

is a progressive institution through which the members are kept in touch with one another, and kept alive to the needs of the day in school work.

All school warrants are at par, and the school fund free of debt. We have no difficulty in arranging with the bank to advance whatever may be needed in January, or about that date, until taxes are collected. This year the interest paid on such advances was \$22.50, less than one month's salary.

Suggestions.--

1. Something should be done to secure a better attendance, especially of certain classes. Many of our citizens who most need it are the most indifferent to the claims of education. If all children from eight to twelve years of age were required to attend school four months during each year, unless good cause were shown why they should not, it would prove greatly to their advantage.
2. Such legislation should be favored as would divorce the schools from politics, and place the service of officials upon merit and special qualifications for the work.

CHAS. S. YOUNG,
County Superintendent.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

In accordance with your request the following brief report of schools for two years ending July 1st, 1900, is respectfully submitted.

New Buildings.--Seven new buildings have been erected within the past two years, and several have been repaired; total cost of buildings and repairs, \$686.75.

We have 84 schools in the county, only one log building, and the Board of Public Instruction has warranty deeds to all except three. The majority of buildings are in good condition. All are supplied with heaters, furniture, etc.

Finances.--I am glad to state that the present financial condition is better than at any time within the past four years. Notwithstanding the extra expense created by the storm of 1896, having blown down and wrecked thirty school houses and destroying furniture and apparatus, at a cost of \$1,800. All have been rebuilt, repaired and furnished, and I must say, with the hearty co-operation of an economical School Board, we have run the schools their full time, together with the necessary repairs and furnishings, and are in a very good condition financially.

We pay teachers' salaries in cash. If we don't have it on hand we borrow it.

Five-Mill Maximum.--The greatest obstacle in the educational progress is the five-mill maximum. I believe it should be abolished. We need, and I believe my people would vote for a change in the constitution, whereby a greater school levy than five mills could be made. The amount of money possible to be raised by the maximum levy now allowed by the constitution is not sufficient to make the necessary advancements and improvements.

Sub-District Taxes.--Four Sub-Districts have been established within the past