 82	1,868 33	978 77	.....	5,427 09	....	100 00
Warren,	16	76	2,171	2,133	54	2,251	1,270	45	13	13 55	4 49	1,143	2,798	14	19	3,860 65	1,089 87	3	..	24	15	12,052 00	5,768 55	4,779 86	16 51	.....	4,873 72	....	.....
Washington,	15	100	2,774	2,590	92	3,793	2,020	63	78	5 79	3 72	4,381	5,116	20	25	9,856 27	283 02	5	..	53	11	20,505 00	2,248 05	2,557 49	1,888 47	.....	9,326 98	4	.....
Wayne,	15	55	1,194	1,016	63	1,630	827	44	21	5 65	3 51	1,485	2,464	27	23	3,281 48	470 95	1	..	16	7	6,196 00	1,208 00	3,558 54	425 63	.....	4,969 77	....	36 00
Webster,	9	32	487	470	31	654	344	16	16	5 28	3 72	824	1,142	28	35	2,228 90	457 47	1	..	5	4	7,455 00	714 44	227 05	.....	.....	1,532 04	....	.....
Winnebago,	2	2	18	28	2	32	20	2	2	7 80	4 50	52	160	33	66	242 00	7 00	1	..	2	....	5,200 00	5,000 00	.....	.....	.....	347 40	....	100 00
Winneshiek,	16	84	2,299	1,956	82	2,496	1,361	45	60	5 19	3 42	3,130	3,446	38	34	6,099 75	911 27	....	4	23	16	10,094 00	2,285 00	4,040 42	1,088 22	.....	6,523 65	....	15 00
Woodbury,	4	4	163	156	6	242	218	4	4	8 37	4 65	125	166	06	09	1,139 50	2,223 03	....	..	3	....	300 00	24 00	.....	50 00	.....	4,385 05	....	.....
Worth,	3	9	86	104	8	149	102	1	7	6 50	3 03	450	60	40	31	218 00	180 27	....	..	1	1	2,100 00	2,735 82	410 32	62 50	.....	394 85	....	.....
Wright,	6	20	121	115	13	224	133	6	7	5 41	4 02	383	525	57	42	796 80	321 51	1	..	3	....	2,500 00	4,512 00	428 35	.....	.....	1,082 71	....	.....
Total,	993	4574	125,144	115,387	4,243	142,849	79,411	2,901	2,364	$6 92	$4 29	136,037	175,126	0 25	0 30	$383,589 29	$53,967 11	230	65	1481	844	$1,049,747 41	$163,747 53	$160,511.74	$67,241 43	$570 35	$361,265 59	627	$2,484 90