OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

LARGE ACCESSIONS AT THE OPENING.

Imperative Demand for Additional School Buildings—Urgent Reasons for Congressional Aid—The Present School Fund Inadequate—Thoroughness of Our System—The Normal and High Schools.

One week ago we gave the readers of THE REPUBLICAN a very full and complete history of the public schools from 1868 down to the present time, but want of space and a desire to more fully verify certain facts and statistics, compelled the omission of certain portions of the history which are given herewith.

The prediction made last week that the schools would be unusally full this year has been completely verified. There never was such a rush, and in one or two of the districts the trustees are at a loss how to provide accommodations for all who desire to avail themselves of the advantages afforded by our school system. The record for September will probably show a larger attendance than ever before in the history of the schools.

When it is remembered that a great proportion of the pupils are the children of office-holders who claim citizenship in different States, no one will doubt the justice of our demand for

CONGRESSIONAL AID FOR THE SCHOOLS.

While every State in the American Union has been benefited by donations of land or money for educational purposes, the city of Washington has occupied an exceptional position. We have never had one dollar from the General Government. This is a matter of great moment to our people, and as the justice of our claims will be urged when Congress again meets we devote considerable space to this point. Mr. Rhees, in his admirable report for 1866, referred to elsewhere, says upon this topic:

"The first application made by the Councils to Congress for aid in reference to establishing a school system was in 1836, and in 1837 another was made by a joint committee from Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. In 1839, Hon. H. M. Young, Commissioner of the General Land Office, and Hon. R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, in their annual reports, without any solicitation, earnestly recommended to Congress a grant of land for the benefit of schools at the capital.

"In 1839, a memorial, signed by more than eight thousand citizens of Washington, was presented to Congress, asking aid for the establishment of a school system. In 1864 another application was made by the trustees with the strong recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior.

"It was stated in the memorial, which was ordered to be printed by Congress, that the funds of the corporation applicable to purposes of education were quite inadequate to erect a sufficient number of commodious school-houses to supply the wants of the city, and furnish them with suitable books and apparatus, employ competent teachers, and provide for the instruction of all the children of a suitable age to attend school. A brief statement was given of what had been done by the corporation, with their very limited means, toward the establishment of a well-considered system of public schools.

"The messages and recommendations of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, and the reports of the Commissioner of the General Land Office were referred to, recommending donations of land and other appropriations for educational purposes.

"It was further suggested, in the memorial of the trustees, that if it were 'deemed incompatible with the public interest to make a grant of public land, in conformity with the recommendations which have been referred to for 'educational purposes' within this city and District that out of the amount received into the public Treasury of the United States from the aggregate proceeds of the sales heretofore made of land by the General Government, one fourth part thereof, viz., $200,000, shall be regarded as a trust fund, set apart and loaned to the United States Treasury, of which the interest only, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, shall be paid to the corporate authorities of this city to be expended by them solely for the purpose of supporting public schools within the city of Washington." In consequence of this memorial, the subject received favorable consideration of the Committees on the District in both Houses, and a bill reported by Hon. A. G. Brown, which would have secured an annual appropriation of $20,000 from Government, was passed unanimously by the Senate. No action was taken on it, however, by the House.

"In 1838 another memorial was presented to Congress containing facts gathered by a special census of the children between the ages of five and eighteen, taken by the authority of the city in 1837, from which it appeared that of 19,697 children, 3,348 were in private schools, 2,400 in public schools, and 9,949 in no school at all, "the public schools being unable to accommodate twenty-five per cent. of the number of children in the city."

In the report for 1854 it was shown that, according to the census of 1853, the white school population of the city was 12,862, while all the public schools would accommodate only 3,750 pupils, leaving 9,000 unprovided for.

