

The condition of the schools in many counties is represented as improving, encouraging and satisfactory, and the character and qualifications of teachers as improving; but in others, passages like the following occur in the Auditors' reports: *Coshocton County*—"Teachers' salaries are so low that our best teachers have sought a more remunerative employment, and consequently we have a low grade of teachers." *Hancock County*—"Many of our best teachers have quit the business, on account of the extreme low wages, and our schools are generally taught by young and inexperienced teachers."

Many of these County Auditors' reports are curiosities in their way. I give two of them entire, taken as they stand together from the 145th page of the State Commissioner's report:—

Carroll County.—School-Houses—School-houses in this County are of several classes. About one-fourth of the houses are pretty good, and built with a view for comfort for the children; and about one half of the houses are poor, miserably constructed things—small, dark, low ceiling, dirty holes, not fit to put children into; and the balance would make tolerable sheep stables.

"*Libraries*—Generally good, but not used to any extent; mostly locked up in the Librarian's house.

"*Schools*—Not very good; about in keeping with the above description of school-houses.

Cuyahoga County.—School-Houses—No facts in this office upon which to base a statement or hazard an opinion.

"*Libraries*—No particular information. Presumed to be bad; growing out of a want of proper care.

"*Schools*—No facts upon which to base even a guess."

G.—TOWNSHIP BOARDS RECOMMENDED.

Since my report was written, and while it is going through the press, I have received from the State School Commissioner of Ohio his report for the year 1867, in which he discusses at large the propriety of abolishing the sub-school districts, or school sections, and establishing Township Boards. He commences his elaborate and, I think, conclusive argumentation of the question, with the following remarks:—

"Previous to the adoption of the school code now in force, most of the leading advocates of the new law were anxious to adopt what was commonly known as the township or district system, whereby each township would be constituted a school district proper, without sub-divisions; while others were of the opinion that the old independent sub-district system should be continued. The result was a compromise, and the adoption of the present law having the distinctive features of both systems, and at the same time having the proper advantages of neither and possessing many of the weaknesses of both. Though the present law is infinitely better than the old one, yet the blending of the township or district system with the sub-district system has proved cumbersome, complicated