

elected annually, to examine and license the teachers, and visit and inspect the schools. At the head of the State Department of Instruction, a State Superintendent was appointed by the Governor. The last provision was not enforced during our Territorial existence.

The first school district in the State was organized under this Michigan school law, in Milwaukee, in the fall of 1836. This was about the same time that the Territory of Wisconsin held its first Legislative session. The first school of this district, and, therefore, the first public school in the State, was kept by a Mr. West in the fall of 1836, in a framed school house, still standing in the 2d ward of the city, and now known as No. 371 Third street. Will it not be a privilege for the teachers of this Association to make a pilgrimage to this humble temple, the first erected in the State for the accommodation of our noble common schools?

In 1839, this Territorial school law was revised, and the office of Town Commissioners was abolished and their duties were transferred to the Inspectors, who had bestowed upon them the additional power to listen to complaints against teachers and discharge incompetent ones, to keep the school houses in repair, and to make returns of the number of scholars in the town to the County Commissioners. It was the duty of the last named officers to levy a school tax on the whole county, and to appoint Inspectors in the towns which refused or neglected to choose them. The name of district officers was changed to that of Trustees, who could perform for the district the duties assigned to the Inspectors in examining and licensing teachers, repairing the school houses, and reporting the number of scholars.

Within the two years following, the office of Commissioners was revived, and that of Inspectors dropped; all their duties being enjoined upon the former. More complete directions for forming and managing school districts were adopted. The Commissioners were required to listen to appeals from any person aggrieved at the action of a district, and pass a decision thereon, which should be final. They made reports each year