

nicely; we have a very good teaching force, the attendance about as good as usual. We are building some new school houses, repairing and furnishing others, trying to correct mistakes made in the past by consolidating schools that are too near together and by abolishing others, that is, we are trying to have fewer and better schools. We have had for years a Summer School for our teachers which has been conducted by the best teachers we could employ and we expect to continue this policy.

I have no suggestions about legislation unless a more beneficent system could be devised for the common schools. If the amendments to the constitution basing distribution of funds on average attendance could be wiped out, I think this would be an improvement. At present it is like paying the teacher according to number of pupils which we all know, after fair trial, won't do; it is an inducement to swindle. I favor the uniform examinations, because they are fair.

Very respectfully,

JAMES A. WALKER

County Superintendent.

### LAKE COUNTY

(There is no report on the general condition of schools in this county, but the Superintendent wrote the following on the subject of the examination law.)

I believe my teachers are better qualified than they were the year previous.

The examinations this year were no more difficult than they had been in this county the previous year, but many teachers got the impression that they would be more difficult and therefore prepared for them.

Interest in education has for many years been increasing in this county and it continues to increase. It is better each year than the year before.

The effect of the new examination law if faithfully and discreetly carried out will be good.

I favor it, because:

1. It enables the State Superintendent to systemize his work.
2. It gives the State Superintendent a means of knowing the educational condition and progress of each county.
3. It gives all persons interested in education a means of comparing the educational standing of the various counties.
4. It helps the weaker counties to rise to the position of the stronger ones.
5. It gives teachers a means of knowing what character of examinations they may expect.
6. It relieves County Superintendent from the solicitations of parents and friends to grant special favors to their sons and daughters.
7. Although no present County Superintendent would be influenced by such