

due administration of justice." The association is directed by seven managers, and these are the names of the managers who were selected for the first year : Orville H. Browning, John H. Williams, Alexander E. Wheat, Ira M. Moore, Frederick V. Marcy, Henry Asbury and William Marsh. Judge Williams is the only surviving member of the first board of managers.

After a considerable period the association became inactive, but was revived a few years ago and re-organized upon the former basis and with a fine spirit of interest, which has already shown important and gratifying results. Following is a list of the present officers of the association : President, Joseph N. Carter; first vice president, H. S. Davis; second vice president, F. M. McCann; secretary, Walter Bennett ; treasurer, George W. Govert. The present board of managers are: S. B. Montgomery, W. L. Vandevanter, M. F. Carrott, L. E. Emmons, Lyman McCarl, Carl E. Epler, James N. Sprigg. This is the present roll of members of the association: Albert Akers, Charles L. Bartlett, Walter Bennett, L. H. Berger, John C. Broady, .A. J.. Brockschmidt, John Q. Brown, Matthew F. Carrott, Joseph N. Carter, Harry B. Coffield, W. H. Coon, Clay Crewdson, Hope S. Davis, Homer D. Dines, L. E. Emmons, Sr., L. E. Emmons, Jr., Carl E. Epler, W. G. Feigenspan, Joseph I. Foreman, J. Frank Garner, John T. Gilmer, William H. Govert, George W. Govert, Joseph H. Hanly, W. J. Henry, John T. Inghram, Joseph C. Ivins, Charles A. James, George M. Janes, Merle W. Janes, H. H. Jansen, Uriah H. Keath, W. Emery Lancaster, W. P. Martindale, Frank M. McCann, Lyman McCarl, Charles B. McCrory, Edward J. Mitchell, S. B. Montgomery, Theodore B. Pape, Frank J. Penick, Elmer C. Peter, Thomas R. Petri, T. C. Poling, Arthur R. Roy, Joseph A. Roy, Thomas A. Scherer, Wm. Schlagenhauf, H. E. Schmiedeskamp, Edward Shannon, W. B. Sheets, James N. Sprigg, David P. Strickler, Homer M. Swope, W. L. Vandevanter, John E. Wall, Almeron Wheat, George H. Wilson, Samuel Woods.

One of the most substantial proofs of the bar's renewed interest and progressive spirit is the splendid bar library recently established and to which the county board of supervisors has allotted a room in the court house. The library already contains about 3,000 volumes, worth at least \$6,000. It is the largest and best law library in the state outside of Chicago, and valuable works are constantly being added to it. The association furnishes the librarian, the present incumbent being Miss Margaret Wich, who is a lawyer.

CHAPTER LII.

EDUCATIONAL.

By Prof. N. J. Hinton

The history of education in Adams County is interwoven with that of the state. Many interesting things pertaining to the early history of education in Illinois are found hidden away in old newspapers, school journals, rare pamphlets, educational reports and congressional and legislative records, not easily accessible to many. We are indebted to W. L. Pillsbury, so long registrar of the University of Illinois, who has ferreted out these facts from their various sources, for much of the information here given.

The first General Assembly of Indiana Territory (of which Illinois was then a part) at the second session, "begun and held at the Borough of Vincennes" passed, November 29, 1806, "An act to incorporate an university in Indiana Territory,." and since this act was, doubtless, passed by the help of Illinois members and bears in addition to the approval of William Henry Harrison, Governor, the signatures of "Jesse B. Thomas, Speaker of the House of Representatives," and "P. Menard, President pro tem. of the Legislative Council," both Illinois men and subsequently famous in our territorial and state history, we may fairly claim that it belongs in part to us. Following the enacting clause are numerous "whereases," and a clause creating the corporation and a board of trustees, with Wm. Henry Harrison at the head, who are directed to establish the University as, speedily as may be, and to appoint: "A president and not exceeding four professors for the instruction of the youth in the Latin, Greek, French and English languages, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Logic, Rhetoric and the Law of Nature and Nations." It was enacted "That no particular tenets of religion shall be taught in said University by the president and professors." But it was provided in the act that there should be established departments of theology, law and physic when the good of the University, and the progress of education required their establishment. Two other sections, 11 and 13, provided respectively, the one for "the utmost endeavors of the trustees to induce the aborigines to send their children to the University for education, who, when sent, shall be maintained, clothed and educated at the expense of said institution," the other for the establishment of an institution for the education of females "as soon as in the opinion of the trustees the funds of the said institution will admit."

The institution was given the seminary Township and granted power to sell 4,000 acres; it was given power to receive donations and bequests and to hold not exceeding 100,000 acres of land, and to raise \$20,000 by a lottery. The trustees organized December 6, 1806, with Gen. Harrison as president; a brick building was erected and the preparatory department put into operation, but it was not so successful as Harvard College in attracting the Indians; not even two were gathered within its walls. Tecumseh was organizing them for his struggle, and they "showed a far greater predisposition for disfurnishing the, outside of other people's heads than for furnishing the insides of their own." The female department was not organized until 1856, and the male and female departments were merged together in 1870. But the subsequent checkered history of Vincennes University belongs rather to Indiana than to Illinois.

