

JACKSON COUNTY

Marianna, Fla.

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

Dear Sir--Complying with your request to report condition of School affairs of this county, I beg leave to state that school work is progressing nicely, that they are in better condition this year than ever, and 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 better school facilities, This, however, under present school law, (allowing County Commissioners to determine amount of mills levied for school purposes) cannot be granted. Under the circumstances our Board is doing all in their power on this line.

New Buildings.--During the last two years there have been eleven new frame school buildings constructed in the county, where before existed nothing but the rude log house with its puncheon seats, and also many others have been remodded (sic) and greatly improved.

Uniform Examination Law.--Our teachers and people heartily endorse the Uniform Examination Law for many reasons, but it seems to me that it would be better to have one Grading Committee for each Judicial District.

State Uniform Text-Books.--We have a uniform series of text-books adopted in the county, which, as a general rule, are used in all the public schools, but occasionally there move into the county families from other counties, who have a different set of books, and who feel unable to purchase the books adopted by our Board. Then there arises an extra work for the teacher; therefore, I think it would be much better for all concerned, that the State Board be empowered with authority to make this adoption.

County Institutes.--We hold regularly County Institutes which I am sorry to say are not as well attended as they should be, but great interest in manifested by those who attend, and excellent work is being done along this line.

Summer School.--We hope to have this year a Summer Normal for the benefit of our teachers, for we fully recognize the beneficial results of these meetings. On the whole I would say that there has been a decided improvement in school interest in the last two years and that it is still increasing.

I trust that you may be able at the next Legislature to have such changes in the school law as you may deem beneficial to the school interest.

Very respectfully,

A. J. WOOLDRIDGE,

Co. Supt. Jackson county.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Mayo, Florida.

Hon. Wm. N. Sheats:

Allow me to make the following report of my stewardship as County Superintendent, which is now soon to close for entrance again into the private walks of life.