

Opposition to the Law.--Our people were very much opposed to the uniform examination law, because some had pets they wanted to put in the schools. They said that Sheats wanted to get up something new, curtailing their liberties, and it would come to pass that a "poor man" could not get a school.

Opposition Waning.--But now every one, with a few exceptions, admit that it was just the thing needed; by means of it, we have rid ourselves of a lot of old croakers who knew nothing and sought a little school as a substitute for a cotton crop.

Old Way of Getting a Teacher.--Under the old order of things there were always some aspiring teachers on the pad trying to make up a little school to be taught as soon as they could finish their crop. The crop over, the teacher and a few patrons would go to see the Board to get license to teach; if the teacher failed, woe be unto the Board and County Superintendent, everything was said about them except something good.

The New Way.--Now, as soon as our examination is over, the Supervisors are present, each seeking to get the highest grade teacher possible. Now they say, Sheats is the "right man in the right place."

Have a High School.--I think Providence directed us to be ready for the law when it was passed, for we had just organized a High School and were preparing to raise the standard of education in our county. We now see the necessity of getting away from the old plan; under which to be able to write so that it could be read, a little spelling, reading and ciphering, and sometimes a little geography and grammar (Smith's), was the acme of educational aspiration.

Praise for Examination Law.--I attribute the improvement in interest manifested by the teachers and people in general entirely to the influence of our uniform examination law.

Term of Service.--I have been connected with the schools of Holmes county from January 1st, 1875, up to January 1897, and I think the past year has been the greatest in our history. More interest has been manifested by the patrons than ever before in this county.

Attends School Closings.--I have been invited to a number of schools at the close to lecture, preach, or otherwise contribute to the success of the occasion. I could not fill all the applications; it has not been so heretofore, the schools wanted to close as quietly as possible.

Suggestions--A High School Mandatory.--I hope you will use all your influence to have a law passed making every county have a High School, so that young men and women may be prepared at home to teach the schools of their county as well as fitted for other important stations in life. I think it is your duty, as the chief of the educational department of the State, to see that such a school is established in every county. I want the time soon to come when every county will be perfectly independent of every other county for teachers, and I believe a High School for every county will bring this state of things to pass.

Yours truly,

W. CURRY,
County Superintendent.