

MONROE COUNTY

Key West, Fla.

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

Dear Sir--The general condition of the schools of Monroe county is very good, and there seems to be a spirit of improvement each year. The interest in our schools and the school work, on the part of the patrons and public, is much more earnest at present than has heretofore been manifested.

Attendance Demands More Room.--The attendance at each of our city schools is large and the necessity of more school room is very evident. In one of our schools is an enrollment of 765 pupils with an average attendance daily of between 500 and 600.

The Board will certainly have to provide an additional school building in the near future for the accommodation of the great number of pupils of this school.

The other school for white children in our city is also well attended, but not so crowded as the above mentioned.

Negro Schools.--The schools for colored children of the city are well attended and have large enrollments. Additional school room was provided for one of the colored schools during the past year, and it is to be hoped that the Board will be able to erect a new school building for the other colored school, which is very much needed, in the near future.

Character of Teachers and Examination Law.--Our teachers are very much interested and are earnest in their work, and have much improved as teachers during the past four years. Although the Uniform Examination Law was not at first regarded with much favor, yet I am sure that after only a few years of its application the teachers now appreciate its value as a means of development of the teaching force within them. I can certainly value the importance of continuing the law for uniform examinations of teachers of our public schools and would not, for a moment, entertain a thought of going back to the old "go as you please" method of examinations and appointments of teachers, wherein friendship and relationship had much weight and influence.

School Furniture.--All of our schools are supplied with good furniture and with every facility for good work. I believe in having our schools well supplied with black-boards and crayons, and have put in a great deal since I have been in this office. Every school room is well supplied with black-boards and the good work accomplished as a result is fully appreciated.

Value of Teachers' Meetings.--Our regular weekly teachers' meetings, at which the practical work of a school room is discussed, and the best methods of instruction are demonstrated, is undoubtedly of great value as a means of improvement of our school system and the development of our teachers as instructors. Our course of study in the schools is very nearly uniform, and will be made more so as soon as possible.

I would simply say that I am fully in accord with anything that looks to the betterment of our public school system.

Yours respectfully,
C. F. KEMP,
County Supt.