

from the position of District Commissioner. He ought to be connected with all the important affairs of the system in his field. Otherwise his office will soon be looked upon as a sinecure, and he will lose influence in the Board. People too, judge a good deal by palpable material standards, and School House attention will affect them more favorably than mere educational supervision. The President should have all the aids to his influence that he can get. Connect with his office, therefore, as much of the interest of all concerned as possible. Efficient Commissioners cannot be had for present pay. Prompt payment of the salaries of Commissioners by the Counties ought to be secured by law. Your convention I think will make all needful suggestions in respect to the School Law.

"Is it a good working system?" The best I know or have read of.

"Is it adapted to your wants?" I don't know wherein it is not. It certainly works well here and has the confidence of the people.

I have perhaps said enough and should stop, but I will add a word.

I have seen enough of the new system to know, that if it have a chance, it will perform all that has been expected of it. In this section it has won the respect, good will and welcome of the people. Indeed, I shall not be surprised if St. Mary's and the lower Counties become the fields of its best triumphs and its brightest glory. I know that you will hear of the success of the system in this County with deep pleasure, for in our several interviews and correspondence you have evinced earnest solicitude for the welfare of this County, and our success. The many allusions in my presence you have had necessarily to make to the several fields of your work, have been kindly, and especially those of the lower Counties.

May God strengthen your heart and hands to this great work, and crown it with complete success.

With respect, and truly yours,

JAMES BUNTING,

Pres't Board School Commis'rs, St. Mary's Co. Md.

TALBOT COUNTY.

[No REPORT.]

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

In reply to your request for a report of progress thus far, and to the specific enquiries, I respectfully submit the following:

The condition of the Schools of this County, under the late local law, was at no time, and in no aspect, satisfactory, owing, perhaps, to the absence of system and to the political influences brought to bear upon it.

The School Commissioners, deriving their powers from the County Commissioners, and the District Trustees being elected by the people, the duties and powers of neither were clearly defined in the law, and the discordant elements at work in sustaining them in their positions or views, frequently gave rise to conflicts of authority. The want of harmony, encouraged by the customary procedure of each district, was most prejudicial to success.

There was no regularity in terms or times of Schools—no uniformity in methods of instruction or use of Text-Books, and no system for the arrange-