

plished. But if the County Commissioners should be prevented by the Law from making a levy in our favor after the year 1866, nearly half our Schools would have to be closed, as the amount received from the State Treasury as part of the tax of fifteen cents on the hundred dollars will be totally inadequate to pay Teachers alone.

My opinion of the School Law is a favorable one. I consider it a good Law, and the system, after it shall be put in good working order, and some slight amendments adopted, as everything we need. The Board of School Commissioners for Queen Anne County, I believe, owns and has a fee simple title to all the houses and lots except Centreville and Church Hill Academies, and the two Churches I mentioned above, but I do not know and cannot exactly ascertain how the titles were obtained.

It strikes my mind that some amendments might be made to the School Law, with advantage to the System. On page 34, section 2, relating to repeal of old Laws, it is enacted, that after January 1st, 1867, all laws authorizing the levying of taxes for School purposes are to be, or rather *are*, repealed. (Section 2 seems to be numbered improperly. It follows Section 8, and should be, I suppose, Section 9.) While that Section of the Law shall remain in force, the hands of our County authorities will be tied and they cannot help the Schools, though they may be entirely disposed to do so. If the Constitution of the State should prohibit a repeal of this Section, would it not be advisable to increase the amount levied for the State and make it more than fifteen cents in the hundred dollars? If we are to lose the County levy, we will be no better off than we were under the old system, and it will be impossible for us to advance the cause of Education, even if it can maintain its old stand.

I would also suggest an alteration in the section of the law on page 17, in relation to vacations. The months of July and August do not suit all neighborhoods, and all portions of the State. Would it not be well to give the County Board the power (while the law should fix the duration of vacation) to determine the time of vacation? With us the months of August and September would be much more suitable, and the old School authorities, years ago, adopted September as the month for vacation, or rather as the vacations did not continue as long as two months, they were generally from 20th August until 1st of October.

As this is of local importance, would it not therefore be best to give to the County Board some discretion in the matter. September is our most sickly month, and the Schools are frequently closed for want of Scholars, whether it be vacation or not.

JAMES M. THOMPSON,

*President of Board of School Commissioners  
of Queen Anne County.*

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#### SOMERSET COUNTY.

I have the pleasure to report that during the School term ending November 15th, I did, in accordance with my duty as President of the Board of Public School Commissioners of Somerset County, visit each school in the County with very few exceptions—those being closed at the time from sickness of the Teachers or otherwise. I conducted examinations of one or more classes in each school—read to the Teachers and Pupils a short address combining “modes of instruction and discipline”—reciting also certain extracts from the law applicable to their immediate duty to the “youth committed to their instruction,” &c., &c.