

The Uniform Examination.--The law providing for the Uniform Examination of the teachers of the State, which was enacted in 1893, and put in operation for the first time in 1894, has been the means of raising the standard of the teachers and schools of our State to a fair comparison with the system in many of the States of our Union, and I trust that it will continue to improve them till we have in Florida an educational system that shall be an example unto many. Of course, it is unsatisfactory to many teachers, and they would like it amended to suit their ideas; but if it had to be amended to suit the ideas of this one, that one, the other one, I think our next Legislature would have a task on its hands, and the result would be that the law, as it now stands, with its good points, and its bad ones as well, would be amended and amended, and finally amended to death.

Legislation--Grading Committee.--I do not think I have any suggestions to make in regard to school legislation at the coming session. Oftentimes it is better to "leave well enough alone," because to meddle much with the law as it now stands might make it worse. It is not what we want, but what we may get, that must be considered in undertaking any changes in the present school law. I have at times, however, thought it would be well to have some change made in the matter of the Grading Committee. Instead of each county having its own Grading Committee, the State should be divided into eight or nine districts, and a Grading Committee for each district appointed by the State Board of Education, to whom, after each examination, the papers could be sent by express.

Possibly that would result in a more uniform and satisfactory gradation of the papers, and would overcome the tendency and disposition of some County Boards to refuse to accept the certificates issued by other counties.

C. F. KEMP,

County Superintendent.

NASSAU COUNTY

Replying to your request for a report of school operations in Nassau county, from July 1st, 1896, to June 30th, 1898, I respectfully present the following:

Conditions As I Found Them.--When I entered upon the duties of this office in January, 1897, I was very much embarrassed by the condition in which I found its affairs. A disastrous storm had recently swept across the county, by which many buildings had been destroyed, a number of human lives lost, large tracts of valuable timber laid waste, and in the rural districts roads made impassable. Seven of our school houses were included in the general wreck, in one of which one pupil was killed outright and three others severely injured. Five of these school houses were still lying on the ground, several others were off of their foundations and badly damaged, and nearly all of them were sadly in need of immediate repairs. The School Board was already burdened with a heavy debt, while its resources were barely sufficient, under normal conditions, to carry on its work. The new School Board was composed of zealous and good men, but two of them without any experience in school affairs.

Summer Schools for Teachers.--During the summer of 1897, the School Board provided a "School for Teachers" in the county, for each race, with a term of eight weeks. The school for the whites was taught by Prof. Geo. F. Scott, of Starke, Fla., with an enrollment of 32. The school for negroes was taught by Prof. W. H. Peck, colored, of Fernandiana, Fla., with an enrollment of 29.