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DUTY OF TRUSTEES IN REGARD TO COMPULSORY EDUCATION—CENSUS RETURNS.

One of the most beneficial and salutary provisions of the School Law of 1871 was the enactment of what are called its "compulsory clauses." They were the necessary complement to the system of Free Schools which was in that Act also declared to be henceforth the law of the land. Two more important principles were never before embodied in any School Law passed in this Province. The effect of their operation if wisely applied to every school—(taken in connection with the useful and comprehensive course of instruction prescribed for these schools)—must be in time greatly to elevate, not only the character of the schools themselves, but to promote and diffuse the blessings of a sound practical education throughout the land. For, not only does our School Law declare that every school in the older and better settled townships of the Province shall be free, but it also declares the same thing in regard to the newer and thinly inhabited ones, and provides a simple machinery whereby the smallest group of settlers in the most remote townships of the outlying districts of this Province shall also enjoy all the advantages which are secured to these older ones.

It was a great and notable step in advance which the Legislature took in 1871, in embodying in the School Act of that year those two most important principles to which we have referred, viz.,—"Free Schools" and "Compulsory Education"—or in other words the guarantee of an open door to every school-house in the land, so that the poorest child might enter and claim such an education as would fit him to fill with respectability and credit any ordinary position to which he might be called, and also the inalienable right secured by statute to every child in the Province, that suitable instruction shall be provided for him at the

hands of his parents or guardians for at least four months of the year.

In order to secure to the parties concerned, every facility for availing themselves of these beneficent provisions of the law, the School Act of 1874 contains some important supplementary provisions which not only enable trustees (but require them) to give practical effect to the compulsory provisions of the Act of 1871. The whole of the provisions of the law on this subject as thus supplemented and consolidated, are as follows:—

RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

156. Every child, from the age of seven to twelve years inclusive, shall have the right to attend some school, or be otherwise educated, for four months in every year; and any parent or guardian who does not provide that every child between the ages aforesaid under his care shall attend some school, or be otherwise educated, as thus of right declared, shall be subject to the penalties hereinafter provided by this Act;

(a) Nothing herein shall be held to require any Roman Catholic to attend a Public School, or require a Protestant to attend a Roman Catholic School.

CENSUS OF CHILDREN SHALL BE TAKEN.

157. It shall be the duty of the trustees of every Public School:

(1.) To ascertain before the thirty-first day of December in every year, through the assessor, collector, or some other person to be appointed for that purpose, and paid by them, the names, ages, and residences of all the children of school age in their school section, division, or municipality, as the case may be—distinguishing those children between the ages of seven and twelve years inclusive—who have not attended any school.

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS—CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECT.

158. It shall further be the duty of the trustees of every Public School:—

(1) In case, after having been so notified, the parents or guardians of such children continue to neglect or violate the provisions of the said one hundred and fifty-sixth section of this Act.

(2) It shall be the further duty of the trustees either to impose a rate-bill on such parents or guardians not exceeding one dollar per month for each of their children not attending school; or,

(3) To make complaint of such neglect or violation to a ma-