

possible, existing defects in the system and management of schools.

The present school law went into operation May 1st, 1849. In the Constitution, it was provided that "the supervision of public instruction shall be vested in a State Superintendent, and such other officers as the Legislature shall direct." The Superintendent should be elected by the people, and should not receive over \$1,200 salary. The Legislature adopted the provisions, which required that he shall have the general oversight of the common schools, and shall visit throughout the State as far as practicable, inspect schools, address the people, communicate with teachers and school officers, and secure a uniformity and an improvement in the instruction and discipline of the schools. He shall recommend the introduction of the most approved text books, advise in the selection of works for school district libraries, and prescribe the regulations for the management of these libraries. He shall attend to the publication of the school laws, accompanied with proper explanations, and distribute copies of these in all portions of the State. He shall decide upon all appeals made to him from school meetings and Town Superintendents. He shall apportion all school moneys distributed each year by the State among the towns and cities, and submit to the Legislature an annual report, containing an abstract of all the reports received from the Clerks of the County Board of Supervisors, giving accounts of the condition of the common schools, and the estimates of expenditures of the school money, and presenting plans for the better organization of the schools, and such other matters as he may deem expedient to communicate.

From the New York system of common schools, was borrowed the idea of establishing the office of Town Superintendent. It was the duty of this officer to divide his town into a convenient number of school districts and regulate and alter thereafter the boundaries of such districts, to receive and apportion among the districts all town school moneys, to transmit to the County Board of Supervisors an annual report of all