

3. To earnest endeavors in the direction of having assignment of teachers to schools so made as to put a premium on qualifications; these qualifications to include, not grade of certificate only, but also quality of school work actually done, and the moral character of the teachers.
4. To the intelligent, conscientious and courageous work of our Grading Committees.

In making appropriation to the schools regard has been had more or less to the school population of the district to the enrollment and average attendance of the preceding school year, and to the branches taught.

It is believed that the educational system would be improved by a State Examining Board for the following reasons:

1. It affords a wider field for the selection of qualified examiners, and in some localities this constitutes a sore need.
2. Local influences would be less operative both in the selection of the examiners and in their grading work.
3. There will be greater assurance that the examiners will not know the authors of the papers they grade. It is within my personal knowledge that Grading Committees have recognized papers by panmanship of the authors to whom they sustained the relation of fellow pupils or instructors.
4. The second and third considerations may be expected to remove some occasions of dissatisfaction on the part of examinees.

One of the strongest pleas in justification of the Public School System, by which one man is taxed to educate another man's children, is that ignorance is a menace to good government, upon which the citizen's personal and property rights largely depend; and that every tax-payer has ample compensation for his payment in the beneficent effects of education on the government in which he is vitally interested. But it is clear that the childless tax-payer cannot realize upon his investment in this direction, unless the children attend on the schools, and if the State may force him to pay a tax, in order to promote good government, why may it not force the children to attend on the same ground? Doubtless difficulties would arise in the practical operation of the law. Some families may really need their children as bread winners. It might be advisable to exclude all beyond fourteen years from the operation of the law. Even then there will be good reasons, in some cases, for non-attendance, as chronic sickness, etc. In such cases a physician's certificate might avail to exempt.

Some new school buildings have been erected. Our school houses, in general, are not creditable to us. The best of them are not models; the worst of them are cruel to the children. A great many have very uncomfortable seats. Many are adapted to produce dangerous draughts. Many have shutters without lights. If on a winter's day the shutters are flung open, the children incur the hazard of sickness; if they are closed they incur the hazard of impaired eyesight.

Our school fund has not been large enough to erect school buildings. Our County Commissioners have a variety of matters committed to their charge. Education is not a specialty with them, as with the County Board. Moreover, the Commissioners are appointed, whereas the members of Board of Education are elected by popular vote. May not the latter, for these two reasons, be presumed to be more interested