

this. The Southern people are easily persuaded, but hard to drive; what they want is better opportunities and more encouragement; this will accomplish more than any law of force.

Upon the whole I think we have an excellent school system with very few changes needed. If we as school officers and teachers will faithfully perform our duties in carrying them out, success is assured.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. F. GIDDENS,  
County Superintendent.

#### DUVAL COUNTY

Dear Sir:--I herewith enclose my report on the two most important topics you have suggested.

City Schools.--In the construction and planning of the large addition to the Springfield and Riverside Grammar Schools, the Superintendent has accomplished a desirable reorganization of these schools on the departmental plan.

The Superintendent had in view, and has accomplished, the following purposes:

To specialize the curriculum above the Fourth Grade, and assign to it teachers according to their adaptation; to place the art of study largely in charge of the Principal; to break the "lock-step" of the grade system; to do the maximum of school work during school hours; to introduce regular calisthenics, and to teach music, drawing, and penmanship by specialists.

The curriculum of the grammar department is composed of twelve subjects, which very naturally correlate into four departments, to-wit: (1) Arithmetic, algebra, and natural science. (2) Language, grammar, and composition. (3) Geography, history and civics; (4) Music, drawing and penmanship.

Each subject in department 4 can be successfully taught on the "general exercise" plan, and therefore they, together with calisthenics, are placed in charge of the principal, who may command the help of all the assistant teachers in executing any given lesson or exercise in the assembly hall. The other three departments are assigned to three or more assistants, according to their natural and acquired fitness.

The art of study on the part of the pupils demands the highest art of teaching on the part of the teacher. Therefore the principal who has generally developed a higher degree of the art of teaching than the assistants, has been assigned the paramount duty of showing the young mind how to study, how to get thought from the printed page, how to use a dictionary, a cyclopedia, or a library, and how to use the natural senses in getting knowledge from nature.

In order to facilitate this all-important art the Superintendent has arranged a daily schedule wherein the principal directs each division of pupils through an adequate period of study before they are sent to the assistant to recite. This alternating of study and recitation also relieves the home, by getting nearly all the work done under the guidance of the principal. However, if the pupil be mentally precocious and physically strong enough to do considerable work at home and do it satisfactorily without study at school, he may break