

teachers receive only \$25 and \$30 per month, and teach only six months in the year. These salaries will not long maintain good service. Of course many of them receive much better salaries and some of them longer terms. Our school at Leesburg runs nine months every year. A few other schools have a seven or eight months term.

Sub-Districts.--We have in this country only five sub-districts. Most of them have the full three-mill levy and all of them are popular. Several things prevent their more general adoption. Some residents do not want to pay higher taxes, others do not want to force higher taxes upon non-residents, and the large expense of advertising under the present law in order to put the sub-districts into operation is a hindrance to their organization in small country districts.

Teachers.--I believe our teachers are as competent as we could expect them to be with the salaries which they receive. Many of them hold first-grade certificates, two hold State certificates, and only a few hold third-grades. Their knowledge of text books is good, but many of the younger teachers yet lack the general information necessary to aid them in doing the best quality of work. As books suitable for children are few in many homes, school libraries would be a great advantage to both teachers and pupils.

Active and effective teachers' conventions are sustained in the county every year. All teachers who are within reasonable distance of the places at which these meetings are held attend them well, and many attend at a large expenditure of money and great physical exertion. The teachers' associations are a source of inspiration, skill and culture to teachers and result in great good to the schools. Teachers are continually urged to prepare themselves for the most efficient service, and different kinds of inducement are offered to this end. Salaries are fixed upon the three following bases: Actual competency, grade of certificate and number of pupils in attendance.

Grading Committees.--The work done by grading committees in this county is satisfactory. No dishonesty or partiality has ever been charged. Therefore, this county would gain nothing by having a State or district grading committee. If, however, a State committee would be better for the State at large without serious detriment to individual counties this county would consent to the change for the benefit of those counties which are suffering by the operation of the present system. But sometimes it is better for reforms to begin at home, and is it not possible that those counties which lack honesty and efficiency in their grading committees would develop those qualities more rapidly under the present system than under a system with which they would have little or nothing to do? I believe, however, that the State Superintendent is in a better position than any other man to decide the question properly. He is in a position to see the good or evil results of the present system more clearly than any of the county Superintendents can see them.

Very truly yours,

J. C. COMPTON,

County Superintendent.

LEE COUNTY

Dear Sir--In compliance with your request, I herewith submit the following report: