

matter. If the State has a right to educate its citizens, then it has the right *to do it*, and not simply *to seem to do it*.

Again, our county is too large for one School jurisdiction. The difficulties arising out of this fact are manifold. First, the meetings of the School Board cannot be attended by the Commissioners, except at great inconvenience and *expense*. Then, to bring the number of Commissioners down to anything like reasonable limits, makes each Commissioner District too large. The *number* of Schools in each District may not be excessive, but this county must not be judged by ordinary rules. The greater part of the county is mountainous, our roads are uniformly and universally bad. We have few bridges across our streams. The snows gather deep in our valleys and along the ridges or across the spurs of our mountains; the cold is severe. If a man leaves home for a journey of twenty miles, he cannot tell when he will get back, and though from the universal hospitality of the people, he may be sure of entertainment somewhere, yet time is valuable here as elsewhere. Nothing in the shape of School supervision, in my opinion, can be better than our system of School Commissioners, but it should be carried out in its full spirit, to make it truly efficient, and no Commissioner should have a district, the remotest School of which he cannot reach so as to make a visit and get back to his home the same day. No man up here who is fit to be Commissioner at all, can afford in some of our districts to spend the time requisite for a visitation of his district, for anything like the present compensation. Some of our Commissioners, to my knowledge, visit their Schools or attend a meeting of the Board only at a pecuniary sacrifice.

Now all this applies with still greater force when viewed in connection with the duties of the President. I believe it is impossible in so large a territory, with so many natural hindrances, for any one man to exercise an efficient supervision. The Schools must be open in winter time. Then only can our children, from ten years old and upward, be most easily spared from home. And that is just the time, when a man cannot start from this side the great range to go to the other side, with any certainty of getting there or of getting back again. He can make no calculation upon his time. Or even if nothing hinder him, to do any ordinary amount of visitation, will require a vast outlay of time and labor, to say nothing of exposure, personal inconvenience and bodily suffering. To give a clearer idea of the work to be done, I will give some statistics of my own work not given elsewhere. I have met the Board 13 times, made 14 addresses to the people more or less formal, examined 121 teachers (48 men and 73 women) at 7 different places, and 29 different times, written 8 public notices or articles, attended two general conventions, written 313 letters, made 173 visits to