

The examination law has done much to raise the standard, but it cannot, with justice or reason, be made to produce more than it is now doing--we must look elsewhere for help; the people must now begin to do something to encourage the profession.

The education of our children is being played at by short terms, and tampered with by unqualified teachers. High qualifications of teacher and longer terms for schools mean more money, but if our children would be educated these must be had.

Grading Committee.--Teachers usually do not take an examination before their certificate expires, and as a preparation for the next, attend either some college or summer training school. They thus miss the June examination, and postpone taking until the September examination. Our schools open in September, and we want to know the result of this September examination without any delay, hence I favor letting the present system stand. However, other reasons would cause one to favor a State Grading Committee.

Compulsory Education.--The people of this county favor compulsory education, and speak of a law that shall compel every child to show an attendance of 60 days in 100, unless providentially hindered by his illness; this I favor.

Concentration of Schools, Etc.--Nothing is ever accomplished without sentiment. There is no sentiment in favor of this plan of hauling children to school in public vehicles, and not likely to be for some years to come. I do not favor the plan. We are concentrating our schools wherever it can be done, but the people always take the initiative in this.

Libraries.--Nothing better or wiser could be done than to have the Legislature take the first formal steps in the way of putting good reading into the hands of our children. To this end I favor an appropriation of some definite amount by the Legislature for circulating libraries, to be available only in those counties that shall appropriate a like sum of money for purchasing good books for school libraries. Only one school in this county has a library.

Industrial Education.--Pupils should be taught the useful, and the utilitarian idea of education is so abroad that pupils who can exhibit knowledge and skill of this kind will be thought to be the best educated. Every branch of study should be taught with the view of its relation to human industries. Teachers should know this application of their knowledge. Drawing should be made compulsory in our schools.

Very respectfully,
S. PHILLIPS,

County Superintendent Public Instruction.

LIBERTY COUNTY

In compliance with your request I submit the following report in regard to school affairs in Liberty county.

The interest in education among the masses of the people is steadily on the increase. We have been working under rather embarrassing conditions, mainly due to inadequate school funds, and the lack of encouragement and co-operation of those in whom the law vests the power to provide the school funds.