One other act of the General Assembly of the Territory of Indiana also concerns us, viz., that of 1808, empowering the Courts of Common Pleas in the several counties of the Territory to lease for not more than five years school lands in their respective counties, not more than one quarter section to one man and with a provision that at least ten acres should be improved. This law was to continue in force until the close of the first session of the next Territorial Legislature, but this did not meet until 1810, and meanwhile Illinois Territory had been organized. However, the Governor and Judges of the new territory had met at Kaskaskia, June 13, 1809, and had resolved that in their opinion the laws of Indiana of a general character were in force in Illinois so far as applicable; and the first act of the Territorial Legislature at the first session in 1812, declared the laws in force in Indiana, March 1, 1809, to be in force in Illinois. So it was more than probable that this law was continued, and that the 16th section lands were leased, if leased at all, by the Courts of Common Pleas, until the State Legislature in 1819 provided otherwise.

The only action taken by our own territorial legislature with regard to schools or school lands, was a joint resolution passed January 4, 1816, which, after reciting the gift of a township of land for a seminary of learning, and that it had not been located yet, and that the registrar and receiver of public lands could not leave their business and make the location, requested them to appoint one, or two persons competent to make the selection and to set apart the township chosen by them as the seminary township. The Auditor of the territory

was also directed by this resolution to pay the expenses that might be incurred in making the location. The township was selected in 1816; and by whomever made the selection seems to have been a poor one, for it, T. 5 N. R. 1 W., 3d P. M., is in the Okaw bottom in part, and the location was so unsatisfactory that on the plea that "This township now is and ever will continue to be totally valueless for a seminary of learning," the Legislature persuaded Congress to grant, in 1831, the right to surrender the township and select thirty-six sections in lieu thereof.

One other act belonging both to our Territorial and State history should be mentioned here. When the act to enable the people of the Territory of Illinois to form a State Government was under consideration in the House of Representatives, our delegate in Congress, Mr. Nathaniel Pope, as is well known, secured an amendment fixing our northern boundary where it is, instead of on a line running west from the south end of Lake Michigan, for Illinois the territory now containing more than one-third of the population and wealth of the State and the commercial emporium of the West. It is not so well known that on the same day he procured a further amendment of the act, thus gaining large funds for our schools. Ohio and Indiana, when admitted, had been granted five per cent of the net proceeds of the future sales of government lands within their limit for building roads and canals. There was a similar provision in the Enabling Act for Illinois. Through Mr. Pope's efforts the bill as amended gave three per cent of the proceeds of such sales for what we now know as "The School Fund Proper" and our "College Fund." That we have to-day these two noble school funds, both together in round numbers \$800,000, is due to Nathaniel Pope's sagacity.

The essential points of the free school idea are: (1) A school system based upon law. (2) A school free of all rates or charges for all children of given ages. (3) Defraying all the expenses of such school, except so far as paid by the incomes of school funds, by a general tax upon all classes of property and all persons. The school law passed by the General Assembly of Illinois, January 15, 1825; embraced all these points, with the additional provision that two dollars out of every hundred received into the State Treasury should be distributed to the counties for the support of public schools organized under the act, in accordance with which the state aid would have been at first about \$1,000 a year. The law met with much clamorous opposition, which was strong

enough to repeal the provision for State-aid at the next session of the General Assembly, and to take all the life out of the measure by amending it so that no one should be taxed without his consent.

It was fully thirty years before the advanced position taken by this early law was reached and permanently occupied by the State; for it was not until 1855 that our present free school law was enacted and our schools put upon a sound financial basis. The subject of education was one, however, that was forcing itself, upon the people of the State. The press was active in presenting the needs of provision for the establishment of schools by showing that from one-half to three-fourths of the children in the State were destitute of the means of education. Parents whose children were growing up in ignorance were, many of them, restive, and candidates for office who in those days addressed themselves directly to voters declaring their positions upon questions of public interest, deemed it wise in announcing themselves to proclaim their devotion to the cause of learning. The Sangamo Journal of March, 15, 1832, has a "Communication" signed "A. Lincoln," dated New Salem, March 9, 1832, addressed to the people of Sangamo County. After declaring himself in favor of opening good roads; of building a-railroad from Springfield to the Illinois river at an estimated expense of \$290,800 and of enacting a law setting a limit to usury, he proceeded at some length, in this "Communication," to express his views upon the importance of educational advantages and their necessity from a civic as well as from a moral standpoint.

In February, 1833, there was held at Vandalia what is called the first of the series of educational conventions, which, running up to 1855, served to bring together the friends of education, to harmonize and concentrate their efforts, and rouse the enthusiasm and create the outside pressure so often needed to secure legislation. The occasion seems to have been seized upon to organize an educational society, the movement being led by Rev. J. M. Peck. An address on Education was delivered at the State House by James Hall, and after the address resolutions were adopted expressing the appreciation of the address, good will to Judge Hall and regret at his contemplated departure from the State.

In addition to, this a committee was appointed to devise measures for obtaining information on the subject of education, and to devise a system of public instruction, and to report on these subjects the following Monday evening. The result of the whole matter

was the organization of the Illinois Institute of Education. A Constitution was adopted and officers were elected. A bill to incorporate an institution under the name of Illinois University was introduced in the General Assembly in 1833. It failed, however, not alone because of the jealousies of the friends of the three colleges already in existence, though not incorporated, but doubtless from the reasons, also, that the State, not having the courage to levy taxes for its current expenses, had laid hands upon the College fund and proceeds of the sales of Seminary lands, used them up and could not pay. Governor Duncan in his message to the next General Assembly, in December, 1834, urged the establishment of a State University, and in one way and another the question was agitated from this time on until the Illinois Industrial University was incorporated in 1867.

