

Consolidation of Schools.

Lansing, Feb. 16.

Editor State Journal:

There are ten school districts within a radius of five miles of Okemos all of which are going to vote on the consolidation in their territory with that of other contiguous territory in order that a rural agricultural school may be organized according to Act. 226, Public Acts of 1917, as amended, five of which have their election set for Saturday, Feb. 21. The following facts and figures obtained from the files of department of public instruction: It cost in 1918-19 to maintain these ten school districts, teaching to eight grades, the sum of \$9,628.71, to this must be added \$500 for tuition to outside school, making a total of \$10,128.71. There are in these schools an average daily attendance of 220 pupils which were taught to the eighth grade at a per capita cost of \$42.55. Now in the Mattawan Consolidated school of Van Buren county there are seven school districts having an average daily attendance of 206 pupils, schooled to 12 grades at a per capita cost of \$40.59 or \$1.94 cents less than our little one room district school, where we have from 15 to 32 per cent pass the eighth grade. Mattawan Consolidated school has 81 per cent pass. These pupils are transported to and from school to their homes, ours have to walk as far as two miles through all kinds of weather. In Mattawan school, the pupils all have an equal advantage to high school education regardless of their financial circumstances where exactly six per cent of our pupils ever get in to high school, the records show. The qualifications necessary to vote on this vital question. You must be parents or legal guardian of pupils enrolled in the school or taxpayers of property assessed for school taxes in your district. In addition to these qualifications you must be 21 years of age, a full citizen of the United States, and have resided three months in your district prior to the election. If you are entitled to vote don't fail to do so Saturday, Feb. 21, 1920, and give the pupils of our rural district an equal chance to high school advantages as have their city cousin and finish making life worth living on the farm with less expense to the taxpayers.

DENNIS BENJAMIN,

Dart Dist. No. 6.