

Immense Territory and Sparse Population.--Lee county is over sixty miles square, giving her an area of over three and one-half thousand square miles, or about three times as large as the State of Rhode Island. The county is sparsely settled, making the schools scattered and small.

Evanescient School.--In some of the hunting and fishing districts the settlements were not permanent, consequently only temporary school advantages could be given. Schools of twenty pupils were established in such places, when not a single inhabitant was to be found there the following year.

Pro Rata System.--It has always been our aim to give every child of school age equal advantages by giving him the "pro rata" of the funds, which was ten dollars "per capita," which often gave single families living too remote from regular schools a teacher.

Course of Study Adopted.--A regular course of study has been adopted, embracing eight grades, which pupils are expected to complete in eight years.

The County Superintendent is required to prepare uniform questions at the close of the term for examination, on which the pupils are graded.

Uniform Examinations.--The law requiring uniform examinations for teachers has greatly raised the standard of teachers and schools; our indifferent and non-progressive teachers are "laid on the shelf," while only the best qualified are now the ones to instruct our youth.

Good Effects of the Freeze.--Since the freeze in December, 1895, our school enrollment has increased about 40 per cent. Five new school houses have been built, costing from \$500. to \$900., and have been supplied with the best single patent desks.

I have been County Superintendent ever since Lee county was established in 1886, and feel satisfied that the foundation of the schools are well laid.

D. C. KANTZ,

County Superintendent.

LEVY COUNTY

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

Dear Sir--I have the honor, in complying with your request for a special report of the condition of our schools, etc., to submit the following:

Improvements.--During the last two years we have been rapidly improving our school property, and supplying needed apparatus. Prior to that we exhausted our funds annually in appropriations for teachers salaries. We now control more money and can afford to improve buildings. When obtainable, we hold deeds to all school property. Teachers salaries have increased and property improved.

Course of Study.--Our schools are now closely graded. Information was furnished to the County Board last year that only five (5) per cent. of irregularities then existed in the entire county. This course of study was adopted in 1891, and has been slightly modified since, by the addition of three branches of study and a change in two text-books. Under its operation children who attended school regularly are certain of advancement. No option is allowed either pupil