

ing, after the experience of one year, have my hearty approbation, for these among other reasons. . First, because it is a general law for the whole State. Second, because it provides for a State, a County, a district, and an individual school supervision. Third, because it removes, as far as is possible in this County, the whole matter of school administration from the domain of politics. Fourth, because it provides a uniform series of Text Books throughout the State. Fifth, because it secures schools by the State levy to all parts of the State, for at least one-half of the year, even to those Counties which have been heretofore unable or unwilling to support public free schools. Sixth, because it makes provision for the education of professional teachers by the establishment of a normal school, the formation of Teachers' Institutes, and the organization of Teachers' Associations. Seventh, because it provides for a system of graduated schools for the State from the lowest primary to the highest university, and professional school.

The objections which are made to the law are mostly the result of a misapprehension of its provisions, ignorance of the details of its administration, or unreasonable prejudice. The objections may thus be stated. 1st. The system is an expensive one to the State at large, and to the several Counties. That it costs something to the State cannot be gainsaid, but the question immediately occurs, are not the benefits accruing more than a compensation for the cost? This is for every candid mind to answer. With no records of the expenses of the schools under the County system, it is impossible to know with absolute precision the difference of the cost of the two systems, but from such information as can be gathered, I am justified in saying that for this County at least, the new system is one of economy and saving. 2nd. The school officers receive exorbitant salaries for small service. As the amount of these salaries are enormously exaggerated in the minds of the people, there is no wonder that such an objection should suggest itself. But a knowledge of the truth would show that no men doing so much work for the State are so inadequately paid. 3d. That the people are debarred from the privilege of electing their school officers, and through them the teachers. As this is an objection that needs but be stated, to bring its own answer I shall not essay any reply. 4th. That books are issued to the children at prices above what they can be sold by private dealers. As no parent is obliged to buy of the County Board, and as no County Board is obliged to buy of the State Board, this objection could have little force, even if it had truth for a foundation; but the truth is, the books are sold to the children at fully 15 per cent. below the retail prices of the dealers, and the small advance which is charged above the wholesale prices is barely sufficient to pay the