

fountains of our intelligence and culture originated. By further investigation you would find that some one or two individuals in every community, noted for their intelligence and public spirit, first made arrangements for gathering the children into a school, which was held in a private dwelling, or a rude log school house; that they selected for a teacher some person with a fair common school education, who had had some experience in pedagogy; and that they were guided in the choice of studies and text books to be introduced by what they had learned in connection with schools in the East, and by the needs of the scholars. Before any system of public schools was established, the teacher's salary was paid by subscription, which rated usually from two to three dollars a term per pupil. The schools were generally taught three months in the year; the scholars were active and intelligent, and had a special fondness for arithmetic. The wages paid the teachers were low, and scarcely was one ever induced to remain long at his useful, but unhonored toil.

System of Public Schools

Wisconsin was attached to Michigan Territory from 1818 to 1836; and from 1836 to 1848, it was a Territory for a short time in connection with Iowa, and afterwards by itself. Soon after the erection of its own Government, the school code of Michigan was adopted almost entire. Defective as it was, and modified in some of its provisions almost every year, it continued in force until the State was organized in 1848. Since it required nearly two years after the adoption of our Constitution, for our present system of public instruction to go into operation throughout the State, let us notice the beginning and the growth of this system in our legislative action from 1836 to 1850, when the first report of the State Superintendent was issued.

The protection of the lands donated to Wisconsin by the United States Government for school purposes, and the creation of a Common School Fund first called the attention of our