The following extract from the report (1857) of Hon. Joseph A. Wilson, Commissioner of the General Land Office, shows that—

"There have been granted in the cause of education for schools, seminaries of learning, universities, agricultural and mechanical colleges (the last-mentioned located only to a limited extent) an aggregate of over twenty-one million six hundred and forty-five thousand acres, while the estimated school area destined to pass mainly from the unsurveyed region, according to existing principles of legislation, will be—for the States west of the Mississippi, and the Territories when they become States—over fifty-six million four hundred and eighty-five thousand acres, the school grant in remote localities having been duplicated by existing laws.

"If we estimate the value of this land at $1.25 per acre the grant will represent $71,500,000, while the schools of the District of Columbia have received nothing."

During the last session of Congress Hon. N. P. Chipman brought our needs to the attention of the House of Representatives, and forcibly presented the justice of our claim. The facts in the case were presented to the Committee on Public Lands, but matters deemed of more importance engrossed the attention of Congress, and the bill giving us aid was, with others, postponed. There should be a concerted effort on the part of all our citizens next winter. All we ask is to be placed on an equal footing in this respect with the other portions of our common country. Nearly all of the clerks and other employees of the Government, whose residence among us depends entirely upon the tenure of their offices, send their children to our public schools, receiving all the benefits of the system without contributing a cent to its support.

In the last school report this subject is urged at length, and among other reasons presented is the following: "The subject of providing instruction for the masses is attracting the attention not only of most European Governments, but even of distant Asiatic Powers, and they are seeking in the United States for the most perfect system. The representatives of all nations assemble in this capital, and when they desire to witness practical illustrations of the American schools system, they naturally resort to the public schools of our city." "The schools of this city are a part of the American public school system. Our officers have availed themselves of all the progressive ideas that have been presented, and have, as far as practicable, incorporated them into our system. This has all been done with money drawn from our citizens by taxation. Not a dollar of aid has come from the General Government. Being at the seat of Government, our schools and school buildings attract unusual attention, and Congress should aid our citizens to raise them to the highest plane."

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The subject of a normal training for teachers early engaged the attention of the board of trustees. In the fifteenth annual report, while the board compliments the efficiency of the teachers then employed, they use this language:

"It would, however, be of very great advantage to the schools if means were afforded for the formation of at least one annual class, in each district, to prepare advanced scholars for employment as assistants in the Primary schools, and the board respectfully suggests that provision be made for the establishment of such classes. The utility of the measure is beyond all doubt, as will appear from an examination of the systems of other cities, and its beneficial results would very soon be made apparent."

In the twenty-third report the subject was again urged, and it was argued that the narrowest economy demanded the immediate organization of a normal class, because, through it, our own material could be made available, and the trustees would not be compelled to go elsewhere for the best teachers.

In November, 1867, Mr. J. O. Wilson, who was then a trustee, offered a resolution, looking to the establishment of a normal class, in pursuance of which a class of primary teachers was organized, and met on each Saturday morning during the remainder of the school year. The class was instructed by Miss Ella C. Bates, and the methods of teaching in our primary schools were greatly changed and improved through her instructions.

In the annual report for 1870-71, Superintendent Wilson made the following recommendation:

"That a Normal or training school be established without unnecessary delay. One principal lady teacher, at a salary of $1,200 per annum, could take charge of the school at first. It could be located in the Franklin building, and the expense for furnishing would not be great. The two alphabet schools, now located in that building, would furnish excellent opportunities for practice."

In his report for 1871-72 Mr. Wilson again refers to the subject, as follows:

"In my last report I earnestly recommended the establishment of a training school. In looking over the whole list of our wants, I found no other so important as this. I proposed, as a first step, to employ but one teacher, who should have superior qualifications for the work and sufficient experience, and to pay a salary adequate to secure the very best service. But little expense beyond this would be required at first. The Franklin building would furnish a suitable room without additional cost. The ten or fifteen young ladies found each year in our Female Grammar schools, who, after they have acquired the requisite scholastic qualifications to become teachers, often remain in these schools waiting for appointment, should have at least a year's course in this training school. They should be admitted to this school and graduated from it upon a fixed standard of attainments, and the diploma of graduation should be recognized as a valid certificate of qualification to teach. The schools in the Franklin building would furnish excellent opportunities for model school practice, and the young ladies in this training school could be sent out from time to time to fill vacancies occasioned by the temporary absence of teachers. The entire primary department could be brought directly under the controlling influence of this school, and thus the best methods of instruction would be secured and made uniform.

