

served by the High Schools. The amplification of all Rural Public Schools would involve the obliteration of [school] [sections] as they now exist, and the subdivision of a township into only three or four districts in place of the sixteen or twenty now obtaining. This plan would secure to townships all the benefits of graded schools, would obviate the present waste of teaching energy, and would admit of a very material extension of the school course of study. Its adoption would probably involve, as it does it some of the New England States, the carrying of distant pupils to and from school at the public expense, but that outlay would be trifling compared with the saving effected by having to equip and maintain only three or four schools in place of sixteen or twenty. The problem of making the Public Schools equal to the new demands made upon them may be regarded as the most important now before the Education Department, and he who solves it satisfactorily, and secures therewith the indispensable concurrence of the people, will do a grand work, and will deserve honor second only to that conferred upon Dr. Ryerson himself.

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