

alone, while we have but eleven available, who are residents of the county. The difficulty applies to the better places as well as the poorer ones.

Financial.--By the exercise of rigid economy, we have reduced the indebtedness of the board about \$1,100. Last year the County Commissioners reduced the levy for school purposes to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mills, through which we were deprived of about \$1,000 of our usual revenue. For the ensuing term the full limit of 5 mills has been assessed.

School Warrants.--On June 30, 1900 the School Board canceled its agreement with the First National Bank of Fernandian in reference to cashing our warrants. By this action the teachers are compelled to hold their warrants until the money has been collected, or pay a discount of 5 per cent. to have them cashed.

Strike Out the Five Mill Clause.--On the 10th of January, 1899, the School Board of this county adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That this Board recommends that the 5 mill clause of Section 8, Article XII, of the Constitution be stricken out, and a ten mill clause inserted instead;" which resolution did have and now has my hearty endorsement.

In counties where conditions are favorable, 5 mills may afford all the money necessary to successfully maintain the schools; while in others, where population is scattered and property values undeveloped, a higher rate of millage appears necessary. No tax is paid more cheerfully than the one assessed for the education of children; and no tax is levied for any object of greater importance; therefore, I think each county should be allowed to tax itself for such amount for school purposes as its necessities may require. Under the present limitations, one dollar can only be expended where two are required to accomplish the desired result, and what seems economy in the end is little less than waste.

School Board to Fix the Levy.--The School Board should have the authority to fix the county school levy. The members of the School Board are the direct delegates of the people, elected to fulfill the most important mission that can be extended to any body politic. Upon them rests a responsibility which affects coming generations, while a Board of County Commissioners, for instance, in its dealings with public matters can but consider the conditions prevailing for the time being. Why then should not the School Board be entrusted with the power of making such levy as it deems necessary to the coming welfare of our youth?

C. A. SNOWBALL,  
County Superintendent.

## ORANGE COUNTY

Taking the topics suggested by the State Superintendent as a basis, I present the following report:

Buildings.--No new buildings have been erected during the last four years, except a few of inferior quality in the sparsely inhabited parts of the county. Our buildings vary in quality and value from a \$5,000 well furnished graded school building to a \$50 peeled-pine log cabin, with plain home-made seats and desks. The average school house is a comfortable, well lighted, frame structure, with or without patent desks.