

on account of Free School Fund, two thousand dollars, and from the State Fund, as applicable to *present* salaries, eight thousand dollars (the amount paid in by the County) we shall have an aggregate fund of fifteen thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars and eighty cents for School purposes for the present year. Our expenses for the last term were at the rate of about two thousand dollars per month—at the same rate the foregoing estimate of funds would enable us to carry on the Schools about *eight months*.

This report is respectfully submitted.

HENRY A. WHITE,

President Board Public School Comm's for Somerset Co.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

To your inquiries I send you the following replies which are as full as time will allow me to furnish.

The condition of the Public Schools under the old local laws was bad. People generally, and especially patrons, thoroughly contemned it. Some few of the School Houses were tolerably comfortable, many needed repair, and scarcely one had enough or suitable furniture. Houses were furnished by the parents of pupils. Schools were supported by funds derived from the State Free School Fund, and County taxes, and were supervised by local Trustees, who took little or no interest in them. Teachers, with some exceptions, were confessedly incompetent, indicating disregard of duty, and want of appreciation of the high character of their profession. This sad condition of the Schools is attributed to two causes, which are removed by the new system, insufficiency of funds, and irresponsible, and therefore neglected supervision. The characteristic of non-remunerated responsibility is indifference, and its legitimate fruits, neglect and failure.

Of this state of things those who depended on the Public Schools for the education of their children complained much, long, and vainly, till at length despair of a remedy subsided into chronic apathy, and this apathy into which they were forced as a refuge by an evil beyond their reach, is construed into stupidity, or adduced as evidence of insensibility to their highest interest, or incapacity for education.

The general intelligence of the County is equal to that of any of the sister Counties. As to the number who cannot read and write there is a difference of opinion. Some say there are many, others, *not* many, especially among the young. I see no indisposition in our people to sustain Public Schools, and to erect and furnish School Houses.

The Board has fixed upon \$75.00 as the minimum salary of Teachers for schools containing not more than 15 pupils. For each additional pupil over 15 and up to 25, it allows \$2.00. For each pupil over 25 and up to 35, it allows \$1.50, &c., throughout the scale.

Text-books are distributed by Commissioners to Teachers.

Our Schools opened at different times, and Teachers have not all presented their reports and claims, I am not, therefore, able to report definitely the number of boys and girls, and "aggregate amount" of salaries paid. The number of pupils attending our Schools during the first term, ending November 15, 1865, is about 320, and the amount paid for salaries will be about \$1,200.

We shall be able to continue our schools 10 months.

I shall now attend to your *general queries*.

"Your opinion of School Law"?—good. Strike out limit of District Commissioner's salary, but I see reasons why the President should not be removed