

The number of schools is growing larger year by year; in many districts two, and sometimes three, teachers must be employed where, only a few years since, one managed and taught the school very well. The conclusion is axiomatic. Unless something is done to enlarge our school funds the schools of this county, except possibly, a few that may be favored with sub-districts, will never again have a five month's term.

Educational Revolution Needed.--While time and space, and possibly occasion, here forbid a discussion of the present system of taxation and its consequent evils, I can not forbear from saying that we need an educational campaign, a revolution in favor of public schools. It is preposterous to assert or to claim that schools, attended as ours are, with a term of 4, 5, or 6 months, taught by the average poorly paid teacher, will ever develop the minds of the children of to-day who are the statesmen of to-morrow (sic). Without discussing the importance and necessity of education further than saying it is a debt we owe our youth, the true development of both mind and heart, something that is everything to us, I believe I am warranted in saying that the State of Florida with almost boundless resources owes her children for educational purposes more than the paltry one mill tax, and that Santa Rosa County, with her salubrious climate, pure water, bold and numerous streams, productive soil, fisheries, vast naval stores, manufacturing plants and inestimable wealth of forests, owes more than she is paying for education.

The little schools remote from county site or towns, practically isolated from the remainder of creation, need our care and attention; from this yeomanry have always sprung our noblest women and greatest men, and the children of these districts who only ask for opportunity, need the same well-paid, intelligent and sympathetic teachers as do the children of our High Schools.

3 Mills State Tax and 5 Mill Maximum.--In order to discharge this debt, long since due, I suggest a three (3) mill State tax, which will fall equitably on all taxpayers and beneficiaries, also, the removal of the five (5) mill limit for the counties, and let each county levy and collect such a school tax as may be deemed necessary.

Further Legislation.--I will further suggest the following legislation:

1st. Compulsory attendance of youth in schools.

2d. Provide that no teacher shall be issued more than two Third Grade certificates. The perpetual issuance of this grade of certificate has retarded progress and development.

3d. Place the authority for county levy of school tax in hands of School Board.

4th. Authorize County School Boards to buy books direct from publishing houses and to sell at actual cost, thereby saving about 20 per cent. to patrons in purchase price and insuring a ready supply of books to all who may need them.

5th. Abolish County Grading Committees, and create a State Grading Committee, who will do the work more uniformly and at less expense.

6th. Increase County School Boards from three to five members, prescribe reasonable educational and business qualifications, and let them, because of their fitness for the position, be appointed by the State Board of Education.