

The sentiment seems to be against sub-district or local taxation, and in favor of increased (if at all) general taxation.

The law should be more explicit about the power of the Board to incur debt. They are limited by inference only or negatively. To read the law without knowledge of its limitations, the Board has unlimited power to run into debt.

As we have experienced some difficulty in securing teachers who hold State certificates of any grade, it seems that we must wait awhile before any closer restrictions are placed on the granting of certificates. So many districts object to young teachers, especially if their education has been acquired in our county schools, scholarship not being sufficient. The State should encourage and support one only, or, at most, two colleges in such manner as to increase their usefulness.

The examination law is bearing good fruit. We should raise the standard of qualification; not lower it.

The question of one State Board of Examiners, or of one for each county, is in great part a matter of sentiment. I think that, for awhile at least, the county system is the better way. The improvement, since its enactment, has shown that it is forceful enough for our present condition.

The question of teachers in the county is a question of salaries. Of course, there are districts where many teachers would not go, being too isolated.

My idea of the value of institutes is so positive, that I would rather have a five months' term and one week or ten days of a good Institute, than six or seven months without. Circumstances have operated to prevent my holding institutes the past two years with decided loss to the county.

The teachers, generally, are well informed and constant readers.

The consolidation of the schools is only a matter of time. While we cannot commence the education of children too early (judiciously), the youth who suffer by the small district school system, are those who are in Fifth and higher grades. Their chances are wrecked by the romantic adherence to the "little deistrict school" system--our neighborhood school.

As to the industrial and agricultural teaching--our common schools can be practical in the teaching, but may exceed their power for usefulness if they attempt more than they can reasonably teach youth in elementary schools. What may be done in secondary schools and higher colleges is yet a matter of experiment for those better qualified than I am, to form an opinion.

Allow me to thank you for the unfailing courtesy and interest you have shown to me while County Superintendent under your Superintendency.

JNO. H. SAMS,
County Superintendent.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Dear Sir:--In compliance with your request I hereby send you a report of the condition of public schools in Calhoun county.