

not attend school at all, or if enrolled, are present one day and absent ten, and who cannot under such circumstances advance at all. These persons blame the school system, for what their own indifference or neglect occasions. It would be a great thing gained, if some means could be devised to secure a more regular attendance. Though we have efficient teachers, it is a great discouragement to them to go to school from day to day and find their houses almost empty. In thinking of this subject of bad attendance, another thing presents itself to my mind, in the time of vacation. The months of July and August do not suit us. They are the months when our schools are generally well filled, and the vacation comes on and breaks up the schools when in their most prosperous condition. I would suggest the propriety of an amendment to the law, altering the scholastic year, and making the Winter Term the first Term of the year, beginning with January and ending March fifteenth. The Spring Term beginning March sixteenth and ending May thirty-first. The Summer Term beginning June first and ending August fifteenth, Vacation until October fifteenth, then the Fall Term commencing October sixteenth and ending December thirty-first. The vacation would then be in the sickly season. Farmers would have the services of their children at home during a very busy portion of the year, as they will have, whether it be vacation or not. If whenever this plan will not suit all parts of the State, let the law fix the duration of the vacation, but leave the time of it to the County Boards.

In conclusion, I am glad to be able to state, that a year's experience, has left a favorable impression of the system, and that all who take the pains to examine for themselves, must be convinced, that if not successful, the system itself is not in fault. With such amendments as your experience will suggest, the law, when defective, may be made more conducive to the wants of the people, and such things as were engrafted upon it by hasty legislation, (if any such exist) may be reconsidered and lopped off or improved.

At the late election, the following was printed upon the tickets, "For or against the passage of a Law, restoring to the County Commissioners, the power of Local Taxation for Educational purposes." When the ballots were counted twelve hundred and two votes were found to be in favor of such a Law and sixty-five against it. I obtained the consent of these interested, to have this matter submitted to the people in accordance with your suggestion to that effect, and I am happy to be able to announce to you the result.

With much respect yours,

JAMES W. THOMPSON,

*President of the Board.*