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Conference Held and In Other Ways Important Assistance Is Given to Progress of Country

The principal activities of the the schools of the nation as a whole. The commissioner states that in this respect the situation is more promising than at any other time in its existence. The removal-of the office from the unsatisfactory quarters it occupied in the Pension building to interior department has improved in a marked degree the efficiency and morale of the bureau's staff, and has added distinctly to the facilities of department and of related bureaus. Principal Means

Its publications have always been and will probably continue to be the principal means by which the influence of the bureau is exerted, but with increased appropriations and better organization, the commissione says that the personal element is entering more and more into its

Educational surveys, which depend upon personal examination of local conditions and recommendations for changes, have become a popular instrument of improvement. In this the bureau of education was the leader in point of time, and now directs more surveys of this character than any other agency-perhaps more than all others combined.

Surveys Made During the fiscal year 1924 it conducted 18. Of these the survey of higher education in Massachusetts is easily the most important, in the commissioner's opinion, for it will probably lead to a complete change in the policy of the state toward higher education. A state-wide survey of the higher institutions of Tennessee and a survey of higher education in Cleveland, Ohio, are still in progress. A survey made of the school buildings of Portland, Oregon, is of equal importance in another direction, inasmuch as it involves the reorganization of the schools in the

Conferences Held Conferences of specialists in certain lines of education are frequently called by the commissioner of education, who considers this is an effective method of diffusing information of value to the country. The ment of the Interior in January was a conspicuous example of such conferences, both because of the high character of the participants and of the results that may be expected to come from it. The summer meeting of the national educational association, which was held in Washington, afforded the bureau of education a valuable opportunity to come in con-

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