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The Kent News:

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT
CHESTERTOWN, KENT COUNTY, MD.
Office in the Masonic Hall.

Jas. H. Plummer & Wm. B. Usilton,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:—Two Dollars per annum, *payable in advance.* If not paid within six months from the time of subscribing, Two Dollars and Fifty Cents will be charged.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:—Advertisements not exceeding *eight lines* will be inserted three times for One Dollar, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion. OBITUARIES half price.

Job Printing, of every description, executed with neatness and despatch.

The Kent News.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: Devoted to Literature, Agriculture, Politics, General News, and Advertising.

VOL. 28. CHESTERTOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1868. No. 51.

Plows! Plows!

THE undersigned is now manufacturing and prepared to sell PLOWS cheaper than they can be purchased on the Eastern Shore.

Look at the Prices:

Nos. 10, 11 Concave $9, No. 2 Pratt & Davis $9,
" 9 " 8, " 1 " " 8,
No. 4 Wiley, 6, " 0 " " 7,
" 3 " 5, and all other Plows in general use in the same proportion.

CASTINGS at $5 per hundred.

CHARLES ESTES,
feb22-2m. Chestertown Iron Poundry.

A NEW COAL & WOOD YARD,
IN CHESTERTOWN.

BELIEVING there is an opening for another COAL and WOOD YARD in Chestertown, I would respectfully inform the public that I will open a

Coal and Wood Yard

on Bridge Street, where the public may be supplied at short notice, with

ALL KINDS OF WOOD

OF ANY LENGTH, as I shall saw and split by Machinery. All orders left at my store will be promptly filled. R. P. STEWART.

WOOD WANTED.

FARMERS may find a ready sale for WOOD by calling on R. P. STEWART.
Chestertown, Feb. 29, 1868.

PROVISION
AND
NOTION STORE,
OPENED DOWN TOWN,
JUST BELOW MR. THOS. B. HYNSON'S.

I have need of

COUNTRY PRODUCE

OF ALL KINDS.

I will exchange goods or pay cash for the same.
Yours, very respectfully,
JAMES W. PATTEN.
Chestertown, Feb. 1, 1868.

New Store Up Town!
AT THE OLD DUGAN STAND,

WHERE we have opened a carefully selected Stock of NEW GOODS, to the examination of which we invite our friends and the public generally. Our stock consists of

DRY GOODS,
Notions, Boots & Shoes,
GROCERIES, HARD-WARE, Queens-Ware, Cedar-Ware, Confectionary, Tobacco,

in fact almost everything that we thought would be needed, all of which has been bought for the cash, at lowest cash rates, and we offer for sale at small profits for cash or Country Produce. In a word, we do not intend or expect to be undersold by any.

d21. WM. W. PARKS & SON.

LOOK HERE!
Another New Store in Chestertown.

I WOULD respectfully announce to my friends and the public generally that I have opened a new store in Mr. J. H. Burchinal's building, adjoining Mr. B. Strauss' Clothing Store, near the corner of High and Cross Streets, where I intend to keep for sale

DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,
Boots and Shoes,
GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS,
Queens-ware, Cedar-ware, Smoking and Chewing Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes, and Confectionaries,

in fact most everything that I think will be needed in a country store, all of which will be sold at a small profit for cash or country produce. All kinds of Country Produce taken in exchange for goods.

I would further say to my old customers that are indebted to me, that I need money and will take it as a great favor if they will come in and settle with me without delay. I accommodated you when you came to me without the money, and now you ought to accommodate me and let me have the money, as it is the time for settling up. Yours respectfully,

Jan. 10, 1868—y. J. M. VANDYKE.

New Lumber Yard
AT CRUMPTON, MD.

SLAUGHTER & CATLIN,

RESPECTFULLY inform the public that they have recently commenced the Lumber business at Crumpton, and keep on hand and for sale a Large Stock, consisting of

WHITE PINE SELECT,
CULLINGS, SIDING,
2x4 RAILING, FLOORING,
HEMLOCK JOISTS,
SCANTLING, FENCE BOARDS,
2x4 RAILING, PAILING, &c.

Plastering Laths, Hair, Lime, &c., all of which will be sold at the lowest current figures.

Jan. 11, 1868—y.

NOTICE.
LUMBER, LUMBER, LUMBER!

THE undersigned hereby gives notice that in the Spring he will open a

Lumber Yard at Turner's Creek,

when he will be prepared to furnish any description of Lumber wanted.

He will purchase his lumber direct from the Manufacturers, and on as favorable terms as any one, and consequently he will be enabled to sell at very low prices.

Terms—cash, or note at 90 days with interest, approved security and negotiable and payable at the Kent National Bank.

febl-y. G. W. JONES.

NEW BOUNTIES.
United States Bounties.
State of Maryland Bounties.

