

Opposed to Holidays.--I shall be glad to see a law enacted prohibiting any School Board from paying any teacher for any holiday, except National holidays. It is without any common reason to pay a teacher, or any other individual, for service not actually rendered. And on National holidays the teachers ought to be required to hold appropriate exercises in their schools.

R. M. YENT,
County Superintendent.

GADSDEN COUNTY

I submit my report on the condition of the schools of this county for the past two years.

Conditions on Assuming Office.--When I entered up on the duties of the office of County Superintendent, Jan. 1st, 1897, owing to the illness of my predecessor, Captain C. E. L. Allison, who had been confined to his room for several months, I found matters in a very unsatisfactory condition. In addition to this, our very efficient Chairman of the Board of Public Instruction, the Hon. B. S. G. Smith, during the fall term of 1896, had been confined to his bed for several weeks with malarial fever, which also caused considerable friction in the working of the schools. A large number of the schools had closed, the terms of others had about half expired, and some few had just started; very few warrants had been issued, many reports, monthly and final, had been lost and had to be duplicated; many of the latter were so imperfect that final reports, monthly reports, and registers had to be consulted, compared and adjusted, in order to get matters into any shape, and the only encouraging feature was that our enrollment and average attendance were evidently above that of the previous year.

Growth Continuous.--Since that time our numbers have steadily increased, and although measles, whooping cough and diphtheria have been prevalent in our county, the schools continue to be more flourishing, and, I believe, my next annual report will show an increased average of more than 20 per cent. over that of last year.

New Schools and Home Teachers.--Several new schools have been established, and our teachers, with very few exceptions, are to the manor born--natives of Gadsden county--and the productions of her schools. It speaks well for them that they are trying to fit and perfect themselves for their calling. A great many of them, the past two years, have been attending the different colleges, and we now have on hand a corps of teachers that bid fair to be an honor to Gadsden county. Every year some bright boys and girls are coming to the front from the piney woods and obtaining a good education at the examinations.

Raised School Levy.--We have raised our school levy from 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 mills, and there is less prejudice against the public school system than at any time during its history. We have labored under many disadvantages in our county, and necessarily have to go slow, but we are evidently on the upward grade, as a proof of which the patrons have built several nice school houses this year, and a great many are beginning to favor the sub-district system. I am doing all I can to stir up an educational enthusiasm among the people.

School Term.--We have what you might call a semi-High School in Quincy, which