

fifteen or twenty days each school term. They expect fifty-five days' school work to be effected in fifteen or twenty, and blame the teacher for negligence when the fault rests with themselves. When the expenditure employed in keeping the schools in operation, the embarrassments to success thrown in the teacher's path, the daily interruptions to the regular duties of the school, and the injurious effect upon the scholar himself, which is caused by irregular attendance and tardiness, are duly considered, it cannot but awaken a deep anxiety for a remedy. In my opinion a circular on this subject from the State Superintendent, put into the hands of the teachers for general distribution, would accomplish much towards correcting these serious evils.

In the estimated value of school property (Table D) only that, the title to which is vested in the School Board, has been given. The value of the entire school property of the county would exceed sixty thousand dollars.

There are eight new school houses required to meet the wants of a growing population in the first, second, fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth Commissioner districts. In addition to this, table C shows eighteen houses in ordinary and twenty-seven in bad condition. To furnish these school districts with properly constructed houses, having the necessary school furniture, would involve an outlay of forty thousand dollars. As the receipts and disbursements of school monies received under the present law, leave but a very small balance to the credit of the Board, it is evident that even a continuance of the same would render additional legislation necessary to meet the pressing wants, which are most sensibly felt in those districts.

Sanguine hopes are entertained that the Legislature will make ample provision for the comfortable accommodation of the children of every school district in the county, and I have no fears of their full realization. The public school has become a necessity, and those who promise to provide liberally for its wants are becoming the most popular of our public men.

The first year of the State school system has been a success in our county. Erroneous impressions made upon the public mind before the commencement of actual operations, rapidly vanished as the working of the system steadily progressed. It has a broader field for its action, a stronger influence in its favor, and more earnest advocates and supporters at the present time, than when the school law was first submitted to the public eye. The consciousness of these facts infuses a fresh energy and zeal for a renewal of our labors, and we have entered with a warmer enthusiasm upon the duties of the second year. From our brother Commissioners, whose experience under the old Board made them specially adapted to discharge the duties of the new, we have received uniform