

divide a school district, or to build or remove a school house, it is necessary to have a special law passed for that purpose. Should it happen that the inhabitants in a distant corner of the State find it necessary to have a new school district, they have to wait a year, or two years, as the case may be, for the meeting of the Legislature, in the meantime the cause of education suffers and the people are put to serious inconvenience by the delay. It is proposed to remove these evils, by investing the Commissioners with full power to lay out, alter or change school districts, whenever the public convenience may require it. As to the number of Commissioners necessary for each county, there may exist much diversity of opinion; nor does it appear material that the number should be the same in each county. The committee, however, have proposed that number which in their judgment seemed most likely to give efficacy to the practical operation of the system; but whatever diversity of opinion may be entertained on the subject, it is hoped that it may not be urged to the detriment of the whole bill.

The success of the best organised system of education will depend, in a great degree, upon the moral deportment and the intellectual ability of the teacher. The best interests of society, the welfare of coming generations, and the future destiny of the State, depend in a great measure upon the faithful discharge of his duty. If he be a man of strict integrity and morality, a man of intellect and a scholar, he will reflect his character upon the pupils under his charge. But if he be a man incompetent to discharge the duties of his calling, if he be intemperate or immoral, his example will exert a baneful influence over the tender minds of those committed to his care. How important is it then, that the teacher should be a man competent to discharge the high and responsible duties of his vocation. The committee, fully sensible of the great importance of having none employed except competent teachers, have provided that the Board of Commissioners shall constitute a Board of Examiners, whose duty it shall be to examine all applicants for teaching in any of the schools under their jurisdiction, and that no person shall be employed as teacher in any of the schools, who has not been previously examined by them, and obtained a certificate of qualification.

Our public schools, to be in harmony with our other institutions, should make no distinction between the rich and the poor. The public school is public property; no child should be met at the door of the school-room to be asked for money. The practice prevalent in many sections of the State of having two distinct classes of children in the same school, namely: paying pupils and free scholars, should be abolished. Wherever it prevails, a line of distinction is drawn; the true principles of republican equality are violated. Our public schools are a type of our republican institutions. They were designed as the olympic plains