

only 5 months, and has again reduced the building and repair expenses. I feel safe in saying that my next annual report, to be made July 1st, 1899, will show not over \$1,000 indebtedness. The litigation with the State and ex-Treasurer Collins has been settled on a basis mutually agreed upon, and it is already the settled decision of the Board to run the schools 6 months the next term, and on a cash basis.

Improvements in Spite of Embarrassments.--In spite of the embarrassments under which our Board has labored, improvements have been made within the last two years, three new school houses have been built for whites, and three for negroes. Ocala has, I suppose, the best colored school building in the State, building and furniture costing \$4,000. One room has been added also to each of five houses.

New Rules and Regulations.--Last June the Board adopted and printed new rules and regulations and a complete course of study. The course of study is arranged so that on the first day of school pupils can be made acquainted with the amount of work required of them during each month, or during the entire term, and pupils and patrons know this work must be completed, or the child cannot advance to the next higher grade.

School Examinations.--Three written examinations are held each term. The Superintendent and Board prepares all questions. To get promotion to a higher grade the pupil must make an average of 80 per cent. in three examinations, 85 per cent. in deportment, and 75 per cent. in attendance. At the end of each term, two grade books are made out by each teacher, giving the name of each pupil in each grade, the age and per cent. in scholarship, deportment and attendance. One of these grade books is sent to the Superintendent, the other is left with the Supervisor to be delivered to the next teacher.

There has not been a single complaint from any teacher unfavorable to the change and new work, but commendations in favor of the course came from every quarter. Each teacher makes a strong effort to bring his or her school within the graded course. Scholars and teachers have all taken hold of the work, as if eagerly waiting for it.

Teachers' Association.--A live Teachers Association is in existence. The county is large, making it almost impossible for many teachers to attend regularly. It is held in Ocala, about the center of the county, while the most distant school is posted 36 miles away, but the average attendance to these associations for the present term has been a fraction more than 65 per cent of all white teachers.

No Change in Examination Law.--I am unqualifiedly against any change in the Examination Law, especially the creation of a State Grading Committee. The teachers in Marion county are as competent as the State can furnish. They are honest, conscientious and careful. If the counties advocating a State Committee have no competent teachers, or teachers they can trust, if they will offer sufficient salaries, Marion can supply their needs.

Uniform Text-Books.--I favor a Uniform System of Text-Books, but it should be left to the most competent teachers and Superintendents in the State to select these books. I suggest a committee consisting of 5 County Superintendents, 5 teachers, selected by the State Teachers' Association, and the State Superintendent, who should be Chairman.