

attributed partly to enthusiasm and partly to pedantry. Each professor is apt to magnify the importance of his department and hence to undervalue the others. The result is that each strives to have his department well represented in the prescribed course. And it would seem that all have succeeded admirably while the student, unheard, has been the victim. We have no objections to all these branches being taught, nay, indeed we believe that they should be increased rather than diminished but let many of them be elective. Let the aim be to graduate men vigorous and strong for the work before them, rather than weakened in body and distorted in mind.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

LINCOLN, NEB., FEB. 22, 1878.

To the County Superintendent:

DEAR SIR: A state convention of county superintendents is hereby called to meet at my office in Lincoln, on Monday March 25, at 2 o'clock p. m. It is expected that the session will continue two days and adjourn at noon on Wednesday, the 27th, in time for the assembling of the State Teachers' Association, which is expected to meet at 2 p. m. on that day.

The work of this convention will naturally be divided into two parts:

I. Ways and means of rendering the administration of the school law more effective and popular, especially in regard to the following:

1. Examination of teachers.
2. Visiting schools.
3. Procuring and making reports.
4. Managing county and normal institutes.

II. Needed amendments to the school law.

The general revision of the statutes provided for by the last legislature will include the school law, and will afford an opportunity to rectify a number of conflicting and embarrassing provisions. It is believed that a careful revision of the

details of our school law without changing its general plan or structure, may be made greatly to increase its effectiveness, and render its working much more satisfactory. These details must be worked out in harmony with the results of experience and careful observations by persons familiar with the operation of our school system. Three points at least need special attention.

1. Division of district property.
2. Care and management of district funds.
3. Best methods of supplying text books.

It is very desirable that there should be a full attendance of superintendents. The work of this county office is intricate, difficult and important, and no superintendent who is able to attend can afford to miss this opportunity to gain from the experience and observations of others that knowledge which will enable him to perform his duties with more satisfaction to himself and profit to the community.

Superintendents of city schools and principals of graded schools are cordially invited to attend this convention and take part.

Persons who have served as county superintendents, though not now in office, are invited to attend and give the convention the benefit of their experience.

Two first-class hotels, the Commercial and the Metropolitan, will entertain delegates at \$1.50 per day—regular rate \$2.50. Other hotels will board for \$1 per day.

The usual reduction of fare on the railroads is secured.

It is understood that the convention will not necessarily be confined in its deliberation to the topics mentioned above, but will be free to take up and discuss any subject desired.

Superintendents who design attending this convention will please notify the undersigned as soon as convenient.

This convention or "institute," called under the provisions of section 91 of the