

affairs of Santa Rosa county since the issuance of your last bi-ennial report.

Lots and New Buildings.--Many lots or sites for educational purposes have been generously donated, and some new and comfortable buildings erected. This was accomplished by appeals (circular letters) to Supervisors and by the Superintendent meeting and talking to parents.

In a few more years I hope to have a well equipped school house in every district in the county.

Causes of Improvement in Teaching Force.--I am happy to report, too, a very marked improvement in teaching force--teachers who are ambitious are acquiring professional libraries and keeping in close touch with educational progress. This is due to many causes: the "New School Law," the greatest and richest inheritance the children of Florida ever received and the enforcement of this law; the regulation of the County School Board paying Third Grade Certificate holders, who are strictly third grade teachers, not more than twenty (\$20) dollars per month; the prompt payment, in cash, of teachers each month; the rejection from the examination room of immoral would-be-teachers; and by not assinging to schools teachers (?) who have proved to be undesirable or incapable or incapacitated for school work.

Teachers Boarded Free.--With few exceptions all districts cheerfully provide homes free of cost for teachers, and just here I will add that the greater part of the expenses of new buildings was borne by interested fathers and mothers. In one instance the mothers, you might say, were the architects, God bless the women--our true Southern women--for of them are my best teachers, and I am seriously thinking of getting several appointed as Supervisors.

School Attendance and How to Improve It.--While the enrollment and average attendance is not as good as I desire, yet it compares favorably with that of other counties, and is growing.

To accomplish this result, and secure good attendance, we must in many cases educate the parents, and in all cases have attractive teachers as well as attractive school houses and premises.

A tender child should no more be permitted to receive instruction from a blear-eyed, loathsome, or deformed teacher, than to sit day after day with its little limbs hanging from a high bench in an old bat-roost school house.

Old Debt Paid.--During the past two scholastic years we have paid the last cent of an old debt incurred more than four years ago.

School Term Lengthened.--In 1895-96 the school term was extended from four (4) months to five (5) months, and a five months term will be taught this year, 1896-97.

Scant School Fund--Plenty of Money for Less Worthy Purposes.--Our greatest need is school funds--we can not operate schools unless we have money.

Some of our law makers show by their actions that they believe four months tuition a year will make statesmen and mothers of statesmen.

The State Militia get all they can spend for arms, equipments and encampments.