

is duly carried into effect by the parties concerned. If the teacher undertakes to see these things done, for a certain remuneration, or for what he may have to pay to get them done, very well; but it is clearly the duty of the trustees to make provision for having them done at the expense of the section.

5. POWER OF TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO ALTER SCHOOL BOUNDARIES.—TAXATION.

A Town Reeve inquires as to whether a township council can alter the boundaries of school sections without the actual consent of the majority of the inhabitants of the several school sections concerned,—remarking that if such were the case, no alterations would ever be made, however necessary, as a majority of one or other of the sections concerned would always be opposed to such alteration. He also wishes to know whether trustees can levy and collect a rate, after the adoption by the majority of a school meeting of a resolution against "all taxation," in order to prevent the trustees from keeping open a school longer than the public school fund would defray the expenses of it. The following is the answer to his questions:

"The object of the fortieth and following section of the Act was not to deprive a township council of the power of altering the boundaries of any school section without the consent of the majority of such school section; the object of the Act was to prevent changes from being clandestinely made in the boundaries of school sections, without giving all parties concerned notice of any alteration or alterations proposed, that they might have an opportunity of putting the council in possession of all they might wish to say for or against such alterations. But after all parties have thus had an opportunity of a fair hearing, the township council has authority to make any alterations in the boundaries of school sections it may judge expedient, provided such alterations take effect only at the close or on the 25th December of each year, so as not to derange the calculations or proceedings of the Trustees in the course of the year. The only case in which the formal consent of the majority of the inhabitants of school sections is requisite in order to an alteration in their boundaries, is in uniting two or more sections into one.

"2. In reply to your second question, I remark that the last part of the resolution of the school section meeting which you enclose, containing the words "and no taxation," is null and void, and of no more effect than if it had not been adopted; as the last part of the 10th clause of the 27th Section of the School Act expressly authorizes the trustees to levy any additional rate they may think necessary to pay the balance of the school expenses; and this rate, as the Attorney General has decided, cannot be merely on parents sending their children to the school, but must be on all the ratable property of the school section.

6. TAX ON PARENTS AS SUCH UNLAWFUL.

A majority of a school section meeting adopted a resolution in favor of supporting their school by taxing every man in the section according to the number of his children between the ages of five and 16 years; a local superintendent inquires if such a tax is lawful. The following is the answer returned:

"It is contrary to law to levy a rate on children of school age without regard to their attending the school: or, in other words, to tax a man according to the number of his children between 5 and 16 years of age. The School Act authorises three modes of providing for the expenses of the school—namely, voluntary subscription, rate bill on parents sending children to the school, and rate on property; and if the sum authorized by either of these modes of supporting the school be insufficient to defray all the expenses incurred by the trustees, they then have authority, by the latter part of the 10th clause of the 27th section, to levy any additional rate on the property of the whole section, (not, as the Law Officer of the Crown has decided,—merely on parents sending children to the school) to provide for the payment of such expenses.

7. POWERS OF TRUSTEES.—ANNUAL AND SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING. UNION SCHOOLS.

A local superintendent proposes seven questions, the import of which may be inferred from the following answer to them:

"1. If the trustees of a school section do not keep open their school, though abundantly able to do so, the constituencies that elected such persons as trustees must suffer the consequences of their conduct, like the constituencies of an unfaithful member of Parliament or a Municipal Council.

"2. The 44th section of the Act states the way, and the only way, in which school sections can be divided, and their school house property be disposed of.

"3. The electors who neglect to attend the annual school meeting of their section, have no just reason to complain of any deci-

sions of such meeting, any more than electors who neglect to vote at the election of a councillor or member of the Legislature, have just reason to complain of the result of such election. But by the 20th section of the Act, trustees, if they think proper, can call a special meeting for any school purpose whatever.

"4 & 5. All that an annual school meeting has power to do is enumerated in the several clauses of the 6th section of the Act. All else that an annual school meeting may resolve to do is null and void, as if it had not been done. The trustees alone, and not any public meeting, have the right to decide what teacher shall be employed, how much shall be paid him, what apparatus shall be purchased, what repairs, &c., shall be made, how long the school shall be kept open; in short, every thing that they may think expedient for the interest of the school. See clauses 4, 5 and 8, of the 27th section. No special school meeting called by the trustees (or the local superintendent, who has the right of calling a special school meeting,) has a right to decide on any matter or matters than such as are specified in the notice of the trustees calling such meeting, as provided in the 20th section.

"6. Each union school section is to be regarded as a section of the township within the limits of which its school house is situated, and to receive its apportionment from such township only.

"7. The father of whom you speak had no right to vote at the school meeting to which you refer. If he had rented the house of his son, and occupied it, he, and not his son, would have had a right to vote. But the father was neither; he was only an inmate in his son's house."

8. RIGHT OF TRUSTEES TO PROCURE APPARATUS.

Some persons in a school section objected to paying their school rate because the trustees included in it the sum necessary to pay for certain school apparatus, though a public meeting had voted in favour of purchasing it. The trustees inquire if they can enforce the payment of the rate. The following is the answer to their inquiry:—

"You have ample authority to include the expense of your school apparatus and all other expenses of your school in the rate on property which you propose to assess; nor was it necessary for you to call a meeting in regard to the purchase of the apparatus, as the 4th clause of the 27th section of the Act leaves all such matters to the discretion of the trustees, as the representatives of their school section."

9. RIGHT OF TRUSTEES TO TAX SCHOOL SECTIONS.

Several persons in a school section refused to pay the school rate levied by the trustees, because they had not called a meeting to get its sanction as to the amount of the teacher's salary and other expenses incurred in support of their school. The trustees ask whether they had proceeded according to law. The following is the answer to their inquiry:—

"The majority of the trustees of any school section have the right to decide what expenses they will incur for school apparatus, salaries of teachers, and all other expenses of their school, as you will see by referring to the 4th clause of the 27th section of the School Act. The trustees are not required to refer to any public meeting whatever as to the nature or amount of any expenses they may judge it expedient to raise to promote the interests of the school under their charge; they have only to leave to the decision of a public meeting the manner in which such expenses shall be paid, and then if such meeting does not provide adequate means to defray the expenses incurred, the trustees have authority by the latter part of the 2nd clause of the 27th section of the Act to provide for the balance of such expenses by assessing the property of their section."

I. Intercommunications with the "Journal."

1. ELEMENTARY ARITHMETIC.

There are two usual methods of reading decimals (decimally denoted fractions), the one being to read them like decimal fractions, the other to say "dot," or "decimal," and read the digits. The former is commonly adopted in Canada, the latter in Britain—(Authority—A. Sandeman, Cambridge). Now there are strong objections to each of these methods. To be sure, the latter (the digit method, d. m.) is convenient, but it does not in all cases readily yield, in reading, an approximate estimate of the value of the fraction, and it wholly ignores the analogy between the notation for decimals and that for integers. The decimal fraction method (d. f. m.), besides these objections, has that of inconvenience. Examples: 39,37,079 and 80,504,0,086,207,504 are read by d. f. m., thirty-nine, and thirty-seven thousand and seventy-nine hundredths of thousandths—eighty thousand five hundred and