

matters connected with the districts, to examine and license teachers in his town, and annul their certificates when thought desired by himself, and to visit the schools and examine into the progress of the pupils in learning, and into the good order of the schools as to the government thereof, and the course of studies to be pursued therein. He received \$1.00 per day for every day actually and necessarily spent in his work.

The school district officers were elected each year, and were called by the old title Directors. The former Collector was named Treasurer, the three Trustees were merged into a Director, and the Clerk became again the most responsible officer. He kept the district records, acted usually as librarian, furnished school registers, made annual reports of the condition of the district to the Town Superintendent, gave notice of the meetings, and engaged qualified teachers with the consent of either of the other officers. This work he performed gratuitously.

To any one who has taken the pains to examine the school laws of the several States of the Union, it will at first seem somewhat surprising that the same general principles and methods in regard to school management run through them all. The reason for this uniformity lies in the fact that the experiments tried in one State are usually observed by all the others, and any improvements in vogue in one are, after a while, adopted in most cases by the rest. So when Wisconsin became a State, she fashioned after the prevailing system her mode of school supervision, which had been tried in some respects and improved during the twelve years of her Territorial career, and it is not strange that she accepted some defects with the many excellencies of her public school policy. Since the organization of the State, only a few changes have taken place in the supervisory departments of the State and the school district; but more and radical ones in the town. In 1854, the State Superintendent was authorized to appoint an Assistant Superintendent, who performed such duties as the principal prescribed, which have been usually those belonging to the office work, and received \$800 salary. His compensation was