

duly certifying and reporting the result. We did not, therefore, undertake to carry out that suggestion, but determined to lay the whole subject before the people of the County in the form of an address and then memorialize the Legislature to pass, in the early part of the session, an act authorizing a popular vote on the subject, to be taken in time for subsequent legislation, if the popular vote shall be in favor of the tax. This seems to be feasible and the only reliable mode of overcoming the difficulty created by this singular, and, as we believe, unwise provision in the organic law of the State.

PROVISIONS FOR BUILDING AND IMPROVING SCHOOL HOUSES.

3d. Upon third topic suggested in the circular referred to, we have to report no special resources for building and improving school houses. The only plan we have, with our present resources, even should the local tax be under legal authority continued, is to appropriate such part of our general revenue as the continuance of the schools for three terms will admit of, to the erection of houses where they are imperatively demanded and to seek such personal and local assistance as the liberality of the citizens and their estimate of the value of proper school accommodations will prompt them to afford. In some districts local assistance has been obtained in former building enterprises, and to some extent aid may be secured in future efforts; but in other sections, although wealthy and populous, the entire expenses has fallen upon the Board, and the future has, we fear, no better promise.

BUILDINGS ERECTED AND AUTHORIZED.

During the past year we have appropriated out of our ordinary revenue some \$4,600 to the erection of new school houses in four different localities where they were greatly needed. In two of these districts we have the promise of some local aid, but it cannot, in either case, meet one-half the cost of the building. One large brick building, 24 by 46 feet, well built, and to be completely furnished, is now nearly completed and ready to be occupied at an expense, to the Board of some \$2,200. The other three will be completed in time for occupation during the next Spring or Summer. A larger amount would have been appropriated to building purposes, but for obligations of the former County Board, incurred by them in their efforts to supply needed buildings, which the present Board have been obliged to provide for and discharge.

DIVISION OF COUNTY INTO SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

During the past year the County, under the authority of