

to fix the rate of millage for school purposes in their respective counties.

T. J. GREGORY,
County Superintendent.

MADISON COUNTY

I submit the following in regard to school affairs in Madison county. The interest in education among the masses is steadily on the increase. The rules and regulations of the Board have been indorsed by the majority of our people. There are only a few croakers left.

We have had an increase of about 10 per cent in our average attendance.

School Buildings.--The white schools are very well supplied with comfortable frame buildings. The schools for negroes are not so well supplied, as the negro patrons are unsettled, and where a school is needed one year, perhaps the next, there will hardly be pupils enough to warrant opening a school. Hence we use the best building to be had. Some are taught in negro church buildings. Eight new houses have been erected since my last report--all good frame buildings. I am sorry to have to report that the building in the town of Madison, known as St. John's Seminary, is in a dilapidated condition, the new building that I thought two years ago was a certainty has failed to materialize. But we intend to succeed yet in building a good modern school house in Madison. The county is in a fairly good condition financially.

Examination Law.--The Uniform Examinations have improved the grade of teachers, and opposition has changed to commendation. While we have had some success in our school work, we feel that there is still much to be done. And our watchword is onward, till Madison county can be placed among the first counties in the State, educationally.

Suggestions.--

1. County School Boards should be given the power to fix within legal limits the county levy for schools.
2. Provisions should be made for collecting taxes earlier than they are now collected.
3. There should be a limit to Second and Third Grade certificates; second grade should not be renewed more than three times, Third Grade not more than twice.

R. L. WILLIAMS,
County Superintendent.

MANATEE COUNTY

Complying with your request of recent date, I cheerfully submit herewith a general report of our public schools for the two years ending June 30th, 1898.

In reviewing our school work for the past two years, I feel that we have cause for congratulation for what has been done under rather embarrassing conditions, mainly due to an inadequate school fund. Nevertheless, the interest manifested in the school work and general advancement of the educational affairs of our