

might not be improper for Your Honorable Council, by resolution or memorial, to give an exposition of the views and wishes of the people of this District on a subject in which they have so deep an interest. Having taken much pains to ascertain what the views of the people are, on the subject, I venture to assert that the school law is not unpopular; but on the contrary, the people almost unanimously regard it as the greatest boon ever bestowed by the Legislature upon the people of this Country. They are however equally unanimous in the opinion that it is susceptible of several improvements, and that some amendments are absolutely necessary. I trust Your Honorable Council will not think me exceeding the duties of the office with which I have the honor to be entrusted by your suffrages, if I proceed to point out briefly, some of the required amendments which the almost unanimous voice of public opinion seems most loudly to call for.

The part of the act which most loudly calls for amendment, is that which provides for raising a part of the Teachers salary by a rate bill. I do not recollect of having met with so much as one intelligent Trustee in the District, who, if he expressed an opinion at all, did not condemn the present system and pronounce it unsuited to the wants of the Country. On this subject I think I hazard nothing in asserting, that all who are capable of forming an opinion are unanimous. With respect to what ought to be substituted in place of the present rate bill, the opinions appear to be somewhat divided. Some would prefer a uniform rate bill upon all the children residing in the school sections, (reserving the power of the Trustees to excuse any for good reasons) whether in attendance or not. Others, (and I believe they include among them our most enlightened and virtuous citizens) hold that the property of the Country ought to be held for the education of all, no less than for the protection of all.

My own opinion is that an amendment of that part of the act based upon either of these principles would be a most valuable improvement of the present system.

Another amendment that seems to be called for, regards the powers which ought to be entrusted to the boards of Trustees. These ought to be considerably extended. They should be empowered, by law, to decide in all cases, whether it were necessary to levy an assessment upon their own school sections respectively, and to what amount; whether for building or repairing school houses, for purchasing books and apparatus, or for paying Teachers. They ought also to be fully authorised to carry out all their own resolutions without any reference to the District Council for a special by-law. Of course, the exercise of these powers should be regulated by certain general principles to be defined by the District Council, who on behalf of the public should see to it, that all monies coming into the hands of Trustees for school purposes should be properly applied and duly accounted for.

Lastly I beg to submit to the Council whether it would not be desirable to provide for the more equitable distribution of the school fund. At present each section receives an amount in proportion to the number of children residing within its bounds, whether those children attend the school or not, and also without reference to the length of time the school is kept open. So that two school sections in which the number of chil-