

with those of last year. The commercial depression that bears so strongly over the whole community, is positively affecting the economy of our schools. But I am happy to be able to say that the people are making renewed efforts to keep up their noble work, their schools, on a level with their other duties, if not above them. A glance at the statistical tables will give you a synoptical view of the general standing of the schools. But as the abstracts can give only a superficial idea of the subjects, I will particularize them more or less here.

School Sections and Houses.—At the May meeting the Commissioners added one new section to the number already existing and gave it the name of Thibault, No. 27. It includes the whole of a back settlement situate about 2½ miles from a station of the W. C. Railway. I visited the section in July and made the preliminary arrangements for the annual meeting which I called and attended. Three Trustees were elected and means voted to build a school-house. This section and Harlem, No. 24, are the only ones in the district without a suitable school-house. With very few exceptions the other school-houses are in tolerably good condition with very fair accommodations.

Three school-houses have been erected during the year. The first in St. Joseph, No. 3; the second in St. Martin, No. 25. They are now completed and are the first school-buildings ever erected in those sections. They are both fine buildings that will well meet the demand of the sections for many years. The third is in Beaver River. It is a splendid building, very creditable to the section and arranged for a graded school. When completed it will be the finest public school in the district.

Teachers employed.—There were in operation during the Winter term 27 departments in 23 sections, and during the Summer term 26 departments in 24 sections, which were taught during the year by the following number, sex and grade of teachers:

Teachers.	WINTER TERM.					SUMMER TERM.				
	Number in Grade.					Number in Grade.				
	B.	C.	D.	E.	Total.	B.	C.	D.	E.	Total.
Male	2	3	5	..	10	2	1	3	..	6
Females	..	4	4	10	18	..	6	5	11	22
Assistants, Males	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
“ Females....	..	4	..	2	6	..	4	..	3	7
	2	11	10	12	35	2	11	9	14	36

Not one of those teachers holds a Normal School Diploma; but several show a great deal of aptitude for teaching, and are devoted to the profession. They spare no trouble to ensure good success in their school, and are proud to show at the examinations that the pupils entrusted to their care and tuition, have not been neglected. They emulously invite the public to the semi-annual examinations of their schools, confident that their pupils are prepared to meet the approbation and applause of their parents. These teachers never fail to hold a public examination. But there is another class of teachers who would never hold such examinations if they were not afraid of being too severely blamed for that omission. If they venture to hold one, they will give it publicity just enough to suit their own purpose, for fear that some competent