AS it is confidently expected that both Congress and the State Legislature will, at their present sessions, enact laws providing Bounty for those Soldiers and Sailors who have never yet received any, it is important that those interested should have their claims in the hands of some one who will look to their interests and see that their claims are put upon file early and in due form for prompt payment.

I shall be glad to receive the papers of any who desire to avail themselves of my experience and facilities in the collection of all just claims.

All papers will be promptly acknowleged, and while in my hands will be kept in a fire and burglar proof vault, specially built for the increasing number of valuable papers in my possession. WM. B. HILL,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
N. E. Cor. of Fayette and St. Paul St.,
jan18. BALTIMORE, MD.

A STOCK OF
NEW JEWELRY,
Silverware, Watches,
CLOCKS, NOTIONS, &c., NOW OPEN AT
E. T. WILLIS'

THESE goods have been purchased of honorable wholesale dealers and manufacturers, at the lowest cash prices, and *will* be sold at reasonable figures. The styles will be the latest and most fashionable designs. It is useless to enumerate articles; all that is asked is to call and examine for yourselves. Any article not found in the stock on hand, can be procured in a few days, from a find Gold Watch down to any article, however small, usually kept in a similar establishment. The determination is to do strictly a legitimate business, *always* representing in their true character goods offered for sale.

Attention may be called, however, to a fine assortment of FINGER RINGS, 18k., suitable for engagement, wedding or other purposes; BREAST PINS, Ear Rings, Sleeve Buttons, &c. TABLE CUTLERY.—Joseph Rodgers & Sons' celebrated manufacture.

REPAIRING of Watches, Clocks and Jewelry done in workmanlike manner.

E. T. WILLIS.

N. B.—Work will not be kept on hand longer than six months after being fixed. If not called for in that time, will be sold for charges.

March 14, 1868. E. T. W.

BONE DUST! BONE DUST!
BONE DUST!

WE CALL the ATTENTION of FARMERS to our stock of BONE DUST ground by ourselves.

We are also manufacturing the best RAW BONE PHOSPHATE suitable for the drill at $48.00 per ton. Hundreds of testimonials from those who have used it in preference to all others for the past three years, may be seen at our warehouse.

O. P. MERRYMAN & CO.,
54 S. Gay St.,
Between Lombard and Pratt Streets,
mh14-2m.* BALTIMORE, MD.

Patapsco Guano Company's
AMMONIATED
SOLUBLE PHOSPHATE,

Prepared under the immediate supervision of Dr. G. A. LIEBIG, Agricultural Chemist.

THIS ARTICLE has been used for the past three years with UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS upon every description of Crop.

FOR CORN,
OATS, POTATOES,
GRASS, and other
SPRING CROPS,
IT HAS NO SUPERIOR.

The Company's success attests the Superiority of the Fertilizer.

NEALE, HARRIS & CO.,
General Agents,
mr28-y. 26 Commerce St., Baltimore.

FARMERS ATTENTION!

WE DESIRE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION to the following articles:

PERUVIAN GUANO A NO. 1, Direct Importation.
PURE GROUND BONES:
TOBACCO ASHES, an unrivalled fertilizer.
EXCELSIOR MANIPULATED GUANO.
All grades of MEXICAN GUANO.
SEEDS, &c.

For sale by
RO. TURNER & SON,
43 South Frederick St., Baltimore.
Mar. 28, 1868—1n.

TO FARMERS!
Pacific Guano Company's
SOLUBLE
PACIFIC GUANO!
PRICE REDUCED TO $56.00 PER TON.

THE USE OF THIS GUANO in Maryland for several years for Corn, Tobacco and other Spring Crops, as well as for Wheat, has established its excellence. It possesses all the quickness of Peruvian Guano, with permanent qualities not possessed by that article.

Experience has shown that this Guano ripens the Wheat crop *from five to six days* earlier than the Super Phosphates. It also ripens Tobacco earlier, and produces a crop of better quality. The Pacific Guano Company has authorized the above reduction in consequence of the depressed condition of the farming interests in the Southern States. It is the purpose of the Company to furnish the *best fertilizer at the lowest price*, which they are able to do by reason of their large capital and facilities. The Guano is warranted same in quality as heretofore sold by us. For sale by dealers.

JOHN S. REESE & CO.,
General Agents for the Company,
mr21-6m. 71 *South Street, Baltimore.*

House Furnishing Hardware, &c.

