

Sub-Districts.--The number of sub-districts has increased from ten to fifteen in the past two years. The full assessment for 1898 is \$2,678.86, ranging from one to three mills in each sub-district. All of the white schools in the county except five, are embraced in these districts. This fund is used first to secure a good school house, keep it in repair, and then to lengthen the school term. In several of the small schools the monthly salaries of the teachers are supplemented from his fund. A convention of sub district trustees was held last June, in which school matters were discussed. We hope something was accomplished in promoting co-operation between the School Board and Boards of Sub-district Trustees, and that more satisfactory results will follow.

New Buildings.--Four new school buildings have been erected, one purchased, and one room added to another at a total expense of \$2,465. For repairs and improvements, \$250 have been paid, for furniture, apparatus, charts, maps, etc., \$500. Of this entire amount, about \$1,500 have been paid from sub-district funds and private subscriptions. The policy of the Board has been to furnish only the material for new buildings. The total valuation of school buildings in the county to January 1st, 1899, is \$8,300. Insurance to the amount of \$4,500 is carried on five of the best buildings.

Desks and Apparatus.--All of our schools are furnished with patent desks, good blackboards, charts, wall-maps and stoves. Old blackboards have been repainted, or replaced by new ones. One thousand square feet of new blackboard have been put up. One fourth of this is real slate, the remainder hyloplate. The latter is less expensive, and more satisfactory. An effort has also been made to furnish all the schools with pure drinking water. Cisterns have been recommended for this purpose.

School Office and Libraries.--Through the kindness of the Library Association, the library building with its furnishings and library, has come into the possession of the Board of Public Instruction. In addition to its uses as a library, it provides a convenient and comfortable office for the Board. The County Commissioners make an annual appropriation sufficient to keep it in repair. The library is yet small, containing about one hundred and fifty volumes, books of reference, history and general literature.

A teachers' library, consisting of books adapted especially to the needs of teachers, has been recently started. This has a nucleus of about twenty volumes.

Teachers' Association.--A teachers' association has been kept up for a number of years, and still continues with interest and profit to its members. Subjects relating to their profession, methods and plan of work are discussed at each meeting. Attendance on its meetings is required by the board of every white teacher under contract.

Graded and High Schools.--There are in the county three graded schools with two teachers each, and one high school with three teachers. Each of these schools is doing a good work. One of them, the Crystal River School, is continued through the summer as a private school, without expense to the county, for review, and special training for teachers, and those qualifying themselves to teach. It is presided over by Mrs. L. A. Bennett, an estimable Christian lady of culture and refinement, and one who has justly earned the reputation of being an able and successful teacher.

School Books.--The contract for text-books expired last July. A new contract has been made, to cover a period of five years. While some of the old books