

## BLUE GRASS COUNTIES TAKE NOTICE.

We publish in other columns today a report by Mr. T. J. Coates, the State Supervisor of Rural Schools in Kentucky, of work done in Rowan county, that is to us as interesting and inspiring as anything we have heard of in late years in the educational field in our State.

A few years back a School Improvement League was organized in Rowan county, among the first of those to which a member of the Education Committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs went as organizer. Rowan county had at that time a most competent and devoted Superintendent of Schools, Miss Lyda Messer. The work there was taken up with enthusiasm by the next Superintendent, and the first impetus has gathered more and more under Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, whose unusual ability was acknowledged last summer by the Kentucky Educational Association when it elected her President.

Rowan county has been doing two things in its public schools which if we should propose doing in the wealthy county of Fayette our tax payers would raise up their hands in holy horror. It has been carrying on brief courses in the different schools in domestic science and elementary agriculture under Miss Minerva Collins, a graduate of the State University and a native of Knott county, who came from the Hindman School to work her way through the State University. She gives a certain amount of instruction in the school buildings, which are as yet without equipment, and then goes into the homes for practical instruction. At the time the Supervisor makes his report seventy-five girls had already been given the subject of bread-making and sixty boys lessons in agriculture. "I hope," says the Supervisor, "this is the beginning of a great movement; for surely young people ought to be taught the best way to do those things they are going to do all their lives." With this brave beginning made almost without funds, it is safe to say that there will soon be a number of rural schools in Rowan county with equipment for systematic domestic science and with school gardens.

The second experiment seems even more striking and original when applied to rural conditions. Night schools have been organized, in which persons over—sometimes much over—school age, desiring to get an elementary education, are being taught. At the time of the Supervisor's visit there was reported to him a total enrollment in these night schools of 434, the ages of those attending being between eighteen and eighty-six. The Superintendent adds, "I have since learned that the number enrolled in the county is something over one thousand."

Moreover, the enrollment and attendance in the day schools is phenomenal. In almost all districts every child given in the census is enrolled. Where any are out the teacher knows who they are and why they are out, and in some districts more than the census shows are enrolled. The census total is 813; the enrollment 855. As Mr. Coates says: "With more children in the schools than the census shows and over 1,000 grown people going to school at night it looks as if the teachers and people are speedily going to win in their avowed determination to banish illiteracy from Rowan county."