

OUR SCHOOLS.

Further Valuable and Interesting Statistics Regarding Them.

Facts from the Annual Report of County School Superintendent Hinton—Recommendations of the Superintendent.

County School Superintendent J. W. Hinton has just completed his annual report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and from it the TIMES has gleaned the following statistics in regard to the schools of this county:

Total number of schools in county, 143; of these 64 are grammar schools and 79 primary.

Total number of boys enrolled, 3986; total number of girls enrolled, 3819; total number enrolled, 7805; average daily attendance, 4179.

Number of districts having suitable accommodations for all pupils who may wish to attend, 68; not having suitable accommodations, 17; those having grounds suitably improved, 17; not suitably improved, 60; number of schools well supplied with furniture, 51; middling, 14; poorly, 12; well supplied with apparatus, 33; middling, 33; poorly, 11; number of pupils in High School, 119; number of pupils in grammar schools, 1510; number of pupils in primary department, 6175; average number of months of school maintained, 9.59;

Total number school districts in the county, 77.

Five new districts were formed and five new schoolhouses built.

Total number teachers employed 143; of this number 53 are males and 90 females; average salary paid male teachers \$81.94; average salary paid female teachers \$61.32; No. teachers graduating from California Normal school about 18; other Normal schools about 15; No. teachers having life diplomas 35; No. teachers having educational diplomas 20; No. teachers having first grade certificates 38; No. teachers having second grade certificates 50.

Thirteen districts have voted taxes and six bonds during the year for building purposes.

No. certificates granted to male teachers during the year 22; female teachers 39; No. certificates renewed, 40; No. applicants rejected 35; average time teachers have held their positions (months) 17.15.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS.

Average salary paid teachers.....	\$ 68 96
Average estimated amt required to support the schools per month in each district.....	295 60
Total amt paid for teachers' salaries during the year.....	99,307 78
Paid for rents, repairs, hall and contingent expenses.....	25,890 84
Paid for school libraries.....	3,082 18
Paid for apparatus.....	1,163 62
Total current expenses.....	\$129,444 32
Cash paid for sites, buildings and school furniture.....	18,425 39
Total of all expenses.....	\$147,869 71
Estimated amt needed to support all the schools of the county for eight months.....	127,430 00
Total receipts from State and county, not including library fund.....	123,796 10
Balance needed to maintain the schools for the eight months, as above estimated.....	9,179 77
Balance on hand at beginning of school year, July 1st, 1881.....	45,719 86
Cash received from the State, including library fund.....	96,679 99
By cash received from the county taxes.....	31,663 38
By cash received from city and district taxes.....	29,905 57
Am't received from miscellaneous sources.....	672 10
Total receipts.....	\$203,670 90
Total expenses for the year....	147,869 71

Balance on hand to the credit of the several districts.....\$355,801 19

[Of the latter amount there belongs to the city of Los Angeles \$21,880 32.]

VALUE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Lots, school houses and furniture...	\$245,073 00
School libraries.....	18,128 00
" apparatus.....	4,552 00
Total valuation.....	\$267,753 00

The Superintendent, in closing his report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, says the attendance has steadily increased, and the more frequent visits of trustees and parents to the schools in many districts, indicate a disposition to become better acquainted with their workings and requirements. There are some districts, however, in which the teachers' registers show a lack of such interest, though the number of such is becoming less at each report.

A general prosperity of the people of the county is noted in the number of new schoolhouses built and the better furnishing of others.

He notes a marked improvement in scholarship and deportment in the pupils, and a growing disposition on the part of teachers to beautify their school rooms with pictures, flowers and evergreens, which must have a beneficial effect upon pupils.

The grade of scholarships and qualifications of applicants for teachers is higher than ever before.

He deprecates the frequent change of teachers, which is the result, very often, of inadequate salary, and sometimes the inefficiency of the teacher, and recommends that only good teachers be employed and good salaries paid.

He recommends that the number of teachers assigned correspond with the number employed, as justice is not subserved where money is apportioned to any district in excess of the teachers employed, and gives to another only the amount actually necessary, which he states is the case in this county and will be so wherever a considerable native population exists.

He recommends that trustees, in making repairs, be limited to \$50 per year for each teacher employed. States that his observation has taught that that amount is ample, and for reason says there should be a limit fixed, as the efficiency of many schools is impaired by the reduction of teachers' salaries so low that good teachers can not be had, in order that a large sum may be retained from the apportionment for building purposes or for making repairs. If the State provides the money for the support of the schools the district should build and furnish the house. It is not contemplated that the school money should be used for building purposes, and the law which allows such an expenditure in one district and makes it impossible in another is unjust in its operations.