

able forms for conducting proceedings under them by the different school officers, and besides carrying into effect the provisions of these school laws and systematizing their operations, he gave much attention to the formation of graded schools in different parts of the State. He had been at the head of flourishing Female Seminaries in Virginia and Missouri, had taught for over a year at Waukesha, and was a member of the second Constitutional Convention, and drew up the article on education which was adopted by that Convention as a portion of the State Constitution. As a Superintendent, he labored with great zeal, and performed much to give impulse and direction to the educational interests of the State.

He was succeeded in 1852 by Hon. Azel P. Ladd, of Shullsburg, who, during the two years he occupied the office, directed his attention largely to the improvement of the instruction imparted in our public schools. He made an ineffectual attempt to modify entirely our school laws. His reports were well written and able.

Hon. H. A. Wright, of Prairie Du Chien, was the third State Superintendent. He died before the term of his office expired, in the thirtieth year of his age. He was a young man of most agreeable manners and fine abilities. A lawyer by profession, he had held the position of County Judge, had edited a paper at the place of his residence, and had been a member of both branches of the Legislature. In the only report he presented, he deemed it a bad policy to introduce any important changes in the school law, and gave quite full directions for the improved construction of school houses.

Rev. A. C. Barry, of Racine, was appointed to fill out the term to which Judge Wright had been elected. At its close, he was chosen State Superintendent for the two subsequent years. He originated the plan of publishing the reports of other school officers in the State in connection with his own annual report, a plan which has been followed, particularly since the election of County Superintendents. He labored with ardor to impress upon the people the value of an education, and to elevate the general condition of our schools. He