

School Libraries.--It does not seem that any true educational progress can be possibly made in the country schools of our State, without the addition of school libraries to the other educational factors. The almost entire absence of any reading matter whatever in the homes of many of the children emphasizes the necessities of cultivating a fondness for reading at an early age by providing suitably selected books to which all may have access in the county schools.

Needed Amendments to the School Law.--There may be many needed changes in our school laws, but there is one that each examination day more strongly demonstrates, and that is, that the questions for examination should not be the same for colored and white teachers. For these reasons, the salaries paid colored teachers are as a rule much lower than those paid white ones, the requirements in a teacher of a colored school are usually much lower than in a white one. But the chief reason is that by lowering the standard of excellence, the county boards and superintendents would have more materials from which to select colored teachers of good moral character, and not be forced to fill the positions in the colored schools with teachers of at least doubtful character who had certificates to the exclusion of those of known good moral character who had failed to earn them.

Who Should Fix the School Levy.--While my county has no right to complain of the present law because the County Commissioners have always cheerfully assessed whatever the school board suggested, yet on general principles it would seem that as the members of the school board as a rule are as intelligent and patriotic as the members of the Board of County Commissioners, and are certainly better posted as to the needs of the county schools that they and not the board of County Commissioners should fix the county school levy.

J. H. GIRARDEAU,

County Superintendent.

## LAKE COUNTY

Dear Sir--While there is a noticeable improvement in the condition of the public schools of Lake county, our resources are not such as to aid us in making that improvement what we would like for it to be.

Buildings.--Within the last two years we have erected six comfortable but inexpensive buildings at a cost of from \$150 to \$200 each. This amount includes labor donated for their erection by the patrons of the schools. In addition to this the Leesburg sub-district has purchased a building for the primary department of their school at a cost of one thousand dollars. The Eustis sub-district has purchased for two thousand dollars a handsome school building formerly owned by private citizens of the town. Several houses have been repaired and nearly all school buildings of the county are now comfortable and comfortably seated.

Finances.--The present condition of the school fund is fairly good. Even at this most unfavorable time of the year we have a small surplus and no debts. All school warrants are paid at par. The County Commissioners give us a five mill levy each year; therefore the present law for raising school funds could not be more favorably administered in this county. The five mill levy does not, however, give us as much money as the schools justly need. The salaries of our teachers are often too low and their terms too short. A few of the