

## PLAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS AT OKEMOS

**Movement Launched for  
Union of Meridian  
School District.**

**Special to The State Journal.**

OKEMOS, Jan. 20.—A movement has been launched in Meridian township for the construction of a consolidated grade and high school at Okemos, and the plan is meeting with strong support. Eugene Kelly of Okemos has offered to donate an acre of land on the edge of Okemos, in the center of the township, as the site for the proposed school.

The project is being promoted by Dennis Benjamin, school director of District No. 6, aided by Miss Daisy I. Call, county school commissioner, and others. According to the present plans, from three to seven districts would unite to build the school, all located in Meridian or Alameda townships, and providing for probably at least 175 pupils.

Mr. Benjamin says that the assessed valuation of these districts is in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. By adding courses in sewing, cooking, manual training and agriculture the school would receive \$600 maintenance yearly and \$200 for transportation of pupils, from the state. Mr. Benjamin declares that a consolidation school would require less teachers, and while 10 are now needed for these districts, six would probably be sufficient for the one school. There is a shortage of teachers at present, so this reduction in the demand would also prove a help in securing more efficient instructors.

The school in District No. 6 at present is closed, and the seven pupils are going to Okemos. The cost for transportation is only about half the expense of operating the school, Mr. Benjamin says. At present there is no high school here, and all township high school students are obliged to go to Lansing or Mason. Bonds for 15 years could be issued, and the saving made by such a consolidated school would go a long way toward paying for the cost, it is estimated by those back of the plan. It is also pointed out that such modern school facilities would tend to keep the young people on the farm instead of requiring them to go to the city schools. The school board in District No. 6 favors such a consolidated school, and interest in the project is steadily growing.