

Institution in order to show the lively interest our people are manifesting in Educational matters. The school is not a city school, but a county school; and the building the property of the county.

Country Schools.--We have several excellent schools, in charge of competent teachers, in country districts, but in some parts of the county, owing to the impermanence of the settlements, it is next to the impossible to keep up good schools one year with another. This county is a vast cattle range, and men in the live stock business are frequently under the necessity of changing localities in order to find the best pastorage.

Disparity of Advancement in Studies.--I am glad to believe that the work done in our schools is showing from time to time, a healthy improvement. I have found in many instances a striking disparity in the advancement of classes in arithmetic and that of classes (same pupils) in reading--the reading being, invariably, two or three grades ahead of the arithmetic. It has been my constant concern to have the teachers to remedy this evil as rapidly as possible by bringing the arithmetic up to the reading.

Free Text Books.--Without discussing the question at all, I have to say that since the introduction of free books into our schools, teachers have had their labors very much lightened, and their power and efficiency correspondingly augmented. There is no longer strife between teacher and parent also the books to be used by the children, that matter having been settled by the proper authorities.

Board of Public Instruction.--The three members of our Board are men who have the ability to understand and appreciate the exalted position which they occupy; and the courage to discharge their duties, as they see them, without fear, favor or affection, of, for or toward any one. The Board has done what it could to advance the educational interests of the county throughout its length and breadth.

Begging to submit this informal report, I have the honor to be.

W. B. HINTON,
County Superintendent.

PASCO COUNTY

In obedience to your request I have the pleasure of submitting the following report of school operations in Pasco county from July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1898:

Progress Made.--The progress made in the schools throughout the county, morally and intellectually, has not only proved satisfactory, but highly gratifying; the average attendance has increased 13 per cent., the enrollment 8 per cent. This improvement is the result of the labors of efficient and qualified teachers, given by the Uniform Examination law, who can interest, instruct and advance the pupil and awaken in the patron a lively interest in the school.

Graded and High School.--The County Graded and High School flourishes under the principalship of Prof. R. M. Ray, ably assisted by a corps of highly efficient and well qualified teachers; the work of this school has excelled all previous years and stands upon a higher moral and intellectual plane than ever before in the history of the school, and by its good work has won the confidence, and so interested its patrons that they are enthusiastic on the subject for a better