

the requirements of the new law, which provides that your report be made to the commissioner on the 1st of August. Please notice this date.

The value of any report depends entirely upon its fullness and accuracy. If either of these elements be wanting, the report loses its worth. I would ask, therefore, that each of you urge upon the trustees of each district the great importance and necessity of their having these reports made full, complete and accurate, and that they be made promptly and forwarded to you. Promptness is necessary to enable you to make up your reports to the commissioner.

The trustees' census report should be made in duplicate—one copy to be retained by the board for future reference and the other copy should be forwarded to you. Your reports of various kinds should be made in duplicate, one copy to be by you retained and the other to be forwarded to the commissioner.

I desire that you shall immediately, if you have not already done so, call the attention of the school trustees of each district to sections 42, 44, 84, 25, 26 and 37 of the new school law. Their action will be required.

It will be seen that by section 32 of the new law, notices of all meetings "for the election of trustees, etc.," shall be posted up in at least three public and conspicuous places within the district, and that "all business transacted at such meeting other than that specified in said notice shall be void." It is possible that the courts may interpret the words "all business" to mean only all business upon the three subjects specified in the first part of section, but in the absence of judicial interpretation, it would be advisable in every instance to designate in the notice every subject upon which it is contemplated that action be taken at the meeting. I have hereto appended a form of notice suitable for the July meeting. If any other subject than such as is named in the form is to be submitted to the meeting, it should be included in the notice. The question as to voting upon the rate per cent. of taxes to be assessed, and of the issuing of bonds, might more properly come in use in full, and of course, whenever it is desirable of considering either, it is absolutely necessary to specify it in the notice, or the action of the meeting will be null and void.

It will be observed that the question of the compensation of trustees is embraced in the form of notice submitted for the July meeting. The law is silent as to their compensation, and it necessarily therefore devolves upon the voters of the district to fix it.

I desire each county superintendent and each city superintendent to make an annual written report to the commissioner at or near the first of September, giving a general summary of the condition of the schools under his superintendence, together with such information as he may gather from the teachers, school officers and others regarding the working of the law and wherein changes are needed, and regarding school work generally. Such report might

embody whatever recommendations he or any teacher may have to make as to amendments or modifications of the school law, or the interpretations thereof, and what he or the teachers think of the present text books, or of other text books not now used. Also whether any recommendations regarding the form, size or character of school registers; also the opinion of teachers as to corporal punishment.

I should like also to know whether there is any difficulty in the children being supplied with school books and stationery, and whether there be any plan for making improvement in this regard; also as to the school facilities and accommodations and whether the school house is so situated as to be accessible to all.

Such reports should always show whether the persons who have attended the normal department of the University of Deseret have complied with the requirements of the law by offering themselves as teachers, and generally give the opinion of the superintendent as to the benefits of the normal course to those who have pursued it and thereafter followed teaching within the superintendent's jurisdiction or under his observation.

A report of the character suggested for each superintendent would be very gratifying to the commissioner, and not only be a great aid in his making his annual and biennial reports, but also a means of further improving the system and advancing the cause of education generally throughout the Territory.

The law requires that the commissioner furnish information regarding other than district schools. It is necessary, therefore, that the superintendents do their utmost to hunt out every school other than district schools within his superintendency, and report the same to the commissioner, giving the name and postoffice address of principal, also whether such school be denominational or not. I sent out blanks for this purpose this spring, and the county superintendents generally at once supplied the necessary information. Here and there, however, a superintendent had a lack of interest generally in the subject of education, and made only imperfect reports. There are schools in various cities and towns, and in the country, which are not connected with any church. These should be reported also. It is a very difficult task for the commissioner to obtain the necessary information from church officials or ministers. Some of them are very willing, but others seem careless and indifferent. The last biennial report of the commissioner will show how imperfect were the data as to the denominational schools, and it showed the great need of the commissioner not depending for information entirely upon church officials or ministers. I hope, therefore, that every superintendent will make it his business during the year to learn the necessary facts in regard to every private school, whether the same be denominational or not.

It is desirable that each of you

acknowledge the receipt of all blanks and other documents that you may receive from the commissioner. Otherwise he is in the dark as to whether you receive them or not. In some instances, where the number is very large, the allotment is divided in two or more packages. If the number and kind of blanks received be stated, the commissioner will know whether what was sent was received or not. Immediately upon the discovery of the lack of any blanks, it will be a favor to me if you will immediately notify me, designating the number and kind of blanks needed. This should never be delayed, as I am sometimes short of blanks and it is necessary to get more printed, and this requires time. I am not at present well supplied with blanks for county superintendents' annual financial and statistical report; blanks for the coming year may be somewhat different. It is not advisable to go to the expense of printing any more of these two kinds unless it be absolutely necessary. If therefore, either of you need either county superintendents' annual financial or annual statistical report blanks, let me know immediately. Otherwise it will be too late to have them printed. And if any of the county superintendents have more of either of these blanks than he needs, he will confer a favor by forwarding the same to me.

I would be pleased if each of you would notify me at the earliest opportunity about the number of school teachers' term report blanks you will need for use to the 1st of January next; and, as near as possible, how many such reports you will need from 1st of January next to the 1st of July, 1891.

If there be any change in the number of your county, let me know, and give me about the date that the schools of your county begin their fall term.

I enclose herewith a circular issued by Commissioner Williams in 1887, showing the text books that were then adopted for a period of five years, and also those recommended.

I desire to call your especial attention to section 3 of an act of Congress, found on page 23 of the biennial report of the commissioner of schools, 1888-9, copies of which report have been sent to you. No certificate should be issued to any person to teach until he or she has passed the examination therein required. All recommendations of the County Examiners to the Commissioner, for first grade certificates, must show that the party recommended has passed a satisfactory examination in physiology and hygiene with special reference to the nature and effect of alcoholic drinks and other narcotics upon the human system.

I desire also to call your attention to section 135, as some Trustees do not seem to notice it. This section continues in force and validity all enactment of the new law, and all said taxes can be collected just as if the new law had not been passed.

Yours, etc.,  
JACOB S. BOREMAN,  
Commissioner of Schools.