

Teachers Associations.--Of these we have none in the county. We made the effort twice, but poor attendance killed them.

Mechanical and Agricultural Training in the Public Schools.--These things are worthy of attention in the Public School System, and need to be encouraged, but the public school teacher is not the one to teach them. It would nearly all be theory and nothing practical. The public school course is already too full to make room for more. While a little talk and encouragement on these lines would have a good effect, I do not see how they could be incorporated into the school work without detriment to other things that cannot be learned elsewhere. Information on these lines is gained from object teaching, "Learning to do by doing," and a practical artisan or farmer could teach more in an hour by practical demonstration than a public school teacher could impart in a month's trial.

Respectfully yours,  
THOS. W. RALPH,  
County Supt.

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

In complying with request to make a general report of school conditions of this county, the following report is respectfully submitted.

Buildings.--Since last report of this nature only two school buildings have been erected; one in Milton at a cost of about \$2,500.00, another elsewhere at an expense to Board of some \$150.00. In addition to these several hundred dollars in small amounts have been paid toward the completion of buildings previously reported.

Furniture.--About six school buildings have been seated with patent desks, which add very much to comfort, utility, attraction for children and aid in discipline.

Apparatus.--All old charts on hand July 1, 1899, were exchanged for new ones, the difference in values was paid by notes for one and two years.

Finances.--The financial condition to-day is practically the same as two years ago, except for expenditure in purchase of school charts. This investment cost the school fund \$750.00 and some interest, and has been partly paid.

School warrants are paid promptly when presented. The old plan of borrowing money to pay teachers when resources from taxation are not available, is still in operation and should be continued. A levy of five mills is always asked to be levied for school purposes, and our County Commissioners cheerfully grant same, and seem to feel bound to order what is asked of them. Many of our people think the constitutional five mill limit should be removed, and that each county should be permitted to levy a greater millage if it wishes to do so, or if necessity demands. Just how many or what proportion of our voters favor this increase I can not say. A longer school term, more school houses, furniture, better paid teachers, and school libraries are needs that plainly show the school fund to be inadequate. More and better education than is now received is necessary to prepare our youth to cope with others in life's great battle. Money only can prepare the way to secure the desired results, and taxation seems to be the only source to obtain the money, but how to secure