

I hope the Legislature will have the wisdom to see the importance of striking out the 5 mill clause from the Constitution, and prepare the necessary legislation that will give the school board authority to levy a tax that will carry into effect the law which provides for the education of the children of Florida.

Teachers.--The teachers of this county have demonstrated their improvement by the rapid progress of their schools, the good deportment of their pupils, as well as raising their certificates. The teaching force of this county consists of eighteen first grade, twenty-three second grade and five third grade, earnest, faithful teachers. Quite an increase in the first and second grades and a large falling off in the third.

D. O. THRASHER,
County Superintendent.

POLK COUNTY

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

The facts contained in my last annual report will indicate the condition of the schools. I will add a few words for further evidence of the true condition of affairs.

As it is impossible to obtain good work in the school room without good teachers, it has been one of our chief aims to secure the best teachers possible for each school, and by means of institutes, Normals, teachers' reading circle, and a graded course of study and teachers' guide, to improve the efficiency of the teachers from year to year. We have secured well trained primary teachers for our larger schools, graded and High schools. By having our young teachers observe the methods of these primary teachers in Summer Normals and institutes, the efficiency of the work in the rural schools has been greatly improved.

Our schools have been well attended during last few years which is an indication that the people are becoming more and more interested in the cause of education.

There is no permanent debt on the school board at this time. Although during the school term, coming in Fall and Winter, we borrow money to pay our teachers, but in all cases the loan is only temporary, and is paid back as soon as the taxes for that year are collected.

The course of study has been revised and a Teachers' Guide added, which we find an excellent means of securing better and more uniform work in the schools.

We have consolidated several small schools, paying the transportation of the pupils who are over three miles from the school. We find that this saves money to the county, and at the same time gives these pupils better school advantages. It seems to me one of the greatest needs of the rural schools is consolidation, and then closer and more efficient supervision. Too little attention is paid to the character of the supervision. The State law should be so changed as to require an educational test for County Superintendent; then, after securing a competent man for the position, his entire time should be devoted to supervision. He should be relieved as far as possible