CORTLAN & CO.,
Nos. 216 and 218 Baltimore Street
BALTIMORE, MD.,
OFFER AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES
French and English China
AND GRANITE WARE
By the set, dozen or single piece.
GLASS AND QUEENSWARE,
IVORY, BONE, BUCK and COCOA HANDLE
TABLE CUTLERY,
Plated and Britannia Wares,
BRONZES, CLOCKS, VASES AND FANCY GOODS,
ENAMELLED WARE, JAPANED WARES,
Brushes, Mats, Block & Common Tinware,
Patent Hydro-Thermal Churns
PATENT ICE-CREAM FREEZERS,
AND HOUSE-KEEPING ARTICLES OF EVERY KIND AND VARIETY.

☞ Wholesale Dealers, Hotel and Boarding-house proprietors, Steamboat and Ship owners, old House Keepers, and those about commencing, will find in our ware-rooms decidedly the greatest variety to be found in any similar house in the Union; and we pledge every article sold to be as represented. Desiring to increase our sales, we offer our goods AT SUCH PRICES AS WILL ENSURE THAT OBJECT, being determined not to be undersold in similar goods by any establishment in this country.

CORTLAN & CO.,
mh14-4m. Importers and Manufacturers.

A CARD.

I would respectfully inform my customers and the public generally, that I now have MOORE'S MAGNETIC SOAP, and it will be found for sale by a majority of the Stores in the town and County.

mar 28. R. P. STEWART.

New Millinery.

THE LADIES of Kent and adjacent Counties will please accept my thanks for the liberal patronage bestowed the past season. I now offer them a beautiful selection of MILLINERY GOODS, comprising everything that is new in STRAW GOODS, FRENCH FLOWERS, and all of the Spring and Summer Parisian Novelties.

Also, a choice collection of LADIES' FURNISHING GOODS.

My stock cannot be excelled in choice variety and cheapness. MRS. C. R. FIDDIS.

April 11, 1868—3t.

PROPOSALS
FOR BUILDING A SCHOOL HOUSE.

The undersigned will receive proposals until April 22nd, 1868, for building a School House at Locust Grove, Md. Plans and specifications can be seen at the Clerk's office in Chestertown, or at Shallcross' Wharf, after the 11th inst.

JAMES W. HURTT,
THOS. J. SHALLCROSS,
JAMES WILLIS,
WILLIAM V. MYERS,
SAMUEL A. MERRITT,
April 4, 1868—3t. Committee.

LATEST NEWS!

☞ THE LATE STYLE ☜ of doing business at the "People's Popular Store," gives perfect satisfaction to close buyers. VICKERS will not be satisfied to sell as cheap as any store in Chestertown, but will guarantee to duplicate any article of merchandise purchased in Baltimore.

He respectfully asks an examination to make good the above statement. We would advise all those in want of Dry Goods, &c., to call at apr4. WM. A. VICKERS'.

NOT BROKE YET!

A. W. SPARKS has just received and is now opening at his store, an assortment of

SPRING GOODS,

WHICH HE IS SELLING VERY CHEAP. Call and examine.

April 4, 1868.

NOTICE.

This is to notify all persons residing on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries that we, the undersigned, have sent down the Susquehanna river a large quantity of logs for the stocking of our Saw Mills at Swan Creek, in Harford county, that some of said logs, having gone into the bay, are in no sense to be considered as estray or lost; that we are now engaged with a large force in gathering said logs, and that we will prosecute to the extent of the law any persons found taking, using, or in possession of any logs owned by us, or under our control.

HENRY JAMES & CO.
R. K. HAWLEY & CO.
mr28-4t. CRAIG & BLANCHARD.

Spring & Summer Importation 1868.
RIBBONS,
MILLINERY and STRAW GOODS.
ARMSTRONG, CATOR & CO.,

IMPORTERS and Jobbers of BONNET, TRIMMING and VELVET RIBBONS,
BONNET SILKS, SATINS AND VELVETS, Blonds, Netts, Crapes, Ruches, Flowers, Feathers, Ornaments.
STRAW BONNETS AND LADIES' HATS, Trimmed and untrimmed.
SHAKER HOODS, &c.
237 and 239 Baltimore Street, BALTIMORE

Offer the largest Stock to be found in this Country, and unequalled in choice variety and cheapness, comprising the latest Parisian novelties. Orders solicited, and prompt attention given. mr28-2m*

CLOTHING & CONFECTIONERY.

JAMES H. SMITH respectfully informs the public that he has taken the store formerly occupied by Mr. A. M. Russell, and has now in store an assortment of

READY-MADE CLOTHING,
AND FURNISHING GOODS.

He has also now in store, and will keep constantly on hand a supply of

CONFECTIONERY,

Such as Candy, Figs,
Raisins, Prunes, Tamorinds,
Dates, Brandy Peaches,
Brandy Cherries, &c.
Canned Pine Apples, Canned Strawberries, Chow-Chow, Cucumber Pickles, Oranges, Lemons, Apples, Walnuts, Almonds, Palm Nuts, Filberts, Pea Nuts, &c., all of which will be sold at the lowest rates.

mar21. JAS. H. SMITH.

