

The present law gives the School Board of the State power to do this, but in no county is it made obligatory. The State Department of Education thinks the proposed bill embodies an unsound policy, and that it is best to leave the subject to the discretion of the local school authorities. For this reason the bill will be vetoed.

SCHOOL CENSUS.

(Chapter 287)

House Bill No. 259 requires the Baltimore City Police to take the school census between September 10th and 30th each year instead of between November 10th and 30th each year.

The Police Commissioner advises me that the police are unusually busy with the voters' census during the first half of September and that the full school attendance is not secured until later in the fall.

For these reasons it seems best to continue taking the school census in November, as at present, and the bill will be vetoed.

MECHANICS' LIEN BILL.

(Chapter 324)

This bill provides a lien for materials in Baltimore City. The supply men are in the main in favor of it, and it is opposed in the main by the building associations, the banks, the real estate men, a large number of home builders and others.

A good deal has been said on both sides, and I would feel disposed to accept the judgment of the Legislature on the subject were it not for my knowledge of the unfortunate conditions in Baltimore City which resulted from this lien when it formerly existed there and which led the supply men themselves to advocate its repeal thirty years ago.

The lien may work satisfactorily in the counties and in other States, but in Baltimore City it undoubtedly contributed materially to depreciation in property values and led to bonus ground rents and irresponsible bonus builders and to the loss of innocent home owners.

It is said that these conditions would not recur, because home building is now in the hands of responsible people. If that be