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1-8-25
Atchison county. Eighteen districts have been organized in that county, eight of which have schools in successful operation.

I have been informed by the Superintendent of Douglas county, that four districts have been organized in that county.

I did not receive my commission until the second day of December, A. D., 1858, which left me but little time to ascertain the condition of the common schools of the Territory.

But few counties have made any effort to carry the present school system into effect.

In those in which it has been attempted, it bids fair to work well, and the schools that have been established are in a prosperous condition.

The laws of last winter, including the present school law, were not published until June or July last, so that the people generally were not aware of the existence of the law, until several months had elapsed after its passage. It could not be expected that, within such a short time, our schools should reach a great degree of perfection.

As yet there has been no appropriation of school moneys by the Territory, and I am therefore unable to make an estimate and account of the expenditures thereof.

My predecessor, I have learned, has recommended certain text books, to be used in common schools throughout the Territory, but as I have not been able to obtain any official information of his acts, I cannot speak with any degree of certainty upon the subject; I have had the matter under consideration for some time, and will, at an early day, take definite action upon it.

In compliance with the requirements of the law, I have opened a correspondence with the school departments of several States, to obtain information relative to the system of common schools, and its improvement in those States. No replies have as yet been received, and I am therefore unable to lay any such information before you.

Under the 42nd section of the Act of February 12, 1858, providing for the assessment and collection of taxes, the county Board of Supervisors of certain counties, at their last annual session, levied a tax of two-and-a-half mills on the dollar, on the taxable property in the county, for the purpose of raising a revenue to assist in the support of common schools, until there shall be a distribution from the income of the school fund.

There seems to be no definite provision for the disbursement of the fund raised in this manner. The county Superintendent is authorized "to apply for and receive from the county Treasurer, or any person authorized to disburse the same, all moneys apportioned for the use of common schools in his county." It has been suggested that this only means the case of an apportionment from the Territorial fund, and does not authorize him to