

WORK OF COUNTY SCHOOLS REVIEWED

[Continued from Page 5.] Schools and the pupils are carried in wagons to the graded school, Newton has partitioned a large one-room building and last year employed two teachers, and graded the school. Ramon hired two teachers for its central school, using a rented room for the lower grade.

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT. The scope and efficiency of the schools of any district depend almost absolutely upon the knowledge and professional skill of the teachers employed. Hence the most important duty of a superintendent is to see that none but qualified teachers are employed.

REVIEW AND EXAMINATIONS. A majority of our schools continued to use as a general guide the Illinois Course of Study. Why should we not have a Pennsylvania Course with an outline of it printed in every teacher's report book?

HISTORICAL. Complying with the request of the Department of Public Instruction, I add to this report a short historical sketch of the progress of Lackawanna county schools from 1875 to the present time. In this I am obliged to rely almost entirely upon the reports of preceding superintendents.

Thus, while we have not quite doubled our enrollment in the twenty-five years, we have eight times more than doubled the number of teachers employed. This indicates a more rational conception of teaching, and what a teacher can do, as will be appreciated when we observe that Blakely borough then enrolled 267 pupils and hired three teachers, Old Forge enrolled 434 pupils and hired four teachers.

THE DISTRICTS TAKEN FROM THE FARMING REGION give the following figures:

Table with 3 columns: Districts, Enrollment in 1875, Enrollment in 1900. Rows include Benton, Covington, Greenfield, Goshalboro, Jefferson, Madison, Newton, Ramon, Scott, Spring Brook, and Totals.

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country schools go to normal schools and academies to complete their education; the remaining three-fourths have no further training. If these schools were consolidated and graded, so that some high school work could be done, the enrollment would, no doubt, be greater than in 1875.

BUILDINGS AND FURNITURE. The number and character of school buildings in rural districts have not changed much during the last twenty-five years. In cases where old buildings have worn out, new ones have been erected. These new houses are generally better and larger than those of the earlier period.

LIBRARIES. I can find no evidence that any effort had been made in the county previous to 1875 to establish school libraries. There are now libraries ranging from 150 to 800 volumes in Archbold, Blakely, Dunmore, Madison, Ramon, Spring Brook and Waverly.

SUPERINTENDENTS. As before stated, the territory now included in this county was in 1875 a part of Luzerne, and was until 1878 under the supervision of W. A. Campbell. I learn from his reports that school terms were short, in some districts only five months, and the terms in many districts were a summer and winter term.

In her report of 1881, Miss Brooks spoke of the poor school buildings, unsuitable school furniture, lack of blackboards, the vile and unsanitary condition of the water closets, and the general difficulties arising from the lack of text books, the neglect of certain school directors to make necessary repairs upon school buildings, and the irregular and illegal methods used by some school boards in conducting the affairs of their districts.

Professor N. S. Davis, elected county superintendent in 1881, continued in office nine years. I quote briefly from his annual reports. According to his first report, Mr. Davis found in the county 154 schools and 7,983 pupils enrolled.

Of the work of the present incumbent I leave others to speak. It has been chiefly in the direction of securing better qualified teachers for our schools. Respectfully submitted, J. C. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools for Lackawanna County.

INDUSTRIAL JOTTINGS. Trainmaster E. M. Rine Said to Be Slated for Position of Division Superintendent of D., L. & W.

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D., L. & W. Board for Today. Following is the make-up of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western board:

- WILD CATS, SOUTH. 8:30 p. m.—E. M. Hallett. 11 p. m.—F. Stevens. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12. 12:30 a. m.—H. Doberty, with Van Vleit's men. 2 a. m.—Hamrick. 4:30 a. m.—J. Ennis. 6 a. m.—Ketchum. 8 a. m.—Hoscoe, with Cotner's men. 10 a. m.—A. Bartholomew. 11 a. m.—P. J. O'Malley. 1 p. m.—H. T. Fellows. 3:30 p. m.—C. Bartholomew. 4:45 p. m.—D. Wallace. SUMMIT. 7 a. m.—north—Fronteller. 10 a. m.—north—M. Carmoly, with Nichols' men. 6 p. m.—south—J. H. McCann, with two 800-class engines, or three 700-class engines. PULLER. 10 a. m.—M. Stack. PUSHERS. 8 a. m.—Houser. 11 a. m.—Jordan. 7 p. m.—Murphy. 9 p. m.—M. Finney. PASSENGER ENGINE. 6:50 p. m.—Magovern. WILD CATS, NORTH. 8 a. m.—P. H. Fontaine, with Barber's men. 11 a. m.—Hamrick. 7 a. m.—Devine. 8 a. m.—Masters. 10 a. m.—Kingsley. 1 p. m.—Randolph. 3 p. m.—Horn. 5 p. m.—Mullin. 4 p. m.—Lalor. 5 p. m.—Bouffant. 6 p. m.—Wall. 7 p. m.—Bush.

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