

peated opinion; many think that the *consent* of the majority must be first obtained, and I confess myself among the number, the 4th clause of the 18th section states that it must be done at the *request* of such majority,—the meaning might easily be made clearer. The power of breaking up Union Schools seems uncertain, and should be made clear.

As to the right place to put the power to alter Sections, and under what restrictions, is a question of some importance. I have still to differ with the Municipal Council of these counties, that Township Councils should have unrestricted power to alter them when they please, there would be nothing settled, no end to change. In some places it would be well enough, but in many places both ignorant and selfish men become Councillors, and there should be some plan to restrict their actions regarding schools. I have no better idea than I formerly suggested to you, viz., to give Councils the power to appoint a Board of some three or five men to make a survey of a township and to lay out all the School Sections, to have their arrangements made final for a period of years, say three or five, unless altered by the *consent* of the majority of each of two Sections requiring a change, and at the end of such period of time to have a re-survey.—I merely give this as a suggestion.

3. UNION SCHOOLS.—The arrangement about Union Schools, though satisfactory as a temporary act might be improved in a permanent one. The power is now in the hands of Local Superintendents, of course the more power they possess the greater the responsibility and liability to blame,—it would be better to fix the plan of paying money by Act of Parliament. Is there any good reason for paying the Government grant to townships in place of to counties, or circuits of a Local Superintendent?—by the present plan some schools are far better paid than others, for instance where there is a large population and but few schools—townships where the people make the greatest effort to start schools receive less money for each school than in townships where the people are indifferent. The money received by each school is diminished in proportion to the efforts made by the township; if the money was paid to a county there would be a larger area to work in, and would better carry out the principle of paying money in proportion to local effort, which I am fully satisfied is the true principle on which to grant legislative assistance; if this plan could be adopted there would be no trouble in dealing with Union Schools, as they could then be treated as any other schools. As far as regards union it would save trouble, for if the public money of each township be kept separate a teacher of a union will have to go to one treasurer for part of his pay and to another for the rest, there will be more account keeping too for Treasurers, Auditors and Local Superintendents.

4. AUDITING SCHOOL ACCOUNTS.—Where the public money is paid by the County Treasurer (which is seldom the case) there is no difficulty in complying with the requirements of the 5th clause of the 27th sect. of the School Act, but when Sub-Treasurers are appointed [by the County Council] for the sake of convenience, a difficulty arises that the law does not provide for, viz., County Auditors must either travel over the county to audit the Sub-Treasurers books, or Sub-Treasurers must take their books and vouchers to the county town. I think there should be a provision making this the duty of Township Auditors, (where Sub-Treasurers are employed,) and to compel them to furnish the County Clerk with a copy of their reports in due time, under a penalty to be recovered by the prosecution of the Local Superintendent before any Justice of the Peace. [Note, It is entirely in the hands of the County Council to make the arrangements here suggested, as the Sub-Treasurers of school money are county officers.]

5. TAXING NON-RESIDENTS.—In places like the Huron Tract, where there is a great deal of non-resident property in most sections, trustees are often embarrassed and teachers kept out of part of their pay for some time by the difficulty of collecting taxes from non-residents. The best way at present is to have their taxes imposed by a Township Bye-Law, but even there is a long delay. In the meantime trustees cannot discharge their teacher (should he not suit them) neither can they impose a fresh tax on residents to make up a deficiency already levied but not collected, this is an obstacle in the way of free schools, I fear it will not be very easy to remedy this difficulty, perhaps a short

and sure method of enforcing payment from absentees could be devised, if not power could be given to raise the uncollected balance off residents or those sending to the school. I think those who send would have the best right to pay it. As it would be unfair to subject residents who have no children to any greater burdens than non-residents. The present power of trustees to sue non-residents will not avail much, as they are often scattered through the county where they cannot be found.

6. TRUSTEES' REPORTS.—Out of 35 Trustee reports that I have received there is not one correct,—they all shew the *actual* amounts received and paid teachers, instead of the amounts *provided or levied*, it is the teachers that fill the reports for the Trustees, this uniform agreement about what they suppose required shows what they understand to be the design of the heading of the columns. It would save Local Superintendents a great deal of trouble if the headings of the columns were altered.

7. SCHOOL VISITS.—I think it desirable to continue the late provision regarding the number of official visits required from the Local Superintendents. The amount of salary suggested to County Councils by the School Act, bore no proportion to the labor imposed, and caused frequent charges to be made in the appointment of Local Superintendents.

8. SCHOOL CODE, &c.—I would further suggest that the laws be all embodied in one fresh act, and the present ones totally repealed;—it will be so much more convenient for the people to find the law all in one place. I have decided opinions on some principles now before the public—such as Sectarian schools, making schools entirely free by Provincial action, &c., but, as I understand your circular, it is not the intention of the Legislature to introduce new principles so much as to perfect details, I will content myself with the foregoing suggestions hoping that you may find in them something worthy of consideration.

From S. Doan, Esq., Local Superintendent, Crowland, Merrittsville.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS.—The Township Council should be empowered to tax each school section within its limits, for a sum sufficient (in addition to the legislative grant,) to keep open a school at least six months in the year, say at four pounds per month; and to impose a supplementary tax, at the request of the Trustees, for any additional sum required to pay the teacher.

UNION SCHOOLS.—But one Township Council should be authorized to assess a union school section; and the money thus collected should be paid to the Treasurer of the Township in which the school house stands. The Trustees of said union section to have access to no other school fund.

From the Rev. E. Sheppard, Local Superintendent of Malahide and South Dorchester, London.

APPORTIONING SCHOOL MONEY.—During the past year the subject of the apportionment of the Government Grant was taken into consideration at an adjourned meeting of the County Board of Public Instruction, for the United Counties of Middlesex and Elgin, when I proposed "that a definite sum be given to each school section, in proportion to the time the school is kept in operation during the year,—say \$100 for a year, \$75 for nine months, \$50 for six months, and \$25 for three months; and that the sums necessary to make up the amounts, be raised by Provincial taxation, if the present grant prove insufficient." With which proposal the members present unanimously agreed.

ADDRESS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICERS IN THE TOWN OF SIMCOE.

To the Rev. E. Ryerson, D.D., Chief Super. of Education, &c. &c.

REVEREND SIR,—The Board of School Trustees and the Local Superintendent of schools for the town of Simcoe have great pleasure in greeting you on this your first official visit, and in bidding you sincere and cordial welcome to this your native County.

They have also great pleasure in communicating to you the unanimous feeling of respect and admiration with which the local school authorities of this Municipality have marked your untiring zeal and long-continued exertions in the sacred cause of universal education; resulting in the highly-improved system of general education, now so prevalent throughout the length and breadth of the Province; and in the extended diffusion of that moral intelligence among the community