

Teachers.--A large majority of our teachers are natives of this county, and deserve much credit for the energy they are displaying in the preparation for teaching, and the efficient work they are doing in the school room. Our imported teachers are of the very best class and have come to us by special invitation from sections where they have had good educational advantages, and have been a great help to our home teachers as well as to the entire work.

Board of Public Instruction and Finance.--We have been very fortunate in securing good and competent men for members of the School Board, men without a single exception, who have given a hearty co-operation and generous support to the County Superintendent in all his efforts to advance the educational interests of the county, and have kept the finances in good condition. We pay cash as we go. A school warrant in this county is as good as gold.

Abolish Five-Mill Maximum.--The Board passed a resolution requesting the Legislature to amend Section 8 of Article XII of the State Constitution, by striking the words "nor more than 5 mills."

In conclusion, I will say that the outlook is very good, and we hope to do better work each year until we raise the standard of education to what it ought to be.

M. F. GIDDENS,
County Superintendent.

DUVAL COUNTY

During the last two years we have aimed at salient improvements in our schools as follows:

City Schools.--Two radical, necessary and popular efforts at reorganization were effected, to-wit: An expert, trained model worker in the first primary grade of each of our schools, resulting in a very marked improvement; and at the other end of the system, the establishment of a commercial department, and a laboratory of chemical and physical sciences in the High School, causing an immediate doubling of the enrollment and attendance with an increase of only one teacher.

Rural Schools.--In these schools two paramount defects--lack of trained teachers and burdensome daily programs, with average recitations not longer than ten minutes--have received our attention.

To Train Teachers.--The Superintendent has used his visits as his best opportunity to do model class work, the only method for developing the art endowment of the untrained teachers. A county training school will do the rest.

To Simplify Programs.--Concentration of 45 one-teacher schools into 15 central schools of three teachers each increases the recitation period three times. This concentration accomplished by conveyance of pupils over all distances beyond one and a half miles, is being introduced gradually, and is now working at five schools. Other good results of this system are the preservation of the health and energy of pupils, increased average attendance, and protection of the farmers' girls from vicious vagabonds.

Normal Schools.--We have had two Peabody Normals, one last year for whites