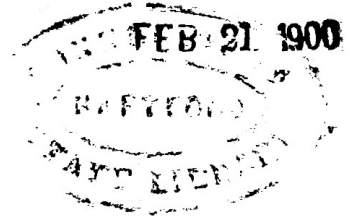


1897-8



REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD

OF

EDUCATION

OF

DELAWARE

1898.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE STATE SENATE

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1899:  
PRESS OF THE DELAWAREAN  
DOVER, DEL.

collecting reliable data and statistics concerning school matters.

There is, however, one very striking disadvantage with our present school system generally,—that lack of uniformity in advancement and progress among different districts. Some of our districts have made surprising advances in school work, while others lag far behind. It is almost literally true therefore, that even with the free public schools of this State, the education of the child is dependent upon the accident of its birth. The child born in one of the progressive districts receives a far better education than one born in another district. Yet the State is equally mindful of the welfare of both, and has contributed for both an equal amount of money.

Doubtless this condition of things has been brought about, in some degree, by the indiscriminate cutting and changing of district boundaries in past years. The fact remains, however, that in many instances, the school district of to day is an arbitrary inequitable division of the County, controlling the opportunities and advantages of the children of our State.

HENRY RIDGELY, JR.  
HERMAN P. HAZELL.  
JAMES F. ANDERSON.

December 8th, 1898.

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THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY  
SCHOOL COMMISSION FOR SUSSEX COUNTY.

To the State Board of Education:

The School Commission in and for Sussex County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1, Chapter 67, Vol. 21. Laws of Delaware, respectfully reports:

That the said Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of said Act, held its first meeting on June 4th, in the Sussex County Court Room for the purpose of organization.

Two further meetings were held,—on June 6th and 9th respectively.

The first work of the Commission was that of laying of Sussex County in districts for schools for colored children. In this task, the Commission was materially assisted by the valuable information and advice furnished by Superintendent Tammany, and other prominent citizens of this county.

As a result of its labors in this direction, the Commission laid out and divided the County into thirty-two proposed districts for colored schools; that number being the number of colored schools then maintained in Sussex County. These districts were numbered in continuation of the districts already laid out in the County

Full notice and advertisement of the metes and boundaries of the proposed districts was given by the Commission.

At its subsequent meeting on June 30th, the Commission entertained petitions to alter certain of the proposed districts, and after such petitions had been acted upon the districts so altered were finally adopted as the districts for colored schools in Sussex County.

Elections in said districts were held subsequently under order and direction of the Commission.

Meetings were also held on July 21st, and September 8th. Much time and labor was spent by the Commission in instructing the newly elected committees in the duties of their offices.

Further meetings were held on December 8th.

The Commission have considered and acted upon a number of petitions for transfers from one school district to another.

The Commission would respectfully make the following recommendations:

1st. As the schools for colored children in some of our larger towns, employing but one teacher, have enrolled and in attendance as many as one hundred pupils (a number much too large to be instructed and disciplined by a single teacher), it is suggested by the Commission that the General Assembly be petitioned to make provision for the division and incorporation of said districts in such cases as it may be deemed necessary, and under proper restrictions and safeguards for the protection of the other schools in the event of this privilege being abused, so

that their appropriation or dividend of the school fund may be increased to such an extent as will enable them to employ an assistant teacher, and establish therein a graded school, to be regulated and governed in the same manner as are the schools for white children in the larger towns.

2d. As there are a large number of people in Indian River Hundred known as Indians or Moors who neither affiliate nor associate with the colored people therein, but have established, maintained and patronized schools for their own children, which schools have heretofore been supported in part by the State, but which now, under the provisions of the new school law, are left wholly without assistance from that source, without which they must be closed and abandoned.

And these Indians claim not to be colored people, within the meaning and intent of the law, they being more intelligent and prosperous, and apparently of a different race and color; and as they do not patronize or receive any benefit from the schools for colored children, and are not taxable for colored school purposes, it is suggested that provision be made for the laying off and dividing of Indian River Hundred into districts for Indian Schools, and that the same have all the rights and privileges and be subject to the same rules and regulations as the colored schools therein.

3d. As some of the school districts for white children in this County have been weakened and their limits contracted from