

beg therefore, to take this opportunity to repeat an opinion before expressed to the Council, that as a general rule, no School Section should be divided, or reduced in extent, unless the strongest reasons are shown in favor of such a division. No one circumstance, in my opinion, interferes so materially with the prosperity of our schools, or acts so injuriously upon them, as the smallness and consequent poverty of the sections. It is mostly owing to this that nearly half the Schools in the District were vacant during a part or the whole of the last summer; and that more than half of those in operation are of the lowest or third rate character. The people having but scanty means at their disposal, yield to the temptation to let their schools remain closed for half of each year, or employ a teacher of low qualifications at a small salary, or perhaps both; for there are many School Sections in which only six months' teaching is aimed at, and that in some instances, by a very inferior Teacher. Now let us suppose any two of the latter kind united into one. Then a teacher might be employed for the whole year without any additional expense, and if the school should be kept for six months alternately in each of the school houses, all the children, even the very youngest, would enjoy all the advantages they now do, while some of them at least, would have twelve months tuition placed within their reach.

I beg to submit, whether it would not be an object worthy the attention of the Council to enquire into the propriety and practicability, of effecting an entire revision of the school sections, in order at least, that they might be properly described and numbered and their real dimensions and limits understood. At present a great deal of confusion exists on this subject. As an instance, I may mention that in Nissouri there are three sections or parts of sections, known or intended to be known, as No. 1—Two as No. 2—Two as No. 3—Two as No. 6, and two as No. 7,—Besides there is a great number of sections of the extent and limits of which I have no description.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

On the whole, though I have felt it my duty to animadvert on many existing evils which ought to be promptly met and, if possible removed, I have nevertheless good grounds to justify me in offering my congratulations to the Council and to the public, upon the evident improvements that have taken place, and that are now in progress in connection with the Educational interests of the District. The effect of our present school system (though in several respects imperfect) has doubtless been to double the number of schools, while the pupils in attendance, and the amount of instruction given have been augmented in a much greater proportion. An increasing disposition is manifested on the part of the people to employ a higher class of Teachers, and to give them reasonable salaries; and by means of the Provincial Normal School, such Teachers are being multiplied; and shortly, it is reasonable to expect, the influence and value of right instruction on right principles, will be extensively perceived throughout the Country.

At the approaching session of the Provincial Legislature, I believe it is expected that some amendments will be made to the school act, and it