

Aided by County Board.--Aided as I have been by one of the most zealous School Boards, one that have conscientiously endeavored to assist in carrying out all measures that could advance the educational interests of Clay county, we have been enabled to change the character, by our combined efforts, of our schools by encouraging patrons to become more interested in school work. Our aim has been and will continue to be to make our schools better.

I would be pleased to know that the time is not far distant when all the schools in the county will require at least one assistant teacher, and when several well-graded schools, ranking favorably with such schools in the State, shall be required and sustained.

School Houses and Teachers.--We have succeeded in building good common school houses for all our districts, with very few exceptions, which I think very important, among the requirements of a school. Then, having, as we now have, the best of teachers we have made a beginning, and with the aid and encouragement which teachers, patrons and pupils need and will receive from our County School Board and myself, we are bound to make a success. We have teachers uniformly energetic and progressive. I cannot say enough in commendation of our School Board for the manner in which they have managed the school interests in Clay county, and their untiring efforts generally to advance the cause of education.

Our finances are in good condition.

Uniform Examinations.--Our educational interests are advancing, attributable in a great measure to having a qualified corps of teachers, second to none, but the equal I believe of any. The qualifications of teachers are entirely due to the uniform examinations, which I cannot refrain from heartily endorsing, and which I am more in favor of now than I was at first. At the adoption of the uniform system of examining teachers, I thought it too rigid, but now think it could not, without difficulty be improved. It gives the teachers something to work for; to secure a higher grade certificate, qualifying them to secure better salaries and to make themselves more successful educators than in handling the lower grades of certificates.

#### Suggested Legislation

1. If the amendments to the Constitution as it now is, (basing distribution of funds on average attendance,) could be stricken out, it would be far better.
2. The present method of paying the teachers according to the number of pupils everyone connected with school work, knows to be a failure.
3. I favor the the(sic) uniform examinations from the fact that they are fair, and this manner of paying the teacher according to the attendance is consequently not in accordance with the spirit of the uniform examinations.
4. I greatly favor and advocate the payment of teachers for their services by the month, according to grade of certificate held by them and by their success as teachers.
5. I would also favor a law so framed as to compel parents and guardians to send children under their care to school--or give some good cause for failure. Also the adoption of a uniformity of text-books throughout the State.