Carriages, Carriages, Carriages!

GEORGE W. WILLIAMS & CO.,
SUCCESSORS TO MEDDERS & SUTTON,

ARE now prepared BUILD TO ORDER

First Class Carriages
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

TRIMMING, PAINTING and all kinds of Repairs, neatly and promptly done.

They are also prepared to do all kinds of **Wheelwrighting and Blacksmithing** in the best manner at short notice. We guarantee our work to give satisfaction, and do it at reduced rates.

We respectfully ask a share of your patronage, believing we will be mutually benefited.

GEO. W. WILLIAMS & CO.
GALENA, March 21, 1868—3m.

NOTICE.

The Commissions for the newly appointed officers for Kent county, viz: the Notary Public, Coroners, and Justices of the Peace, have been received at this office. The said officers are required to qualify on or before the 28th day of April, otherwise the offices will be declared vacant. J. K. HINES,
Clerk Circuit Court Kent county.
April 4, 1868—4t.

FOR SALE,
A PAIR OF MULES,

Six years old this Spring. A credit of six months will be given. Apply to
RICHARD B. WILLSON,
apr4-3t* Eastern Neck.

NOTICE.

My Books, accounts and claims are in the hands of WILLIAM S. LASSELL, Esq., of Chestertown, for collection. All persons indebted to me will please call on him and settle the same. I. FRANK.
April 4, 1868—3t.

Strawberry Plants.

I have about 15,000 WILSON'S ALBANY STRAWBERRY PLANTS, which I well sell cheap, in lots to suit purchasers, if applied for at once. R. S. EMORY,
April 4, 1868—2t. Near Chestertown.

NOTICE.

All persons indebted to the undersigned for work done in 1866 or 1867, are respectfully notified that all accounts not settled by the first of May next, will be placed in an officer's hands for collection. CHARLES ESTES.
Chestertown, March 28, 1868—3t.

PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS,
PASSED BY THE
General Assembly of Maryland,
At the January Session, 1868.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

The New School Law.

CHAPTER 407.

AN ACT to add a new Article to the Code of Public General Laws, to be entitled "Public Education;" providing a general system of Free Public Schools for the State of Maryland, and to repeal all laws inconsistent therewith.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That there shall be throughout the State of Maryland a general system of free public schools, according to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That this act shall be added to the Code of Public General Laws, under the title "Public Education," and that all existing laws inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

TITLE I.—SUPERVISION.

CHAPTER I.

Section 1. Educational matters affecting a county shall be under the control of a Board of County School Commissioners, one of whom shall be chosen as the President of said board, and a person not a member of said board shall be elected to serve as secretary and treasurer.

Sec. 2. And school district boards, composed of three persons, one of whom shall be the School Commissioner of the election district in which the school house is situated.

HOW THE OFFICERS ARE DESIGNATED AND REMOVED.

CHAPTER II.

County Boards.

Sec. 1. The Board of County School Commissioners shall be composed of one commissioner for each election district, to be elected by the people thereof at each general election for members of the General Assembly, to serve for two years from the first day of January next succeeding said election, and until their successors shall qualify, and for the time intervening from the passage of this act until the first day of January next succeeding the next general election said School Commissioners shall be appointed by the County Commissioners of the respective counties.

Sec. 2. The two school district trustees shall be elected by the legal voters of the school house district, at such time and in such manner as hereinafter set forth.

CHAPTER III.

County School Commissioners.

Section 1. The schools under the charge of the boards of County School Commissioners for each county shall respectively be designated and constitute school district No. 1., No. 2, &c., of the respective election districts of such county. The county board shall hold four sessions a year; each session shall continue not longer than two days, and each commissioner shall receive three dollars per day for each day of his attendance, and shall be paid by the School Commissioners out of the school fund. All the property, estate, effects, money, funds, claims and State donations now vested by law in the school authorities of any county for the use and benefit of public, primary, free or high schools are hereby transferred to and vested in the Board of County School Commissioners and their successors in office. And it shall be the duty of the school authorities aforesaid to convey, transfer, and pay over all such property, estate, effects, money, funds, claims and State donations to the said Board of County School Commissioners. If any of the parties aforesaid shall refuse to comply with the provisions of this section, the Board of County School Commissioners shall immediately apply to the Judge of the Circuit Court for the writ of *mandamus* to compel obedience hereto; provided, nevertheless, that the titles to all school-houses and lots and all personal effects now held by the aforesaid school authorities shall pass to the said Boards of County School Commissioners without any formal conveyance.

