

namely, an increase of the number of the schools at the expense of their excellence. None of these houses were in good condition. The best are found in the villages. Yet they were habitable, with two or three exceptions. The teachers were continued in their schools, and after the expiration of the fall term, which gave an opportunity to the President and other Commissioners to visit the Schools, make the personal acquaintance of the teachers, and learn something of their qualifications by observing their methods of teaching and their powers of discipline, they are called upon for examination. The standard of competency was raised much above that which had been esteemed sufficiently high by the former examiners, consequently many teachers declined submitting to the test of an examination, and resigned their places. Others were rejected as incompetent, and yet others were allowed to teach upon a permit, with the understanding that they were again to be examined, when if they should be found disqualified they were to surrender their schools. The large majority of these under a second trial, showed that they had availed themselves of the intervening time to prepare for this trial, and were passed. Of the forty-two teachers employed in the Schools two received certificates of the first grade, and eighteen of the second grade. Upon a second examination five others received second grade certificates. There are now forty-one Schools in operation, under two first grade teachers and thirty of the second grade. All others are teaching under permit. We have been gradually eliminating the indifferent, and substituting efficient teachers. This cannot be accomplished instantly, but will be done as fast as is consistent with the rights of the teacher and the good of the schools. Time is required to show the unfitness of a teacher who has shown his competency upon examination. Two new schools have been opened, and three old ones are closed, for want of a sufficient number of children. As far as we have been able, without fund especially devoted to the purpose, we have had repairs made upon the houses, and we await legislation to enable us to do much more in this direction.

In answer to your inquiry made in your circular letter of Sept. 24th: "What has been done towards organizing a County High-School?" I am able to reply. It was not the intention of this Board to attempt the formation of a High-School in this County, inasmuch as the Easton Academy was in a measure fulfilling the purposes of such a school, until the State Board of Education should adopt some plan for the organization of like schools throughout the State, which duty seems to be required of that Board by the law. But as the death of Mr. Matthew Spencer during the year, rendered it necessary that the Trustees should elect a principal for the Academy, it was thought that it would be better to undertake