

Grades of Certificates Held.--Of about sixty white teachers in this county last year, eleven of them held first grade certificates and only five of them held third grade. This year thirteen of them hold first grade certificates and only six hold third grade. If we succeed in supplying our schools with good teachers we feel that their success for that year is to a great extent accomplished.

All primary instruction should be given by skilled teachers, and we have usually been able to supply the primary departments of our graded schools with that class of teachers. We of course do the same for the ungraded schools when it is possible, for primary work must be done in all of them.

Permanency of Teachers.--An effort is made to retain all good teachers in the same school for several years. In many places we succeed in doing this but in some we fail. A definite law, giving School Boards authority to employ teachers for terms of two or four years, would assist us very much in making teachers more permanent in their work.

Selection of Teachers.--The County School Board has used much care in the selection of teachers, and local school officers who have been given the privilege of recommending teachers have not usually abused that trust. If the local officers (Supervisors) do not have teachers whom they know to be competent they usually leave the selection and employment of them entirely to the County School Board and County Superintendent. This is a wise practice and one that is gaining in prevalence in this county every year.

Buildings and Furniture.--Prior to last year our School Board spent about \$1,000 each year in building, repairing and furnishing school houses, but last year that work was suspended on account of the scarcity of money. This year we have been furnishing material with which building and repairing can be done and the school patrons are doing the work. A few of our school houses are not yet as comfortable as they should be. About half of them are yet to be furnished with the patent desks.

Evidences of Successful Work.--The personal examinations which we have made of the school work of both teachers and pupils has been, in a large number of cases, very satisfactory. One of the best evidences of the merits of the Public Schools in Lake county is the success of the advanced pupils who apply for teachers' certificates at the State Uniform Examinations. Their grades are usually among the very best that are issued, and in the last examination, among a large number of applicants, the highest first grade certificate issued was given to a public school pupil only seventeen years old who had never attended school outside of this county.

Public Interest Good.--I do not want to close this report without speaking of the universal and hearty support that is given the Public Schools by the citizens of our county. The maximum limit of school tax is paid cheerfully, and almost every citizen does whatever he can to encourage their interest and highest success.

Very truly yours,

J. C. COMPTON,
County Supt.

LEE COUNTY

Hon. Wm. N. Sheats, State Superintendent Public Instruction, Tallahassee, Fla.:

Dear Sir--In compliance with your request I herewith submit the following report: