

institutions. On the whole I would say that there has been much growth in school interest in the last two years and it is continually increasing.

County High School.--The County High School located at Mayo, the county seat, established by my predecessor, at this time under the principalship of Prof. E. M. Hancock, has been a great success. A few years past this county was without a supply of teachers, and was forced to employ teachers from other counties, but such is not the case now, a full corps of teachers has been prepared by the county High School. Its fall term opens September 1, winter term January 1, closing the latter part of April. The June Examination is well attended by students from this school, at least 65 per cent. of whom are successful in obtaining certificates, and make our best teachers.

Z. JONES,

County Superintendent.

LAKE COUNTY

In obedience to request I send you a report of the condition and progress of the Lake county schools during the last two years.

Cheerful Support of the People.--I am pleased to report to you again that whatever material or business interests of the county may have suffered for lack of finances to conduct them in the last two years, the schools are sustained with an interest and determination that always brings success. No part of our taxes are paid so cheerfully as the five mills for school purposes.

Qualifications and Salaries of Teachers.--Our teachers are superior in ability to those of other years and we are by some means able to pay them as much per pupils as we have ever done, in some districts salaries have not been decreased at all. One of our present corps of white teachers holds a State certificate, fourteen hold first grades, thirty-eight hold second grades and five hold third grades. All of our colored teachers hold second grades except three.

Finances.--School warrants are always paid at par. The school term in each of the past two years has begun with about \$5,500 in the treasury. Just at this time (January 1899) the treasury is without funds, but this is the first time it has been so in the past few years. The cause of this shortage is that teachers have been paid for four and five months teaching and only a very small part of the taxes for 1898 have been paid. This condition will continue only a short time and in the meanwhile money has been provided with which to pay teachers in full at the end of every month.

Length of Term.--Last year our school term was from 6 to 9 months. All schools in the county were given at least six months. All schools were given eight months on condition that the people of the district would pay the salary of the teacher for one month. Many districts took advantage of this offer and continued their schools for that length of time. The Leesburg High School was continued for 9 months in all of its departments, the town of Leesburg paying the salaries of the teachers in full for the last two months. This year the term will be seven months on condition that the patrons will pay one half of the salary of the teachers for the seventh month. The High School at Leesburg, which any pupil of the county is permitted to attend without paying tuition, will probably continue nine months as usual, the town paying the salaries of the teachers for the last two months.

Few Changes of Teachers.--We are gratified to know that we are now able to