

Salary of County Superintendent.--I favor the Legislature's fixing the salary of County Superintendents on some basis. I had rather work for \$50 per month as a certainty than to work for a higher salary and be afraid to express my views for fear it would offend an unscrupulous member of a School Board, who, at the first opportunity, would reduce the salary.

Give County Superintendents More Power.--Enlarge the powers of the County Superintendent. Most people believe that he can carry or prevent the adoption of any measure at will. The truth is, he has no authority in regulating the conduct of the schools, no power of restraint or discretion on any subject matter, and yet he is held responsible by the people--his enemies in particular--for the mistakes or shortcomings of the school management. Responsibility without authority is unpleasant and unjust; justice and fairness demand that he be clothed with power and authority that will give him some potential voice and influence in the management of the schools, thereby putting him beyond the power of any member of the Board who may be jealous and seek to retard his progress. Why not make the County Superintendent a member of the School Board?

It would put no extra labor on him, and would do away with the expense of one member of the Board, and would save about \$4,000 over the State annually, and, in my opinion, would greatly improve the school system; or make him ex-officio member.

W. D. CARN,
County Superintendent.

MONROE COUNTY

Monroe county, composed entirely of islands, or the Florida Keys, extending from the Dry Tortugas eastward and northward to Caps Sable, and somewhat north of that point on the West Coast, is very sparsely settled except at Key West, the only city of the county. Owing to this condition, there are fewer public schools in Monroe county than in any other county of the State, there being outside of Key West, on the islands at different settlements 7 schools, while in the city there are 5, making twelve public schools in all in the county. The schools on the islands are all small, or district schools, each under one teacher or principal, while those of the city of Key West are Graded Schools with several departments in each, and are under a good corps of efficient teachers. The attendance at each school is to the full capacity of the buildings, and sometimes are so crowded that we are forcibly reminded of the absolute need of more school room. For the past two years we have been struggling with a deficit in our school funds to such an extent that the Board of Public Instruction has not cared to undertake the erection of more school houses by involving a further indebtedness.

Abolish the Maximum 5 Mill Limit.--The new Board has in view and has hopes of improving and adding to our school system in the near future, by new buildings in Key West, and establishing other schools outside of Key West at places where a sufficient number of families have settled and a number of children can be gathered to justify the location of a school.

In order to be able to do this, they have approved of any movement that might be made to amend the Constitution of the State by abolishing the maximum limit of 5 mills for school taxation, and adopted at its meeting resolutions to that effect and requested our legislators from this county to support any such movement.