

The studies mentioned in Section 23 as being necessary to secure a teachers' certificate, should include drawing and vocal music.

Section 28 should give the county court of each county power to redistrict the county and consolidate school districts, to dispose of the unexpired term of trustees in districts so consolidated, and to arrange for the proper division and equalization of school property before making such consolidation.

Section 33 should require the proper officer having the custody of the last preceding registration list, to furnish to the trustees of each district at least five days previous to the day of election for school trustee, a certified copy of said registration list, showing the names of all registered voters residing in the precincts covered in whole or in part by such school district.

Section 41 should read, "Webster's International Dictionary" instead of "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary."

A section should be inserted in the school law stating that the funds received by each district from County and Territorial taxes, shall be used for the payment of teachers and the current expenses of the school. Some trustees are inclined to use this money for building and other similar purposes, when the funds are needed to secure good teachers and keep school the required length of time. The trustees are not altogether to blame for this, for in some rural districts the people either do not appreciate the advantages of an education or they are so opposed to taxation that every effort the trustees make to secure a tax for building or furnishing purposes is "voted down," and the trustees are left without funds to supply the necessities of the school. The power given the trustees under the old law to levy a tax of one-fourth of one per cent. upon the taxable property in the district without calling a meeting of the taxpayers to vote upon it, should be restored. Article VI. defines the duties of trustees and says they shall furnish all necessary and suitable furniture, maps, apparatus, etc., but gives them no independent power to raise funds for the purpose.

Section 45 should be so modified as permit the use of schoolhouses for parties or other entertainments for school children, even when such use necessitates the removal of the seat.

Article VIII should contain a section requiring each teacher to follow the course of study, rules and directions given by the county superintendent and trustees, or have his certificate revoked.

In section 68 the words "city superintendents" should be inserted. Superintendents of city schools as defined in Article XV should be members of the school book convention. That they were omitted is owing, no doubt, to an oversight on the part of the law makers.

Section 91 relating to bonds should be amended so as to make its meaning clear. Some trustees understand the proviso at the end of the section to mean that if the bonds are "voted down" at the first meeting called, a second meeting cannot be called within one year unless the trustees are petitioned to do so by one-third of the resident taxpayers in the district; while other trustees hold that even the first meeting cannot be legally called until

they are petitioned so to do by one-third of the resident taxpayers in the district.

The whole article on bonds seems to be of little avail under existing circumstances. Even when the people desire to issue bonds, great difficulty is experienced in disposing of them, owing, perhaps, to the low rate of interest the bonds must bear.

We think that all the districts in the county outside of schools mentioned in Article XV, should be united in one district and controlled much as are the schools in cities. The country schools can never reach a high degree of efficiency or the people enjoy the advantages of graded schools till this is done. If it is not thought practicable to unite the schools in each county throughout the Territory as here recommended, the county court of each county should be given power to consolidate districts and dispose of the unexpired term of trustees in such districts, as suggested for amendment to section 28.

Thanking your excellency for the privilege thus afforded us of suggesting changes that should, in our opinion be made in the school law,

We remain, very respectfully yours,
DAVID R. ALLEN,
WM. M. STEWART.

PRICE, UTAH, Dec. 14, 1891.

To the Governor, Salt Lake:

Dear Sir.—Yours of the 9th inst. just at hand. Replying, will say that in my opinion the teachers examination should be of a more general nature than at present.

The county courts should have authority to appoint trustees to act to the first election whenever a new school district is made.

The employment of teachers should not be left with the trustees who, in many instances for want of necessary knowledge, work a hardship to the more able and give inducements to the less qualified.

Yours truly,
L. W. OLSON,
County Superintendent of Schools.

OGDEN, Utah, Dec. 16, 1891.

Governor Arthur L. Thomas, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir—I am glad of the opportunity to suggest to yourself changes that I think should be made in the Utah school law.

First and most important, a more liberal provision should be made for school money. (a) I think it was a great mistake to take from the trustees the right to declare a tax of one-fourth of one per cent. that the old law gave them. In a few districts in Weber county last year the people voted down the tax altogether. Every district should be taxed at least one-fourth of one per cent. to furnish funds for improvements. Trustees generally realize the importance of the tax more than the people, and I am firmly convinced that they should again be given the right to declare this tax.

b. Our schools are overly crowded. Shall mail you a copy of the *Standard* containing an article wherein I urge the people to enlarge their school facilities. But how are they going to do it? As you know, there is little demand for 6 per cent.

school bonds, and usually a 1 per cent. tax will build but half or third of a good school house. Therefore, I suggest that the rate be increased to 8 per cent., and that the people be allowed to tax themselves as high as twenty mills to build and furnish school houses and to improve the grounds.

c. I think the trustees should have the right to examine the assessment roll and correct omissions, etc.

d. The appropriation money is not sufficient to run the small schools sufficiently long. Therefore, provision should be made that the people in the districts can vote a special tax for the running as well as the building expenses.

e. Utah's summer institutes are too much parade and do not accomplish what they should. We are in great need of summer schools for teachers. I understand Missouri greatly improved her school work by providing funds to hold institutes during the whole month of August. I think the time of the institutes should be increased from two to four weeks, and there should be at least \$100 provided to defray expenses; that the institutes be training schools for teachers; that able conductors be employed;—it would be well to have efficient and successful conductors from the east come to Utah and take charge of our summer institutes. This matter is very important.

f. There should be a central examining board to examine for and grant territorial certificates. There is too much inequality about the present system.

g. Provision should be made to pay trustees something for their services. I take it, that better results would follow if but one trustee were in a district and he be paid a salary.

h. County superintendents should be required to prepare or have prepared courses of study, and all the schools, country and city, should be graded. The schools of Utah have run too long under a loose system. It is highly important that the schools of a county work together and to a method, and that a connecting link be made between them and the Deseret University. The university should not be obliged to have a preparatory department to prepare pupils for the college courses; I take it all the necessary preparation should be given in public schools.

We are meeting with success in the attempt to grade our schools. We have monthly examinations, studies frequently neglected are required to be taken, school life is increased, greater interest is taken by parents, pupils and teachers, and greater uniformity is in progress throughout the county than under the system where each school works to its own plan. I am convinced that the law should require the county schools to be graded, as well as the city schools.

The provision in the Massachusetts law which requires a high school for every five hundred families would work well here. Generally the county school houses accommodate the small children only. There are hundreds of young men and young women in the districts who should go to school. We have opened four higher schools this year and they are excellently well attended. Now if a provision