Sec. 2. The Board of County School Commissioners shall have the general superintendence of all the schools of the county, and of school houses and district libraries; they shall pay the salaries of teachers of the counties, distribute the school books, and perform such other duties as may hereafter be enumerated. The County Examiner shall be the secretary of the Board of County School Commissioners, and shall keep the minutes of their proceedings.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer of the County Board shall give bond to the State of Maryland, with at least two sureties, to be approved by the Board of County School Commissioners, in such penal sum as the Board of County School Commissioners shall determine, with the condition that he will faithfully perform the duties of Treasurer, pay over and apply all moneys that shall come to his hands or care as Treasurer, to such persons and in such manner as the said Board of County School Commissioners may, under the provisions of this act direct; and that he will keep a full account of all moneys received and paid by him, and of all matters relating to the duties of his office, and preserve the same, and all vouchers relating thereto, and deliver up all books and vouchers relating thereto, and deliver up all books and vouchers relating to his office to his successors.

Sec. 4. The State school fund is primarily intended, under this act, to pay the salaries of the teachers of the several counties, and to provide school books and stationery for the children of the State. If, however, in apportioning the said State school fund among the different counties and the city of Baltimore, the share of any county should prove inadequate for the purposes aforesaid, then the County Commissioners of such county are hereby authorized, empowered, directed and required to levy and collect such a tax upon the assessable property of such county as the Board of County School Commissioners shall designate as sufficient to make good the deficiency, and to pay quarterly, on the days fixed for the payment of the State school fund to the several Counties, the amount so levied and collected over to the treasurer of the said Board of County School Commissioners, in order that the schools of such counties may be kept open for the time herein set forth, and the said tax shall be levied and collected as other taxes. It shall also be in the power of the legal voters of any county to decide upon the imposition of a tax for the the erection and maintenance of a county high school, or for any other educational purpose affecting and concerning the county generally; said tax to be levied and collected as aforesaid, and to be paid to the treasurer of the Board of County School Commissioners as aforesaid.

Sec. 5. For the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the people of any county in regard to any proposition intended to affect public education in said county, the Board of County School Commissioners shall cause such proposition to be submitted to the voters of the said county at the general election next ensuing; provided such proposition and notice of election be published in all the newspapers of said county once a week for four successive weeks next prior to the day of said election; and said Board of County School Commissioners shall cause to be printed and placed at each poll in said county, on the day of said election, before the opening of said poll, a sufficient number of ballots having on them "For" or "Against" the proposition, in words accurately describing the same. And the judges of said general election shall receive, deposit, count, and make returns of all the ballots cast for and against the proposition to the clerk of the Circuit Court of said county, in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as are provided by law in case of a general election for members of the General Assembly. And said clerk of the Circuit Court shall return the same to the Board of County Commissioners and to the Board of County School Commissioners at their first meeting respectively held after said election.—And the County Commissioners of said county shall levy on the property in said county, and collect the same as other taxes are levied and collected, a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of said election and publication, as certified to them by the Board of County School Commissioners.

Sec. 6. In all cases where the county has not been properly divided into school districts, and full records of the boundaries thereof have not been made and recorded, the Board of County School Commissioners shall appoint a committee, if in their opinion they deem it necessary, consisting of three persons of intelligence and sound judgment, members of their own body or otherwise, who shall divide the county into suitable school districts, define and describe the boundaries of each; provided, that no school district shall contain a greater area than four miles square, unless a part of it be located in a thinly settled region. In the formation of the school districts, the committee shall take into consideration the mos suitable place for the school house, the general feature of the country, and shall make each school district of such size and form as will best accommodate the population within its bounds. The committee shall make an accurate description of the bounds of the school districts, accompanied by a plat, and shall report the same to the Board of County School Commissioners, who shall thereupon give notice in all the newspapers of the county at what time they will meet to hear applications for a change of boundaries, which applications shall be made in writing, and within two months from the first publication of such notice. When the applications shall have been made and considered, the Board of County School Commissioners may then change the boundaries of the school districts, and revise the description, or they may, without application make such change as may be deemed important, or they may ratify and confirm the report of the committee. The description of the boundaries of school districts shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose, by the Secretary of the Board of County School Commissioners. In those counties where no newspaper is published, the notice of application for a change of boundary shall be published in such a manner as the Board of County School Commissioners may decide. Whenever it may be necessary, the Board of County School Commissioners shall employ a surveyor to aid the committee in the performance of such duty; and they shall allow each member of the committee and the surveyor such compensation for their services as may be just and proper. The cost of dividing the county shall be paid by the School Commissioners out of the fund of the county. If a county has already been divided into school districts, and it may be necessary to revise the same, the Board of County School Commissioners shall have full power to make such revision or alterations as may be necessary to accommodate the population and increase the efficiency of the schools. A full description of such changes and alterations shall also be made and recorded as aforesaid.

