

that are inclined to grumble because some pet has failed in examination, but it don't (sic) amount to much.

Respectfully,
R. L. WILLIAMS,
County Superintendent.

MANATEE COUNTY

Palmetto, Fla., December 15, 1894.

Hon. W. N. Sheats, Tallahassee, Fla.:

My Dear Sir--Absence from home on a round of visits to my schools in the interior of the county has prevented me replying earlier to your request in circular letter under date of the 25th ult.

I cheerfully give you herewith, in a brief way, the information desired. Since you have presented an opportunity, I cannot refrain from indulging in some feeling of pride in mentioning the progress of matters pertaining to education in our county, as evinced in the fact that the old order with its narrower views is being gradually swept away and in its stead has come the progressive and enlightened spirit which sees that the knowledge of to-day is better than that of yesterday.

It has been shown to us that without well trained teachers there can be no well trained pupils. No better evidence of the general interest manifested in the education of the children of our county can be cited than that nearly every sub-school district in the county, which, besides paying a county school tax of five mills, have levied a special tax of three mills, and now we have but few districts where comfortable houses are lacking. Since the beginning of '94, the Manatee County High School has been established under an efficient corps of teachers with a present enrollment of more than one hundred pupils.

The town of Palmetto has recently voted to issue bonds to build and equip a handsome school building, and, with the opening of the next school term will begin under the best graded system.

To an intelligent, live and wide-awake Board of Public Instruction our patrons are greatly indebted for this progress in the cause of education.

I favor uniform examinations, but not under the present law. I would suggest: First, for the benefit of our young teachers that Third Grade certificates be allowed under annual examination twice. Second, Second Grade certificates should be transferable. Third, to grant County Boards and County Superintendents more discretionary power to fill vacancies in special cases. We see the necessity of this at present in our county. Uniform examinations excite more public interest, more interest in the teacher, more investigation and closer study and a greater desire and determination to excel and not to fail. A general "waking up" and alarm in the ranks of the laggards is a noticeable result.

The past examinations were not so difficult, as they were long and tiresome. Four to five days are too long and expensive.

Yours truly,
W. M. ROWLETT,
County Superintendent.