The itinerant school teacher is still known in the land, but the itinerant or circuit school, which had some advocates, and existed in Bond County and perhaps elsewhere about this time, has passed away. The plan was for the teacher to spend from 8 o'clock a. m. to 12 in the school in one district and then go to the next district, have school from 2 o'clock p. m. to 4, and the next morning from 8 o'clock to 12, returning from the afternoon to the first district. Another plan was for the teacher, when the schools were too far apart for him to go from one to the other at noon, to stay two or three days at one school and then the same time at the other, and sometimes the teacher would take charge of three schools in this way. The teacher was expected to furnish books, etc., in part. It is reported that both patrons and teachers agreed that, on this plan the children made as great, or even greater proficiency in the same time than on the plan of all day schools. It is inferred from the fact that there is so little record of them that but few schools were conducted upon that plan.

The friends of education began early in 1834, to prepare for the meeting of the legislature in December. The indefatigable Rev. J. M. Peck suggested the importance of a State Education Convention at Vandalia the first Friday in December, which was also the time of meeting of Illinois Institute of Education. This suggestion was followed and over half the counties of the State sent delegates to what is known as the second "Illinois Education Convention." It is inferred that as the proceedings make no mention of the Institute that the Institute's meeting was merged into that of the Convention. The

immediate effect of the action of this Convention was a "Report on the Subject of Education," made to the Senate Feb. 5, 1835; by Hon. Wm. J. Gatewood, senator from Gallatin County, "Proposing a plan for a uniform system of common schools and county seminaries throughout the State." The plan was an excellent one, superior in some respects to that now in operation, but it was of no avail. The legislature still believed in keeping taxation at a minimum. The most it would do was to direct the Auditor to ascertain the amount due to the several school funds from the State, computing the interest at six per cent, and to order that beginning with Jan. 1, 1836, the interest should be distributed annually to the counties, on the basis of the minor white population, to be used in paying teachers' wages, providing that not more than half the wages should be paid in this way, leaving the other half, the incidental expenses and the building of school houses to be provided for by the voluntary efforts of the patrons of the schools.

In 1834-5, Alton College (now Shurtleff), Illinois College and McKendreean College (later McKendree), each came before the legislature seeking a charter. The friends of these institutions, having gained wisdom, from previous experiences, consulted together, and on the suggestion of Judge Thomas; concluded to put in one bill instead of three, and that was drawn by Judge Thomas. These institutions were all sectarian, or, at least, closely allied with the leading religious denominations, and there was a strong prejudice against sectarian influence and a fear that the institutions might become large landed monopolies under the dominion of the clergy and the Yankees. From this and other causes the friends of the colleges were forced to admit two restrictions into their charters; one, that they should not hold more than 640 acres of land, and the other that they should not establish theological departments. They, however, took what they could get and bided their time, (which came a few years later) to get rid of the limitations. The Educational Convention had, doubtless, some influence in favor of granting these charters. The bill, as passed, included Jonesborough College, in Union County, which was added to the other three named above while the measure was pending, as appears from the legislative record.

The first county meeting of teachers in this State, so far as can be learned, was "The Sangamon County Society for the Promotion of Education," formally organized Aug. 19, 1837, with Erastus Wright, president. It had a course of lectures, the following winter.

The Sangamo Journal, Aug. 13, 1836, had

this: "The annual commencement of Jacksonville Colleges, Sept, 21, 1836, N. B.--A convention of teachers will be held on the afternoon of the preceding to concert measures for the cause of education in this state".

The meeting was held, pursuant to notice on the afternoon of Sept. 20, 1836, and adjournment made to Thursday, Sept. 22, at 2 o'clock p. m., when the Illinois Teachers' Association was organized with Rev. Edwd. Beecher, President; Revs. John Bachelor and Lewis Coleby, Vice-Presidents, Rev. John F. Brooks, Secretary; Mr. R. A. Russell, Treasurer; Revs. J. M. Sturtevant, Theron Baldwin and John Bachelor, Committee of Arrangements for, the next meeting.

At the regular session of the General Assembly of 1836-37, an act was passed permitting the people of any township to organize for school purposes, and having done that, to elect five trustees, who should have charge of all the school affairs of the township, employ teachers (but only such as held certificates), make reports to the school commissioners, examine teachers and give them certificates. Had these trustees been given the power to levy taxes, to build school houses and maintain schools, the law passed might have proved the foundation of a "township" system better in many respects than our present "district" system. Lacking this power the plan was fatally weak.

To the year 1837 belongs the first school journal printed in Illinois, The Common School Advocate, published at Jacksonville, by E. T. and C. Goudy, monthly, beginning with January. The editorial department was conducted by a few literary gentlemen who were doubtless Illinois College professors.

At the session of the legislature in 1838-9, Hon. O. H. Browning, senator from Adams County, introduced a bill for a system of common schools, but any statement of the bill, which failed to pass, has not been found. The legislature at the same session passed a bill making county school commissioners elective; but the Council of Revision returned the bill with objections, and it was laid on the table. A bill to create the office of State Superintendent seems to have remained in the hands of the committee to which it was referred. Efforts in this direction were also made at the special session of the legislature, 1839-40, with the same general results.

