

zens took a marked interest in the proceedings, and there is good reason to hope that in a few years the Institute will be an established and popular institution.

In conducting the exercises I received valuable aid from Prof. Leakin, late of the Agricultural College, who was appointed by the State Board for that purpose; and also from the Presidents of the several County Boards.

In some counties the Board declined holding an Institute, being unwilling to offend popular sentiment by closing the schools for a week. If popular opinion is mistaken on this point, means ought to be used to set it right; and I have found that the best means is to hold the Institute, and let people see what it is and what it does. The Institute has made converts wherever it has gone. One unbeliever, who had been grumbling at the expense, declared when the Institute was over, that rather than be without it, he would pay the expense out of his own pocket. Popular opinion recognizes the necessity of a workman's keeping his tools in order. The mower who spends a reasonable time in whetting his scythe is not wasting, but economizing the time of his employers. The Teachers are the tools which the various Boards use in working out the education of the people; and the tools must be kept sharp and bright, else time will be wasted and the work badly done.

In order to make the Circuit of the several Counties in the time allotted by law (the months of April, May and June,) it will be necessary to join two or more Counties together in one Institute. For this purpose I respectfully suggest the following scheme for the year 1867.

Baltimore County.....	103	schools,	April 8
Howard 27, Montgomery 41.....	68	"	" 15
Prince George's 43, Anne Arundel 42..	85	"	" 22
Charles 35, Calvert 20, St. Mary's 31..	86	"	" 29
Cecil 65, Harford 76	141	"	May 6
Kent 32, Queen Anne 45, Caroline 34..	114	"	" 13
Talbot 43, Dorchester 55.....	98	"	" 20
Somerset 64, Worcester 66.....	130	"	" 27
Carroll.....	92	"	June 3
Frederick.....	108	"	" 10
Washington.....	122	"	" 17
Allegany.....	105	"	" 24

*All which is respectfully submitted,

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Before leaving those topics which refer to teachers, I have something to say touching the personal comforts, especially of young women, who go to the rural districts to take charge of schools. It concerns

*The "First Annual Catalogue" of the State Normal School will be found in the Appendix.