

High and Public School Laws.

The Minister of Education has issued the following circular to Municipal Officers calling their attention to some amendments made to the Public and High School Acts during the last meeting of the Legislative Assembly:

(1) Provision is made for "Continuation Classes" in Public Schools situated in a municipality in which no High School has been established. The object of these classes is to enable pupils who have passed the Entrance Examination to a High School, or who have finished a Public School course, to continue their studies as far as the Second Form of the High School. Boards of Trustees are at liberty to collect reasonable fees from pupils who have passed the Public School Leaving Examination; pupils who have passed the Entrance Examination only are to be admitted free. The trustees shall appoint for such classes a teacher with the qualification of an Assistant in a High School, unless the teacher in charge is reported by the Inspector as fully qualified to give the necessary instruction. The County Council may aid such schools by a grant equal to the Legislative grant, or such further sum as it may deem expedient. The Minister of Education is authorized to pay for the maintenance of each pupil the average amount paid for High School pupils. (Section 8.)

(2) In all elections for Rural School Trustees, a farmer's son, qualified to vote at a municipal election, is qualified to vote for a School Trustee or may be elected as a school trustee. (Sections 9 and 12.)

(3) Boards of School Trustees are required to hold their first meeting for the organization of the Board on the Wednesday following the annual meeting, at the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon, and at the school house. (Section 16.)

(4) Walls or fences for the enclosure of the school premises shall be erected and maintained by the Board of Trustees at the expense of the school section. (Section 34.)

(5) A petition for the formation of union sections will be legal if signed by five ratepayers of the municipality asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to consider the formation of a union section. Heretofore every such petition required the signature of five ratepayers from each of the municipalities concerned in the formation of a union school section. The award of the arbitrators declaring that no change should be made in the boundaries of union sections, or that no union section should be formed, although petitioned for, is binding for five years unless appealed against. (Section 43.)

(6) Assessors are required to report with regard to the equalization of union school sections on or before the 1st day of June instead of the 1st of July, as in the old act. (Section 51.)

(7) The grant heretofore made by

Councils as the equivalent of the Government grant is dispensed with. The original intention of this grant was that it should be levied by uniform rate over the whole county. In practice, however, it was found in almost every case to be levied on the township, and thus as a matter of fact was a township rather than a county grant. Under the new Act, Township Councils are authorized to levy the sum of \$50 for each school, in addition to the sum of \$100 which they were authorized to raise under the Act of 1891. As the sum formerly levied by the county amounted to over \$30 per school, the increased contribution made by the township is less than \$20 in excess of what it formerly was. As the law now stands, every Township Council will be required to raise \$150 for every school in the township. In the case of schools with an assistant teacher, \$100 additional is required for such teacher. The advantages of the change are briefly these: (a) The routine of collecting the grant through the county from townships, which was merely a matter of book-keeping, is dispensed with. (b) The inequality which exists in the township with regard to the rates to be levied for the maintenance of schools will be reduced and the smaller sections, which for local or other reasons could not be enlarged, will be aided. (c) Township Councils will be to a great extent relieved of the disagreeable duty of altering school boundaries with a view to meet the complaints of taxpayers. (d) The loss to a school section by rendering useless school houses that might have to be abandoned by the change of school boundaries will be obviated. (e) Small school sections that were heretofore open for six months only will be able to keep open during the whole year. (Section 66.)

(8) Municipal Councils may issue school debentures for amounts less than \$100 if deemed expedient. (Section 70.)

(9) Any by-law exempting any portion of the rateable property of a municipality from taxation, in whole or in part, will not apply to exemptions from school rates. (Section 73.)

(10) County Boards of Examiners are to be appointed annually. (Section 79.)

(11) Easter holidays in rural schools are extended four days. It is the intention to hold the Teachers' Institutes during the summer holidays in order to prevent any interruption to the ordinary working of the school. The holidays at Easter will therefore be made up by dispensing with the teachers' meetings during the school term. (Section 89.)

HIGH SCHOOL AMENDMENTS.

(1) Pupils from any High School district in the county shall be considered county pupils unless they attend the High School of the district in which they reside. (Section 2, sub-section 5.)

(2) The trustees of a Public and a High School may unite to form a Board of Education for the joint management of

Public and High Schools of the municipality for which they are respectively trustees (Section 3.)

(3) The trustees of any High School may limit the optional subjects to be taken in such High School, provided always that any course required for matriculation into the University is taken. (Section 9.)

(4) Where county pupils pay High School fees, the amount of such fees, if advantage is taken of section 31 of the Act, is to be deducted from the whole amount for which the county is liable for maintenance. This was the intention of the High Schools Act of 1891, but not being clearly expressed, some counties were required to pay for the maintenance of county pupils without being credited with the fees paid by county pupils. (Section 31, sub-section 2.)

(5) County Councils may pay for the maintenance of pupils attending a High School in an adjoining county where the High School district is contiguous, at the same rate as for county pupils. (Section 31, sub-section 7.)

(6) Any grant given by County Councils in addition to the amount for which the county is liable for the maintenance of county pupils shall be in proportion to the liability of the Council, that is to say, this liability may be doubled or trebled but specific sums regardless of such liability cannot be made. This provision of the new law does not come into force until after the 31st of December of the present year. In this provision High Schools mentioned in sections 11 (6) and 31 (6) are included. (Section 35.)

Several minor amendments to the Act have been omitted as not of sufficient importance to require special mention.

Wire Fences to Prevent Snow Drifts.

The council of the Township of Pickering recently passed a by-law to pay 12½ cents per rod towards the erection of a wire fence to prevent drifting of snow on the roads. The by-law provides that to obtain bonus the person proposing to build fences must file with council, a certificate signed by at least fifteen ratepayers acquainted with the road, showing that the road is subject in the winter season to heavy drifting to such an extent as to impede or stop public travel, that a wire fence on one or both sides of road would likely prevent drifting. Applicant shall also file a description of the proposed fence, and shall agree to maintain the fence where erected.

Before bonus is paid, the building of such fence, the style and kind of fence, must receive approval of council, and fence must be built and completed to satisfaction of some member of the council or of a commissioner to be appointed for the purpose.

Nurse—Willie, in your prayers you forgot to pray for grandmother's safety.
Willie—Has she got a bicycle, too?—Judge.