

the strifes of political parties. In their circular, the Committees state that Mr. Root is "favorably known as a firm friend and devoted advocate of the cause of education." From his first Report, issued in 1850, we learn that there were estimated to be 80,445 children, between four and twenty years of age, in the State, of which 46,136 were attending school; that the average wages of male teachers per month were \$15.22, and of female teachers \$6.92; that there were 704 school-houses—359 being constructed of logs; and that there were ninety-six unincorporated private schools.

State University

In Gov. Dodge's message to the First Territorial Legislature, he recommended the propriety of asking from Congress a donation for the establishment of an institution for the education of the youth of the State, and to be governed by the Legislature. This was the first action looking toward the foundation of our State University. Several charters were issued by the Territory incorporating what was hoped would be such an institution. But no provisions were made for the final establishment of the University until the State was organized, for the reason that the donations of land by Congress for it could not come into the possession of the State until it was admitted into the Union. This Institution was finally located at Madison; and by 1850, the Regents had been appointed, and they had made two reports; Prof. John H. Lathrop, President of the University of Missouri, had been elected Chancellor; and Prof. John W. Sterling, still connected with the University, had opened the Preparatory Department, Feb. 5th, 1849, with twenty young men as students, in a room in the present High School Building, then furnished by the city of Madison.

Union or Graded Schools

By 1850, there had been made in the State only one effort at organizing union or graded schools; and this was at Kenosha. Superintendent Root mentioned in his report such a