

public men to the cause of education. The first resolution on school matters ever introduced into our Legislative Assembly, was at the session at Belmont, in 1836, and referred to the report of a bill to "prohibit persons from trespassing on the schools lands in this Territory by cutting and destroying timber." A memorial to Congress was adopted, requesting them to authorize the sale of the school section in each township, and appropriate the money arising toward creating a fund for the support of common schools.

At the second session, November 7, 1837, a bill was passed to "regulate the sale of school lands, and to provide for organizing, regulating and perfecting common schools." Like the statutes of Michigan, it enforced the formation of schools in every town. A law had been enacted in Michigan, in 1827, ten years before, requiring every town having over fifty families, to support by tax a common school; having one hundred families, two schools; having one hundred and fifty families, three schools; and so on. If this duty was neglected, the town was compelled to pay a fine in proportion to the number of the families living in it, and this fine was distributed among the poor districts of the county to aid in maintaining schools. But in Wisconsin, it was provided that as soon as twenty electors should reside in a surveyed township, in which was the school section, they should elect three Commissioners of common schools, who should hold their office three years, apply the proceeds of the leases of school lands to pay the wages of teachers in the township, lay off districts, and call school meetings. Each district should elect three Directors to hold their office one year; and they should locate school houses, hire teachers for at least three months in the year, and levy taxes for the support of schools. This tax was *pro rata* on the attendance of the pupils; and the children of persons unable to pay the tax, were kept in the school by a tax on all the inhabitants of the district. Five Inspectors, the third set of officers, were elected annually to examine schools and inspect teachers.