

is very prosperous at present and considerable interest is manifested in education. The school population is increasing rapidly.

Buildings.--During the two years the Board of Public Instruction has furnished material and the patrons have built ten new school buildings, frame and box, of medium size, without any cost to the county except for the material which amounted to \$1,460.67, and quite a number have been repaired and enlarged in the same way at a cost of \$873.61, making a total expenditure for material for buildings and repairs of \$2,334.08. It would have cost more than double this amount if we had done the work. We will have about four more buildings to erect. When this is done we will be provided with good comfortable school houses.

Financial.--The financial condition of the school fund has not changed much for the past few years. We have no outstanding indebtedness, and pay cash on all school warrants when presented to the County Treasurer. Owing to our schools opening so early in the summer, and the tax coming in so late, we have to borrow a few thousand dollars on a few months time, but pay it up as soon as the taxes come in, and at the beginning of the school year we have a good balance on hand usually from \$5,000 to \$7,000. We recommend a five mill tax levy each year, and our County Commissioners have invariably granted our request, and I see no special reason for any change in the plan of assessment, but I do earnestly recommend that the five mill limit be abolished, for we must have more money and run a longer term of school before we can hope to accomplish much toward the education of our children.

The future prosperity of our county depends on the education of the people, and we can not afford to neglect our duty in this respect, still we are dependent on the legislature to do this, and I hope they will not let another session pass without making this change or providing for it at least. I feel sure this would meet the approbation of a large majority of the people of the State more than anything they can do. There is a greater disposition on the part of parents to educate their children than I have ever known in this country, and they should not be hampered for the want of means to do it.

Teachers.--Our county teachers are very progressive, or at least a large majority of them are as is evidenced by the thorough work they are doing in the school room, and the interest they are manifesting in our normals and summer training schools, and teachers' institutes. There seems to be a disposition among them to read more and to gain more general information, and to keep better posted on the current events of the day than they did a few years back.

We pay them good salaries and have no trouble in supplying our best schools with teachers, but experience some difficulty in securing teachers for the small schools, where they are situated in remote districts. We regulate salaries by the size of the school, but we give best schools to the best teachers and have very little trouble on this line.

Grading Committees.--The present plan of grading examination papers by a local grading committee has proven satisfactory in this county and is preferable to a State Examining Board. We exercise great care in selecting these committees and secure honorable and efficient persons for this work.

Compulsory Education.--A compulsory law would not meet with favor in this county, it would be impossible to enforce it in sparsely settled sections like