

pass over the summer and fall months without teachers having to suffer a discount on their scrip.

I think the county is in fairly good condition financially.

When Schools Run.--Our county is an agricultural (sic) county. A large per cent of our schools run in the summer and fall. I am not an advocate of summer terms but allow it from necessity. Cotton being our only money crop our people have to work their children on the farm during crop season.

Books Adopted Insisted On.--When I look back only a few years and see the difficulties that were confronting me in the shape of fogyism, I can but congratulate the county for the success we have had in freeing the schools from these erroneous ideas about books and methods. This has been done by insisting on the teachers teaching the books adopted and using the modern methods regardless of the wishes or advice of the smart ones. While we are glad of the success we have had, we feel that there is still much to be done.

Buildings Contemplated.--We contemplate building a good substantial school-building in the town of Madison in the near future. We have purchased a beautiful lot conveniently located; we propose to build a house that will be an ornament to the town and the pride of the county, and so equip it with apparatus so that we will be prepared to do as good work as any High School in the State.

We are preparing to build up about fifteen First Grade schools in the county so that we can work our First Grade teachers to better advantage. We do not claim to be in the lead but we are coming. Our watchword is forward.

Teachers' Institute.--The teachers of the county are organized and meet twice each month, the object of the association is the professional improvement of the teachers and the development of a course of study which shall be uniform throughout the county.

We have ample teaching force.

I think, taking everything into consideration, we have improved fifty per cent since the publication of the last biennial report.

Approve Examination Law.--I have no recommendation to offer relative to any change in the examination law. I fully endorse it. I give it credit for much of the improvement in the county. We now have a corps of live active teachers, seventy-five per cent better than formerly.

County Board Should Levy School Tax.--I would recommend a change in the revenue law. I think the Board of Public Instruction of the several counties should levy the school tax, for the reason that the needs of the county are best known to them.

I would like also to have a statute confining pupils to the schools in their respective districts, having only one school in the county open for all, and let that be the County High School.

Yours in the work,

R. L. WILLIAMS,  
Co. Supt. Public Instruction.