

There appears elsewhere in the columns of this paper the financial statement of the schools for the past year ending July 1st.

This statement is published in considerable detail to give as much information as possible to the tax-payers of the county. It should be noted that education is a public matter and that any citizen of this county is entitled to receive any desired information about the financial transactions of the schools whether it be the salary of a teacher the cost of a load of wood, or any item of expense or revenue. The office of the county board and superintendent at Purcellville will cheerfully furnish information on request and the finance books are available for inspection.

Progress in reduction of the debts of the various districts of the county, all of which were created for construction of school buildings, has been satisfactory during the past one year period.

The total debts less the total balance a year ago was \$140,746.98. During the year the calculations have been somewhat upset by the fire which destroyed the Leesburg school building. The policy of our board of insuring the more expensive buildings for their approximate actual value has well justified itself in this instance where in case of a building costing \$80,000 the sum of \$75,000 insurance was collected and in addition the excavation, foundation walls, furnace, and part of the brick walls were utilized for reconstruction. This year our total debts less the total balance but plus the unpaid contract price for restoration of the Leesburg building was \$125,531.71. This indicates a debt reduction of \$15,215.71 during the past year. If the Town of Leesburg District were excluded from the calculation the comparison would be equally so or more favorable.

In addition to the gain in debt reduction over \$5000 was spent on new buildings, \$3000 on new furniture, and \$1200 on permanent improvements to property other than repairs.

O. L. Emerick,
Division Superintendent.

August 18, 1926.