large measure to the spirit of progress among our teachers, as evidenced by the work of the institutes and summer normals.

C. A. Ives,
State Institute Conductor.

PARISH SUPERINTENDENTS

TRIBUTES TO SUPT. JOHN McNEESE OF CALCASIEU PARISH.

With the ending of this scholastic year—July 1, 1913—there will retire from public school activities in this state the oldest and most respected parish superintendent in the entire service. This is Superintendent John McNeese, of Calcasieu. For more than a quarter of a century Mr. McNeese has created and guided the educational ideals of his parish. When he began real school supervision in his parish he was alone in the field, without counsel, without example, and without state backing. Soon the things he was doing began to be heard of and many other superintendents over the state began to visit his parish to learn from him, and the regard in which he is now held by the school people of the state is attested by the tributes that are herewith printed.

Mr. McNeese is retiring from the service of his own accord. He is yet vigorous and full of enthusiasm. While he is retiring with the expectation of spending the remainder of his years in his quiet suburban home at Lake Charles, still it is quite certain that he will continue to feel a deep interest in school affairs of his parish.

Today he impresses one with the fact that he is ripe in educational thought, happy in having rendered a good service, and full of gratitude for the success that has attended his labors. It is to be hoped that the state may have his counsel for many years yet, and that he may go on to the end of the way full of joy and happiness, realizing that Louisiana owes him a great debt of gratitude for a noble service well rendered and that her people stand with bared heads in recognition of this debt.

Below are a few tributes from the schoolmen of the state who have known him best.—The Editor.

Mr. McNeese was the pioneer, leader, and inspirer of professional supervision in the public schools of Louisiana. When the history of public education in Louisiana is correctly written his name will justly stand at the top.

J. B. Aswell.

Superintendent John McNeese of Calcasieu Parish has, of all schoolmen of the State that I have known in the last quarter century, made the best average record in length, fidelity, and efficiency of service in upbuilding the public school of his parish.

Like a patriarch of the olden days, he has awakened the ambition and has been a source of inspiration to all the younger generation of schoolmen in Louisiana.

V. L. Roy.

When a man brings to a successful close a career of long and continuous usefulness it is but just and proper that those who have been long associated with him along a line of similar endeavor should give some expression of their appreciation of his good and protracted service as a co-laborer in a worthy cause, and, at the same time, add some testimonial to his worth as a man and a citizen. It has been the good fortune of the writer to have known Superintendent John McNeese for many years, almost as far back as the incipiency of his school career in this state, and, to his credit, I must say that he has most successfully devoted, assiduously and incessantly, his time, his talents, and his energy to the upbuilding of the public school system of this state, and especially to the upbuilding of the system in Calcasieu Parish. To those who can look down through the vista of the past and compare with the present the school conditions of twenty-five years ago, when John McNeese assumed the supervision of the schools of his parish, his labors stand out in bold relief, and show what may be accomplished by faithfulness, persistence and courage of one's convictions. Always gentle, always courteous, but at the same time determined, he laid his plans for the betterment of his work, and how he succeeded is best attested by what he has left to the people of Calcasieu as an educational legacy. Now that he is about to lay down his life's work, and place his mantle on the shoulders of another, I, as one of his friends and co-laborers in a noble cause, wish to say to him, through your journal: 'Well done, thou good and faithful
Superintendent McNeese is the Nestor of education in Louisiana. Long before Louisiana had awakened to its educational needs, Superintendent John McNeese in imperial Calcasieu had by persistent effort aroused the people to the necessity for raising ample funds for the support of schools. While Mr. McNeese has during nearly a quarter of a century kept Calcasieu perhaps just a little ahead of the other parishes, it was the financial administration side of school work which has been Mr. McNeese's stronghold. As a young and inexperienced superintendent, it was my custom to seek the advice of my experienced neighbor, and I found him ready at all times to help me.

Mr. McNeese has remained progressive in spite of his advanced years and in this respect he is an exception to the general rule. A visit to Calcasieu will show that the school system there is abreast of the best and considerably ahead of a large part of the state.

It is eminently fit and proper that with the dissolution of Imperial Calcasieu, its grand old superintendent, who has given so many years of his best effort and whose impress has been made in every corner and nook of the great parish, should voluntarily withdraw from the field. It would not seem right to have Superintendent McNeese as superintendent of any parish but greater Calcasieu.

He leaves the work with the respect and the esteem of the teaching profession of the entire state. He could truly say, "Exigi monumentum perennius aere."

L. J. Alleman.

He pioneered public education in Louisiana. He planned ahead of the times and persistently shaped public sentiment toward his aims. In the virgin soil of southwest Louisiana he placed the mudsills of public education so firmly that a harmonious and symmetrical system is now efficiently serving the people and making that section progressive and prosperous. He has left his imprint deeply marked in the hearts of the people and has made the state largely his debtor.

C. E. Byrd,
Superintendent of Schools, Caddo Parish.

The one man who stands out prominently as the leader and inspiring force in the remarkable forward movement in educational lines in this great state is Superintendent John McNeese.

W. B. Hale.

John McNeese! Few know him better than I. It was my special privilege of knowing him and associating with him in the "early days" when the "school laborers were few." He was my abiding comforter and counselor in many a trying time and always and everywhere he was the steadfastly true and masterful guide. His sense of loyalty supremely noble, he never flattered; but he did know when to commend and, when to condemn. I do not know a time or place in which he was other than the constantly loyal gentle friend.

He has been a great educational leader. His mind seeing in the large, and his achievements were complete. Time shall reveal the true worth of his efforts in Calcasieu.

J. E. Keeny.

Caldwell Parish.

We are just closing out one of the most successful year's work in the history of public schools in Caldwell Parish. Last summer we began by letting the contracts for a new modern two-story brick high school building, with steam heating apparatus, sanitary water closets, and drinking fountains in basement at Columbia, the parish seat. We also built an addition to the Grayson building, making it practically twice as large as formerly. At the same time, we let the contract for a neat little country schoolhouse in Ward Five. All of these buildings were completed in time for the fall sessions. About the time these contracts were let, we were finishing two other country schoolhouses—viz., Newell and Girod. During the session we erected new buildings at Hawkins and Riverton. Last Tuesday we voted a 5-mill special tax in Ward Nine to build a new house for the Brushy school. Tomorrow the building committee meets in Ward Ten to locate a site for the new Volentine building. The past three or four years we have replaced exactly half of our old buildings with neat, attractive, and modern school houses. Most of these buildings have two-acre sites. We now have a special tax of five mills for maintenance purposes over the entire parish and over practically half of the parish