

The average attendance with both races during the past term was very good.

School Advantages.--The school youth of this county are specially blessed in this respect--a comfortable school house is in reach of every neighborhood, so that all of our children can have the benefit of a common school education.

In addition to this, the West Florida Seminary, a State college, located in Tallahassee, under the management of an able faculty, secures to the white youth of the county a collegiate course, while the State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students, close by, gives the same advantage to the colored youth.

Financial Management.--The school work is conducted on a cash basis. Teachers' salaries are paid monthly in cash, and all accounts are settled up by the end of the scholastic year; no indebedness is carried over to the succeeding term.

The five mill county levy, with the State distribution based on the average attendance, has been sufficient so far, under an economical management, for our purposes.

Buildings and School Lots.--It has been our policy to build 6 to 7 new school houses each year, neatly painted, well supplied with furniture and apparatus. Neat and comfortable school houses are the best indications of the interest felt in educational matters in a county. Our expenditure for new buildings, repairs, furniture, apparatus and school lots amounted to \$4,547.55 during the last term, and this county now owns over \$30,000 in school property, paid for and held under absolute title. It is hardly necessary to add that the people of Leon county are fully alive to their school interest, and that it will be kept at high tide.

Neither freezes nor cyclones affect our resources to any great extent. Leon is an agricultural county; the wealth of her people consists mainly of live stock and agricultural productions, which yield a certain and fixed income with increasing value, and consequently we are not wasting much time in devising new methods for increasing taxation.

Teachers' Summer Schools.--Teachers' Institutes are doubtless good things in their proper place and at the proper time, but teachers are human and have material frames just as we school officers have. There is danger of both mind and body being impaired by overwork, and it is possible that a season of rest and recreation would better fit the teacher for the duties of the coming term than the close application to study for a month or two during the heat of summer.

Reforming the School Law.--There is much of good in the present law, and it will be best to let it alone, for a while at any rate. If it is to be agitated with these uncertain experiments of reform, what there is of good in it may be lost; with so many willing hands to help, there is some danger that the educational craft may be crowded with more sail than she can safely carry.

The Teachers' Uniform Examination is a good feature of this law; with time it will vindicate itself, and with reasonable examinations in the different subjects it will gather strength and make friends among the examinees; thus the incentive to violate its provisions will be greatly lessened.

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