"Every teacher must have a first year's experience; but a serious mistake is made when young teachers, without special training for the work and without experience, are assigned to the lowest grade or alphabet schools. It may be true that they will be physically able to govern these schools, or at least to prevent open insurrection and a 'breach of the peace;' but this is a minor part of the duty required, for all educators agree in the opinion that ordinarily the first year of school life is by far the most important one. The foundation of the whole intellectual and moral education of the child will, in all probability, be laid then, and will give form and direction to the superstructure. It is to be regretted that the scale of teacher's salaries is frequently arranged to conform to the erroneous idea that anybody can keep a Primary school, and that therefore very small salaries will answer for this class of teachers. The law which fixes the salaries of teachers in our public schools gives to the board some discretionary power, as follows:

"The salaries of all the teachers of the Primary schools shall begin with $500, and if the same teachers continue, shall be increased $50 per annum until they amount to $600 per annum; but if any accepted candidate for a Primary school can present satisfactory credentials of having passed successfully through a special course of professional training in a normal school, or if satisfactory proof of high training and successful experience as a primary teacher be given, such teacher, on being employed, shall receive $600, increasing annually $50, if the same person continued, until the salary shall be $750."

"This is a wise provision, which, justly and impartially administered, will increase the efficiency of the schools. I am of the opinion that the board can exercise the discretion thus vested in them to better advantage and to a greater extent than it has done heretofore—first, by securing the services of a larger number of teachers who have 'passed successfully through a special course of professional training;' and, secondly, by retaining teachers in the lowest grade whose 'successful experience' in our own schools justifies the allowance of the increase of salary authorized by the law. I am aware that to secure the benefit intended by the framers of the law there must be no favoritism, and length of service considered by itself should have no weight."

It was to accomplish just such results as are indicated in the above extracts from the superintendent's report that the board earnestly urged the establishment of a Normal school. At least they have obtained the desired authority, the Legislative Assembly having, at its late session, passed a bill for the purpose. A committee appointed to consider the subject reported in favor of the school, and offered the following resolutions, which were adopted by the board:

1. That no pupils shall be admitted to the Normal school except those who are now or who have been pupils in one of the Female Grammar schools of the public schools of Washington.

2. That such pupils shall not be less than seventeen years of age. They must pass an examination equivalent to that upon which a primary certificate is issued—the said examination to be conducted by the committee on teachers.

3. That the committee be authorized to secure a teacher for said school, subject to the approval of the board.

An adjourned meeting of the committee was held on Saturday evening, and the following was agreed upon to be submitted to the school board on Tuesday next for approval:

1st. The number of pupils in the normal school shall be limited to twenty.

2d. Each candidate, before she is admitted to the school, shall be required to sign a pledge, setting forth her intention to complete the prescribed course of study and to devote herself to the work of teaching in the public schools of Washington for a period of at least two years.

3d. All text books, books of reference, charts, apparatus, &c., used by the school, shall be provided by the board.

4th. The following subjects shall be taught in the school, viz: Reading, spelling, penmanship, drawing, vocal music, theory and art of teaching, practice in teaching, phonetics, object lessons, physical and vocal culture, botany, zoology, English grammar, English literature, composition, map drawing and geography, history, mental arithmetic, practical arithmetic and mental philosophy. All these studies are to be pursued with special reference to the best methods of teaching the same.

5th. Miss Lucilla E. Smith, teacher of Female Intermediate School No. 2, First district, shall be transferred to this school as acting teacher temporarily.

The above was agreed to unanimously by the committee, and there is not much doubt of the adoption of the plan by the board. Miss Smith, who has been selected as teacher, is thoroughly qualified for the position. A room for the school has been fitted up in the Franklin building, and there are already enough applicants to fill every seat. By the close of this week it will be thoroughly organized.

