

**The Public School.**

By W. Atkin, Esq., Inspector of Public Schools,  
County of Elgin.

IV.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RURAL SCHOOL TRUSTEE BOARD.

Prior to 1896, in a large number of rural school sections, there was no formal organization of public school boards. After the annual school meeting the third year trustee, by right of custom, took charge of the books of the section and acted as secretary-treasurer. In other sections it was not uncommon to find some leading ratepayer had been trustee as long as twenty years and that the duties of secretary-treasurer was allowed, without resolution of the Board, to remain in with him. The organization was informal and unbusiness like, and no minute of the proceedings was kept.

The act of 1896 definitely provides for the formal organization of the board.

This act requires that the first meeting of the Board shall be held on the first Wednesday after the annual school meeting at the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon, at the school house. The organization consists in the election of a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer.

The object of fixing the place of the first meeting at the school-house is, that the trustees may for once in the year at least, visit the school property that they may see its condition.

It is intended that at this meeting they should examine the school house, out-buildings, fences, gates, walks, school furniture, maps and apparatus, not forgetting the library, to ascertain what repairs are necessary. They are also expected to make suitable provision for lighting fires, sweeping and dusting the room, making paths through the snow from the gate to the house and from the house to the wood-shed and water closets, and for keeping the houses in a cleanly and sanitary condition by appointing some person for the purpose. Again by meeting at the school-house early in the term an opportunity occurs for consulting with the teacher as to equipment and supplies.

Subsequent meetings are to be held as the Board may deem expedient.

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

The treasurer or secretary-treasurer, who may be a trustee, shall give such security as a majority of the Board may require. If a majority of the Board neglect or refuse to take security from the treasurer, on the demand of any trustee (such demand being duly entered in the minutes) such trustee may be free from any personal liability in case of the default of such officer.

The treasurer shall receive all moneys of the section and disburse the same as the trustees' order, keeping an accurate account. He shall produce all papers and money belonging to the section

when called for by the trustees, auditors or other competent authority.

The secretary or secretary-treasurer is requested to keep a full and correct record of the proceedings of every meeting of the Board in the minute-book provided for the purpose by the trustees, and to see that the minutes are signed by the chairman or presiding trustee.

He shall also call a special meeting of the Board, when requested in writing by two trustees, or petitioned by ten rate-payers. It is the secretary's duty to prepare, for the annual meeting, a report for the year then ending, containing among other things, a summary of the proceedings of the trustees during the year.

Other duties devolving on the secretary have been referred to in a former number.

No act or proceedings of a rural board of trustees, shall be binding on any person affected thereby, unless adopted at a regular or special meeting at which at least two trustees are present and notice of which has been given by the secretary or by one of the trustees to the others, either personally or in writing, and a minute of such act or proceeding is made in writing and properly signed by the chairman or presiding trustee.

**Handy Form of Reeve's Order on Treasurer.**

A handy form of reeve's order on Treasurer has been prepared by Mr. J. H. Morrow, clerk, village of Brighton. The treasurer signs and dates all the cheques and the parties receiving them from the clerk draw their money from the bank without the trouble of calling on the Treasurer. The books are made up with a blank sheet between the orders, which are filled in with an indelible pencil and carbon paper is used to make a copy on the blank sheet for the clerk's office.

Mr. Morrow says the people are pleased with the system, which is most convenient for both himself and the treasurer.

The order which is not larger than an ordinary bank cheque reads as follows :

CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BRIGHTON.

Pay .....  
 ..... or Order  
 .....  
 ..... DOLLARS,  
 100  
 .....  
 ..... Clerk.  
 ..... Reeve.

STANDARD BANK OF CANADA.

BRIGHTON,.....

Please pay bearer amount as mentioned in above Order and charge to Treasurer's account.

Treasurer Village of Brighton.

**Newmarket Electric Light.**

(Newmarket Era.)

Ever since the Electric Light By-law was carried by the vote of the people there has been an anxious fear on the part of the minority that it was going to increase the burden of taxation ; and the numerous bills presented to the council for electric light supplies, coal and wood, raised quite a suspicion in the minds of many who supported the enterprise that it would not give the financial return that its promoters advocated. In order to ascertain the exact position of affairs, Mr. J. A. Bastedo, a competent accountant, was instructed to go thoroughly into the matter and ascertain every detail of expenditure and income. This occupied a good deal of time during the past three weeks and his report was presented to the Council last Monday evening, when much satisfaction was expressed at the result.

Before putting in the electric plant the town was paying \$500 per annum for street lighting, and only 12 arc lights were used.

For the year 1897 the revenue from incandescent lighting paid all running expenses, the principal and interest on the debenture debt for this purpose for the year, and it only cost the town \$205 for the lighting of the streets by 23 arc lights, which sum also includes the lighting of the council chamber, town hall and caretaker's residence. In other words the Municipal Electric Light System has given the town double the light and saved in taxes \$395 the first year.

The figures are as follows :

Cost of building, plant, wiring streets, etc .....	\$11,482 11
Cost of installing and incandescent supplies .....	1,364 98
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	\$12,787 09
Original Vote .....	\$10,000 00
Bonus on debentures .....	158 00
Received for installing .....	1,296 41
Stock on hand .....	291 56
Cost of Installing Town Hall, Council Chamber and Caretaker's residence .....	133 55
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	\$11,879 52
Excess of expenditure on capital account .....	907 57
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	\$12,787 09

COST OF RUNNING IN 1897.

Coal and wood .....	\$ 880 69
Oil and Carbons .....	110 00
Wages .....	500 00
Debenture and Interest .....	735 81
Interest on excess of expenditure .....	50 00
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	\$2,276 50

REVENUE FOR 1897.

Received for incandescent lighting ..	\$2,071 17
Contract cost for street lighting .....	805 00
Rate for lighting Town Hall .....	50 00
do do Council Chamber ..	20 00
do do caretaker's residence ..	12 20
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	\$2,958 37

The vehicle that uses wide tires is contributing its share toward better highways.