

Examiners should be created, would advise that more of examinations be oral.

E. L. MCDANIEL,
County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SUMTER COUNTY

Dear Sir:--In compliance with your request, I have the honor of submitting the following report relative to the public schools of Sumter county for the two years ending June 30, 1900.

Schools.--We are now operating 46 schools--36 white and 10 colored. About 1,400 pupils are being taught, for which we pay about \$8,000 a year for salaries.

Buildings.--In the last two years we have built two new school houses at a cost of about \$100 each; repairing about, \$1,000.

Our school houses are fairly comfortable, all furnished with charts, desks, heaters, water, etc.

County High Schools.--I am sorry to state that Sumter county is without a High school. For such I have labored hard, but have never been able to convince our Board that a High School could be operated with a small additional expense.

Not Enough Money.--The cause of education in this county, and I presume every other county in the State, is greatly retarded on account of insufficient funds with which to carry on good work.

Our Boards have levied the maximum millage under the present law, and only by close economy and careful management are we able to meet our present obligations--while longer than five months terms, and better salaries are almost impossible at present. While this is true, I must say I think I can see improvement in our schools in the past two years. While our printed course of study has not been well carried out, we are making some progress in getting the schools of the county graded.

Abolish Five Mill Limit.--Let our next Legislature amend the constitution so as we can levy eight mills, if necessary, instead of five. Put the matter of levying in the hands of School Boards.

Compulsory School Law.--We want a Compulsory School Law with proper restrictions, I believe this is the only way out of this lamented, irregular attendance.

School Warrants At Par.--Most of our schools begin in August and September, and end in December and January. The taxes are seldom collected before April or May. This forces us to arrange with the Leesburg and County State Bank to cash all school warrants without discount. The Board pays interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum from the time warrants cashed until paid.

We have enough money this year to run three and one-half months, necessitating us to make arrangements with the bank to cash warrants for the last six weeks.

Sub-Districts.--At present we have no sub-districts. Two were operated some years ago, neither gave satisfaction to patrons, and they were abandoned.