

forts mainly misdirected, I hope you will profit by our experience.

We will probably adopt the County Superintendency and a Country Examining Board.

Very truly yours,

LYMAN C. DRAPER,

State Supt. of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, }
DES MOINES, IOWA, MARCH 14th, 1859. }

HON. S. W. GREER, Leavenworth City, K. T:—*Dear Sir* :—
I am in receipt of your favor of the 16th ultimo, and send you, by this mail, in a separate package, our School documents.

You have the basis for an excellent School System—nearly double the land we had—but the great secret is in starting right, and as you are now about taking the first step, allow me, from an experience of twenty years in our own State, to make a few suggestions.

Do not attempt to establish your School System until you have provided the means to keep it in *successful* operation. The first step is to provide for the disposition of your School Lands and the management of your School Fund. In doing this, I would establish a State Land Office for the disposition of *all your State Lands*; supply it with the necessary tract books, plats, &c., to enable the officers to manage its affairs with the utmost system and order. Place at its head a Register and Receiver, whose accounts should be so kept as to operate as a check on each other. Your State Treasurer might be *ex-officio* Receiver. Locate the Office at the Capital of the State, and require all business pertaining to lands to be transacted directly through this office, and avoid, if possible, any country agency in the matter, as it will prove a destructive feature in all your subsequent operations. So soon as your School Lands are designated by the U. S. Surveys, and placed under your control, have each section carefully surveyed into forty acre tracts, (except timbered lands, to which I shall refer hereafter,) and require the Surveyor to give an accurate description of each tract, as to quality, and cause the whole to be made a matter of record in your Land Office. There fix a minimum valuation on each tract, dividing the lands into three classes—say \$2, \$4 and \$6 per acre. Offer the land first at public sale, and let that remaining unsold be afterwards subject to private sale at the valuation. Sell for one-fourth in cash, and the remainder on a credit of ten or twenty years, with interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, payable annually on the first day of January, at the office of the Receiver. The *timbered* lands I would divide into smaller tracts—say ten, twenty and forty acres, and value them as the other