

I also called upon our leading politicians and pressed the claims of our Schools, but received no encouragement from them. Not receiving any aid from that source, I had a sufficient number of tickets of both the political parties printed with the necessary words upon them, and had a plan perfected throughout the County to hold meetings in every School district prior to the election, so that the friends of the Public Schools could meet and mature their plans for work on November the 6th.

At a time like the present, when political questions are agitating the whole country from end to end, and absorb every other topic, it is with much solicitude that I await the results of the action of our citizens for or against a Local Tax, yet trusting that our labor will not have been in vain.

*Topic 3d.* "What are your resources for building School houses, or what plan do you propose as most likely to accomplish speedily the essential work?"

*Answer.* At the present time we have no resources of any kind, and will not have, unless by an act from the Legislature.

The plan thus far adopted by the Board has been where the citizens have erected houses according to proposed plans, that the Board should take the buildings at first cost as soon as funds accumulated, or a law was passed to provide funds for such purposes. In order to hasten the work, I would suggest that the Commissioners, with the State Superintendent at their head, go to Annapolis at the coming session of the Legislature, and press the importance of passing an act requiring every male citizen over 21 years of age, to pay a Poll Tax of one dollar throughout the State, in addition to any other act that may be passed for School purposes; thus in a short time we would have a revenue at our command to place the Schools beyond any wants.

Having read the Report of last year's work previous to its being sent you, I have not much to add to what it contained, save that there is manifestly a much better feeling towards the Public Schools this year than last; for instance, in one Commissioner's district last year in order not to have School, when the teachers presented themselves to open their Schools, citizens would ask an enormous price for boarding, so that in some cases teachers had to leave. But this fall, the same School districts have made arrangements to furnish board free for their teachers.

I am also satisfied, that at the end of this year's work it will be found, that there has been an increase of attendance of children in the Schools all over the County.

Our teachers as a class this year are 50 pr. cent. in advance of last year, and the Public Schools are supported this fall by some who were formerly their opposers.

One of our most influential citizens congratulated me the