

than ever before; in fact, it increases annually, which shows that all parties are more interested each year.

The county now has two High Schools and two Sub-district schools, both doing finely. (sic)

Needed Amendments to Laws.--

1. The School Board should have the authority to levy the school tax.
2. Provision should be made for the early collection of taxes.
3. There should be a Grading Committee appointed by the State Superintendent for each Judicial Circuit, as I advocated at the Superintendents' Convention at Jacksonville last spring.
4. The salary of Superintendents should be fixed by the Legislature, based on number of schools. The expenses of Superintendents in visiting so large a number of schools are very heavy, and in order that he may be able to discharge his whole duty he should receive a fair remuneration for his services.

JNO. E. HANNA,  
County Superintendent.

HERNANDO COUNTY

I submit the following as my bi-ennial report on the educational progress of Hernando county.

General Advancement.--Since my last report our progress has been "onward and upward." While we are much gratified at our improved condition, we are not satisfied, but realize that much is yet to be accomplished before we reach the limit of possible improvement. A spirit of hopefulness, co-operation and aspiration for better things exists among teachers, patrons, school officers and pupils. The standard has been placed high, and all are striving with unity of purpose to reach it. That conditions are gratifying is apparent from the last Grand Jury's general presentment on the subject, made January 12, 1899: "The schools under the present management are in a prosperous condition in nearly all parts of the county." Local dissensions in three districts about the building and location of school houses have marred the general harmony, and this explains the qualification in the presentments.

Board of Public Instruction.--The members of our School Board, W. E. Law, T. D. Graham, and H. T. Valentine, are progressive and practical men. The present prosperous condition of our school affairs is largely due to their intense interest and fearless discharge of their important duties. Without their constant co-operation and willingly given assistance, the teachers and County Superintendent would have fallen far short of the good results obtained. They are liberal, practical and wisely prudent in the management of our school finances. In making appropriations, they will not go beyond the limits of probable income, and are careful in all their expenditures that the public fund be not wasted. Yet they are neither parsimonious nor niggardly to teachers or schools. They pay their teachers promptly at the close of each month, and will not permit school warrants to be hawked about the streets at a discount.

County Commissioners.--The County Commissioners of this county are in hearty