

division court clerk, and also to associate with himself one or two other municipal clerks to assist in making the municipal portion as beneficial and interesting as possible. It has been to the editor so far a labor of love if he has in any manner been able to be of any service to others engaged in similar work with himself, but his other engagements are such as fully occupies his time, so that the time devoted to the MISCELLANY has been in a sense *stolen hours* and it is due to the large and increasing list of subscribers that he obtains such assistance as will make it an organ worthy of their support.

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A CORRESPONDENT in writing us on other matters stated that he would have liked to see a meeting of municipal clerks at Toronto during the time of the Exhibition there, as no doubt many clerks would be there at that time. He thought it would be advisable, if time permitted, to get the clerks in each county to meet together and appoint delegates to attend a meeting to be held in Toronto or some central place to organize. We coincide with the views of our correspondent as to the advantage it would be to municipal clerks to form a Provincial Association. The Division Court clerks have found their Association of great benefit, and this benefit has extended to all, even those stay-at-homes who have never joined or become active members of the Association, as an increased tariff of fees somewhat proportionate to the duties has been mainly the result of the united action of the Association in bringing the matter intelligently before the proper authorities. So would it be in the matter of the municipal clerks, who are as a rule very much underpaid for the services performed. We believe it is a fact that taking the actual number of hours devoted necessarily to municipal work as required by law and by their council, that very many clerks, especially in township municipalities, do not receive the wages of a common day laborer. We have heard that in one municipality at least, the clerk has to do the work for the miserable pittance of \$30 a year. This of course is an exceptional case, but all the same if a statement of the salaries paid clerks were made it would surprise a great many. Something like uniformity of salaries in proportion to population of municipalities might be brought about by means of an association. We wish someone would take the initiative in bringing about a meeting to organize an association. We shall be happy to assist as far as we can.

THE NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL ACT.

We expect that a majority of our readers are already in possession of the new School Act, but as some of them have requested us to point out the principal amendments made in order that the changes in the law may be more readily seen, we accede to their request.

The first change of importance is in the interpretation clauses. It will be noticed in the former Act that the word "teacher" was interpreted to "include female as well as male teachers," whereas in the new it is to "mean any person holding a legal certificate of qualification." The latter is the neater rendering, but at first sight it appeared to affect a good many teachers in the newer districts whose qualification is merely a "permit." This, however, can hardly be so, as permission is given to Inspectors to grant permits in certain cases, and therefore those qualified in that way would be legally qualified.

The next change noticeable is the omission of the word "resident" in the interpretation clauses. The interpretation given that word in sub-section 6 of section 2 of the old Act was somewhat ambiguous, to say the least, and in one case that we know of it led to a new election of trustee under the following circumstances: A person who had been a trustee of a village school removed his family to the suburbs, just outside the school section. He continued his business in the village, and paid an average taxation to the Public School. He was re-elected last January as a trustee of the village school, as it was thought that section 13 which requires trustees to be "actual residents" of the section was governed by the interpretation given of the word "resident" by the Act itself. The Minister held differently, and a new election was held. As the word "resident" has been omitted in the new interpretation clauses, no future difficulty of this nature will arise.

Section 3 is new, by which the regulations of the Education Department are to be considered as governing in any matter where they can consistently do so. The Act respecting the Education Department may be said to have always provided for the same thing.

It will be noticed that the arrangement of many of the sections of the new Act are different, though re-enacting the former laws. For instance section 7 of the new Act is the same as section 33, sub-section 1, of the old Act, and there are many other changes of a like nature not necessary to refer to further.

Section 8 and sub-sections thereto having reference to the union of High and Public Schools are substantially the same as sections 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224 and 225, except that we observe the words "(or Collegiate Institute)" have been omitted from the new Act. We do not know whether or not there are any union Collegiate Institute and Public School boards, and if there is, whether or not the omission of these words will have the effect of arbitrarily dissolving such union.

There is a new provision made by sub-section 2 of section 9, whereby the children of non-residents who pay the average assessment of residents are to have the privilege of attending school on the same terms as residents. Section 172 also makes important changes in respect of non-resident children attending schools nearer than the school in their own section. Formerly these were admitted on payment of a monthly fee not to exceed fifty cents; now they are to be admitted, if there is sufficient accommodation, and the fees may be such as are mutually agreed on by the parents and trustees, but not to exceed the average cost of the instruction of the resident pupils. The parents are still liable for the school taxes of their own section, but power is given to the trustees of such section to remit, if so disposed, so much of such taxes as would be equivalent to the fees paid to the other school. This is a provision which we imagine will be seldom acted on, for but few trustees will voluntarily relinquish any taxes which the law gives them a right to. Now that every section gets a proportion of the general tax, it would seem but right that pupils be allowed the privilege of having a choice of two schools, the one in their own section and also the one in the adjoining section nearest their residence.