

few stormy days in a year, when the nearness of the School-House may be deemed a convenience. But all children of school age, in order to maintain health and secure the due development of their physical functions, exercise daily, to a much greater extent than is produced by one, or even two, miles' travel. The most aged and experienced Teachers will testify that, as a general rule, those children that live farthest from the School-House are the most punctual in their daily attendance, and make the greatest progress in their studies."

3. *Means employed to remedy this evil.*—Impressed with the importance of this subject, I called the attention of the District Councils to it, in a Circular dated 1st October, 1846, pointing out the evils arising from the establishment of small School Sections, and the advantages of enlarging them. I am happy to find that several District Councils have acted upon my suggestion; although in some of the District Superintendents' Reports the evil of the small School Sections is represented as still existing, to the injury of the Schools in several Townships. But I brought the subject again under the notice of the District Councils, and I hope that an improvement in this respect will be witnessed from year to year.

4. *The evils of improper modes of forming and altering School Sections.*—Formerly the Townships were divided into School Sections by the Township School Superintendent. This most important duty now devolves upon the District Councils; and the change has, I think, contributed much to the interests of the Schools and the lessening of disputes.

[NOTE.—I have here left out the details of various School disputes which were locally reported.]

Now, in examining the printed Report of the Committee to whom all these Petitions are referred, I find that of the 29 petitions presented to the Council, one prayed for the establishment of a Female School in one of the Sections, (which was granted); one prayed for a local school tax in a Section,—which was referred by the Council to the petitioning Trustees; two related to the formation of new School Sections, and the remaining 25 petitions related to the disputes as to the boundaries of School Sections, and the non-payment to Teachers of school moneys, which were in the hands of Township Superintendents.

When I visited and held a public School Meeting in this District, all these returns had not been received, and not a farthing of the Legislative school Grant for the year, (payable in August), had yet been paid to the Teachers! Of course I pointed out the illegality and injustice of a By-law which contemplated the abolition of the provision of the Legislative Statute, requiring the Legislative School Grant to be distributed to the several School Sections, according to the School population of such Sections respectively, and it was not acted upon.

5. *Discretionary powers of Councils as to modes of proceeding.*—In one or two instances doubts have been expressed by the District Councils as to the extent of their discretion in the manner of exercising their power in dividing and altering School Sections,—as to whether they could exercise this power only during their sitting by formal votes, or by the appointment of Committees by particular Townships, or Sections, subject to the approval of the Council itself. I have expressed my own opinion and advice in favour of this latter construction of the Act; and I have suggested the propriety of each of the Councils laying down some general rules, as to the average area of School Sections, and then appointing a Committee of the Council for each Township, composed, perhaps, of the Councillors and the District Superintendent of Schools, with a view of adjusting, as far as practicable, all the School Sections of such Township, according to the general rules adopted by the Council, and thus lay the foundation for future uniform and permanent operations. I do not think that any amendment of the School Act on this point is necessary; I believe that all that is required is experience,