

to the Secretary of the Territory, giving in detail the number of school districts in each town, the number of scholars and teachers, the length of time school had been maintained in each district, and the amount of money raised by tax, and paid out for school purposes. A neglect of this duty was accompanied with heavy penalties.

Provision was made for five district officers—a Clerk, a Collector, and three Trustees, who were elected annually. It was the duty of the Clerk to make yearly a list of the heads of the families in the district, and the number of children in each family between the ages of four and sixteen, and to file a copy of said list in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, and deliver another to the School Commissioners of the town. These duties were afterward transferred to the Trustees, who performed all the official labors of the district, except keeping the records, and collecting the taxes. They engaged the teachers, had the custody of the school property, made out the tax lists and rate bills, and met the expenses of the schools.

The County Commissioners, besides receiving the list of families and children from each district, apportioned, annually, all moneys in the County Treasury which had been appropriated to the common schools.

This code of school laws remained in force, with some slight amendments until the State Constitution was adopted in 1848. Up to 1841 so many changes were made in the minutia of the system, that great confusion was caused in the management of the school affairs in the town and in the district, and the people were justly dissatisfied. So strong was this feeling, that no important modification was permitted to be introduced until the organic law of the State was itself remodeled, seven years subsequently, though it was well known that radical deficiencies existed in the system.

Previous to the adoption of the State Constitution, the supervisory management of the public schools was discussed in various portions of the State. Defects were pointed out, and remedies were demanded. Five school district officers, subject