

The following Report is the last and most complete one received, and shows that the writer has tried to do his duty, and has done it well. If all, had used one half as much exertion in doing their official duty, your report would have been full and highly encouraging. This shows us what could have been done.

It will be seen by looking at the reports, as exhibited in the appendix, that Douglas county has made the fullest and most satisfactory report. And I would further state, that it exhibits at a glance, the whole footing up and total amount of each column in the table, accompanying this report. Such a report is not only desirable, but what is necessary in order to exhibit a complete report.

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DOUGLAS COUNTY REPORT.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools for the County of Douglas, K. T., for the year 1859.

On assuming the duties of my office, I found only five organized districts in which a three months' school had been taught. It being late in the winter, (March, 1859,) it was necessary to put forth every exertion to prepare for summerschools. Districts were to be organized; teachers to be procured and qualified; school houses to be fitted up, and everything done from the beginning. On the first of June, thirty-one districts were legally organized, in twenty-seven of which a school was in session.

All these have completed a three months' term creditably; many of them highly satisfactorily, and some with complete success. Owing to the limited time in which all this was necessary to be accomplished, and the extreme scarcity of money, it was impossible to obtain a first class teacher for every school; accordingly a lower standard of qualification was accepted than under other circumstances would have been imperative, and for which, in future, there can be no excuse.

The people have responded generally and earnestly to the demand for *Free Schools*, and, with rare exceptions, have acted promptly, to the extent of their means, efficiently to establish in this new country, a universal system of Education. The duties and labors of the office of County Superintendent are more irksome, and the result less satisfactory, owing to the incompleteness of the present laws. Much confusion arises in the minds of District Officers, in regard to their rights, duties and powers, and consequently a multitude of questions are referred to the Superintendent for decision. On many points it is difficult to arbitrate their queries, and say—"Thus saith the Law,"—the only tenable position of all justices.