

uniform in its application. A Second or Third Grade Certificate, issued by the Superintendent of one county, in accordance with the law, upon an examination uniform, at the same time, and graded by a grading committee, as provided for by the Uniform Examination Law, should be endorsable and acceptable by any other Superintendent of any other county of the State.

Suppose that in one county there are not enough teachers with certificates to fill all the positions, while in another county, even an adjoining one, there is a surplus of certified teachers of the Second and Third Grade, the one county can not under the present law, send over into the other county and employ one of these teachers to take charge of a small school, which does not pay a sufficient salary to justify a teacher of the First Grade. Undoubtedly this has been the case in some counties of the State during the present year.

In regard to the certificates, I think that while a Third Grade Certificate should be good for only one year, yet it should be subject to renewal, upon examination, at least two or three times. A Second Grade Certificate should entitle any teacher to teach in any department of a school below the high grade, and should be subject to renewal for any number of times, provided they desire to continue in the same department or some similar one.

I think that in the case of a First Grade Certificate, it should be good for three years, but the County Superintendent should be given power to extend the time or renew the certificate, without examination, provided that the holder of the certificate has demonstrated to the Superintendent by actual work in the school, his abilities and qualification for the work in hand, and provided that said teacher continues under the said Superintendent.

I have expressed my views thus freely in answer to your questions, and I trust they will be accepted in the same friendly spirit with which they are intended.

I trust that you will succeed at the coming Legislature in getting such amendments to the present school laws, as will give the County Superintendent more power and latitude of operations, and make him a "Member of the School Board" as well as Secretary thereof. Under the law as it now stands, the Superintendent is about like the "fifth wheel of a coach" upon which the Board turns. He neither has voice nor vote, and many times in meetings of the Board his suggestions have neither weight nor influence with knowledgable (?) members of a School Board.

Yours respectfully,

C. F. KEMP,

County Superintendent.

PASCO COUNTY

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

Dear Sir: In reply to your question as to the condition of the Pasco county schools, I have the honor to report that they are in better condition this year than ever, and I am glad to report that more interest is manifested every year by patrons, children and teachers in the school work, and a constant demand is made by patrons for longer terms and more school facilities. Every school district in the county with but two exceptions have a special tax of from two to three mills levied for the purpose of building and furnishing and extending school terms.