

7th. That we most sincerely regret that the School must be closed after so short, yet profitable term.

Annie Lytle-House,  
Ada M. Ground,  
Mable Parsons,  
Carlie Powers,  
Abbie B. Avery,  
Committee.

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

In compliance with your circular letter of the 6th inst., I herewith submit a condensed statement of school operations in this, Escambia County, from the 1st day of July, 1896 to June 30th, 1898.

Enrollment and Attendance.--For the school year of 1896 and 1897 the total enrollment of pupils was 3,809, with an average attendance of 2,550; and for the school year of 1897 and 1898 the total enrollment of pupils was 4,485, with an average daily attendance of 3,104. The total enrollment in the white schools for that year was 2,939, with an average daily attendance of 2,048, and the enrollment in the negro schools for the same period was 1,546, with an average daily attendance of 1,056.

Investments for Improvements.--Within the last two years the following has been added: To furniture, \$1,154; \$654 to school lots, and \$4,551 to new school buildings. This makes the total valuation of school property, on June 30th, 1898 as follows: School lots, \$13,715; school buildings, \$37,095; for furniture and apparatus, \$11,839, or a grand total of \$62,649, to which has been added since July 1st, 1898, three new and comfortable one-room school buildings, and \$525 additional furniture, which has all been paid for.

Adverse Conditions.--We have had an unusual amount of bad, rainy weather since Sept. 1st, when our first schools were opened, and with the addition of considerable friction, from a partial change in school books, I am now satisfied that the year 1898-99 will not make as good a record in enrollment or average attendance as was made in 1897-98.

We are making strenuous efforts to run our schools on strict business methods, but owing to the annual addition of new material to our teaching force, we find it to be a hard matter to reach our ideals.

Legislation.--As for new legislation, I have nothing further to suggest than that where responsibility is placed, the means ought to go with it. And as the County Boards of Public Instruction are responsible for the success of the public schools, they, and not the Board of County Commissioners, should, under the law, fix the rate of school taxes.

N. B. COOK,  
County Superintendent.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

I submit the following report. When I assumed the office of Superintendent, the schools were making marked progress, the Board of Public Instruction was composed of men ready to give assistance in bringing the public schools to a higher standard. Knowing that the well-being of the schools depends upon