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### SELECTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES.

Acting under the judicious counsel and advice of the Public School Inspectors, the selection of School sites has been generally much more satisfactory during the last few years than formerly. With a view to aid in the settlement of local differences of opinion on this subject, the School Law has been recently very much improved, and the facilities for arbitration on the subject, extended and rendered more satisfactory. We purpose, therefore, in this number of the *Journal* to give in a popular form an exposition of the law on the selection of sites, as it now stands :

There are three cases in which the question of school sites comes up for consideration in a school section : (1) on the establishment of a new section ; (2) on the change of site in an old section ; and (3) on the enlargement of an existing site.

Of the three cases relating to the choice of school sites which we have mentioned, the first and second only require the joint action of the trustees and ratepayers ; the third is within the province of the trustees alone to determine.

The necessity for joint action is clearly obvious, even without an expression of opinion, when a new school section first goes into operation. It is, however, frequently difficult to determine whether the state of feeling in regard to a change of site in an old section, is sufficiently decided to warrant the trustees in calling a meeting to discuss the question. However, if they know that such a feeling exists, the law requires them, within

a reasonable time, to call a "special meeting" to "consider" the question. If, at this meeting, "a difference of opinion as to the site of the school" is found to exist "between the majority of the trustees and a majority of the ratepayers," the law requires that each party shall at once choose an arbitrator. It is, therefore, not competent for this special meeting to adjourn until either a majority of the trustees and the ratepayers agree as to a site, or (in case of a difference of opinion on the subject) they respectively appoint an arbitrator to select one for them.

In case the trustees refuse to call a "special meeting," as required by law, for "procuring" or "changing" a site, the inspector is authorized to do so ; or, if "at such special meeting" a difference of opinion should arise in regard to a site between the trustees and ratepayers, and the chairman or a majority of the ratepayers by vote should unlawfully "adjourn the meeting, and thus neglect or refuse to appoint an arbitrator, the law declares that then "it shall be competent for the county inspector, with the arbitrator appointed, to meet and determine the matter ; and the inspector, in case of such refusal and neglect, shall have a second or casting vote, provided" that he and the one arbitrator appointed "should not agree."

Should two arbitrators be appointed at the school meeting, as required by law, to select a site, and should either of them (having received notice) neglect or refuse to attend a meeting of the arbitrators on the subject, the law declares that "it shall be competent for the arbitrators present (that is the inspector and the other arbitrator) to make and publish an award upon the matter submitted to them, or to adjourn the meeting for any period not exceeding ten days, and give the absent arbitrator notice of such adjournment."

Further, the law says, that "in case of a difference as to the site," the arbitrators appointed "shall make and publish an award upon the matter or matters submitted to them." Unless, therefore, the choice of one out of two or more sites in dispute is the matter submitted to them, their choice of any site in the section is left free, and they should choose one best adapted to the wants of the section. It should be an acre in size, (but cannot be less than half an acre,) in a pleasant situation, and (without the consent of the *owner*) should not be within a hundred yards of *his* house, orchard, pleasure-ground or dwelling-house, although it may be close up to the orchard and dwelling-house of any other party.