

All these negotiations necessarily take time and after these have been adjusted the obtaining of tenders, letting of contracts, and the actual building have yet to be dealt with, but, notwithstanding the many delays in proceedings of this kind there have been built during the year eighteen (18) additional rooms in eighteen (18) of these overcrowded districts, and where one year ago we had only eighteen (18) teachers at work in these schools there are now thirty-six (36).

This work has been carried on under our Special Organizer, Mr. Stratton. In some cases it was necessary for him to take over the school as Official Trustee, in other cases the existing board of trustees handled the matter with his co-operation and assistance. In some cases it was necessary to make use of the special loan referred to above, but in others it was not necessary that it should be taken advantage of.

A gratifying feature of this work has been the willingness, in most cases, of the trustees and ratepayers to enter into the work as soon as the need for action had been thoroughly explained to them.

### **Schools which have not been operated**

Closely akin to this problem of overcrowded schools is that of many school districts which had been organized for several years, in some of which no school building had ever been erected, in others schools had been erected but not occupied, and in others teaching had been abandoned. The causes for such a condition of affairs was varied. In many cases it was due to lack of information on the part of the people in the district and no serious effort had been made to present them with the information or equally necessary assistance in handling their affairs. In some cases too the building and operating of the school was deliberately delayed in order to escape the burden of taxation. Some very aggravated cases under this heading have been brought to our notice.

In one school district, which was organized fourteen years ago, no building had ever been erected. In a number of other cases the school districts had been similarly organized for three or four years and no action had been taken, while a school population of anywhere from twenty (20) to fifty (50) children was growing up without any education whatever.

In dealing with these districts we again had to encounter the problem of securing the co-operation of the people in the district. It was necessary to get the ratepayers together to discuss the question, to agree on a site, to deal with the plans and contracts,