

hampered by the inadequate funds that the Constitution places at our disposal, and that, too, at the discretion of other agencies, as to defeat us in our highest aim and pride, that of making Florida's educational advantages first and foremost in the ranks of Southern States.

We respectfully submit: 1st. That in Hillsborough county, and we believe the same feeling exists throughout the State, no portion of the county tax is more cheerfully paid, and whose increase would be more willingly met, than that appropriated to the school fund.

We submit: 2nd. That the members of the Board of Public Instruction, being elected by the people, are eminently the choice of the district they represent, and should have exclusive control of such appropriations as in their wisdom will be required to maintain the public school system of the county, and we further recommend that the Constitution be so amended as to provide for this change.

We submit and respectfully recommend to your Honorable Body: 3rd. That Art. 12, Sec. 8, be so amended as to read "a tax of not less than 3 mills nor more than 10 mills on the dollar on all taxable property in the same."

DR. G. H. SYMMES,
PERRY G. WALL,
HUGH SOMERVILLE.

Attest: L. W. Buchholz,
Secretary and County Superintendent.

HOLMES COUNTY

In compliance with your request, I respectfully submit the following brief report of the public school operations of Holmes county, from July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1898.

Condition of Things Found.--When I entered upon the responsible duties as County Superintendent, January 6, 1896, I regret very much to say, with due respect to my predecessor, that I found the school indebtedness to be \$6,153.16. In a poor county like this, where the total receipts on the school fund will not exceed \$5,014 per annum, it will be conceded that the financial condition was not good.

What Was Done.--We could not reduce the school term, as it was already at the minimum limit. We could not unite any of the schools, as none were located nearer than three miles of each other; so we had to reduce teachers' salaries. This we did not like to do, as they were not receiving enough for their services to enable him to save some money.

A person is expected to make more than a meager support an any other profession, why not at teaching?

Teachers Boarded Free.--With few exceptions the teachers had no board bills to pay, as the patrons welcomed them into their homes free of charge. Right here I wish to especially thank the benevolent ladies of this county for the kind treatment teachers have received at their hands. Greater love for the ladies hath no man than I. They are always at the post of duty.

I will say by the way of encouragement and of a statement of facts to the