

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

Dear Sir--In reply to your request to furnish you with a report as to the condition of the schools of Washington county, I have the honor to state that they are in better condition this year than ever; and I am glad to report that every year more interest in the school work is manifested by patrons, children and teachers and that a constant demand for longer terms and for better school facilities is made.

Sub-Districts Contemplated.--Several of our school districts are endeavoring to create special school districts for the purpose of building and extending school terms.

Teachers Reading.--The number of teachers reading school journals and other matter pertaining to educational work has more than doubled in the past year.

I am glad to report, also, that patrons are beginning to look well into the reading matter which goes into their homes. This is an important item and has our attention while circulating among our people.

Changes Suggested in the Laws.--

1. As to suggestions, I think that the law regulating the assessment and collection of taxes should be so revised as to give relief to teachers, who as a rule pay heavy discounts, and, besides, work for small salaries.
2. I would also suggest that the section of school law creating sub-districts for high school purposes be made applicable to the whole county where any county may see fit to establish one or more high schools for the benefit of the entire county. This plan, we think, would enable the poorer counties to have at least one or two High Schools, whereas the sub-district law, as it now exists will not furnish the required funds necessary for effectual work, though the full three mills be assessed.

Effect of Enforcement of School Law.--I am glad also to state that a rigid enforcement of the school law has brought about much reform in the work of every one connected with the educational affairs of our county in the past two years although one of the backward counties. We will have taught this year about seventy-two schools with an enrollment of 2,500 pupils.

Increase in New Buildings.--We have added considerably to the number of school buildings owned by the School Board, at least twenty new buildings in the past two years.

Yours most respectfully,

W. C. LOCKEY,

Supt. Pub. Inst. Washington County.