The Sangamo Journal, Nov. 27, 1840, issued a call for an educational convention to be held in Springfield commencing Dec. 16, 1840. This convention met in the Hall of Representatives, in the evening of Dec. 16, and seems to have

held an evening session only. After temporary organization and addresses by a number of prominent men, a committee was appointed to consider the propriety of a permanent organization and to report at a future meeting. This meeting was held in the Senate Chamber, Dec. 28, and the Illinois State Education Society was organized. At this meeting, or at a special meeting, a committee was appointed to prepare a memorial to the legislature. This was presented in the House Jan. 13, 1841. Doubtless as a result of the discussions in this meeting and the influence of the memorial, a bill was introduced Jan. 16, making provision for organizing and maintaining common schools. The act, as passed, has 109 sections, one of which repeals all previous acts. It made the county commissioner an elective officer, with a term of two years. The sale of school lands and the loaning of school funds at twelve per cent interest were carefully provided for. The incorporation of school townships and the organization of school districts was made possible, all over the state. The examination of teachers by trustees and directors was provided for, also penalties for failure to make reports. But no taxation for school purposes was permitted.

In 1839, John S. Wright, Secretary of the Union Agricultural Society, who, in 1835 had erected at his own expense (\$507.93) the first building for a school house in Chicago, proposed to publish a paper under the auspices of the Society devoted to agricultural interests. Two advance numbers were published in the fall of 1840, and in these he wrote at length upon the great need in the new county of good teachers, and proposed as the remedy that the State should at once establish a teachers' seminary and endow it with the college and seminary funds. So far as has been found this is the first definite proposition for a State Normal School in Illinois. Mr., Wright's paper was the Union Agriculturalist and Western Prairie Farmer, which became the Prairie Farmer in 1843. Mr. Wright was very active in the cause of education for many years, not only through the columns of his paper but by personally appearing before the legislature explaining and elucidating measures proposed for the organization of a better system of common schools. From the start until the Illinois Teacher was begun in 1855, his paper, the Prairie Farmer, occupied the field of school journalism in Illinois: The school history of this period is largely written from its pages.

In 1844 a law was passed in which substantial progress was made. The Secretary of State was made ex-officio State Superintendent of

Common Schools, with nearly the same duties as the Superintendent now has, and the County Commissioner of School Lands was made ex-officio County Superintendent of Schools, and was required to visit schools and to give advice on all matters pertaining thereto, he was also required, with the assistance of associates whom he should appoint, to examine all candidates for positions as teachers in his county and to issue certificates to such as were found worthy and well qualified. School funds could not be paid to such teachers as did not hold certificates. Trustees were equal in power with commissioners in the matter of the examination of teachers. The congressional townships were made school townships with a board of trustees elected, and with nearly the same powers as now. It also made it the duty of the trustees to district the townships and gave such districts power to elect a board of directors to manage its schools as they now do. In fact it gave us the "district" system. A homeopathic dose of taxation was also permitted; the legal voters of the district could vote a tax, for all school purposes, not exceeding fifteen cents on the hundred dollars. Of all these changes for the better, no one was of more value than that which gave supervision of the teachers and the schools. The quickening effect of the new law, and of the discussions which preceded and followed it, was felt in the organization of many teachers' associations. The Franklin Association included Greene, Jersey, Macoupin and Madison Counties, and was organized Oct. 2, 1845. Adams and Marquette (afterwards absorbed in Adams) Counties formed an association. These were only two of the many associations formed.

The Northwestern Educational Society was organized at the Chicago Convention, which met Oct. 8, 1846, with Wm. B. Ogden as President; G. W. Meeker, Recording Secretary, and John S. Wright, Corresponding Secretary, and a vice-president for each of the nine states represented in the convention. It held subsequent sessions in Milwaukee, July 25, 1847, and in Detroit, Aug. 17, 1848.

In Will County, Oct. 19, 1848, so far as appears, the first county institute was held. In October, 1849, an institute continuing for three weeks was held in Ottawa, with sixty-two teachers present. One in Pike County in 1850, of which the Prairie Farmer gives a flattering account, was in charge of Prof. J. B. Turner, assisted by John Shastid, with fifty-five teachers present. By this time institutes had become common. There were twenty-five teachers employed in the common schools of Chicago at this time, and in December, 1850, the com-

mon council ordered that "the teachers in all the schools shall meet on Saturdays under the direction of inspectors, for their own improvement in teaching." This in place of teaching half a day Saturday as they had been doing. This action had been suggested to the council by the board of school inspectors.

During twelve years beginning 1847, Hon. Wm. Slade of Vermont, as agent of the Ohio Central Committee for the advancement of common school education, brought west about five hundred teachers, more than one hundred of them coming to Illinois. "Being ladies of culture and having had special training for this work as teachers, they did build up our schools."

Hon. Thompson Campbell, Secretary of State and ex-officio Superintendent of Common Schools, made the first State School Report (if we except a very brief report made by Levi Davis, Auditor; for the year 1837) in January, 1847. The statistics were reported to him in response to a circular sent to county school commissioners dated Sept. 3, 1846. Returns were received from 57 counties as follows: Schools, 1,592; scholars, 46,814; persons under twenty years of age, 155,715; funds (township), \$557,780; funds raised by tax, \$8,763; school houses, 1,328; average wages of teachers per month, male and female, \$12.90; district libraries, 21; teachers, male (56 counties), 1,051; teachers, female (56 counties); 484.

By act of Congress in 1850 certain "swamp" lands were again given to the States formed from the public domain. Illinois has received about 1,500,000 acres under this act. By an act of General Assembly approved June 22, 1852, these lands were granted by the State to the several counties in order that they might be used for drainage purposes. There was a provision in this act whereby any of said lands, the sale of which was not necessary to complete the reclaiming and draining the same, should constitute a part of the school fund of each township, to be disposed of by the school commissioners of said counties, for educational purposes, in the same manner as the sixteenth section of each township. The amount added to the common school funds from this source in the several counties and townships is estimated at about \$600,000.

