

been much more satisfactory and more successful than ever before, and under the present management I think will rank with any of the schools of the same character throughout the State.

Finances.--While it is a pleasure to speak so highly of the conduct and condition of our schools and of the work being done by our teachers, I regret to have to say that the county school fund is behind. The cause is attributable to the insufficiency of the funds to meet the necessary expenses the Board is by law compelled to incur.

The School Board.--I think under the management of our present Board retrenchment will be made in every way possible, and in a short time, with the help of our Legislature, our school fund will be sufficient to enable us to increase the length of term.

Schools and Buildings.--We have 46 white and 9 negro schools, with an enrollment of 1,045 white pupils and 260 negro pupils. Total enrollment, 1,305.

Since my last report we have done very little building, only in the way of repairs. Nearly every school district has a comfortable school building furnished with the necessary furniture.

Uniform Examinations.--While some do not favor the present law of uniform examinations, I heartily endorse it, from the fact that it has given to the State of Florida better teachers and more successful educators than the State ever had before. I once thought it most too rigid, but after witnessing the great benefits derived from it, I can do nothing more than to favor it in its entirety.

Pay of Teachers.--I oppose the custom of paying teachers according to the number of pupils, but favor paying according to grade of certificate and the success they attain in teaching, which is in accordance with the spirit of the uniform examinations.

Other Suggestions.--As in my last report, I favor a compulsory school law.

I favor a higher rate of taxation for school purposes.

In regard to minimum and maximum levy for school purposes, I do not favor either. I do not think that a county should be compelled to levy three mills if only one mill be required, neither do I think the various County Boards should be restricted to five mills should more be required for school purposes. Hence, I think the law should be so changed as to remove the limit as to maximum and minimum and place the levy for school purposes in the hands of competent School Boards. I also think that the law should be so amended as to compel School Boards and Treasurers of school funds to apply the income of any year to current expenses of that year. I think it would be more convenient to have the school year from the 1st day of January to 31st day of December, instead of 1st day of July to 30th day of June.

I would be pleased to have the County Superintendents of the State to join me in thanking the State Superintendent for his unswerving devotion to the educational interests of the State of Florida.

W. W. SHEDD,
County Superintendent.