

and inserting an explanatory phrase in one of them, and leaving Boards of School Trustees in towns, as well as cities, to nominate their own Local Superintendents, but with the same qualifications and tenure of office as those of County Superintendents. The fifth clause of the Bill provides that each County Council and each Board of Public School Trustees in each city or town shall nominate a School Superintendent, and the Governor in Council shall confirm the nomination, or appoint him, and that he shall hold his office during the pleasure of the Governor. It was objected very generally that however a County, City or Town Superintendent might conduct himself, and however inefficient he might become, there would scarcely be a possibility of getting him removed. I stated that the Government could have no wish to keep an inefficient or ill conducted Local Superintendent in office; and to give more satisfactory security on this point, I stated that I would propose, and if generally approved, I would recommend to the Government the addition of the following proviso to the fifth clause: "Provided, nevertheless, that any County, City or Town Superintendent of Schools shall be subject to dismissal for misconduct or inefficiency on the complaint of the Council or Board nominating." This proposed proviso has given almost universal satisfaction to all parties.

In regard to the seventh clause, providing for the salaries of County Superintendents, the universal feeling is in favour of the clause as recommended by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, namely, that the salaries should be equally paid out of the public revenue and the County Councils.

In the eighth clause, relative to the power of the County Superintendents to decide upon the adequacy of school accommodations, the phrase is added that he shall decide in conformity with regulations which shall be provided according to law; and the following proviso is proposed to be added to the clause—"Provided always that there shall be the right of appeal from every such decision to the Minister of Public Instruction.

It will thus be seen that no change whatever, except in reference to towns, has been proposed in the Common School Bill; and the addition of the above two precautionary provisos and one explanatory phrase, with the omission of the latter part of the tenth clause, the proposed Common School Amendment Act appears the most acceptable of any School Bill which I have submitted to popular consideration since 1850.

The proposed Grammar School Amendment, or High School Bill, is universally acceptable, except that it is generally desired that a certain number of the members of the Boards of Public School Trustees should be nominated by the Municipal Councils aiding the High Schools—a provision which I have promised to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Government and of the Legislature.

E. RYERSON.

Whitby, March, 1, 1869.

2. PROPOSED COMMON SCHOOL BILL, AS ALTERED AT COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS.

(Additions in Italics.)

An Act to amend the Common School Acts of (Upper Canada), Ontario.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. The office of Local Superintendent of Schools in townships, cities, towns and villages, is hereby abolished.

2. In each county, or union of counties, there shall be one Superintendent of Schools, to be called County Superintendent, except where there are more than one hundred Common Schools in a county or union of counties, in which case, it shall be lawful to appoint a second County Superintendent.

3. Each city shall be a county, for the purpose of this Act, and the Superintendent shall be called the City Superintendent, and shall possess all the powers of a County Superintendent, except such as relate to investigating and deciding on School Trustee election complaints, which now by law devolve on the County Judge.

4. The qualifications of County and City Superintendents shall from time to time be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, which shall determine the time and manner of examination of candidates for certificates of qualification, and grant certificates of qualification; and no one not holding such certificate of qualification, shall be eligible to be appointed a Superintendent.

5. Each County Council, and each Board of Public School Trustees in a city or town, shall nominate from among those holding the necessary certificate of qualification, one person to be Superintendent of Common Schools in such city or county or town, and in counties where there are or shall be more than one hundred Common Schools, the County Council may nominate two persons holding

such certificates to be Superintendents, and prescribe the territorial limits of each; and the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint the person or persons so nominated, to hold office during pleasure. *Provided, nevertheless, that any county, city or town Superintendent shall be subject to dismissal for misconduct or inefficiency, on the complaint of the Council or Board nominating him.*

6. Each Superintendent so appointed, shall have the oversight of all Common Schools in the towns, villages and townships within the county or union of counties, or part of the county or union of counties, for which he shall be appointed, and shall have all the powers in each municipality within his jurisdiction, and be subject to all the obligations now conferred or imposed by law, upon "Local Superintendents," and which are conferred or imposed by this Act, according to such instructions as may be given to him, from time to time by the Minister of Public Instruction.

7. The salary of a County Superintendent shall not be less than at the rate of six hundred dollars per annum, and not more than at the rate of twelve hundred dollars per annum, and shall be paid quarterly, be defrayed and borne, equally out of the consolidated revenue of the Province, and, *provided always, that the variation of a County Superintendent's salary between six hundred and twelve hundred dollars per annum shall be determined by the Lieutenant Governor according to the work to be done.*

8. The County Superintendent shall have authority to decide upon the adequacy and suitability of school accommodations: *in conformity with regulations which shall be prepared according to law, and should any school corporation not provide satisfactory accommodations within twelve months after they have been notified by the County or City Superintendent, of the inadequacy or unsuitableness of the school accommodation provided, such School Corporation shall not be entitled to share in the Legislative School Grant: Provided always, that in every such case there shall be the right of appeal from the decision of the Superintendent to the Minister of Public Instruction.*

9. Each County and City Council shall appoint a County or City Board of Examiners, for the examination and licensing of Teachers, consisting of the County Superintendent or Superintendents, and two other competent persons whose qualifications shall, from time to time, be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction.

10. The minimum salary of any legally qualified male teacher shall be at the rate of three hundred dollars per annum, and the minimum salary of any legally qualified female teacher shall be at the rate of two hundred dollars per annum.

11. The Municipal Council, of any township, shall have authority to establish a Township Board of Common School Trustees, as now provided by law, at the request of the majority of the school sections of such township, expressed at the annual school meeting, or a special school meeting of such sections.

12. No by-law or resolution of a Township Council to alter the boundaries of a school section, shall take effect before the expiration of one year from the 25th of December next, after the passing of such by-law or resolution, unless at the request of the majority of the rate-payers of such section; and in the event of a change in the limits of a school section, any rate-payer in the section affected, shall have the right to appeal to the County Superintendent, whose duty it shall be to decide whether or not such change shall be made, *so far as it relates to such complaining parties.*

13. On the formation or alteration of a Union School Section or Division, under the authority of the fifth section of the School Law Amendment Act of 1860, it shall be the duty of the County Superintendent, concerned forthwith, to transmit a Copy of the resolution by which the formation or alteration was made, to the Clerk of the Municipality affected by such resolution.

14. Should such Clerk neglect or refuse to prepare and furnish the map of the School Divisions of his Municipality, as required by the forty-ninth section of the Consolidated School Act, he shall render himself liable to a penalty, not exceeding ten dollars, to be recovered before a magistrate for the school purposes of his municipality, at the instance of any rate-payer thereof.

15. All the Common Schools shall be Free Schools; and the trustees of school sections, or Township Councils, and the Municipal Councils of cities, towns and villages, shall, in the manner now provided by law, levy and collect a rate upon all the taxable property of the school division or municipality, to defray the expenses of such schools, as determined by the trustees thereof.

16. Every child, from the age of seven to twelve years, inclusive, shall have the right to attend some school for six months in each year; and any parent or guardian who does not provide that each child under his care shall attend some school, as thus of right declared, shall be subject to the penalties hereinafter provided by this Act; *Provided always, that the absolute right of selecting either a public or private school, for the attendance of any child, shall be with the parent or guardian of such child.*

17. It shall be competent for the Police Magistrate of any city or