Sec. 7. The Board of County School Commissioners shall examine any charge affecting the moral character of any teacher within their county, first giving the teacher reasonable notice of the charge and an opportunity to defend himself; and if the charge be sustained, shall annul the teacher's certificate granted in the county in which he is teaching, by whomsoever granted, and shall give notice thereof to the principal of the State Normal School. In all cases where the trustees, from any cause, refuse or neglect to exercise their functions and keep in operation the school committed to their care the Board of County School Commissioners shall be vested with all the rights of the derelict trustees, and shall take charge of and manage the school until trustees are elected who will act, or until the incumbents give assurance of a return to their duty.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of teachers to report in tabular form the condition of his school to the Board of County School Commissioners at each of its quarterly meetings. These reports shall be filed and preserved by the board and used by the President of the board in making up his annual report to the principal of the State Normal School.

Sec. 9. Whenever the number of children attending school in any school district is greater than one hundred, then the Board of County School Commissioners may, with the consent of the trustees, establish schools of different grades and determine into which school each pupil shall be admitted; or the school district may be divided. And whenever the average attendance in any school for any two consecutive quarters is les than ten pupils, then said school may be closed by the Board of County School Commissioners; provided that the trustees of the district may keep the school open in part at the expense of the district, and shall receive their proportion of the school fund for said school, rating a full school of twenty-five scholars.

Sec. 10. The Board of County School Commissioners shall publish annually, in all the papers of the county, a statement of the moneys received and expended, setting forth all the financial operations of each district; and if there be no newspapers within the limits of the county, then they shall publish the same in such other form as may be determined, and forward a copy to the principal of the State Normal School.

CHAPTER IV.

The Board of School House District Trustees.

Section 1. For the purpose of electing two trustees of the school house district, and deciding such other questions as may arise, an election by ballot shall be held in every such district on the first Saturday of the month of May, at 3 P. M., in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and on the first Saturday in May in every year thereafter, at which every registered voter having a legal residence therein shall be entitled to vote. And the School Commissioners for the several counties shall give at least ten days' public notice of such elections by advertisement in the newspapers of the county or Baltimore city. If no election shall be had on the day aforesaid, then the Board of County School Commissioners shall appoint said trustees.

Section 2. The School District Boards shall have the care and control of all houses and lands connected therewith, intended for school purposes, within the limits of their respective districts, also of the furniture, apparatus, and other school property belonging to the district. They shall attend to all necessary repairs, and charge the cost among the incidental expenses of the school, to be paid out of the tax levied upon the assessable property of the county as herein provided for; provided that when repairs are to be paid for out of a county school tax the amount to be expended for said repairs shall be determined by the Board of School Commissioners before the repairs are made. The Board shall employ a teacher from among those persons who hold the required certificate; they shall exercise a general supervision over their respective schools and visit them frequently, and shall cause such instruction to be given for ten months in the year. And the County Commissioners shall provide by general county taxation for school houses in the several districts to be paid from the school fund of the county.

Sec. 3. Every school house shall be built and furnished according to plans and drawings issued from the office of the Principal of the State Normal School, or according to plans from the Board of County School Commissioners, that proper regard may be had to light and ventilation, and other matters that conduce to the comfort, health and good order of the pupils.

Sec. 4. Every school house site must be provided with suitable out-buildings.

Sec. 5. No school house shall be used for any other than public school purposes and school district meetings.

Sec. 6. Contiguous portions of two or more school house districts may, with the consent of the Board of County School Commissioners, combine and form a new school house district, and when thus formed the said new school house district shall be invested with all the rights and powers hereinbefore set forth as pertaining to such districts; provided that the new school house district thus formed, or said district from which it may be formed, shall not contain less than thirty-five legal resident voters.

CHAPTER V.

School House Sites.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the School District Board, with the consent of the Board of County School Commissioners, to select a suitable school house site in each district whenever the necessities of the public schools demand a change of site or sites already built upon, or a new school house to be built.

Sec. 2. The Board of County School Commissioners may receive donations of such sites or locations for school houses, or of house already built, adapted to school purposes, or suitably located, or may purchase the same; but in no case shall any site be built upon, or any house be occupied until a good and sufficient title shall have been obtained for the same, in the corporate name of the Board of County School Commissioners.

Sec. 3. When land shall be required for the site of a school house, or for enlarging school-house lot, and the School District Board shall form any cause be unable to contract with the owner thereof, the Board of County School Commissioners may apply for a writ of *ad quod damnum* to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county, who shall forthwith issue the same, and the Sheriff shall execute the said writ and return an inquisition describing the land and stating the amount of damages to be paid to the owner; and the Judge of the Circuit Court for the county may at any time after the return of the inquisition, in term or during recess, hear a motion to confirm such inquisition on such notice to the parties as he may direct, and confirm or quash the same; and if he quashes the inquisition he shall order a new one forthwith to be taken; but no lot so taken or enlarged shall exceed in the whole one acre, including the land occupied by the school buildings.

