

school interests of the State, and, therefore, refrain from making any other suggestions.

Your truly,
P. F. FISHER,
County Superintendent.

CITRUS COUNTY

Our schools are now equipped with better buildings and better apparatus than ever before. During the last two years three new buildings have been erected, and two others enlarged. All the schools are supplied with good blackboards, charts, maps and patent desks, some of them have Webster's Unabridged Dictionaries, and a number of reference books.

Free Books.--Two years ago we adopted the free book system. The advantages are: An improved system of grading pupils; an increased attendance and more satisfactory progress. Some have preferred to buy their own books. The cost has been about \$1.00 per pupil for those actually furnished with books at county's expense.

Transportation.--Concentration of schools has been attempted by the transportation plan. This has been furnished to those who have to travel two miles or more to reach the school. The advantages are: increased interest caused by larger numbers; better grading where another teacher can be added to the school, and a reduction of expenses.

Special Tax Districts.--One new district has been added, most of them levy a three mill tax. By this means, twenty-five hundred dollars were added last year to our school fund. At first, these funds were used chiefly for new buildings, repairs and apparatus, but now since these ends have been accomplished, the school terms have been lengthened from one to three months in each district.

It seems to me that the Special Tax School District Law furnished for several years at least, the only practical solution of the question: "How shall we secure an increase in our school funds?" The general revenue law should be made to conform to this law, and the school funds should all be placed in the hands of the County Treasurer. There is no more need for District Treasurers for the school funds, than there is for District Treasurers for the General Revenue Fund, the Immigration Tax, the Board of Health Tax, the County School Fund, or the County Road Tax or any other fund to which we pay taxes.

Examination Law.--This law is satisfactory in every way, and we ask for no change. Of the 26 white teachers employed in this county the present year thirteen of them hold first grade certificates, and one only, a third grade. There has been continued improvement in the qualifications of our teachers due largely to the enforcement of this law.

Summer Schools, Teachers' Associations.--(line omitted) and a Teachers' Library have also aided our teachers. The Summer School held here one year ago by Professor Floyd and Miss McClellan afforded excellent training for all who attended. One of our own teachers maintains a private school of this character each year, without expense to the School Fund. Much benefit has been derived from this school, especially by our young teachers. Our Teachers' Library, though small as yet, is proving helpful. The Teachers' Association