

to all pupils alike, without reference to present environment or future calling. After this is completed, teachers may look for directions to the environment or probable future occupations of the pupil. We do not favor making changes in the subjects now comprised in the examination. We oppose weakening the force of our public schools in rural districts by multiplying departures from the ordinary branches of a common school education.

Compulsory State uniformity of text-books would be detrimental to the educational interests of the State. A series of text books adopted by the Legislature would be fastened upon the State indefinitely, and our schools would drop behind the progress of the world, as far as uniformity would have effect.

Vital statistics of the county should be recorded in the Superintendent's office. As public schools come in closest touch with the families of the county, such information would be of practical value to the School Board.

Teachers.--The qualifications and character of our teachers are constantly improving. The people are giving preference to those of Normal and summer school training. This induces them to attend Normal schools. Our County Institute has materially aided in elevating the standard of our teachers.

Free Book System.--Ten years of successful operation has demonstrated beyond controversy the wisdom of the adoption of the free book system, and it will be retained. We, however, doubt the advisability of making its adoption compulsory over the State.

Plans for the Future.--No important features of our system have been dropped and our efforts have not relaxed for improvement on all lines. We will endeavor to accomplish the following: Houses painted and ceiled, grounds enclosed, cleared and planted in shade trees and shrubbery; general library and eight months' term in each school, and the school house made the center of interest in every neighborhood. The full development of all the intellectual, moral and physical powers of the pupil will be the aim of our schools. We will discourage instruction on special lines in our common schools. Our course of study will be improved as defects appear, and in every way we will strive to make our schools in the country as well as in town equal to the best in the State or the nation.

A. M. C. RUSSELL,
Co. Supt. Pub. Instruction.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

In accordance with your request, I submit the following report:

Teachers.--Our teachers, in the main, have continued to improve in knowledge and teaching skill.

The attendance at the summer Normals during the past two years has been very gratifying.

All subscribe for and read progressive school journals and many have acquired libraries of standard authors in pedagogy and literature.

Successful efforts have been made by teachers and pupils in several communities to establish school libraries.