are naturally crowded and these schools are very limited in caring for school needs of the oldest pupils. Most of our semi-graded schools offer good nuclei for consolidation.

About 60 per cent of the children enrolled in the public schools of the county attend schools having only one teacher. The average attendance in days by each pupil, which is nearly 95, is 57 days less than the average for pupils enrolled in the high and graded schools, despite the fact that the average has been advancing steadily. Two hundred and seven of these districts have free text books; 66 districts have more than 10 pupils enrolled, but less than 20, while in 15 districts less than ten are enrolled. Among the common schools, eighteen have had some form of transportation for pupils.

We have over 125 State aided rural schools which are really standardized schools that have met certain requirements in equipment, school buildings, school term, library, heating and ventilation, school grounds, and outbuildings. These schools must employ teachers with special training or actual experience for at least seven months during the year. Such schools will hereafter be known as Class B schools. Class A schools must maintain school for at least eight months.

A plan of giving school credit for work at home is practiced in some districts. This ties the school up closer to the parents, who are glad to have their children consider the chores and smaller jobs about the home as something worthy of recognition which appeals to the children's pride in performing.

Consolidated Schools.

At the present time Polk County has two consolidated schools, one at Eldred organized in 1912 and one at Trail organized in 1914. Both these schools have modern buildings, equipped with fan ventilating systems, indoor flush toilets, and pressure water faucets. In addition to these modern appliances the school at Eldred has an electric lighting system. Both schools offer courses with regular and systematic instruction in agriculture, manual training and domestic arts. The Eldred school is a graded school with four teachers. The Trail school is a semi-graded school with three teachers.

The advent of these schools marks a new epoch in rural education in Polk County. In addition to furnishing better teaching facilities and an opportunity for country children to pursue advanced studies and industrial subjects while living at home, these schools are reaching out to the community at large, and as a result we find literary societies, choral clubs, lecture courses and other notable community enterprises springing up.

The consolidated school at Trail was the first one in the state to be organized by unanimous vote. The school at Eldred was organized under bitter opposition, and not until more than one legal battle had been fought did some of the opposition subside. In both these schools, transportation under state control is supplied by the district. It has been safe and regular.

People in general concede the advantages of the consolidated school over the old plan. That consolidation is coming soon in different parts of the county, can be gathered from the fact that at least four communities are now considering the formation of consolidated districts, which will make full high school courses possible, with six or more teachers. Several other consolidation projects are under consideration.

The success of consolidation where tried has laid its claim to the attention of our people, and each new year finds a larger number giving serious thought to this all-important school problem—the most important which the countryside has yet to solve in the secular education of the children.

Supervision.

By means of a system of monthly reports to the county superintendent, which recently inaugurated in this county the work of the schools, is more closely supervised. This has resulted in a more thorough and systematic preparation of the work by many of the teachers. The condition of the attendance each month is watched. The keeping-up of records is constantly