HIGH SCHOOLS.

The attention of the Councils had been repeatedly called to the necessity for a high school, and in the report for 1869-'70 the subject is again urged, but the fact is admitted that the finances of the corporation are scarcely in a condition to warrant the expenditure.

In the eighteenth annual report the subject is again urged, and it is suggested that the high school would be useful as a seminary to prepare teachers for the Primary schools.

In the nineteenth annual report (for 1869-'70) the members of the board modify their opinion to some extent. While acknowledging that the "High school" is a fitting complement to every complete public school system, they did not think it the part of wisdom or good policy to establish one at that time. The reason for arriving at that conclusion was that the average daily attendance at the Grammar schools was so small that there was no such pressure upon them as required a High school for their relief. The great and increasing demand was for accommodation in the lower grades, and it was agreed that they should be attended to before large sums were expended for a High school. The most advanced departments now in our series are the Grammar schools, and the best the board has been able to do has been to make an advanced course of study in these schools. This course embraces algebra, bookkeeping, botany, natural philosophy, physical geography, physiology and rhetoric. For the present, at least, this must supply the place of the High school.

SCARCITY OF SCHOOL FUNDS.

Money is the great motive power of the world. Nothing can properly succeed without it, and when, therefore, we consider how often our school system has been embarrassed for want of funds, it is surprising that they have succeeded so well and have been brought up to the present high standard. In 1869-'70 we find that the annual distribution of premiums to the meritorious pupils had to be dispensed with because the teachers had not been paid, and almost every species of indebtedness in connection with the schools was liquidated. The board was also anxious to establish new schools, but the same cause that prevented the distribution of premiums prevented the establishment of these schools. The fact is that the school funds have always been inadequate to defray the expenses of the system, and it has always been necessary, therefore, to draw on the general fund. For years the amount of tax levied was only ten cents on the one hundred dollars, and was insufficient. In May, 1869, the Councils passed an act making special provision for the payment of the teachers. One reason for the passage of the act was the fact that the teachers had not been paid for two months previously, and the Board of Trustees had appointed a committee to ascertain if the Councils could not do something to pay them. In May, 1869, there was another failure to pay, and a committee was again appointed to confer with the Councils. Again in the fall of the same year the board was once more compelled to take action on the subject.

For a year or more after the present form of government came into operation the teachers were more promptly paid than ever before, but of late the money has not been forthcoming. The Governor and other executive officers of the corporation are in no way responsible for this. The school fund has never been diverted to any other use and purpose than that of education. For years the expenditures for the schools have been largely in excess of the receipts, and the Governor has been so anxious to keep the schools up that he has used other funds for school purposes. The taxation of 33 cents for the schools cannot realize a sufficient sum to pay the current expenses. The books at the Comptroller's office show that for the last school year the expenditures exceeded the receipts in the sum of $53,386.53. This money was necessarily taken from other funds and applied to the schools. The amount needed to run the white schools the current year is $165,313.

Our most prominent citizens and distinguished strangers have always taken a lively and intelligent interest in the schools. In the report for 1866-'67 we first specially mentioned the names of George W. Riggs, for the donation of a scholarship in Columbian College; William W. Corcoran, for permitting the female department of the First district school to occupy temporarily the second-room in his library building on H street, and Commander M. F. Maury, of the National Observatory, for great interest manifested in the cause of public education. In the report for 1867-'68 we find acknowledgments to President Lincoln, who, although surrounded by all the cares and trials incident to a great war, found time to attend the annual distribution of premiums, and to bestow several medals with his own hands. Professor Joseph Henry has also placed the schools under many obligations to him for favors cheerfully bestowed. In other reports we find acknowledgments to Hon. Henry Barnard, LL. D., Rev. R. C. Northrop, Hon. Geo. L. Boutwell, Z. Richards, esq., and many others.