Pursuant to a call signed by thirty-two educational men of the state, a convention met in the Methodist Church in Bloomington on the evening of Dec. 26, 1853. At this meeting was fairly organized the present Illinois State Teachers' Association. A charter was secured Feb. 14, 1855, under the name of Illinois State Teachers' Institute. It amended its constitu-

tion at the meeting of 1856, made the name, The Illinois State Teachers' Association. By act of Feb. 11, 1857, the legislature made this the legal name of the organization.

At the special session of the legislature in February, 1854, a law was passed providing for the election of a State Superintendent of Schools at the general election in November, 1855, and every two years thereafter (which was a blunder, 1854 being intended), and that the Governor should appoint a fit man to hold the office until the election. Hon. Ninian W. Edwards was appointed by Gov. Matteson, and because of the blunder noted above, since then, there was no general election held in 1855, retained the office until January, 1857. There was other legislation affecting public schools by which a great impetus was given to the school work. The chief features of the law which helped the onward movement were the "no-school-no-state-fund" clause and the provisions for local taxation.

The bill for a normal school was introduced in the General Assembly, that convened Jan. 6, 1857. It passed the Senate by a vote of sixteen to four, and the House by a vote of thirty-nine to twenty-five. The institution was styled a "Normal University," although what was established was in fact a normal school, and the question of location was shrewdly eliminated from the contest before the legislature by referring it to the trustees appointed in the bill. The board advertised for proposals, and several cities and towns competed for the prize. The bid of McLean county (\$141,725 in real estate and subscription pledges) was so far ahead of the others that the board located the university "on the 160 acres of fine rolling land within three-quarters of a mile from the junction of the Illinois Central and Chicago and Alton railroads," upon the condition that the full amount of the McLean county subscription of \$70,000 should be legally guaranteed within sixty days, in default of which the location was to be made at Peoria. They employed Abraham Lincoln to draw up a form of bond or guaranty to be signed by responsible citizens of Bloomington. The corner stone of the university building was laid on Sept. 29, 1857, but the financial crisis of that year caused the work to be temporarily suspended, and hence the buildings were not thoroughly completed until the early part of 1861. The total cost of the buildings, with all the incidental expenses; books and furniture, was about \$200,000, a large part of which was raised and utilized by the strenuous and persistent efforts of Gen. Charles E. Hovey. During the years while the great building was

rising to completion the school work was carried on in a cramped and inconvenient building called Major's Hall. The first president of the university was Charles E. Hovey, but at the beginning of the Civil War he entered the army as colonel of the Normal Regiment, which he had organized. Nine of the instructors accompanied him as officers, and a majority of the male students as privates. Dr. Richard Edwards was president from 1862 to 1876; Dr. Edwin C. Hervett from 1876, to 1891; Dr. John W. Cook from 1891 to 1899; Dr. David Felmley is the present president (1905).

"Where was the first free school established in Illinois?" is a question not easily answered. Hon. Ninian Edwards stated in an address before the State Teachers' Association in Decatur in 1870, that it was established in Alton in 1821, under the law passed that year, and he repeats the statement in his "History of Illinois and Life of Ninian Edwards," p. 195. It is true that about this time a town was laid out near what is now Upper Alton, and that the proprietors gave one hundred town lots, one-half for religious purposes and one-half for school purposes, and that by an act of 1831, certain trustees therein named were vested with the title to those lots, and given power to levy a tax of not more than seventy-five cents a year upon the lots in the town and required to establish and maintain a school free to all children, in the town, of a suitable age. After careful inquiry the weight of testimony seems to be that no school was established in Alton under this law, and that Mr. Edwards inferred that the first free school was established there from the fact that a law was passed making such a thing possible.

In October, 1833, a large part of the school section in Chicago was sold for \$39,000; the interest on this fund went for the support of schools. Feb. 6, 1835, "An act relating to schools in Township thirty-nine north, Range fourteen east," was passed, vesting certain powers in the legal voters of that township, which was Chicago, Alton, in 1837, and Springfield and Jacksonville in 1840 were given power to establish and maintain schools, but it does not appear that either city exercised this power until a much later date. It is thus seen that the honor of having the first free schools in the State must be conceded to Chicago and the date placed as early as 1834. It is probable that the schools were first graded in Chicago, since a beginning had been made as early as 1846. In 1844 "a good permanent brick school house, 60x80, two stories," had been erected at a cost of about \$4,000, and presumably this school was graded. The building was thought

by many to be too large for the needs of the city, and the Mayor, in his inaugural message, "recommended that the big school house be either sold or converted into an insane asylum.

"In April, 1847, for the first time the city of Quincy was organized into school districts under the control of the city authorities, by a law of the legislature. In June of the same year, ordinances were adopted by the council for the support and management of the public schools and the appointment of a superintendent, Mr. I. M. Grover was chosen for the position, and he served in that capacity for three years.

Dr. Bateman organized the West Jacksonville District School in September, 1851, with four departments - primary, intermediate, grammar and high school-and, according to his own statements, all departments were made free to resident pupils some time before the free school act of 1855 went into force. The pupils of this high school were taken over a course of study sufficient to fit them for college, and it was the first genuine high school in the State which was a free school.

