

the houses have fallen into a state of decay and neglect; little interest has been felt by either teacher or pupils, and the schools have thus been poorly attended and poorly taught. There has been more reluctance to pay district taxes for the building and repairs of houses than to pay the County taxes for the payment of salaries. I therefore think that, in any modification of the law towards making provision for the erection of new or the restoration of old houses a tax should be levied upon the whole County, to pay for one-half the cost of such work, leaving with each district to raise the other half, by district taxation. This I think would afford a salutary check upon the demands for new houses, which would be almost universal if the whole cost should be derived from a County fund. Our people, I should add, have not yet learned to know the value of handsome, cheerful, well appointed school houses as educational agencies of themselves, apart from books, apparatus and teachers.

V. "The action of your Board relative to Teachers' salaries—the rule adopted for the distribution of Text Books—the number of boys and girls who attended school during the term ending November 15, 1865—the aggregate amount paid for salaries and the amount paid for incidental expenses."

As the tabular statement of the condition of the schools rendered with this report will give all statistical information I need not make any reply to the latter portion of your inquiry. When this Board came into office it found the schools in operation under teachers with fixed salaries. These ranged from \$350 to \$500 a year. No change was made during the first year. We deemed it inexpedient, if not impracticable, to adopt the system recommended by the State Board, that of a sliding scale, graduating the pay by the number of pupils in the school. The geographical formation of this County is such that there must necessarily be many small schools in the necks of land, bounded by wide water; and we reflected that in such districts no amount of labor, diligence or ability on the part of the teacher whose lot was cast in these neighborhoods could raise his number of pupils above that required for the minimum salary. We know also that some of our most capable and deserving teachers were in the occupancy of these necessarily small schools. We therefore determined to assign specific salaries to the different schools, having regard to the grade of the teacher, the size and the location of his school. Our maximum and minimum remain \$500 and \$350. Our village teachers of the same grade and size of school receive the larger salaries.

Our system of distributing Text-Books, during the year ending June 30th, 1866, was to allow the teacher to make a