

for the better organization of the Common Schools ; and, Fifth, All such matters, relating to his office and the Common Schools of the Territory, as he shall deem expedient to communicate."

RECOMMENDATION OF TEXT BOOKS.

In compliance with Sec. 5th of the School Law, I recommended for use, in the Common Schools of the Territory, a series of Text Books. For the purpose of putting the recommended list into the hands of District School officers, and establishing uniformity through the Territory, I issued the following circular, in March last :

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL BOOKS FOR KANSAS TERRITORY.

In accordance with the requirements of law, I give below a list of Text Books which I have recommended for use in the Common Schools of this Territory. The list embraces none but works of standard merit, and those which have met with general favor among our best educators. It is one of the duties of my office to recommend the introduction of the most approved Text Books, and as far as practicable to secure a uniformity in the use of Text Books throughout the Territory. To secure this uniformity, it is essential that I should have the cooperation of the District Boards, parents and all those interested in the cause of education. The effect of using uniform books, upon the character and efficiency of schools, is in the highest degree beneficial. The use of different Text Books, relating to the same subject, in the same school must interfere with a proper classification of pupils, on which much of the order and efficiency of schools depend. There must necessarily exist as many classes as there are books in use ; and the unavoidable result of multiplying the number of classes must abridge the time and attention devoted to each. One of the greatest secrets of effective teaching consists in reducing the number and increasing the thoroughness of the recitations, by disposing the pupils into larger classes. The presence of a large number of fellow pupils creates a spirit of emulation, and gives importance and impressiveness to the learner. It also enables the teacher to bestow sufficient care to make the recitations more thorough and complete. The removal of pupils from one district to another—a change frequently occurring—must be attended with bad results, while different books are in use. Having become familiarized to one method of study, in the use of Text Books, the pupil is compelled to go back to the reacquisition of of the same branches, through a different channel, and is confused by the almost contradictory teachings of different books. Arguments in favor of a uniformity of Text Books in our schools might be multiplied, but space will not allow me to continue further. Our schools are yet in their infancy, but their prospects for the future are flattering. I am assured that our worthy Gov-