

ence between the new and old editions of the advanced text as to justify a teacher in discarding the latter where in use. The new edition simply omitted elementary matter now provided for in the junior class-book, and brought statistics of population &c., down to the present time. The matter of binding would receive his attention.

In regard to the new text in English Grammar, it was claimed by the Superintendent that many of the schools were suffering from the persistent reluctance of teachers to use McCabe's work. As for himself he did not place so low a value on the latter as did many, though he admitted its defects. After five years trial he deemed it inexpedient to resist the general pressure for something more modern. From the general drift of testimony received he believed the new text would prove a serviceable one. In reply to a question of Mr. Fraser's, it was explained that Eaton's "Practical Mathematics" was a single text, embracing the fundamental principles of trigonometry, surveying, navigation, &c., intended to replace four text books costing in the aggregate \$4.25. Though a dollar might seem a high price for a book of its size, it should be remembered that its sale would be very limited, as it was adapted for the use of advanced pupils only. Other text books were referred to incidentally, and at the close of the examination, Mr. Fraser was asked if he wished to press that part of his resolution referring to the issue of circulars to teachers. In reply the Hon. member stated that he did not, as "the explanations given had been sufficient to satisfy him," and the Council of Public Instruction would, no doubt, deal with the subject.

On the general subject of text books the Committee would report:—

(1.) That the Council of Public Instruction be requested to take into consideration the propriety of providing at the earliest practicable period a single Series of Readers for the Schools of the Province.

(2.) That, while not disposed to complain of the style and price of the text-books in general, they would direct the attention of the C. P. I. to the importance of seeing that the books are furnished at the lowest possible price, and that they are printed and bound in such a manner as to make their use as inexpensive as possible to parents.

(3.) That the educational authorities be urged to increased effort to check the evil of teachers insisting on pupils being provided with text-books far in advance of their capacities, and to promote as far as possible a healthful system of oral instruction for the junior pupils.

8. Amendment of the law in relation to Sectional Assessment.

On this subject several petitions were before the Committee:

(1.) One from Mr. Ellis and other inhabitants of Kings County, praying for amendments which, in the opinion of the Committee, would seriously prejudice the efficient operation of the School law.

(2.) One from inhabitants of Urbania School Section, East Hants, praying that the law be so amended as to provide that all real and personal property within a section be taxed for the benefit of the Schools of that Section, irrespective of the residence of the owner.

The Committee beg to report that in their opinion the change asked for in this petition is a desirable one, provided that the legislation be so guarded as to except all descriptions of property which cannot impose Educational burdens on the Section in which it is situated, and which, therefore, may fairly be taxed where the owner resides.

(3.) One from the Trustees of the Bedford School Section, praying for a special Act enabling them to assess for school purposes the property of non-residents.

The Committee having already expressed an opinion in favor of the principle involved in this petition are nevertheless unable to report in favor of the special act prayed for. While admitting that the delegates who appeared in behalf of the Bedford Section made out a strong case, the Committee deem it unwise to anticipate the general legislation on the subject which it is expected will be placed on the Statute-book at an early date.

(4.) The Educational claims of the French people of Nova Scotia.

This subject was brought before the Committee by Mr. Robichau, M. P. P. The Committee beg to report that they were much impressed with representations made and the statistics presented, and that they are of the opinion that the claim of our Acadian people should be seriously considered whenever the question of Academic Grants shall engage the attention of the legislature.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. CHURCH,
ALLEN HALEY,
W. D. HARRINGTON,
HENRY M. ROBICHAU,
J. W. LONGLEY,
W. A. PATTERSON,
R. HOCKIN.

House of Assembly,
April 17th 1884.

AN ACT TO SECURE BETTER ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(Passed April 19th, 1883.)

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of each Annual School Meeting, held under the provisions of Chapter 32, Revised Statutes, 4th Series, to call upon the qualified voters present at such meeting to vote *yea* or *nay* on the resolution embraced in Schedule A.

2. Whenever two-thirds of the qualified voters present shall have voted in favor of the resolution embraced in Schedule aforesaid, it shall be the duty of Trustees of Schools to ascertain through their Secretary, or other person or persons appointed for that purpose, before the first day of November following the School Meeting, the names and ages of all children residing in the Section, between the ages of *seven* and *twelve* inclusive, and the names of their parents or guardians, and to preserve carefully-prepared lists of the same.

3. To ascertain as soon as possible after the first of June next ensuing, how many of the children embraced in the foregoing list have not been at school for *eighty* full days during the then current school year, and to notify the parents or guardians of such children of the exact number of days' attendance made by their children, from the first of November until the first of June.

4. To ascertain as soon as possible after the close of the school year how many of the children of the section have not been at school during the School Year for the period of *eighty* full days, and to impose upon the parents or guardians of such children a fine of Two Dollars for each child who has attended school no portion of the year, and *pro rata* in the case of each child who has attended school, but has not reached the period of *eighty* full days.

5. Such fines shall be collected in connection with the sectional school rates of the following year, and as a part thereof.

6. The rate-payers present at the annual School Meeting are empowered by this Act to make provision to compensate the trustees for the discharge of the duties imposed by this Chapter.

7. In imposing fines for failure to attend the required minimum period of *eighty* full days, Trustees shall exempt such parents or guardians as can show that their children are being properly educated otherwise than in the public school, or whose children are, by reason of delicate health, or being distant over two miles from a school, or other sufficient causes, prevented from attendance.

8. Parents or guardians fined under the provisions of this chapter, can appeal within ten days from the imposing of said fine to any Police Magistrate or Stipendiary Magistrate residing in the Section, or in the absence of such officer, to any acting Justice of the Peace, who may remit or modify the fine after hearing evidence in such case.

9. It shall be the duty of the Mayor of the City of Halifax to submit annually, on or before the first day of October, to the City Council, the resolution embraced in Schedule A, with the substitution of the words "the City of Halifax," for the words "this Section," as found in said Schedule.

10. Whenever the resolution aforesaid shall have received the assent of a majority of the members of the City Council voting thereon, the Commissioners of Schools, on receiving due notice of such action of the City Council, shall and are hereby required to perform, in respect to the City of Halifax, all the duties assigned by sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Act to Trustees of Schools, in regard to their respective School Sections, and to report to the City Council as soon after the first of November as possible, all fines imposed by them under provisions of section 4.

11. It shall be the duty of the Warden, or Presiding Officer, of each Town in the Province having special Municipal incorporation, to submit annually, on or before the first day of October, to the Town Council, the resolution embraced in Schedule A, with the substitution of the word "Town" for "Section," as found in said Schedule.

12. Whenever the resolution aforesaid shall have received the assent of a majority of the members of the Town Council voting thereon, the Town Council shall and are hereby required to perform in respect to the Municipality, the duties assigned by sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Trustees of Schools, in regard to their respective Sections.

13. Sections 4 and 6 of this Act shall be taken as applicable to the City of Halifax and Incorporated Towns, as well as to ordinary School Sections.

14. This Act may be cited as the "Act to secure Better Attendance at Public Schools."

SCHEDULE A.

Resolved, That the provisions of Chapter entitled: An Act to secure Better Attendance at Public Schools, shall be made operative in this section.

SCHEDULE B.

To any of the Constables of said County:

We command you to summon A. B., of.....County, to appear before me at.....on the.....day of.....at.....o'clock in thenoon, to answer to the charge of having failed to cause B. C. to attend School, as provided by the Act to secure Better Attendance at Public Schools.

Hereof fail not, and make due return hereof, within ten days from the date hereof.

Dated at.....this.....day of.....A. D., 188

C. D., }
E. F., } Trustees.
G. H., }