

not mean progress; and also to the fact that a number of our teachers have been recently attending the Normal Institutes of this and other States, and our Summer Normals, and the leaven thus procured is leavening the whole lump.

Abolish 5 Mill Maximum, Etc.--Our finances, seriously crippled by "the freeze," are beginning to recover and in a short time, under ordinary conditions, will reach their normal state. Our people are ready for an increase of school tax, and to abolish the 5 mill maximum. I would suggest that the 3d grade certificate be abolished, as well as the power now given Superintendent to grant "Temporary Certificates."

W. B. LYNCH,
County Superintendent.

OSCEOLA COUNTY

The progress of our schools has, possibly, never been better than at present.

Teachers.--In the selection of teachers, earnest attention has been given to the matter of mental and moral worth, while any special fitness for the school-room has had its full and deserved share of consideration. With a few exceptions our teachers are residents of the county. For some years it has been a rule with the Board of Public Instruction in and for this county to encourage and patronize, in a reasonable way, home talent. Therefore, other things being equal, the schools have been, as far as practicable, placed in the hands of resident teachers; and although the large and rich fruition always hoped for under this system, is not always realized, still the working of the rule have very generally been good. The law that all rules have their exceptions may, in a sense, be applied to this one; and if mistakes have sometimes been made in the appointment of teachers, said mistakes have been few and on the side of justice.

High School.--The Osceola High School, located at Kissimmee, is an institution in which the people of town and county alike feel a just and increasing pride. The faculty is composed of six teachers, two males and four females; and the course of study is well nigh as full and complete as that of any educational institution in the State. Young men and young women graduated from this school are qualified, as far as scholarship goes, to take up at once the difficult and delicate task of training and developing the minds of the children of the land. From these graduates we are pleased to select, whenever we can, the material out of which to construct home-made teachers as aforementioned.

The High School building is large, commodious and imposing, having been recently erected at a cost of about \$4,400. Of this cost, the county paid \$1,700, the city council, \$1,500; and the remainder was covered by private subscriptions. The building is a frame structure of two stories. On the first floor are six large, well ventilated and nicely appointed rooms for general school purposes; on the second floor are two spacious rooms for the department of music and are (a self-sustaining department), and an auditorium 50 x 80 feet for commencement occasions. It is gratifying to note the attendance of children from the country upon this school. I can only wish that more of them could attend.

It is proper just here to state that the cost of running this school is paid in part by the city. I have gone thus into particulars respecting this