

and terms lengthened. More money should be raised by taxation, but first, intelligent, honest, capable business men should be placed upon the School Boards. Economy and business methods have, in the past four years, done wonders for this county.

Teachers.--There has been improvement in the teaching force. Back of everything is the examination law, which acts as a stimulus to all. Stetson University has had a great influence upon our teachers. Many, however, have attended other State Schools. Summer training schools have done much for those who could not attend regular courses at other schools, and should be continued, each year devoting more time to methods of teaching. It is yet difficult to secure good teachers, especially for country schools. Still more to retain them when their reputations have been established.

Salaries are based upon ability and experience; third and second grade certificates limit their holders to \$30 and \$35 per month, respectively, except in case of trained primary teachers.

Concentration of Schools.--Schools have been concentrated to some extent, seven having been discontinued. In several districts the pupils were hauled at an expense of less than one-half of what a school would cost in each district.

Associations.--The county association meets twice each year for two days and a half. Thursday and Friday are allowed to the teachers. Good work has been done. An institute of one week held last year was made compulsory. Instruction was given in methods. Professors Sharp and Fry, of Stetson University, gave one hour each in drawing and penmanship. Their services were gratuitous. The whole expense including material furnished was less than \$30.

School Laws.--I am strongly in favor of a State grading committee, the abolishment of the five mill limit; the retention of the sub-district law; a compulsory educational law.

In conclusion, the present condition of the school system in this county has been reached by hard work on the part of the Board and Superintendent, and has only been possible by the establishment of sub-districts, thereby arousing public interest and securing active co-operation.

Very truly,

JOHN B. PARKINSON,
County Superintendent.

WAKULLA COUNTY

Dear Sir:--Replying to your request in reference to school operations in Wakulla county, for years 1899 and 1900, I will say we have been under some disadvantages which prevented us from carrying into effect some contemplated improvements.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to build eight good substantial school houses and furnished them at a cost of \$1,600. The attendance has increased very materially, and I am glad to say the parents are taking more active interest in school matters.

At the opening of this school year there were no debts against our school fund yet before the funds for the year shall come in we will have warrants out which