

Since my last report, the schools have continued their onward march.

New Buildings.--Six new school-houses have been built and properly furnished. The school-houses and grounds throughout the county are neatly kept. In most instances good drinking water is supplied.

Teachers.--It is with a considerable degree of pride that I am able to report favorably again on the work of the teachers. With very few exceptions, they are wide-awake, zealous and efficient in the performance of their duties. As a natural consequence, prejudice against the improved methods of teaching has been almost entirely overcome, and patrons are showing their appreciation more and more of the efficient work that is being done. Tardiness and irregularity in attendance are gradually disappearing; promptness and punctuality are being recognized as essentials to success in school work and most powerful factors in forming character.

Course of Study and Record Book.--When entering upon my official duties ten years ago, I noticed that one of the greatest obstacles to progress of the schools lay in the frequent changes of teachers, and the absence of a uniform system for carrying on the work. To obviate the bad effects that would naturally follow, a Course of Study was placed in the hands of supervisors and teachers, indicating the work to be done by the several grades in the different studies, and each school was provided with a Record Book in which teachers were required to record monthly the work done in the several grades and branches, also to keep a record of the monthly enrollment and average attendance and such other matter as might be of interest to the succeeding teacher.

Summer School.--Summer normals and district institutes conducted by the County Superintendent every year, a careful and systematic inspection of each teacher's work together with the hearty co-operation of an intelligent, impartial and public-spirited Board of Education have been instrumental in bringing about the present satisfactory condition of our schools.

Respectfully yours,
L. W. BUCHHOLZ,
County Superintendent.

HOLMES COUNTY

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

Dear Sir--In compliance with your request I will make a short statement in relation to the schools of Holmes county, from July 1894 to July 1896.

Improvements in Buildings and Equipment.--There is considerable improvements in buildings. Most of the old houses have been torn down and replaced with good framed buildings, furnished with good seats, good desks and blackboards. Nine new houses have been built and fitted up with stoves. School grounds are better kept and everything indicates greater interest than has ever been manifested heretofore in this county.

Teachers' Examinations.--Our examinations have been well attended and conducted as fairly as could be under the circumstances, a good percentage obtained certificates. All were well pleased except those who failed; those who failed, of course, complained and made the usual charges that fraud was perpetrated and the Grading Committee had shown partiality.