

OTTAWA TO TAX BACHELORS.

They Get the Benefits of Civilization, but Do Not Pay.

A proposition to have a tax imposed upon bachelors in Ottawa is to be laid before the city council by Ald. Desjardins. He intends to have the finance committee consider the advisability of an application to the Legislature to secure authority for such action.

"There are some bachelors in Ottawa," Ald. Desjardins stated, "who own property and pay taxes, but there are a great number who do nothing of the sort. They use our streets and have the benefit of the whole corporation service without paying a cent toward the maintenance of the city. These, too, nearly all belong to a class who are well able to pay by reason of their holding positions which give good salaries. They should pay taxes as well as the rest of us.

"The special tax, moreover, may have the tendency of increasing the number of marriages. Old bachelors are far too numerous in Ottawa."

The New Assessment Act recognizes the above principal. By sub-section 19 of section 5 of the Act the incomes of persons, *not being householders and assessed as such*, are exempted from taxation to the extent of \$400 only, whereas persons assessed as householders in cities or towns having a population of 10,000 or over, are entitled to an exemption of \$1,000, and in other municipalities, \$700.

IMPROVED ELECTION METHODS.

As a result of his investigation of the recent municipal election frauds in Toronto, Judge Winchester has made the following recommendations :

(1) That the deputy-returning officers and poll clerks respectively be appointed by the council at least one month prior to the election, the deputy-returning officers to be chosen from the sub-divisions in which they are to preside as deputies ; that the poll clerks be assigned to their duties by the Board of Control not sooner than one week before the elections ; that in no case should relatives be appointed to the same polling booth.

(2) That these officers be sworn by the city clerk or a Justice of the Peace at least one day before the day of the election.

(3) That a numbered ballot be used in connection with all municipal elections. Had the ballots been numbered at the late elections this investigation could have been concluded in a very short time at a trifling expense, as also the criminal prosecutions that were held.

(4) That one ballot paper be used for all candidates, including Mayor, Board of Control, Aldermen and Board of Education ; that when delivering the ballot papers to an elector, the deputy-returning officers ascertain what portion of it is not to be used, and cancel the part not to be used with a stamp reading "not used."

(5) That at the close of the poll the deputy-returning officer, poll clerk and constable certify on the line immediately following the last name entered in the poll book that such name was the last one so entered ; and also certify the number of ballots delivered out for each office, and that the ballots as counted tally with the number entered in the poll book.

Election of Officials.

(6) That the city clerk within one week from the return by the deputy-returning officers of the ballots, poll books, etc., and before payment to the officers named, do report to the Board of Control the manner in which each deputy-returning officer and poll clerk has performed his duty, and if the report shows that the statute has not

been complied with that the offending officers be not again appointed, and, if considered, that their remuneration be withheld.

(7) That the city council be granted authority to order a re-count of the ballots to be held before the County Judge, if considered proper in the public interest, such re-count to take place within four weeks from the election.

(8) That the payment of scrutineers be made an offence against the municipal election laws.

To Cancel Franchises.

(9) That all corporations holding franchises from the municipality be liable to have their franchises cancelled by the council on the proof of any illegal interference by or with the authority of any director or other officer of such corporation in the election of any member to the council.

(10) That every voter be only allowed to vote for Mayor, Board of Control and Board of Education at the polling place of the sub-division in which he resides, and there only.

(11) That where legislation is necessary to carry out the above recommendations such legislation be applied for.

QUALIFICATION OF SEPARATE SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Mr. Justice MacMahon has given a decision which will probably affect a great many separate schools throughout the Province. The learned Judge finds the law to be that separate school teachers should pass the same examinations, and have the same qualifications, as teachers in the public schools. In the case of *Grattan v. Ottawa separate school trustees*, Judge MacMahon holds "that under the law the teachers of separate schools must qualify and pass the same examination to teach in Ontario as is required to teach in the public schools ; that unqualified teachers have no rights as teachers either among the Christian Brothers or any other body, as at the time of The British North America Act provision was made only for such persons as were then engaged as teachers, and that all persons who entered the profession in Ontario after 1867 would have to pass the usual examination ; that no authority is vested in the trustee by the Act to expend money on the erection of any religious institution or for the residence of a teacher, and the agreement could not be entered into for a longer period than one year. The agreement is held to be invalid and an injunction has been granted to restrain the board from entering into it."

In answer to questions concerning this judgment, Deputy Minister of Education Millar, of Toronto, said recently : "We will insist on all teachers being qualified or withhold the Government grant. If this decision is enforced, it means that the majority of the separate school teachers in the Province will have to qualify. I cannot say just how the Department will proceed."

An Order-in-Council has been passed incorporating Haileybury, in the District of Nipissing, as a town, to take effect on the 1st August inst. Mr. H. McQuarrie has been appointed returning officer for the election of municipal officers, which will take place on August 6th.

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Mr. Wm. Mitchell, town clerk of Goderich for the past twenty years, and secretary of the public school board, expired suddenly on the 18th July last, while on duty in his office.