

were sent to the cheap school—crowding that school and depriving trustees of neighbouring sections of a portion of the ordinary means of supporting their own schools. The trustees of the *free* school section rather favoured this proceeding, and thought they could collect *rate bills* for the attendance of the non-resident children. A representation having been made to the Chief Superintendent of Schools on the subject, the following is the answer returned:

"In reference to the question you have proposed, I remark that the trustees of a school section have no legal authority to admit to their school any children not resident in their section.

"The 11th clause of the 12th section of the Act has reference to the collection of rates on the property of non-residents, but has no reference to the assumed admission of non-resident children to the School. The school of each school section is for the children of school age in that section, and for no others; otherwise the consequences would be what you justly state in your letter. In some instances children have been permitted to go to the school of a section in which they did not reside, but not when it has been objected to by any party residing in the section, either to or from which such children have been sent."

#### NUMBER 19.

The nature of the questions proposed by a party concerned, relative to certain powers of school meetings and Trustees, is sufficiently indicated by the following answers returned to them:

"In reply to your questions, I remark that no school section meeting has authority to tax any man according to the number of his children of school, or of any age, as you may see by what I have stated at some length on this subject in the *Journal of Education* for December, p. 183.

"A school meeting has a right to vote that a rate bill of 7½d. per month shall be paid for each pupil attending the school.

"The Trustees, therefore, of section to which you refer, have a right, and it is their duty, to levy the rate bill of 7½d. per month for each pupil attending the school; but they have no right, nor can they collect by law the proposed rate of 5s. for each child resident in the school section between the ages of 5 and 16 years, whether such child attends the school or not. But if the school fund apportionment for the year, and the monthly rate bill of 7½d. per pupil, are not sufficient to make up the salary which the trustees may think proper to pay the teacher and defray the other expenses of the school, the trustees have authority, by the latter part of the 7th clause of the 12th section of the school act, to assess the property of the school section for the balance they may require for such purposes."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### [OFFICIAL.]

*Circular to Wardens of Counties on the omission of County Clerks and Local Superintendents of Schools to transmit certain information required by law.* \*

SIR:—I have the honor to call the attention of the Municipal Council, of which you are Warden, to several matters relating to Common Schools:—

1. The 1st clause of the 35th section of the School Act makes it my duty to apportion on or before the first day of May, the moneys which have been granted by the Legislature for the support of Common Schools in Upper Canada during the current year; and I should have been happy to transmit herewith a statement of this apportionment of such moneys, so far as your Council is officially interested, had the officers whom you have appointed, furnished me with the information required by law to enable me to do so. In order to apportion the Legislative School Grant to any Municipality, for the current year, as required by law, I must have from such Municipality its audited financial school accounts and its school reports for last year. But I have not yet received the former from one County Council in Upper Canada; and I transmit you the names of the Townships within your jurisdiction from which the required school reports have not been received. As I am depending upon the information contained in the accounts and reports referred

to, for the data and grounds on which to prepare and notify the current year's school apportionment, it is impossible for me to perform this part of my duties at the time so appropriately fixed by law, unless each County Council, and the officers appointed by it, will fulfil the conditions and perform the duties enjoined upon them by law at the time and in the manner prescribed in the statute.

3. As to the Auditor's report of the School Accounts of the County and Sub-treasurers, a certified copy of the abstract of which the 5th clause of the 27th section of the Act requires the County Clerk to transmit to this Department, on or before the first day of March, I have to remark, that, in a circular dated as early as 31st July, 1850, I called the attention of the Council to the provisions of the law in regard to the mode of securing and paying the local School Fund, and suggested the manner in which it could be systematized and simplified; and in a circular from this Department, dated 4th March, 1851, the auditing of the accounts of the School Fund and reporting other information on school matters, was specially brought before the Council. But I regret to say that from no County has one such audited abstract of accounts for 1851, as required by the clause of the Act referred to, been yet received by this Department. This has arisen, as I have been informed by some County Clerks, (who have readily furnished me with such information as they possessed on the subject) from the delay on the part of Sub-treasurers to send in their accounts, or from the absence of that responsibility and security on the part of those officers which the law requires each County Council to see should be given. I hope this matter will engage the prompt and effective attention of your Council.

3. Another subject which I have to bring before the Council is the furnishing me with copies of its proceedings "relating to school assessments and educational matters," as required by the 3rd clause of the 27th section. Some County Clerks have annually performed this duty faithfully and well; but from others I have received no information whatever,—either of the appointment and post office, address of the local Superintendents and County Treasurer, or of the proceedings of your Council on educational matters. The attention of County Clerks was drawn to this matter also in the circular of the 4th of March, 1851—and some of them immediately either partially or wholly complied with the law, but have omitted to do so this year.

4. Accuracy and punctuality in the transaction of every kind of business connected with the interests of the several Municipalities throughout the country, is an important branch of public education, and an essential element in the intellectual and social advancement of the people. The establishment of County and Township Municipal Councils has tended and is largely contributing to educate the people in a correct appreciation and management of their own local affairs. The school system carries the principle of local self-government into each school section, as well as county and township; and a correct and systematic manner of working it out; of devising and accounting for all its financial operations; of reporting its state and progress, is a comprehensive and powerful agency of social training,—apart from the advantages conferred by the schools, and the information diffused by reports. And it is for each County Council, by the fulfilment of its own functions, by the appointment of suitable local school officers, and by seeing that each of them performs his duties enjoined by law, to aid in procuring a progress and "consummation so devoutly to be wished."

5. I will lose no time, after obtaining the necessary returns, in notifying the apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for the year; but as the aggregate amount of it is the same as that of last year, the variation in the amount apportioned to each Township, arising from the variation in the comparative increase of population in different municipalities, cannot be very great. On the basis of last year's apportionment, your County Council might therefore proceed forthwith, should it think proper, to levy the local assessment part of the School Fund for the year.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 1st day of May, 1852.