

# Journal of Education.

HALIFAX, APRIL, 1884.

DURING the recent session of the Legislature all the Acts on the Statute Book relating to Public Education have been revised and consolidated. It is hoped that prior to the next ensuing Annual School Meeting, the Educational Chapter of the new series of Revised Statutes, with the connected Regulations of Council, will be published and distributed in the form of a neat and compendious Manual. The revising Commission, undoubtedly with good reason, shrank from attempting radical alterations of the law, contenting itself mainly with so adjusting and harmonizing existing statutes as to make the Chapter on Public Instruction a perfectly consistent whole. At the same time the law has been sensibly improved by sundry minor revisions, and a few positive changes, which when recommended by the Commission, were heartily endorsed by the legislature. Several points which have heretofore been subject to doubtful and diverse interpretation, will henceforth be self-interpreting. Clearer definitions are given of the duties and powers of Trustees, of the School Meeting, and of Auditors. "Poor" Sections will receive their extra third of County Fund apportionment irrespective of the Class of Teacher employed. Poll-tax papers are defined as including all male persons between 21 and 60, who have had a legal residence within the section for six months at the time of the Annual School Meeting. The clause empowering the Council of Public Instruction to sanction separate Schools for different colors was amended by the additional provision that "colored children shall not be excluded from instruction in the Public Schools in the Section or ward where they reside."

It is not necessary to enter fully into detail as to the revisions made. The publication of the Chapter will be awaited eagerly by all who are interested in our Public School System.

WE publish in other columns the Report of the Education Committee of the House of Assembly, presented at the close of the recent session. The resolution of Mr. Fraser, M. P. P. for Guysboro, by which the attention of the Committee was directed to the subject of text-books for the Public Schools, was a wise one, and the deliberations of the Committee on the subject cannot fail to be followed by good results. We think we are not astray in interpreting the Committee's report—which was based on a searching investigation—to mean approval of the general aim and drift of recent modifications of the text-book list, and also that circumstances had rendered modifications of some kind absolutely necessary. The Committee makes a valuable suggestion when it draws attention to the importance of substituting judicious methods of oral instruction for much of the "high and dry," memoriter, text-book-following, style of teaching which prevails. WE ARE PERSUADED THAT IN PLACING THE LARGER AND MORE EXTENSIVE TEXTS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN TOO YOUNG AND UNDEVELOPED TO USE THEM INTELLIGENTLY, IS TO BE FOUND THE TRUE EXPLANATION OF MUCH OF THE PREVALENT COMPLAINT AS TO THE COST OF TEXT-BOOKS.

From another part of the Report we draw a strong assurance that the next session of the Legislature will not pass without remedying the unsatisfactory state of things which exists as to the taxation of the property of non-residents. Mr. Longley, M. P. P., a member both of the Revising Commission and of the Committee on Education, expressed himself very definitely on the subject, and his views were earnestly seconded by other members. From the paragraph of the Report referring to Mr. Robichau's strong presentation of the claims of our Acadian French population, we are led to indulge a hope that the same session will see the question of Academic grants also placed on an equitable and defensible basis.



## OFFICIAL NOTICES.

The number of Teaching Days for the current term, closing April 30th, is 118,—for the City of Halifax, 115.

The number of Teaching Days for the ensuing term, beginning May 1st, is 112,—for the City of Halifax, 107.

### EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS' LICENSES.

These examinations will begin at 9 a. m., on Tuesday, July 22nd. They will be held at the usual Stations throughout the Province. Candidates will particularly observe that their applications for admission to Examination are to be forwarded to the Inspector of the District in which the Station at which they wish to be examined is situated, and not to the Deputy Examiner of the Station, *if he be not the Inspector*. Printed forms of application (though not required) may be obtained from the Inspector after May 1st. The place entered in the form of application should be that to which the candidate wishes his certificate of admission to examination to be mailed. The revised Regulations of Council (re-published in this No. of JOURNAL) should be carefully read by intending applicants.

### ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

The date of the Annual School Meeting for the current year is *Monday, Sept. 29th*. Trustees should carefully observe this date and not fail to legally announce the meeting by notices posted in three public places within the Section, at least five days previous to date of meeting.

In Sections in which schools are organized for the first time, and which consequently are without Trustees, notices should be posted by the Inspector.

The following is an outline of the order of business of annual meeting:—

- (1.) To elect a chairman of the meeting.
- (2.) To elect a new Trustee or Trustees. (A majority of votes, i. e., *more than half*, is required for this election.)
- (3.) To receive and pass upon the report of the Auditors of Accounts.
- (4.) To receive the report of the Board of Trustees concerning educational operations of the year and the requirements of the Section for the ensuing year.
- (5.) To determine, by a vote of a majority of the ratepayers present, what amount shall be raised by the Section during the ensuing year for any, or all of the objects authorized by law; and if any sum is included for the purchase or improvements of grounds or for the purchase or building of school-houses, to fix the period (not to exceed five years) within which the sum voted for these purposes shall be collected; and, if necessary, to authorize the Trustees to borrow money, for the procuring of houses or lands.
- (6.) To transact any other necessary business.

### DATES OF MEETINGS OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Cape Breton—May 28th.  
Richmond—May 13th.  
South Inverness—May 29th.  
North Inverness—June 3rd.  
Victoria—June 5th.  
Antigonish—May 13th.  
Guysboro'—June 3rd.  
St. Mary's—June 10th.  
North Pictou—May 21st.  
South Pictou—May 23rd.  
South Colchester—May 16th.  
\*West Colchester—May 23rd.  
Sterling—June 3rd.  
Cumberland—June 17th.  
Parrsboro'—May 13th.  
Halifax West—May 23rd.  
Halifax Rural—June 6th.

\*At Great Village.

Halifax Shore—June 10th.  
West Hants—May 27th.  
East Hants—June 11th.  
Kings—May 20th.  
Annapolis West—May 13th.  
Annapolis East—May 16th.  
Digby—May 27th.  
Clare—May 29th.  
Shelburne—May 16th.  
Barrington—May 13th.  
Argyle—May 20th.  
Yarmouth—May 21st.  
South Queens—May 30th.  
North Queens—June 17th.  
\*Lunenburg & New Dublin—May 27th.  
Chester—May 20th.

\*At Bridgewater for present year.