

Every school building that the Board has acquired is a permanent fixture, and is supplied with an abundance of pure water, which is an important factor in every school.

In many districts patrons and others concerned in public education have sustained from one-fourth to one-half the expense of building, and in all but two instances have donated without cost to Board one or two acres of land for school sites, for all of which credit is hereby acknowledged, and, in behalf of the children, I wish that all who have so kindly manifested this interest in us may live to see many happy returns.

We now have some 30 or more comfortable school buildings furnished with patent desks, and tables or desks for teachers. Several districts have, independently, erected very good houses which are used for both educational and religious purposes.

Rules, Regulations and Course of Study.--At the beginning of the year 1897-8, a new course of study was adopted and issued with School Law and Regulations of County Board in neat pamphlet form, a copy of which will be found in every school room, with Supervisors, and many school patrons.

Teachers and Library.--The same high standard of teaching force is constantly aimed at. By prompt payment and the usual free board provided by patrons, we get some of the best teachers from other counties where greater salaries are offered, but warrants are discounted. I have, after considerable research and some expense, acquired a very good professional library of some one hundred volumes, to which all teachers have access, and have thus carried out my object of a Circulating Library for teachers.

Our county is large, one railroad traverses the southern half, and it is impossible to hold even monthly meetings of teachers; consequently we have no County Teachers' Association. I am thinking, however, of dividing the county into four districts and assembling teachers of each district monthly, and all teachers annually.

Prompt Payment of Teachers.--Teachers are paid promptly in cash on first Monday of each month. Our warrants are taken at par value. For last four years there have been ample funds in treasury to meet all claims presented. When school revenues are exhausted or uncollected, money is borrowed to meet all financial obligations. By paying cash, more efficient teachers are secured and better results obtained.

Financial Condition.--While the resources are inadequate, entirely too small to make the schools of the county what they should be, still the financial condition is excellent, a fact recognized by our best business men and money lenders. About four years since, notes (for charts) amounting to several thousand dollars has to be met; school warrants were discounted, frequently at a usurious rate, and sometimes a purchaser could not be found. All old debts have been paid, and there is not an outstanding or unpaid warrant issued prior to July 1st, 1898.

For past three scholastic years the Board of Public Instruction has had offered them each year from three to five thousand dollars more than they could use.

To-day, January 7th, 1899, reveals the fact that after completing all schools and paying all running expenses and all borrowed money with interest up to