

Journal of Education.

HALIFAX, APRIL, 1880.

WE are informed that in some cases persons have resisted the payment of the poll-tax for the support of schools, on the ground that they had not been actually within the limits of the Section for the entire six months preceding the levying of the tax, although their homes were within such Section; and that in a few instances magistrates have decided in accordance with this contention. We have good authority for stating that the contention and decision are based upon an entire misconception of the law. "Every male person twenty-one years of age or upwards" belonging to the Province is to be regarded as having a "domicile" within some school Section, and is liable to be taxed there, even though he has been absent from home for the whole or part of the half-year—and, in fact, until he changes his home, or "domicile" to another Section, or permanently leaves the Province.

WE publish in full an Act passed at the recent session of the Legislature to further amend Chap. 32 of the Revised Statutes (4th series) "of Public Instruction." The provisions of this somewhat important measure were carefully considered by special committees in both branches of the Legislature. A considerable portion of the Act, it will be noticed, has been rendered a practical necessity by recent changes in the Inspectoral system of the Province, and puts in statutory form the suggestions of the Superintendent of Education in his Annual Report.

THE substitution of an annual meeting of each Board of School Commissioners for semi-annual meetings, as heretofore held, will not, it is believed, impair the efficiency of that branch of our Educational machinery, while it will greatly promote the personal convenience of the Commissioners. The dates fixed by the Council for the first meetings of the several Boards under this change of law will be found among the Official Notices in this issue. These dates can be revised for future meetings should changes be deemed desirable by either Commissioners or Inspectors.

THE interpretation of sec. 23 cap. 32, by which the annual meeting was considered precluded from electing as Trustees persons otherwise qualified, but not present at the meeting, is no longer possible, the ambiguous clause "from their own number" having been struck out of section.

THE subject of special grants to County Academies received much consideration from the Legislative Committees on Education. The prevailing drift of opinion was rather adverse to such grants, save so far as they may be made available for the educational benefit of the whole County in which the Academy is situated. The revised Regulations of the Council of Public Instruction providing for the more efficient management of these Institutions were warmly endorsed.

AMONG the most important and, in our opinion, most salutary Amendments, is that made in Section 53 regulating the apportionment of the County Fund. The Section as Amended reads as follows:

"One-half of the amount provided to be raised annually, as aforesaid, shall, at the close of each half-year, be apportioned to the Trustees of schools conducted in accordance with this Chapter to be applied to the payment of Teachers' salaries; and each school shall be entitled to participate therein, at the rate of twelve and a half dollars per term for each licensed Teacher employed, and the balance of the County Fund shall be distributed among the schools according to the average number of pupils in attendance, and the length of time in operation, but shall receive no allowance for being in session more than the prescribed number of days in any one half-year."

This new method of apportionment will, of course, not come into effect during the current school year, the arrangements for which were made without reference to it. Under its operation each Board of Trustees will receive from the County Fund an apportionment made up of two limbs: 1. Twelve dollars and a half for each licensed Teacher employed the full term and rateably for portion of term; 2. Proportion of balance of Co. Fund based on attendance.

An Act to further amend Chap. 32 of the Revised Statutes, "Of Public Instruction."

PASSED APRIL 10TH, 1880.

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

The following are added as Subsections (17) and (18) to section 3:

(17.) To cancel, as well as grant, Teachers' licenses.

(18.) To make such changes in existing Commissioners' Districts as may from time to time be found necessary.

2. Section 6 is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: The Superintendent shall, with the assistance of the Inspectors as hereinafter provided, apportion the County Fund among Trustees, and pay the Provincial Grants to Teachers, semi-annually, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

3. Section 8 is amended by omitting "semi" in tenth line of said Section and adding after "meeting" in the eleventh line in said Section "save when ordered by Council of Public Instruction."

4. Section 9 is amended by omitting "semi" in first line of said Section, also by substituting "each" for "the" in the third line of said Section, and omitting the words "in the Autumn" in the fourth line of said Section.

5. Sections 10, 11 and 12 are hereby repealed.

6 (1) Subsection 1 of Section 13 is amended to read as follows: To create new Sections, either directly where none previously existed, or indirectly by the sub-division or re-division of existing Sections, provided that in neither case shall such action take effect until formally ratified by the Council of Public Instruction; and to make such alterations in the existing boundaries of contiguous Sections, as may from time to time be found necessary. In all cases coming under the provisions of this section, the Commissioners shall have due regard to the number of children and the ability of each Section to support an efficient school, and all alterations thus made shall take effect at the beginning of the next ensuing school year.

(2.) Subsection 2 of Section 13 is amended to read as follows: To declare upon the Inspector's report, or upon other reliable information, the school house or houses or buildings used as such or the appurtenances thereof, unfit for school purposes. Such declaration shall be forwarded to the Trustees of the Section, and the condemnation shall, unless otherwise specified, take effect at the commencement of the next ensuing school year.

(3.) Subsections (3,) (4) and (5) of Section 13 are hereby repealed.

7. Section 15 is hereby repealed.

8. Section 17 is hereby amended by substituting for "in May of each year" in first and second lines of said Section the words "at its annual meeting" and for "Commissioners" in fourth line "Superintendent of Education."

9. Section 18 is hereby amended by substituting for "the semi-annual meeting in May of each year" the words "their annual meeting."

10. Section 39 is amended by the addition of the following sentence: "The sum or sums on which the Secretary shall be entitled to receive commission under provision of this Section, shall be taken to mean only the moneys directly levied on Section and collected in accordance with vote of annual meeting, and shall not include County Fund apportionment or Provincial Grant of any kind."