

and higher education of the youth. Under these favorable circumstances, I am putting forth a greater effort to elevate it to the highest plane of usefulness, that it may not be only in name, but in fact, a Graded and High School abreast with the finest schools in the land.

The prescribed course of study prepares the pupil for the collegiate course and furnishes our common schools with teachers.

Sub-Districts.--Pasco has 29 Sub-districts voting a three mill tax. We have built five school houses, bought one, and furnished five at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. The County Board furnished two hundred dollars of the above sum. Three districts have established Graded High Schools and run them from 6 to 8 months; the schools in the districts use the special tax to lengthen the term, purchase furniture and books. Many run 8 months, and we hope to be able with the help of the special tax to run all of the schools in the Sub-districts next year eight months. The School Sub-district law was a wise piece of legislation and all counties that can not run their schools 8 months should take advantage of it.

Uniform Examinations.--I cannot commend the Uniform Examination law and its results in terms too strong. Its beneficent effects are felt in every school room throughout the county in the enlargement of the teachers' usefulness. However, I would suggest that applicants for 2nd and 3rd grades certificates be examined on the School Law.

Finances--Abolish 5 Mill Maximum.--Last year we reduced our indebtedness \$2,000, and within the next two years will pay it in full. Our warrants are not discounted, we keep them at par. If our next Legislature will amend Section 8 of Article XIII, of the Constitution, by striking out the words "nor more than five mills," indebtedness will be a thing of the past and our schools "will flourish like the palm and grow like the cedar."

In conclusion, I must say that our schools have done as well as we could expect with a short term.

D. O. THRASHER,
County Superintendent.

POLK COUNTY

In compliance with your request, I have the honor to submit the following:

The schools of Polk county are undoubtedly in a better condition than ever before. There has been a steady increase of attendance in our schools, and the attendance has been more regular, since my report two years ago. This is due, not to increased population, but to increased interest in the public schools.

Improved Methods in Teaching.--The quality of the work done in the schools has greatly improved. This is chiefly due to the better preparations on the part of the teachers, which has been gained by attendance at Teachers' Summer Schools, home study preparatory to examinations, and attending the monthly meetings of the County Teachers' Association and Reading Circle.

Financial Condition.--Owing to the effect of the freeze and other calamities, the assessed valuation of the property has decreased, thus decreasing the income for school purposes very materially. This decrease in funds has crippled