

Legislation Suggested.--

1. I favor a law making mandatory the establishment and maintenance of a graded High School for a term of eight months, in every county having a specified valuation and population.
2. I favor an amendment to the law placing the power with the Board of County Commissioners to fix the county levy for school purposes. Those who are responsible for the distribution of the school funds, the management in detail, and supervision of the schools, should, alone, have this power.
3. I favor a law providing for a State Uniformity of Text books.
4. I do not favor a law to create a State Grading Committee. Such a law, in my opinion, would bring about vexatious delays in the engaging and assigning of teachers. I favor no change in the present examination law.

Appreciates Advice.--In concluding this, my third bi-ennial report, to you, I beg to acknowledge my appreciation of the valuable advice and many courteous suggestions given me along the line of my official duties.

W. M. ROWLETT,

County Superintendent.

MARION COUNTY

I take great pleasure in presenting to you this general report of the condition and progress of the schools in Marion county for the two years ending June 30, 1898.

The schools of Marion county are in good condition. The teachers are thoroughly interested and alive. While our schools are not up to the standard which I hope and expect to see them reach within the near future, I can congratulate our teachers on trying to do their duty, and the earnestness manifested in their work. My relations with the teachers the two years I have been in office have certainly been pleasant. The teachers have been willing and ready to carry out every rule, law or suggestion made by either the Superintendent or Board.

Financial.--The financial condition of the county for the last two years has been most embarrassing, and our Board has worked under very unfavorable conditions, but school affairs have been managed in a business-like way.

My first annual report, made July 1st, 1897, showed the indebtedness of the county to be \$13,715.05. To this should have been added \$1,350, an appropriation made several years before, to build a colored school house in Ocala, which the new Board was called on to pay, making an actual indebtedness of \$15,065.05. Besides this amount, the county was in litigation with the State and ex-Treasurer Collins in the sum of over \$8,000, which would have increased its indebtedness to \$23,000. This caused the Board to reduce the school term to 5 months, and the building and repair fund one-half.

My report made July 1st, 1898, shows the total indebtedness to be \$9,199.18, a reduction of \$5,865.87. For the present term the Board will run the schools