

BALTIMORE COUNTY.

Rev. Dr. Van Bokkelen,

State Superintendent.

Dear Sir :

As one of the requirements of the new school law made it incumbent upon the School Commissioners to select from among those holding certificates suitable teachers for the schools in their charge, the first duty of the authorized examiner was to hold public examinations. For various reasons these were deferred till the first of January. In the meantime permits were granted to all teachers holding certificates which had been issued by the old School Board, but all others making application were orally examined, and such as were considered qualified received permits which continued in force until the time appointed for holding the regular examination. Before any certificates were issued, each school was visited for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of the teachers' practical qualifications, under the belief that the spirit, if not the letter, of the law required ability to teach as well as proficiency in the branches enumerated in the certificates. Eight public examinations were held (one for each Commissioner district), at which one hundred and twenty-five applicants presented themselves; fifty-nine ladies and sixty-six gentlemen; one hundred and one single and twenty-four married, one of the latter a lady. Twenty-one received certificates of the first grade; seventy-one certificates of the second grade, and twenty-nine received permits. Four were rejected. Of the applicants, eighteen had never taught previous to the introduction of the present school system; twenty-four had been engaged in teaching from one to three years: twenty-five, from three to six; eighteen, from six to ten; five, from ten to fifteen; six, from fifteen to twenty; four, from twenty to twenty-five, and one, thirty-five years.

Sixty-six of the applicants were born in Baltimore County; eighteen in Baltimore city; four in Carroll; one in Kent; one in Queen Anne's; one in Dorchester; one in Montgomery; two in Harford; one in Charles;—making ninety-five in Maryland. One in Delaware; three in Virginia; sixteen in Pennsylvania; one in Massachusetts; one in England; five in Ireland; one in Scotland; and one in Cape Colony.

Punishment: Forty-six use the rod; thirty alternate between detention and the rod; twenty-five adopt detention; eight give extra lessons; four employ scolding; one deprives of dinner; one makes use of confinement; and ten deprive of play.

Eight of the teachers are preparing for other professions.

The statistical tables compare very favorably with those of