

were made in the school law so that districts would combine and have high schools, Utah would take a large step in the interest of education. Too often the fault with the Utah boy is that he does not go far enough in school work. He quits with a meagre knowledge of the common branches. But the fault is not altogether his, for if schools in villages were provided where higher mathematics, some of the sciences, political economy, a fuller course of language, literature, etc. were taught, these schools would be well patronized. I think that young men and young women should not be required to attend private schools, on account of so little provision being made for them in public schools.

One point in particular I would like you to know is our method of employing teachers. We consider qualification, success and character only; religion and politics have nothing to do in the consideration. The consequence is that over half the teachers in the country schools were strangers to the people a few months ago. Of the twenty-three new teachers employed this year, nineteen came from the normal schools and graded work of the East. This intermixture of ideas from the representatives of different States is most excellent.

I am, yours, very respectfully,

JOSEPH S. PERRY,

Weber County Superintendent Public Schools.

VERNAL, Uintah County, Utah,

December 14, 1891.

Hon. Arthur L. Thomas, Governor,
Utah Territory:

Dear Sir—Your communication of Nov. 9th, has just been received, and in reply beg to say that the greatest trouble experienced in the operation of the school law has been in the "per capita" apportionment of the school funds. In this county the people are very much scattered and the school population in the various districts necessarily small, varying from thirty to fifty—the law provides that where there are twenty children of school age, a district may be organized for their benefit, and this we believe to be a very wise provision, but where the appropriation is made "per capita" and "the per capita" does not exceed \$5.00 the sum thus realized is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the case—for instance, a district with an enumeration of thirty, at \$5.00 "per capita" receives \$150 and the cost of running three terms of school, as the law requires, would be \$300, being at the rate of \$40 per month compensation to the teacher, as small a salary as can be paid to any person qualified to teach. (It is the general sentiment in this county that the length of time that a school is required to be kept in session should not be reduced.)

The method of apportioning the school funds "per capita" works all right in cities of population, but not in scattered communities. All small districts in this county are in debt for tuition and they anxiously look to the forthcoming Legislature for redress.

In regard to the assessment of special school taxes, it is believed that a time, say May 1st, or any time agreed upon, should be set, upon which date, the assessors should assess all stock to

the district wherein such stock is found, for the reason that where stock is assessed in the district in which the owners reside, it takes from the outlying districts the only wealth to be found in these districts and precludes the possibility of these districts erecting and furnishing good, comfortable and respectable school houses.

It is believed that the services of the trustees of a district should be acknowledged, and that a nominal salary should be provided—the present law does not mention this—also that the law should make it obligatory upon the trustees of any district to turn over to an adjoining district the appropriation for all children who attend the school in any such adjoining district; at present it is optional with the trustees, and it has been the cause of much unpleasantness.

Experience warrants the assertion that a salary for the superintendent would be more to the interest of the schools than a per diem, for the reason that the members of the county court, not being imbued with progressive educational principles, believe that only those duties which the law says shall be performed, should be attended to, and such as the law says may be performed should be allowed to pass, the court deeming that the less that is paid to the superintendent the more saved to the county, and in this way the superintendent is handicapped and always under the apprehension that his services being unappreciated, will also be disallowed.

Much means have been lost during the last year to the schools of this county, by the action of the county court only laying off into school districts about one twentieth part of the county and it would seem advisable that the law should plainly state that no part or portion of any county should be left out of a school district.

It is also thought that the county school tax should be raised to three mills.

I am, very respectfully,
E. G. DE FRIES,
County Supt.

KANAB, Kane County, Utah,
December 14, 1891.

Governor Arthur L. Thomas:

Dear Sir—Your communication was received today. In answer will say:

First—The school law should provide means for the county superintendent to compel the district school boards to send in their reports on time.

Second—Small districts have not enough funds under the present law. They could be helped by giving the trustees the privilege of levying a district school tax of one-half of one per cent.

Third—Counties should be allowed to retain their portion of the Territorial school tax, sending only the overplus to the Territorial treasurer.

Respectfully,
JED. F. WOOLLEY,
County Superintendent.

FILLMORE, Utah, Dec. 24, 1891.

Hon. Arthur L. Thomas, Salt Lake City:

Dear Sir—In answer to your communication received a few days ago permit me to submit for your consideration the following points:

First—The Territorial and county funds are not sufficient to run successfully schools in some of the districts of this county, and the maximum figure has been reached, as set forth under the revenue law. This county, of course, is a very poor district and while two mills would be sufficient in many counties, yet too small in Millard, and, no doubt, in other counties in southern Utah, and some of our schools run but a short time.

Second—I think that the law should specify the uses that the various school funds should be used for trustees in some places that the county and Territorial funds are used for all purposes, and I think that the law contemplates that special tax only should be used for repairing school houses, etc., while the county and Territorial taxes should be used for paying teachers. If this or is not the case I think the matter should be plainly set forth in the law.

Third—I certainly think that music should be made one of our regular branches, and would recommend that music be made a part of examinations, and that an organ be placed in every school. I am working to this end in the schools of this county.

Fourth—I find that the law pertaining to special school tax is faulty in that it does not set forth how the tax is to be obtained from county treasurer. The law may contemplate that the superintendent should issue the order; but I can not find such a provision in the school law.

Fifth—The sections pertaining to compulsory education is not in my mind, sufficient. I think that the time of attending school should be at least thirty weeks, and that the age should be changed so as to read from 8—16, and that children be kept in school during thirty weeks a d that parents who keep out, for minor causes, be dealt with. Yours, respectfully,

JOSHUA GREENWOOD,

Supt. Dist. Schools Millard county.

LAKE TOWN, Rich Co., Utah.

Dec. 15th, 1891.

The Hon. the Governor of Utah: Salt Lake City.

Dear Sir—Your letter enquiring what beneficial changes can be made in the school law of this Territory, came to hand today.

In reply, I beg respectfully to submit the following points.

1. Small schools funds are only provided for 2 terms, while the law requires that the school shall be open 3 terms.

2. The law provides for compulsory attendance, but fails to say who must attend to this duty.

3. Teachers should be paid according to the grade of certificate they hold.

4. There should be some restriction placed upon the compensation received by trustees.

5. There should be some penalty placed upon trustees for neglect and wilful carelessness in sending in erroneous returns.

6. County superintendents should receive a mileage allowance equal to that of selectmen, and should also have a small allowance for stationery.

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY SCHULT, Co. Supt.