

This was abandoned last term owing to lack of funds to properly equip the class. Some of the patrons now demand this to be added, and my successor informs me that this will be encouraged in every way. I would recommend this be adopted wherever possible.

Warrants Discounted--Change in Tax System Suggested.--One of the needed reforms which no doubt has suggested itself to you as well as to all County Superintendents, is the earlier collection of taxes. School year commences July 1st, the taxes for that year are not collected until the following June. This leaves counties practically without funds until schools are closed, in the meantime school warrants for teaching, etc., have been issued and holders are either obliged to suffer heavy discount or the county is compelled to borrow at heavy interest. Remedy for this would be that the Legislature direct that the time for giving in returns of taxes be limited to March 30th. This would permit assessors to complete rolls earlier and taxes could be collected within the same year for which assessed. It is hoped that this or some other remedy will be applied.

Respectfully submitted,
H. L. MATTAIR,
Supt. Public Instruction, Nassau County, Fla.

ORANGE COUNTY

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

Progress of Education.--

Dear Sir--Replying to your request for a statement referring to our public schools, I am happy to say, that through the strong assistance of our Board of Public Instruction, the teachers and people, we have made fine progress in education in Orange County.

Effect of Uniform Examinations.--Since the advent of your new law greater time has perhaps been given to study, preparation for expected calls upon memory. Concentration of thought upon all topics coming under the law for examinations, a condensation, if you please, of subjects in use daily in our common schools.

While a few have been worried, the masses, as may be seen by the greater number passing in the upper grades--have found the limit of use in the common school system, there has been little objection, all interest in a general sense is growing and the schools prospering.

Comparative State of Florida Schools.--As this month closes my connection as an officer for the past eighteen years, with Florida's great system of education, I take pleasure in stating that perhaps no state has made greater progress. While we have had the will-power, energy, the brain, we have greatly lacked in finances to cope with northern states in buildings and aids to teachers and pupils. I do not mention this complainingly, but we might have more than equaled the North had we a reserve fund as most of them have. But, Mr. Superintendent, we are on the upward grade and other states will have to infuse more progress into their systems or we, the Peninsular State, the extreme south, will occupy the topmost round in the educational ladder.

Extends Thanks.--Allow me to thank one and all for their courtesy in the past,