

would suggest that this committee be appointed by the State Superintendent and selected from the teachers of some other district than the one in which they are to act as such committee.

District Institutes.--The attendance at County Institutes is usually small, the reason generally given is that teachers are not supplied with means of conveyance, so I have decided to divide the county into three districts, so that no teacher can plead this as an excuse in the future--placing one of these Institutes in the reach of all. I hope you may have the co-operation of the next Legislature in your work, and have such needed changes made in the present law, as your observation and experience have shown to be beneficial.

A. J. WOOLDRIDGE,
County Superintendent.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

I beg leave to submit the following brief report of the condition of the public schools of this county, for the two years ending June 30, 1898:

Improved Finances.--It is with great pleasure that I report a substantial improvement in our finances during the past two years, notwithstanding the general depression in all lines of business, and the consequent hard times prevailing.

A school debt of \$5,700 had been reduced to less than \$2,000 by July 1, 1898, and the County Treasurer reported to the School Board, at its November meeting, "That all outstanding warrants had been paid."

School Warrants At Par.--Our teachers are paid their salaries promptly and school warrants are at par, instead of being subject to a discount as heretofore.

Longer Terms.--This improvement in our finances has been accomplished by the practice of simple business economy, and not at any sacrifice by our schools, either in the way of less efficient teachers, or shorter terms; but on the contrary, the work done in the schools has been a decided improvement on that done in past years, and the terms of five or six schools have been lengthened.

New Buildings.--Four new school houses have been built and substantial repairs made on five, while seven have been provided with patent desks.

Our High School.--The Monticello High School, which is a graded school with a distinct High School department, employs five teachers, has an eight months term and is well patronized by the citizens of Monticello and the surrounding country. It has been very much improved of late and is now a credit to the county and State. There are ten other graded schools in the county with eight months terms.

Course of Study.--Heretofore this county had not adopted any course of study, the Board has recently remedied this want, and has now in press a twenty-page pamphlet devoted to this subject.

Cheap School Books.--Our Board, after the recent adoption of text books for the county, made arrangements with our local agent whereby these books are sold to the children at an advance of only 10 per cent. on their net cost to the Board, a great improvement on former arrangements.