

T H E

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR.—Suppose that on the day fixed for the October school meetings, any of the following possible circumstances should surround the Trustees of any section, what remedy or remedies does the School Law provide in the premises?

1. The Trustees neglected to issue the notices required by law.
2. The Secretary of the Trustees, or some important member of the Board, is unavoidably absent from the meeting.
3. The meeting forgets to elect a new Trustee.
4. The meeting elects as a new Trustee a person who is not a ratepayer.
5. The meeting refuses to elect a new Trustee.
6. The meeting refuses to vote any money, or a sum sufficient to carry on the school.

By answering the above enquiries through the *Journal of Education*, you will confer a favour upon me, and I doubt not upon other Trustees also.

A SCHOOL TRUSTEE.

ANSWERS.

[1. Should any section fail to hold its annual school meeting on the day appointed, in consequence of neglect on the part of the Trustees to notify the people, a petition of seven or more rate-payers should be sent immediately to the Board of Commissioners (or its standing committee), praying for the appointment of a new Trustee. See *Law*, sec.'s 30 : & 13 (7). It will become, in such a case, the duty of the Inspector to determine which Trustee shall retire. See "Official Notices," I. The section having secured a legally complete Board of Trustees by the appointment of a new Trustee, can hold another meeting. See *Law*, sec. 30 :—"And any Board of Trustees thus secured shall, as soon as practicable, convene a meeting of the ratepayers of the section, as provided for the annual meeting, and such meeting shall transact all business except the election of trustees, required of the annual meeting, and in the same manner." Trustees are liable to a heavy fine for neglect of duty, and any ratepayer could enforce the full penalty of the law upon Trustees for so grievous a neglect.

2. Trustees should make every exertion to place before the annual meeting all necessary information. If, however, from the absence of any person the business of the meeting could not be properly proceeded with, the proper course would be to adjourn the meeting to a fixed time.

3. In case the school meeting forgets to elect a new Trustee, the right of choice should revert to the people. The Trustees may, without any requisition from the ratepayers, call a special meeting to fill the "extraordinary vacancy" in the trusteeship. See *Law*, sec. 38 (8).

4. If the meeting unintentionally elects as a Trustee a non-ratepayer instead of a ratepayer, the mistake may be rectified as stated above, 3; but if the law was intentionally disregarded, a remedy will be had by petitioning the Board of Commissioners to appoint a Trustee. See answer to 1. If the meeting refused also to provide for the support of the school, see answer to 6.

5. The remedy provided by the Law will be found in sec.'s 50 and 13 (7).

6. If a clear majority of the ratepayers of any section refuses to provide for the support of a school, there is no provision in the law by which the section can be compelled to discharge this duty. If the evils of ignorance are deliberately preferred to the blessings of knowledge, the Law does not thrust the latter upon an unwilling section. If the people do not want a school, there will not be one. But the Law does require, and justly, that those who refuse the means of knowledge to the children of their own section shall contribute towards the supplying of these means to the children of other sections. All pay a portion of the County Fund which is provided for distribution to the Trustees of the various sections supporting schools. The Provincial grant, moreover, is withheld from sections that do not support a school. As, however, there are

very few sections in Nova Scotia where a majority of the people can be supposed to deliberately close their schools by withdrawing the means of support, the Law (Sec. 41) provides ample means by which the friends of education may rectify any such fortuitous act of the annual meeting,—unless indeed, the majority really prefer to be without a school:—

"Upon the requisition of a majority of the rate-payers of any section, the trustees shall convene a special meeting of rate-payers for the purpose of voting money or adding to any amount previously voted for any purpose authorized by this act, notice of which meeting shall be given by the Trustees, as provided in the case of the annual meeting, and such notice shall express the object of such meeting."

The Legislature has spared no means within its power to aid the people in supporting good schools. It remains for the people to do their part. We hope that there is intelligence enough in Nova Scotia to appreciate and render operative an educational system founded on principles in harmony with popular institutions, and resting largely upon the will of the people for its success.]

EXPLANATIONS OF THE NEW REGISTER.

A FULL supply of Registers has been forwarded to each Inspector. Trustees should obtain a copy by the beginning of the School year, (Nov. 1st).

With a view to economizing the educational funds of the province, a change has this year been made in the form of the School Register. Henceforth the cover and sheets will be furnished separately. Each section will be furnished with as many covers as there are Teachers employed in it. These covers being substantial and well-made will, with proper care, last many years. The sheets can be procured from the Inspectors, as required. They are stitched together in sets of three, making six leaves in each. For a school of 60 pupils or under, one set of these sheets will be sufficient for a school year. In such schools as have upwards of 60 pupils a new set will be required each term. The column headed "Pupil's Number" on page 8 is left blank, to be filled in by the teacher with the numbers from 1 to 60 or from 60 upwards, as the circumstances of each school may require.

In schools having upwards of 60 pupils, pages 3 and 6 of the Register will be left blank.

ENTRY OF NAMES.—It will be seen that one entry of names is sufficient for a half-year. The names are to be written, in a neat hand, on the faint lines.

DAILY MARKING.—In keeping the register of attendance teachers will make use of the following

MARKS.

- For *Present* a short perpendicular line, thus. I
- " *Present* but *Tardy*, the same, with a horizontal over it. T
- " *Excused* on account of *sickness*, use. s
- " *Excused* on account of *weather*. w
- " *Excused* for any other sufficient reason. o
- " *Absent* without excuse. a

The roll must be called each morning and afternoon. The space above the faint blue line is for the morning, and that below for the afternoon.

Where a pupil enters the school some weeks after its commencement for the term draw a horizontal line (thus