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FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETINGS.

Last Monday in September
 THE ~~third Monday in the present month~~ is the day on which our School Law requires the annual School meetings to be held in all the School Sections throughout the Province. To the friends of Education, and for our Public Schools, the day above named is one of much interest, as the deliberations and decisions of those School meetings must assuredly be for good or harm.

The following is the usual order of business in these meetings;—1st, to elect a Chairman; 2nd, to elect a Secretary; 3rd, to elect new Trustees, or a new Trustee, as the case may require; 4th, to receive the Report of the Trustees; 5th, to determine, by vote of a majority of rate payers present, the amount of money to be raised by the section for the ensuing year.

We shall make a few remarks on some of the points in the above outline. After the organization of the meeting, the Chairman being in his place, the meeting will proceed to the election of a Secretary. In this duty the Electors should exercise mature judgment and sound discretion, and inasmuch as an accurate record of the business of the meeting is to be handed to the Inspectors for the County, and may become the basis of future action, the record of the meeting should, as far as possible, be correct and intelligible, that, when consulted, the will of the meeting may be well understood. With a view, therefore, to this desirable accuracy, the meeting should elect for Secretary, if one such is eligible, a person of honest, business-like habits, able to make a correct minute of the business of the meeting, and to record its decisions.

The presenting of the report of the Trustees for the year now expiring will be the next business in order; and it is presumable that this report has been prepared with careful attention to all the requirements of the sections, and that it places before the rate payers a detailed account of the expenses of the past year, so that every man may understand how school matters stand. Not unfrequently confusion, almost without remedy, results from the negligent and inaccurate manner in which Trustees prepare and present, in their report, the business of the Section. Rate Payers are not generally satisfied with reports of business which they do not understand, doubts insinuate themselves, and the suspicious mind is prepared to believe that confused statements were purposely confused, to conceal fraud. The report should, therefore, be as distinct and definite as possible, going into all necessary details, and making an honest and open exposure of the whole interest of the school. Attention to this, we are persuaded, will prevent a large amount of needless debate, loss of time, and sectional partyism. Trustees should feel it a duty, owed to the section, to look well to the suggestions now made, and the intelligent rate payers should, as an imperative duty, insist in having from retiring Trustees, an explicit statement of the whole income and expenditure of the year. In this way the Section will understand its position, and have a fair opportunity for making provision for future success.

The choice of Trustees, or of one Trustee, will probably be the next business in the School meeting. Among rate payers the question is frequently heard, who shall be Trustees? and the inquiry is one of no little value to the School interest. Judging from the actions of some few sections, we fear that not a few individuals answer this interrogation by replying, "any one at all no matter who." In some few instances opposition to the School Law is a qualification of some value. Alas for the Section where such is the case! Who should be Trustees? Who should not be? Enemies to the School Law, the indifferent, the indolent, or evading friends, are by no means, if escape from such is

possible, to be exalted to the responsible and honorable position of Trustee. From such, the friends of education can expect nothing but obstruction, and during their term of office, the interest of the section will know only neglect.

If a stern, determined, uncompromising conflict in a school meeting is admissible, it is when a party hostile to the interest to the school, or with a view to impede progress, attempts to force unsuitable men upon the Section, as Trustees. Opposition, then becomes the duty of every man who values the education of his children. Be assured that enemies, or indifferent men will not—cannot, exercise a fostering care for the interest they assume to encourage and protect. If there is an intelligent, clear headed, and sound hearted friend to education in the Section, we urge you by all means, to draw forth all possible influence and give all your strength to have such an one elected Trustee. The effort you make to accomplish your purpose, the object being secured, is well made and will be amply repaid. In placing the School interest in such hands, you express your estimate of honest intelligence, and have, in the character of the Trustee you elect, a guarantee for deserved success. The influence of such Trustees will appear in all School matters, and the wisdom of the choice will be profitable to all. The necessity of having for Trustees the best and most intelligent friends of our School System ought to impress itself deeply on the minds of the people, for as yet a few enemies of our School System lurk in the ranks of friends, ready at any time, to lay unhallowed hands upon this essential appendage to the progress and elevation of our Country. And what a field of usefulness is presented to Trustees interested in the work to which they are appointed? Whether we regard it in its progress or contemplate the future labors, we fail not, to perceive every motive proper to excite a generous mind to honorable activity. As Trustees they are carrying forward and giving increased momentum to agencies which in their results can never cease, and which from their very nature will gather increased force, and have a widened range for good, to be enjoyed in other years and by coming generations.

Who are to vote? The chairman, it is expected, will be sustained in his enforcement of the law which we submit.

SECTION 2ND OF THE AMENDED ACT.

"2. On depositing with the Secretary of Trustees, previous to, or at any annual School meeting, the sum of one dollar, any person liable to pay such poll-tax, though not rated in respect of real or personal property, shall be qualified to vote in the election of Trustees at such meeting, and at any other meeting held for the election of Trustees within a year from such deposit, except the same be refunded as hereinafter provided, nevertheless, that a majority of the Trustees shall be persons rated in respect of real or personal property. Money deposited as above shall be refunded on demand in every case where no assessment is authorized by such meeting; otherwise it shall be retained as payment of the poll-tax of the depositor."

From the above it will be seen, that any person paying a poll-tax of one Dollar, as well as any person paying tax on property may vote for Trustees, thus the law wisely gives young men for the small tax of one Dollar, the privilege of voting on one of the great interests of their country. Though they may have no property they are made, in the exercise of this privilege, to realize that they have a country, and are recognized as identified with its best interests, and are holding and exercising with those around them the dignity of a common manhood. We regard this fact as a most valuable feature in the present School Law. It is not so much the worth of a dollar. The country can live and advance without this; but will do badly without just that manly influence and power, which young men exercise and cultivate, when by vote they assume the valued and inalienable birthright of Englishmen. There is