The Peoria high school was organized in 1856, with Charles E. Hovey for principal. The Chicago high school followed in October of the same year, with C. A. Dupee as principal. The city council of Chicago authorized the appointment of a superintendent of schools with a salary of not more than \$1,500, in November, 1853. The school board elected John C. Don, who was principal of the Boylston Grammar School, Boston, who accepted and entered on his duties in June, 1854. Mr. Hovey became superintendent of schools in Peoria in 1855. It should be mentioned here that neither the State Constitution of 1818 nor that of 1848 makes any special mention of education. The constitution of 1870, on the contrary has an entire article devoted to the subject and declares "that the General Assembly shall provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools, whereby all children of the State may receive a good common school education." The first law providing for the establishment of free schools, as has been noticed, was passed in 1825. Many changes have since been made, some of which destroyed for a time the free school features of the system. Some of the most important laws passed and now in force, aside from that creating the separate office of State Superintendent, are deserving of notice. The school law of 1865 provided that County Superintendents, instead of county commissioners, should be elected in the regular election of November, the same year, and hold

office for four years. He has supervision of the township treasurers whose bonds must be approved by him, and to whom he apportions the money from State and County funds; he examines their bonds, accounts, notes, etc., annually and withholds from those districts, that have not made annual report to him, their share of funds. He must hold annually a teachers' institution, which must continue in session at least five days. The expenses of this institute are paid from what is known as the "institute fund," derived from the payment of a fee of one dollar from every applicant for examination for a teacher's certificate, and for each renewal of a certificate. Prior to 1885, the county superintendent visited schools only when directed to do so by the county board. Under the present law he must visit every school in his county at least once a year. He is to spend at least one-half the time given to his office in visiting ungraded schools.

The business of the school township is done by three trustees, one of whom is elected on the second Saturday in April annually, except, as is usually the case, where the boundaries of the school township coincide and are identical with the boundaries of the town, as established under the township organization laws when the election of school trustees is held at the same time as the annual town meeting. Their duties are, to appoint the township treasurer, to divide the township into districts or to change the same under certain conditions and to apportion and distribute the State, County and Township funds on hand and subject to distribution among the several districts which have kept school according to law.

Each school district has three directors, one being elected annually on the third Saturday in April at the district election. The directors have the management of the school in their district in the matter of prescribing rules for the school employing teachers, selection of text-books, etc., they may levy a tax within limits prescribed by law, at present not to exceed two and one-half per cent for educational and two and one-half per cent for building purposes, to defray the expenses of the schools in their districts. In school districts having a population of not less than 1,000 and not over 100,000 inhabitants, under the general law, instead of the directors provided by the law in other districts, a board of education, consisting of a president, six members, and three additional members for every additional 10,000 inhabitants, is elected.

As has been noted, the oldest educational institution of the State is the Normal University, at Normal, McLean County, established in 1857.

The institution is under control of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois. This board consists of fifteen members. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is ex-officio a member and secretary of the Board.

The University of Illinois, located at Urbana, Champaign County, was established in 1867, under the name of Illinois Industrial University. The change to University of Illinois was made in 1885, the fact that the word industrial is applied to charitable and penal institutions being the principal reason for the change. In 1862 congress provided for the apportionment, to such of the States as should comply with certain provisions within five years, of an amount of public land equal to 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in congress to which each State was entitled by the census of 1860. One of the provisions of the grant was that there should be established in each state desiring to obtain an apportionment of land at least one college in which the leading object should be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts. The present University of Illinois was established under the provisions of this act of congress. It is controlled by a board of trustees, nine in number, three being elected every two years. The Governor, the President of the State Board of Agriculture and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction are ex officio members.

The Southern Illinois Normal University was established in 1869. It is located at Carbondale, Jackson County, and is controlled by a board of five trustees.

The Eastern Illinois State Normal School, located at Charleston, Coles County, was established in 1895. It is controlled by a board of five trustees.

The Northern Illinois State Normal School, also established in 1895 and controlled by five trustees, is located at DeKalb, DeKalb County.

The Western Illinois State Normal School is at Macomb, McDonough County. It was established in 1899, and is controlled by five trustees.

PERMANENT SCHOOL FUNDS.

The following is a statement of the permanent school funds, the income alone of which can be expended for school purposes:

1. School Fund Proper, being three per cent on the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands in the State, one-sixth part excepted. This fund amounts to \$613,362.96.

2. Surplus Revenue, being a portion of the money received by the State from the General Government, under an act of Congress pro-

viding for the distribution of the surplus revenue of the United States, and by act of the Legislature, March 4, 1837, made a part of the common school fund. This amount is \$335,592.32.

3. College Fund, being one-sixth part of the three per cent fund originally required by act of Congress to be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of a State College or university, \$156,613.32.

4. Seminary Fund, being the proceeds of the sales of the "Seminary Lands" originally donated to the State by the General Government for the founding and support of a State seminary, \$59,833.72.

5. County Funds, created by act of the Legislature, Feb. 7, 1835, which provided that the teachers should not receive from the public fund more than half the amount due them for services rendered the preceding year, and that the surplus should constitute the principal of a new fund to be called the "County School Fund," total in all counties, \$158,072.83.

6. Township Funds, being the net proceeds of the sale of the sixteenth section in each Congressional township of the State, the same having been donated to the state for common school purposes by act of Congress in 1818 and of additions thereto, total of all the townships, including value of school lands unsold, moderate valuation, \$15,614,627.31.

7. University of Illinois Fund; before mentioned, including original sale of scrip, of lands, and value of unsold, unproductive lands, about \$600,000.

THE STATE COURSE OF STUDY.

