

treasury at the expiration of their official term than to retire to private life with a living, eternity-enduring monument erected to their memory in the advancement of the public schools in the county." Your report published in a recent issue of the State organ, the Florida School Journal, however, gleamed like a silver lining through this passing cloud in revealing to us that Manatee is one of the few counties having an increase of more than 30 per cent. in the attendance of pupils.

As Others See Us.--I feel that it will not be amiss to incorporate in my reports the following statistics lately published by the Manatee River Journal of this county:

In looking over the records of our county schools for the past eight years, we have gathered some statistics which will be exceedingly interesting to all friends of education, in that they show a remarkable growth or increase in the number of pupils attending the schools, and also a large decrease in the per capita expense of conducting the schools per annum.

Beginning with the year 1890, we find that the per capita receipts from all sources for actual enrollment of pupils, was \$9.10, while for the term ending July 1st, 1898, the receipts per capita was only \$5.25, a reduction of nearly \$4 for each pupil.

We find that for the term of years from July, 1890, to July, 1894, the receipts per capita for actual enrollment was \$8.95 per annum, while for a similar term of four years from July, 1894, to July, 1898, it was \$6.77, or a decrease of \$2.18 per capita per annum for the last four years.

For the term of 1890 the aggregate enrollment of the four schools on the river at Braidentown, Manatee, Ellenton and Palmetto, was 205 pupils, which cost the Board \$7.60 per capita per annum, while for the term ending July, 1898, the same schools, with an enrollment of 452 pupils, cost only \$6.98 per capita per annum.

The enrollment of the Braidnetown and Palmetto schools, the two largest in the county, for the term ending July, 1898, were 188 and 148 respectively. These schools were conducted at an average actual cost per capita of \$1.38 on average attendance, while the per capita cost on the average attendance of the other schools in the county was from \$1.50 to \$1.60.

During this period of eight years the value of school property owned by the county has grown from almost nothing to nearly \$12,500, acquired by purchase and donation of the different school districts.

Of the one mill tax paid to the State for school purposes, Manatee is one of the fortunate counties, receiving back \$1.11 for every dollar paid out. This is the direct result of the management of our county school affairs, but also for the interest shown by the parents of the county in keeping their children in school regularly.

To Whom Credit Due.--To whatsoever has been accomplished in the advancement and betterment of the educational interests of the county, much is due to the work of energetic and progressive School Boards, local school officers, patrons, teachers, and our liberal, wide-awake county papers. To all of whom, I am grateful.