

and retrenchment have been practiced wherever possible, still the imperative need of new buildings and unavoidable repairs, most of which were entailed upon us by the severe visitations of the late storm, have created such a drain upon our finances that nothing remains to alleviate the indebtedness created in the past.

Suggestions.--My only suggestion would be that of a radical change in the law relating to the School Board. Under the present conditions, often after an election an entire new Board takes charge of school matters, without the least knowledge of work accomplished or planned by the former board; ignorant of the financial conditions left by its predecessors, and of the taxable resources of the county in its relations to school matters, and the other financial means relating thereto; unacquainted with the services and standing of the county's teachers, or the location and value of school property, or the attendance of pupils and relative needs of different localities, and many other items necessary to be known in order to conduct the affairs of the Board to the best interests of the schools, its finances, and the public.

Remedy: Term of office of members of the School Board to be made six years, one member to be elected every two years.

Recommendation of County Board.--At its last meeting the School Board adopted with great unanimity a resolution recommending that the five mill maximum in Section 8, Article XII, of the State Constitution be stricken out and a ten mill maximum be inserted in its place.

C. A. SNOWBALL,
County Superintendent.

ORANGE COUNTY

During the past two years there has been a general improvement in the work done in the schools of Orange county. In stating this fact I am aware that I make use of a stereotyped utterance. To request an officer to pass judgment upon his own work is not always a sure means of arriving at the truth.

The work done in the schools of a county depends largely as to quality upon the efficiency of the Superintendent in his department of the work; so that in making these reports the Superintendent is giving his opinion of his own success or failure in his work--is passing judgment upon himself and is expected to be lenient to the prisoner at the bar.

Teachers Improving.--Our teachers are mostly progressive because they are studying. To be able to say of a convicted sinner, "Behold he prayeth," is no greater evidence of a hopeful future than to be able to say of a teacher, "Behold he studieth." Our teachers as a whole are studying diligently, and therefore I am greatly encouraged and am expecting greater things for the future.

Effect of Examination Law.--This satisfactory state is due in a large degree to the desire of the teachers to pass the examinations creditably; therefore primarily to the Uniform examinations, which, like "death and taxes" cannot be evaded; secondarily, to a strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the law in the conduct of the examinations; and largely to the fact that these examinations have screened out many of the inferior teachers and a better, more progressive class has been secured who know that standing still does