A properly graded course of instruction is a very important factor in any system of schools. The Illinois State Course of Study, now generally recognized as the most complete course ever compiled for the schools of any state, has been in process of development during a period of about twenty-five years. Its evolution is due to the realization, on the part of progressive superintendents, of the great need of some plan of country school supervision. John T. Trainer, formerly county superintendent of Macon County, was the pioneer in the use of a course of study in the country schools of Illinois. As early as 1875 or 1876 he issued a book entitled "A Graduating System for Country Schools." This work was widely circulated and the system was adopted in many parts of the country. The Knox County Outline of Study, prepared by Supt. W. L. Steele, of Galesburg and Co. Supt. Geo. W. Oldfather, of Knox County and the Champaign County Manual and Guide, pre-

pared by Co. Supt. Geo. R. Shawhan, followed soon afterward and were used also in counties nearby, the latter principally in the eastern part of the State. There were also other courses of study, individual courses, in several counties. It is readily seen that so many courses of study were a disadvantage in many ways. During the meeting of the Central Illinois Teachers' Association, held at Jacksonville in March, 1889, a number of enthusiastic county superintendents and other friends of the plan, met in one of the hotels and discussed in an informal way the advantages of having a state course of study. As a result of this discussion; Hon. Richard Edwards, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was asked to call a meeting of County Superintendents and leading teachers of the State to discuss the subject, and if thought advisable to take steps to prepare a state course. The call was issued and the conference was held in Springfield, April 10, 1889. At the close of the day's conference a committee of five county superintendents was appointed to work out the course in detail according to conditions agreed upon. This committee consisted of the following county superintendents: Geo. R. Shawhan, Champaign Co.; J. A. Miller, McLean Co. ; Geo. W. Oldfather, Knox Co.; Geo. I. Talbot, DeKalb Co., and J. D. Benedict, Vermilion Co. The committee was a strong one and well chosen, the course was completed and published in time for the opening of school in September, 1889. It contained 94 pages and continued in use five years, from 1889 to 1894.

Acting on the suggestion of Mr. J. H. Freeman, president of the State Teachers' Association, December, 1893, the association appointed a committee to revise the course. This committee completed the revision of the course in time for use in most of the annual institutes of 1894. This first revision of the State Course of Study contained 96 pages and was used three years, from 1894 to 1897.

At the annual meeting of the County Superintendents' Section of the State Teachers' Association, in December, 1895, it was suggested that there should be a standing committee on State Course of Study to revise the course from time to time. A committee of six was appointed with the understanding that of the first committee one-third of the members were to serve one, two and three years, respectively, and in future members were to be appointed for a term of three years, except appointments to fill un-expired terms. The State Superintendent was to be a member of the committee by virtue of his office. In 1897 the committee put out the second revision of the course. In

this revision the plan of alternation of studies was worked more definitely and extended, the work of the primary division was more fully explained and outlined to some extent, and new and valuable features were added, such as work in composition, vocal music, etc. This second general revision of the State Course contained 148 pages, and with two additions, a year's course in agriculture, in 1900, and second year's work in the same subject, 1901, was used six years, from 1897 to 1903. In the third general revision of the State Course, made in 1903, two new features were included, a course in household arts was added and several high school courses were carefully worked out on the principle of alternation. The 1903 revision of the course contained 218 large, closely printed pages, and is in use at the present time with varying degrees of success in nearly all the counties of Illinois. It has been officially adopted in five states and territories, and is placed in the hands of teachers in a number of counties in different parts of the United States.

Through the use of the Course of Study great improvements have been made in the common schools:

1. The school year has been lengthened in many localities.
2. The older boys and girls enter at the beginning of the year and remain until the close in order to complete the entire course.
3. The common school course leads up to the high school.
4. The pernicious custom of changing teachers twice a year has almost entirely disappeared.
5. The Course of Study has been the means of improving the methods of instruction of thousands of teachers who could not be induced to attend the normal schools.

The State Course has become so well established and is so far reaching in its influence that a new subject of study or an improved method of teaching may be published in it, and in a few months thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of pupils of the state will go to work earnestly to meet the new requirements. (We are indebted to C. M. Parker, Taylorville, Ill., publisher of the State Course of Study, for information concerning its history, etc.)

EDUCATION IN ADAMS COUNTY.

The early history of education in this county is largely incorporated in the history of the townships and the city of Quincy. The obstacles in the way of pioneer endeavor and struggles, the hopes, the defeats and the victories which apply to what has been said of the

State, in securing needed legislation, were shared by the ambitious, progressive residents of Adams County. Where tardy recognition of the claims of public education was accorded, no county in the State more promptly presented the opportunities and advantages of the free school system to her boys and girls.

There are 182 school houses in the county, nearly all in good condition. Of these 129 are frame structures, 36 of brick, 16 of stone, and one only, Hickory Grove school house, in Liberty township, is of logs. There are seventeen private schools in the county.