Sec. 4. In all cases when school house sites are thus purchased or condemned, the cost thereof shall be paid as other school house property is paid for.

CHAPTER VI.

Schools.

Section 1. In every school-house district in each county, established as hereinbefore provided, there shall be kept for ten months in each year one or more schools, according to population, which shall be free to all white youth over six and under eighteen years of age.

Sec. 2. In every district school there shall be taught orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and good behavior, algebra, bookkeeping, natural philosophy, vocal music, drawing, physiology; the laws of health and of domestic economy shall also be taught whenever the School District Board shall deem it expedient.

Sec. 3. Whenever a school numbers over 60 children an assistant teacher shall be employed; and then for every additional forty children one additional teacher shall be appointed; and the Board of County School Commissioners shall direct the division of the pupils so as to form a graded school.

Sec. 4. Public examinations shall be held in each school, once in each term, of which due notice shall be given, that parents and others interested in public education may attend.

Sec. 5. Schools shall be kept open each week day except Saturday, for six hours, and the hours for teaching shall be regulated by the several school district boards.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall disturb any district school in session shall, upon conviction thereof, before a justice of the peace, forfeit and pay twenty dollars, to be collected as other fines, and to be paid to the School District Board for the benefit of the school house district, or said offender shall be imprisoned until the penalty and costs be paid, not exceeding, however, thirty days.

Sec. 7. The school year shall be divided into four terms, which shall be designated the fall term, winter term, spring term and summer term, and the time of the beginning and closing of each term shall be regulated by the Board of County School Commissioners; provided that the financial reports of the schools of the State shall be made up and rendered to the thirtieth day of September, inclusive, of each and every year; and provided further, that there shall be no change in or encroachment upon the holi days and vacation set forth and established in the following paragraph. The month of August shall be vacation throughout the whole State, and the following days shall be holidays, viz: Thanksgiving day, from Christmas eve to the first day of January, inclusive, Washington's birthday, the fourth day of July, from the Friday before Easter to the Monday after Easter, inclusive, and the Monday of Whitsuntide, and the remaining month of the vacation shall be fixed and designated by the Board of County School Commissioners to subserve the convenience and advantage of their respective counties. In case it may be necessary to open school for a fraction of a term, it shall close at the end of the term, and all accounts shall be settled at the meeting of the County Board held at the end of the term.

CHAPTER VII.

Sec. 1. No person shall be employed as a teacher under this law unless such person shall hold a certificate of qualification issued by the examiner of the county in which he proposes to teach, the principal of the State Normal School or a diploma as graduate of said Normal School.

Sec. 2. Teachers shall be appointed by the School District Board, and may be removed at any time said board may think proper, after thirty days' notice.

Sec. 3. Teachers shall enter into registers prepared for that purpose an accurate account of the attendance of pupils, of text books used, and branches taught, and such other statistics as may be required, and make due return thereof to the Board of County School Commissioners at the end of each term; and no teacher shall be entitled to receive payment for services until the register properly filled up and completed be so returned. Their reports shall be filed by said board for the purpose of making the annual returns to the principal of the State Normal School.

Sec. 4. The salaries of teachers of each county shall be fixed by the Board of County School Commissioners.

CHAPTER VIII.

Pupils.

Sec. 1. All white youth, between the ages of six and eighteen years, shall be admitted into any of the public schools of the State, the studies of which they may be able to pursue; provided that whenever these are graded the teacher in the school of the higher grade shall determine to which school pupils shall be admitted.

Sec. 2. The School District Board shall have power to suspend and expel pupils for cause.

Sec. 3. Children living remote from the school of the district in which they reside may attend school in an adjoining district, with the consent of the trustees of the respective school districts.

Sec. 4. Every child, before it is admitted to any public school, shall produce a certificate from a regular physician that it has been properly vaccinated.

CHAPTER IX.

Text Books.

Sec. 1. School books shall contain nothing of a sectarian or partisan character.

Sec. 2. Each Board of County School Commissioners shall purchase the text books for their respective counties, after having examined such as may be recommended by the board of trustees of the State Normal School, whose duty it is hereby made to present a list of books to said County Boards with their written reasons for such recommendation.

Sec. 3. They shall authorize the delivery of books and stationery to the various schools in the county upon the order of the commissioners of the election district, or of the teacher, endorsed by the trustee of the school district; provided, that no pupil shall be required to pay more than one dollar per quarter for such use, and that any pupil may be exempted from payment in the discretion of School District Board.

Sec. 4. The Board of County School Commissioners shall keep an account of the books and stationery delivered to the several schools in their respective districts, and file their receipts for the same.