We have thus traced the history of the public schools from small beginnings until they have reached their present high standard. We now have 134 schools besides the Normal school, and there are in the employ of the board 145 teachers, and it is admitted that the schools are second to none of like grade in any part of the country. Our educational system was represented at the Vienna Exposition, and to Washington was awarded the "Grand Medal of Progress" a higher honor than was conferred upon any American city with the exception of Boston. There are, doubtless, imperfections in our system, but with the limited means at our disposal wonderful results have been accomplished. Our school officers have been most faithful to their trusts, and have done an amount of work that is surprising. Last year the trustees, who serve without pay, made 424 official visits to the schools, and for the same time the superintendent made 7,327 visits. There is every indication that during the year just opening great improvements will be made and new features introduced.

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THE MARKETS.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, September 6.—Breadstuffs.—Flour.—The sales on Western to day amounted to 4,000 bbls, as follows: 500 Western Fine at $5.75; 400 do. Super at $4.50@5; 500 do. Extra at $5.25@5.87½; 300 do. do. on private terms; 1,300 do. Family at $7.50@8; 1,000 do do. at $8.50@9.75; 400 Howard Street do. at $8.50@9, and no spring Extra at $7.37½.

Wheat.—The receipts of southern Wheat to-day were very light, amounting to about 6,000 bushels, and we note the market firm, with a good demand. The sales embrace 1,000 bushels good to choice white at $1.70@1.80; 2,000 do. choice amber at $1.78@1.85, and 2,000 do. inferior to prime red at $1.50@1.75. Of other descriptions the sales were 800 bush. choice common western red at $1.50@1.52; 3,000 do. fair to good do. at $1.43@1.49, and 500 do. Pennsylvania red at $1.60@1.62.

Corn.—There was no Southern Corn offered on Change to-day, and we quote white at 72 cents and yellow at 61 cents. Western was mixed in elevator is held at 52 cents, but we hear of no transactions to-day. The sales were 1,000 bushels No. 2 Western mixed at 56 cents, and 1,000 do. rejected at 49 cents.

Oats.—Sales to-day 1,500 bushels Southern at 45@48 cents, and 5,200 do. mixed Western at 44@45½ cents, and no do. bright do. at 46 cents.

Rye.—The receipts to day were 600 bushels No. 1 Western, which was sold at 83 cents, and we quote Maryland at 80@82 cents.

Provisions.—We quote prices to-day as follows: Middling terminal at 8¾@9 cents, low middling 8½ cents, strict good ordinary 17@18 cents, good ordinary 17@17½ cents, and ordinary to strict do. at 16@16½ cents.

Pork.—There is some improvement in the tone of the Western advices, but our market for Provisions is still dull, and we learn of no transactions of importance. We quote Bulk Meat nominally at 7½@8 cents for shoulders, and 9¾ cents for clear rib sides, in round lots, and nominally at 9 cents for shoulders, and 10@10½ cents for sides. Bacon is nominally firm, but we learn of more anxiety to sell, and we quote clear at 9@9½, and shoulders at 8@8½ cents. Lard is also dull, but the price is steady at 17.50@17.75 per cwt.

Sugars.—We quote prices to-day as follows, viz: Cuba and Porto Rico fair to prime refining, 8@8½ cents, English Island do. 8@8½ cents; Cuba Centrifugal, 9@9½ cents; do. No. 12, 8@8½ cents; Porto Rico crystallizing, 9@9¼ cents, and Demerara vacuum pan 9@9½ cents.

Whisky.—We note quite liberal receipts of Western High Wines and the market is unsettled and irregular in price. We quote at 93@94, at which figures some sales have been made.

MARRIED.

FALK—CUNEY.—On the 31 inst., by Rev. John H. Brooks, JAMES FALK, of Norfolk, Va., to ANNA CUNEY, of New York.

DIED.

ADAMS.—On the 6th inst., THOMAS N. ADAMS, in the 21d year of his age.

Funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 728 21d street northwest, on Monday, at 2 o'clock. Friends and relatives of the family invited to attend.

BUCHANAN.—At Laurel, Md., on the 5th inst., SAMUEL KELLY, only child of James T. and Henrietta L. Buchanan, aged 11 months and 11 days.

