

direction and advice of the attorney general; they shall explain the true intent and meaning of the law, and they shall decide without expense to the parties concerned, all controversies and disputes that may arise under it.

Have general care of the public school interests.

5. They shall have the general care and supervision of the public school interests of the state; shall act as the assistants and advisers of the various county boards, and shall, from time to time, issue circular letters to teachers and commissioners on topics connected with the administration of the public schools.

Blank forms for accounts, &c.

6. In order to insure uniformity in the statistical reports of the public schools, they shall issue a uniform series of blanks for the use of teachers and of county boards, and shall require all accounts to be kept and returns to be made according to these forms.

Examine candidates.

7. They shall, when requested by the board of county school commissioners, examine candidates for the office of county examiner, and give a certificate of qualification.

Grant certificates.

8. They may grant to teachers of long experience and established reputation, professional certificates, which shall be valid until revoked for cause.

Ex-officio trustees of normal school

9. The board of state school commissioners shall be *ex officio* trustees of the state normal school, and the principal of the state normal school shall be *ex officio* a trustee of the state agricultural college.

Reports to be made to board.

10. All schools and colleges receiving any state donation shall make a report on or before the fifteenth day of November in each year, of such matters and in such form as the board of state school commissioners shall require, and said reports, or an abstract therefrom, shall be published by the president of the board in his annual school report.