

islature, I would suggest that you stay very near the shore on this proposition and incur only such expenses as are imperative. This suggestion is made in order that your board may not violate the spirit of the legislation mentioned, and it seems to be necessary from the financial statement sent me, it appearing from this statement that the income for the present year will not take care of obligations already existing.

The purpose of the legislation mentioned was to require county boards to live within their incomes, but the legislature probably made a mistake in not allowing further time in which to transfer from a credit to a cash basis. However, we have nothing to do with the question of the wisdom of the legislation, and the local officers should, if possible, work out a plan for taking care of the imperative needs of the situation without violating the law until the next legislature meets, when the statute may be modified so as to give more time for placing the counties on a cash basis.

The Attorney General has no authority to officially advise county officers and, therefore, this letter cannot be regarded as an official expression from this office. It represents simply my views as an attorney and is written in reply to your inquiry with a view to assisting you, if possible, in taking care of the existing situation.

Yours very truly,

T. F. WEST,
Attorney General.

COUNTY OFFICERS—HOW ELECTED.

Tallahassee, Fla., March 13, 1917.

My Dear Sir:

I have your communication of March 5, and in reply beg to advise that Section 6 of Article VIII of the Con-

stitution appears to cover the subject-matter of your inquiry, and in effect provides that county officers shall be elected by the people and that their duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law.

It has been a custom of the legislature, in passing acts affecting terms and compensations of the various State and county officers, to carry a provision in such acts that they shall not become effective until the expiration of the terms then being served, but, in view of the provision of the Constitution as above reverred to, it appears that the time of making such acts effective would be entirely within the discretion of the legislative body.

The Attorney General is not authorized to officially advise in matters of this kind. This is merely to assist in arriving at a proper conclusion in the premises, which I shall take pleasure in doing at any time.

Yours very truly,

T. F. WEST,

Attorney General.

BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, NOT AUTHORIZED TO BORROW MONEY FROM SPECIAL TAX SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Tallahassee, Fla., March 15, 1917.

My dear Sir:

Yours of recent date has been received.

Replying to same will say that there is no statute in this State specifically authorizing the board of public instruction of a county in this State to borrow money from a special tax school district. Neither is there a statute authorizing such a district to loan any funds that it may have to its credit at any time.