

## A CIRCULAR

### Sent to the People of Griggs County by its Supt. of Schools, Dr. T. F. Kerr.

The territorial legislature at its last session repealed the old school law and enacted a new one of great importance to the people of the territory. It introduces what is known as the "township system" of public schools—a system that has been tried in many of the states and has everywhere received the highest commendation of the ablest and wisest educators. Under its provisions the school district is abolished and the several counties are divided into townships, each one of which elects a school board consisting of a director, clerk and treasurer, who have entire charge and control of all school matters for the entire town. They build school houses wherever they may be needed, hire all teachers, make all contracts and perform such other duties as may fall to them. The patrons of each school also elect a moderator who watches the interests of his school, confers and counsels with the township board and secures for it its proper measure of justice. It has been found that where this system of public schools has been faithfully carried out, it is possible to have in each township whose schools are managed by an efficient board, at least one school of a higher grade than the ordinary common school, thus securing for the children the advantages of an advanced education without leaving home.

Under this law the County Commissioners at a meeting held May 29, divided Griggs county into twelve townships, varying in area from six by nine to twelve by twelve miles square, and the first election in the several towns is called for June 30. You have already shown a laudable desire to secure good schools for your children, and thirteen districts have been organized within the past few months. These will now go out of existence but you will be able to secure better results under the new order of things. The township boards have far more important duties than the district boards.

Canvass your towns thoroughly and put your best men on the school board. Politics should not be mentioned in connection with schools, neither should any clique or neighborhood control affairs for selfish ends. Consider the best interests of the whole town and select your officers with reference to their ability and fitness for their several positions in