

past official work of those County Superintendents whose terms of office expire Jan. 5, 1897, contained in your circular letter of Dec. 18, 1896, I beg leave to submit the following resume of my official life in Citrus county.

My first term of office began July 1, 1887, by appointment of Governor Perry, soon after the cutting off of the territory included in Citrus county from old Hernando county. In the fall of 1888 I was elected to succeed myself as County Superintendent of Citrus county, was again elected in 1892, and have held the position till the present time, making a total of nine and one-half years' incumbency.

Condition of the County in 1887.--At the beginning of this county's history it had no money, was in debt for its part of the old county's obligations, not over a half-dozen, poorly built and unfurnished school houses, with few resident teachers, and inexperienced officers. The county was poor, had not very many orange groves, no railroads, and no apparent prospect of early enrichment. Notwithstanding these unpropitious environments, our school officers, one and all, set to work to create schools, build school houses, furnish the same, employ teachers as competent as could then be had, and carve out a history and a destiny for our schools.

Influence of the Phosphate Boom.--Later, when the phosphate boom struck us, our plans and prospects were very materially affected by the rapid shifting of our population from one part of the county to another, or removal of families to other States, consequent upon the selling out of their properties to phosphate land buyers. At one sitting during this time, our Board abolished eleven schools, because their former patrons had moved away.

The Freeze.--Scarcely had we recovered from these unfortunate conditions, when the great freeze and bank failure came and nearly overthrew us again. Now, however, we are getting upon our feet again, and hope, 'ere long, to have recovered fully from the disasters of the past.

Had Co-operation.--In all my efforts, as County Superintendent, to further the interests and minister to the needs of the schools of this county, I have always had the hearty co-operation, to the extent of their ability, of our various school boards, supervisors, teachers, and, for the most part, the patrons of schools. I have only had to lay my plans before past and present members of our school boards, to receive prompt acquiescence, if possible, in all that was suggested, and ready granting of whatever was asked. There has never been even a moderately serious disagreement between myself and these gentlemanly and able school officials.

My Successor.--I feel confident that all the gentlemen who will take charge of the school affairs of this county the fifth of this month will serve the people with equal fidelity and patriotism. This remark applies with equal force to my own successor, Rev. C. S. Young, who is an experienced teacher, holding a First-Grade Certificate under the present law, and is an intelligent, cultured Christian gentleman, who has the interests of the schools truly at heart, and will, I feel assured, do all in his power to foster their best interests.

Progress Made.--Beginning, as I have said, with nothing worthy of the name of school or school house, we have at the present time thirty-five schools, thirty-one of which have patent desks, nearly all supplied with maps and charts, reasonably comfortable school houses, with stoves and other furniture.