DAVIS.—On Friday, the 5th inst., CHARLOTTE DAVIS, in the 77th year of her age.

DEAN.—On the 7th inst., JESSIE, infant daughter of Mills and Annie S. Dean, aged 8 months.

The funeral services will take place this afternoon at 3 o'clock, at the residence of her father, on

EVERETT.—On Sunday, 6th inst., at his residence, 311 M street, Dr. THOMAS T. EVERETT.

His funeral will take place from his late residence on Monday, September 8, at 4 p. m. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

LUSBY.—On Sunday evening, 7th inst., JAMES O. LUSBY, in the 43d year of his age.

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral from his late residence, No. 1216 Twenty-second street, on Tuesday afternoon, 9th inst., at 3 o'clock.

SYLVESTER.—On the 7th inst., MARY ANN, late widow of Thomas Sylvester, in her 80th year.

Funeral from her son's (D. M. Sylvester) residence, No. 1336 Fifth street northwest, this evening, at 4 o'clock.

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LEGAL.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 30, 1873.
On the petition of WILLIAM M. FERRY, of Grand Haven, Mich., praying for the extension of a patent granted to him on the 8th day of May, 1860, for an improvement in Journal Boxes for sawmill carriages:
It is ordered that the testimony in the case be closed on the 20th day of October next; that the time for filing arguments and the examiner's report be limited to the 7th day of November next, and that said petition be heard on the 12th day of November next.
Any person may oppose this extension.
s2 Tu2w M. D. LEGGETT, Commissioner.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE 8TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1873.
Sarah V. Burnett } No. 3,386, Equity Docket 12.
Phillip Burnett.
On motion of the plaintiff, by Mr. F. W. Jones, her solicitor, it is ordered that the defendant, Philip Burnett, cause his answer to be entered herein on or before the first rule day occurring forty days after this day; otherwise the court will be compelled with as in case of default.
By the Court. True copy. Test:
s8 7t4w R. J. MEIGS, Clerk, &c.

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20 prize of	300	5,000 prize of	20

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INVESTMENT BONDS.
The Northern Pacific Railroad Company having determined to close its 7-30 First Mortgage Gold Loan at an aggregate not exceeding thirty million dollars, and thereafter to pay no higher rate of interest than six per cent. on further issues of its bonds, the limited remainder of the 7 3-10 loan is now being disposed of through the usual agencies.
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AND
AUCTIONEER,
511 Seventh st., Opposite U. S. Post Office.
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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
No. 464 Louisiana Avenue,
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As Agents of the Phœnix Iron Company for the sale of their ROLLED WROUGHT-IRON BEAMS in this city, we are prepared to promptly execute orders at Mill prices.
And as Licensees for the manufacture of HYATT'S PATENT ILLUMINATING TILES and VAULT COVERS for Areas, Vaults, Floors and Roofs, we promise dispatch in the execution of all orders, at New York prices.
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Great inducements are offered for cash.

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RAILROADS.

WASHINGTON AND OHIO RAILROAD.
FALL ARRANGEMENT.—TWO TRAINS DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAMILTON, BEGINNING AUGUST 27, 1873.
Leave Washington at 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. and Alexandria at 9:10 a. m. and 4:10 p. m. Pass Leesburg (going Westward) at 11:28 a. m. and 6:28 p. m.; and arrive at Hamilton at 11:45 a. m. and 6:45 p. m.
Leave Hamilton at 6:40 a. m. and 12:40 p. m. Pass Leesburg (going Eastward) at 6 a. m. and 1:16 p. m., and arrive at Alexandria at 8:18 a. m. and 3:18 p. m., and at Washington at 8:30 a. m. and 3:30 p. m.
Passengers from Washington will take the Washington and Ohio cars at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad station at 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., and go through to Hamilton without change of cars.
The 6:40 a. m. train from Alexandria and 12:40 p. m. train from Hamilton connect at Hamilton with Kearney's daily stage co