

from the petty community strifes and contentions so frequent in this country, and which are generally the result of ignorance or jealousy.

Some Needed Legislation.--I repeat my suggestions of two years ago on this subject, viz:

1. Remove the 5 mill maximum limit for county school levy.
2. Place the sole power of levying tax for school purposes in the hands of the County Board of Public Instruction.
3. Have members of the School Boards appointed by the State Board of Education; or, if elected, have them elected for six years; provided, that in the first election one shall be elected for two years, one for four years, and one for six years.
4. Require an educational test for County Superintendents.
5. Make third grade certificates good for one year, and reissuable but once.

J. L. HOLLINGSWORTH,
County Superintendent.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Dear Sir--Below will be found a brief compendium of some of the leading educational doings in this county for the two scholastic years ending June 30, 1900.

We have erected two new buildings in the rural districts at a cost to the school fund of about \$250. The mechanical work on one was done by the patrons free of charge.

We have repaired buildings to the amount of \$16.00, and furnished and equipped some at a cost of \$103.00. On an average, our school buildings are in fair condition, the worst ones having been razed, and better ones erected, but the furniture and equipments are not all they should be.

We have closed both scholastic years with a surplus of about \$1,500.00 in the treasury and all debts paid. We pay our teachers monthly. Owing to the amount of taxable property in this county, five mills for a maximum is sufficient to run our schools on a basis of six months. Other counties with less taxable property do not realize enough from the five mills assessment, to maintain five months school. We believe the five mill maximum ought to be abolished, and a higher millage provided to enable weaker counties the privilege of raising a larger fund. From experience we think School Boards should have the sole fixing power of the millage to be assessed, limited by a maximum of the law. We have three sub-tax districts in operation, two old ones that have proved a success, as the standard of the schools and the excellent school buildings and well-kept grounds duly attest. The third one has been created during 1900, and its progress is not yet visible, except a new and commodious house now under construction. We think this law should be made more simple, so that every locality can have a tax district, if it so desires. The present law deters the people when told of its tedious and expensive process when they desire to establish a tax district. Make the law short, plain and simple, but keep these districts under the control of County Boards of Public Instruction.