The first county school commissioner is said to have been A. Tonzalin, from Feb. 21, 1854, to Dec. 1, 1857; but the first official record in the County Superintendent's office is that of A. W. Blakesly, from Dec. 1, 1857, to Dec. 1, 1859. The first teachers' certificates seem to have been granted by him to Hamilton Young and Mary Young, of Richfield, both bearing date of Dec. 9, 1857. The commissioners succeeding Blakesly were: M. T. Lane, Dec. 1, 1859; Wm. Avise, 1860; Hope S. Davis, 1864. As a result of the school law of 1865, in November of that year Seth W. Grammer was elected first County Superintendent of Schools for a term of four years. He was succeeded by John H. Black, who served from 1869 to 1881. In 1881, the County Board of Supervisors appointed S. S. Nesbitt County Superintendent for one year, in compliance with a law making a change in the time of election of certain county officers. John Jimison was elected to the office in the fall of 1882, and served from Dec. 1, of that year until his death in June 1893. Miss Ella M. Grubb was appointed by the county board to fill out the remainder of his term, and in the election of 1894, A. A. Seehorn was chosen and held the office until Sept. 16, 1897, when he resigned to accept the position of city superintendent of Quincy schools. A. R. Smith, by appointment of the county board, filled out the remainder of Mr. Seehorn's term, and in the fall of 1898 was elected to the position which he has held continuously since that time.

The State Course of Study has been in use in the county since about 1890, however, it is only within the last eight years that it has been generally adopted and used in a systematic way. The first county commencement, graduating pupils from this course, was held in 1900. In 1902, Supt. Smith inaugurated a county school rally, including field day exercises, in connection with the annual commencement exercises.

The high schools at Clayton, Camp Point, Mendon and Payson each have excellent four-

year high school courses, which answer, amply, college preparatory requirements. Good graded schools are maintained at Ursa, Loraine, La Prairie, Golden, Liberty, Coatsburg and Fowler.

OUR CITY AND COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS.

To trace the history of all the newspapers which have existed in Quincy or other parts of Adams county during the eighty years' life of the city and county, would be a task impossible of complete fulfillment without such research as would not justify the labor and time required.

Quincy's oldest newspaper is the Quincy Herald, first established as the Bounty Land Register, whose history is thus epitomized in the Herald of April 18, 1905:

"In a quiet way the Herald is today celebrating its seventieth anniversary as a Quincy newspaper. It was originally established under the name of the Bounty Land Register, and, according to the reminiscences of Capt. Henry Asbury the first number was issued April 17th, 1835. Some of the archives of the Illinois State Historical Society place it back in 1834, but there is no reliable evidence on that point, and the early files of the paper were destroyed by fire. The original publishers were C. M. Woods and Dunbar Aldrich, who were both practical printers. Judge Richard Young had editorial charge at the time. On November 15th, 1836--one week after the election of Martin VanBuren as President of the United States--the paper was transferred to John H. Pettit, of Cincinnati, and became the Quincy Argus and Illinois Bounty Land Register. At that time the entire vote of the county did not exceed 800. Editor Pettit wrote an article descriptive of the "boom" in Quincy at that time. Imagining himself wielding the inspired pen of a prophet he declared that within ten years Quincy would be the largest city on the Mississippi river with the exception of St. Louis. The census of 1840--some four years later--gave Quincy a population of only 2,319, but in 1850 the population reached 6,902, which was a remarkable advance for the decade. Galena and Dubuque were ahead of Quincy at that time and St. Paul had just reached 1,000 souls. Now Dubuque and Quincy are neck and neck. Galena has disappeared from the contest and St. Paul and Minneapolis are at the top of the ladder.

"In 1841 the name of the Argus was changed to The Herald and in 1850 it was first issued as a daily paper. Under the editorial management of Austin Brooks the paper possessed a national reputation.

"The Herald is the third oldest paper in the state. Its seniors are the Springfield Journal, which appeared November 10, 1831, and the, Galena Gazette, which was established, in 1834.

"The Herald has had a long and somewhat adventuresome career. It has known prosperity and has faced adversity. It has passed through the hands of a hundred or more of editors and publishers. The present management assumed possession September 21st, 1891."

"The stockholders of the company are E. M. Botsford and H. J. Eaton of Quincy, and C. L. Miller of Rockford, Ill. Mr. Miller's relation is not active. Mr. Botsford is the managing editor and Mr. Eaton the business manager. The present owners bought the paper of Morris Bros., who bought of Dowing, Hinrichsen & Case.

The Quincy Whig was established May 5, 1838, Major H. V. Sullivan being the publisher, and N. Bushnell and A. Johnson editors. Aug. 18th of the same year, S. M. Bartlett and Major Sullivan became the sole proprietors, the former editor and the latter as publisher, thus continuing until the firm was dissolved by the death of Mr. Bartlett in 1852. In the fall of 1852, John F. Morton became editor and he and Sullivan conducted the paper till 1854, when Sullivan's interest was bought by Henry Young. The first number of the daily was issued March 22, 1852. Mr. Young died in 1855, when his interest was bought by V. Y. Ralston. A year later, F. S. Giddings bought an interest. In 1858, the Quincy Republican, a daily which had been started about a year, and the Whig were consolidated, the new name being "The Whig and Republican," Morton and F. A. Dallam being the owners. The successive managements included James J. Langdon, Charles Holt, Messrs. Bailhache & Phillips, Porter Smith and others. Col. John Tillson was the editor from 1869 till 1871 and was succeeded by Paul Selby. January 1, 1874, the establishment was bought by Daniel Wilcox, whose sons, Chester A. and David F. Wilcox, were later admitted to partnership, and who succeeded to the business on the death of their father, May 19, 1878. In July, 1898, Messrs. Wilcox sold to a stock company and Louis F. Schaefer became business manager, and H. M. McMein managing editor of the Whig. In October of that year, the stock was bought by Robert Ransom and the late J. B. Ellis. In February, 1899, the interest of Mr. Ransom was bought by Mr. Ellis, whose widow owns most of the stock. Perry C. Ellis is managing editor, and Walter W. Miller, the business manager.

The Quincy Daily Journal was established