

the necessary taxation is a momentous question. An educational campaign followed by a primary election might get an expression from our people as to whether or not they are willing to pay more for education. If a few politicians can hold a State primary on the question of capital removal and other matters of very much less importance than public schools, why can not the thousands of fathers and almost numberless professed friends of public schools do something to more materially advance and assist our youth? The people should lead the State, and not the State, with fossil laws, the people. At present it seems that many do not realize the benefits of education, and not until a majority fully enjoy and appreciate the opportunities now offered will more and better advantages be given.

Teachers.--There is marked improvement year by year in our teaching force. This improvement is largely attributable in this section of the State Normal School at DeFuniak Springs which is doing a thorough practical and honest work for both student and State. Some county and the training schools are also worthy of mention in doing work of this character, and the State Teachers' association is a factor whose power is felt. All who attend are benefitted. Rigid examinations, or those in which the spirit of the law at least is observed, displaces the old school keepers and plays no unimportant part.

The majority of resident teachers are fairly well read from a professional standpoint, but are rather deficient in general history and literature.

Very little difficulty is found in rearing teachers for best paying positions, but the poorer paid, small and isolated schools are very difficult to fill; the reasons are that teachers of higher attainments are appreciated and are in demand, that competent teachers whose education has cost considerable time and money can not afford to teach for twenty or twenty-five dollars per month; that incompetent or undesirable teachers are not wanted at any price in any or at most in very few districts; and that the pay for the average school is not commensurate with requirements demanded of teachers.

Teachers' salaries are fixed according to grade of certificate, attainments, professional ability, success in school work and means at disposal of School Board.

Grading Committee.--Compulsory education or attendance in public schools is a question for the future. The State is not ready for it. We can not force children to attend school at any season in the average well ventilated and poorly equipped house, nor to receive instructions from incompetent teachers even if the teaching is better than the pay. At same time I am a firm believer in compulsory education, and am willing to try the experiment at this period or stage, should such a law be enacted. The limitations of such a law at present should be left very largely to School Board and County Superintendent. All youth between the ages of 8 and 15 years should be required to attend school, the School Board and Superintendent to say who may be excused.

Libraries.--Teachers of this county have free access to a small library of some one hundred volumes, largely professional, bought by your humble servant for his teachers. With exception of School No. 1 (see last report), no schools in the county have libraries.

Examination Law.--Let present examination law stand, except provide for State Grading Committee, and for certificates for primary teachers. If State