

Financial Condition.--Progress has continued, although there has been no increase in the county revenue. The total assessment in 1900 was \$2,981,795, as against \$3,097,430 in 1898, yet the financial condition of the county schools is better by far than ever before. Prior to this administration the largest balance ever on hand at the close of the school year was less than \$7,000. In June, 1898, my report shows \$4,498.85; June, 1899, \$13,236.50; June, 1900, (including \$4,019.23 in the hands of the collector), \$13,228.23. Warrants for buildings left outstanding amount to about \$1,600. Our purpose, however, is not to hoard money, but to keep enough on hand to carry us through the winter. All warrants are paid in cash.

New Buildings.--Five buildings for whites and three for colored have been erected. At Sea Breeze, a large two-story, four-room structure, costing over \$2,000, for which the county appropriated \$1,000, the sub-districts \$400, and the balance was raised by subscriptions in money and labor. At New Smyrna a building is now being constructed to cost \$3,500, of which the county pays \$1,500, the sub-districts \$800, and balance is raised by subscription. In each case the county has paid one-third of its appropriation in cash and given warrants payable in one and two years for the balance. These warrants bear interest at 8% and are easily cashed.

Including the above, during the past four years, buildings have been erected at DeLand, Daytona, Ormond, Sea Breeze, New Smyrna, Holly Hill and small buildings at Winona, Spruce Creek, Flowers, Lake Ashby and Maytown. For colored at Daytona, Ormond, New Smyrna and Lake Helen. The building formerly used by the whites at DeLand was repaired, an addition built, making a good, five-room school house for the colored.

The aggregate cost of these buildings, with equipments in round numbers was \$23,000, of which amount only \$7,500 was contributed by the county. The balance was secured from sub-districts, contributions, entertainments and, in Daytona and Ormond the whole cost of each building was contributed by the towns.

Every white school now has a comfortable frame building, fairly well equipped with apparatus, and all with patent desks.

School Levy.--While we have had no trouble in securing five mills, I believe that as the members of the School Board are elected for a term of but two years, they should fix the school levy.

Constitutional Five-Mill Limit.--In my opinion, this should be abolished. An eight-mill limit would be low. If this county could collect eight mills (the same levy that is made including the sub-district tax), nearly \$7,000 more would be raised than is now secured by the sub-district plan. The people would favor this if it were properly explained to them.

Sub-Districts.--In my previous report the establishment of thirteen sub-districts was referred to. By recent elections all of these have been continued, three new ones--Pierson, Port Orange and Sea Breeze--established. Many country districts have asked for an election where the assessment was too low to warrant a sub-district. By including a number of schools in one large district, even in these places, it would be advantageous. So far sub-districts have been a great success. More funds are even yet a necessity. This is shown by poor teachers and short terms. The country people do not have the same advantages as the towns. To secure better teachers, salaries must be raised