Sec. 5. The Board of County School Commissioners shall publish annually in all the newspapers of the county an exhibit of the cost of the text books and the distribution thereof, and the money received therefor from the several school-house districts.

TITLE II.—MODES OF SECURING COMPETENT TEACHERS.

CHAPTER I.

Examination of Teachers.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of each Board of County School Commissioners to appoint a county examiner, whose duty it shall be to examine candidates for the profession of teaching, in the presence of at least three members of the Board of School Commissioners; to give to such persons as are found qualified, under the sanction of the said board, a certificate setting forth the branches such persons are competent to teach. But no certificate shall be granted without satisfactory evidence of the moral character of the applicant.

Sec. 2. The certificates issued by each county examiner shall be numbered and registered in a book kept by the Board of County School Commissioners, and be delivered to their successors in office, and shall be denominated first or second grade, as the case may be, and the principal of the State Normal School shall keep a book in the same manner as the county examiners. Certificates of the first grade shall embrace orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, English grammar, book-keeping, algebra and natural philosophy; and the second grade shall embrace orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history and English grammar.

Sec. 3. No certificate of qualification as a teacher shall be issued to any male under nineteen years of age, or to a female under seventeen years of age.

Sec. 4. No certificate shall continue in force longer than three years.

Sec. 5. The county examiner shall hold regular examinations of teachers at each quarterly meeting of the board, and at such other times as the board of County School Commissioners may direct.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of each county examiner at least twice within each school year to visit the schools in his county in counties having fifty schools or less, and once in counties having more; he shall observe the method of the teacher, and give him such practical suggestions as the circumstances may prompt; he shall, whenever possible, attend public examinations, and report quarterly, in detail, the result of his observations to the Board of County School Commissioners; he shall receive as compensation for his services as treasurer, secretary and examiner, such sum payable quarterly by the School Commissioners out of the school fund of each county, as the Board of County School Commissioners shall in their judgment deem proper.

CHAPTER II.

State Normal School.

Sec. 1. There shall be located in the city of Baltimore a State Normal School for the instruction and practice of teachers in the science of education, the art of teaching and the mode of governing schools. For the government of the Normal School and the election of the principal and professors thereof, the Governor shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint at the present session of the General Assembly of Maryland, and at every regular session thereafter, three persons, to be styled the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Normal School; said board shall elect a treasurer, who shall also be the secretary, at a salary of $300 per annum, who shall give bond in such amount as the board may direct. The principal of said school shall receive a salary of $2,500 per annum, payable quarterly, and the professors and teachers of the Normal School shall receive such salary as the board may decide.

Sec. 2. The sessions of the State Normal School, until otherwise provided for by the State, shall be held in such building as the trustees of the Normal School may select, the rent to be charged among the incidental expenses.

Sec. 3. The faculty of the State Normal School shall consist of the principal and of two male and two female professors, who shall be appointed by the trustees of the State Normal School, and to have such salaries and perform such duties as said Board may direct; and the State Superintendent now acting under the system of public instruction about to expire by limitation of the Constitution, shall transfer all school property and effects in his hands to the said principal of the Normal School.

Sec. 4. The sessions of the State Normal School shall be determined by the Board of Trustees of the State Normal School; provided that the school shall be open for not less than nine months in each year.

Sec. 5. Students of both sexes shall be admitted to the State Normal School; females at the age of sixteen years, and males at the age of seventeen years. The students shall be appointed by the trustees of the State Normal School among the several counties and the city of Baltimore, in proportion to their respective representation in the General Assembly of the State. The students shall be selected by the several Boards of County School Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners of Public Schools of the city of Baltimore, from among persons having the scholastic qualifications heretofore required for teachers. Before any appointment shall be made the applicants shall procure the certificate of the county examiner in testimony of their scholastic proficiency, and shall also file a written declaration that their object in obtaining admission is to qualify themselves as public school teachers, and that it is their intention to engage in the profession of teaching within the State; and in case any students shall fail to fulfill the condition upon which they were admitted, they shall forfeit and pay thirty dollars for each session they have attended the Normal School; to be collected as other debts are collected, and to be applied for the benefit of the Normal School. If there be not applicants sufficient from any county, or the city, then the principal of the Normal School may fill all vacancies by selecting applicants possessing the requisite qualifications from any other portion of the State, in the proportion aforesaid.

Sec. 6. In addition to the students admitted from the counties and the city of Baltimore, who shall enjoy all the privileges of the school, and be furnished with the use of the text books free of charge, there may be admitted, in the proportion of one to two of the scholars selected by the county and city boards, other persons having the requisite qualifications, who shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars per session, and purchase their own text books, and be subject in every respect to the same rules and regulations as the other students; provided that the number of students s