

so that second and third grade teachers may transfer from one county to another without examination, and extension of the limit of Third Grade Certificate; otherwise, nearly all our colored schools will be closed after this year. Either change the limit of the branches required, or the advancement in those branches for Third Grade. Colored teachers, as a rule, can not take successfully the same examination as the whites.

I favor the new law for uniform examinations for several reasons.

1. Because the older class of teachers, with their old notions and obsolete methods are retiring before it, and younger, fresher, more vigorous, more enthusiastic, more energetic teachers take their places with modern methods and the tractability of youth. Old teachers can not be fired out of the ruts, while young ones are ready to learn from any reliable source.
2. Because it largely eliminates tramp teachers, pleasure and health seekers from other States. My most worthless teachers have generally been of this class.
3. Because the people seem to have confidence in the impartiality and strictness of these examinations, and that confidence helps the teachers, and, through them, the schools.
4. Because the teachers themselves will realize, after awhile, that their efforts for self-improvement and greater efficiency are appreciated by the people, and hence there will be a general uplift of the profession and the cause of education.

E. A. HARRISON

Co. Supt. Pub. Inst. Citrus county.

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY

Hon. W. N. Sheats, State Superintendent Public Instruction, Tallahassee, Fla.:

Dear Sir: The educational interests of this county are in fair condition but not nearly so good as I desire.

I think the school law should be so changed as to require a graded high school to be established in each county at the county seat, to be maintained eight months each year. It should also require every school in the county to be closed for the school year whenever the monthly average attendance falls below 50 per cent. of the total enrollment.

Each County Superintendent should also receive as compensation for his services  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the total receipts, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the total disbursements of his county for school purposes. To be eligible to the office of County Superintendent of Public Instruction, one should have taught at least two years under a State or First Grade Certificate.

I hope to see all of the above put in proper shape and become law on January 1, 1896; except that those Superintendents now holding office and not possessed of the above requirements may be permitted to exercise the functions of their office until the expiration of the present term.

To be eligible to the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction