

hold many of our teachers in the same school continuously for many years. Fewer changes are being made now than ever before. School patrons recognize that nine good qualities in a teacher outweigh one weak quality, and therefore do not ask for their removal for trifling causes. It is also generally known now that the best teachers are needed for primary work and every graded school in our county now has an excellent teacher for its primary department.

Supply of Teachers.--We now have many more teachers than we have schools. Every year many pupils coming from the public schools are examined and receive certificates to teach. Our schools are taught almost entirely by teachers who reside in this county.

Courses of Study.--Courses of study and rules and regulations have been prepared for all of our schools. These have been found to be both a necessity and a convenience.

New Buildings and Furniture.--Several comfortable school houses have been built in the past two years, and many have been furnished with comfortable desks. To the delight, comfort and benefit of the children the shapless, torturing seat of former years is fast disappearing.

J. C. COMPTON,
County Superintendent.

LEE COUNTY

In compliance with your request, I have the honor of submitting the following report relative to the public schools of Lee county for the two years ending June 30th, 1898.

This county is nearly sixty miles square, and scattered over it is a population of about three thousand souls. Hence our schools are small, having often from ten to fifteen pupils. This compels us to have twenty teachers, when three-fourths of the number would be sufficient if the population were not so scattered.

School Interest Growing.--I believe the cause of education is slowly but steadily pushing ahead. Pupils and patrons are becoming more interested and are giving more help. A regular course of study has been adopted, embracing eight grades, and is being faithfully carried out. The most of our teachers are earnest hard workers. With two exceptions there is not a complaint in the county, and pupils and teachers are progressing nicely. During this term the most of our schools will continue six months, and where only eight or ten pupils are found, not less than four months.

New Buildings.--We are very much in need of school houses, but are not able to build now. But few of our schools are supplied with patent desks and other helps, as they ought to be. No new houses have been built in the past two years.

Finances.--The Board has paid off all debts, pays the teachers every month, and warrants are not discounted. It will take ten mills for three years to put this county in the educational condition it should be in, and after that seven mills would be enough. It is our aim to employ only the best teachers and furnish the best schools in our power. We use our money when and where it will in our estimation do the most good, giving every community equal advantages. We are encouraged with the progress we are making, and hopeful