

410  
 notices are to be given before a meeting, but the time would have to be a reasonable one so as to give all the trustees an opportunity of attending if they wished. A notice sent to a trustee when it was known he was from home and could not receive word in time would not, we think, comply with the spirit of the Act, even though the letter of the law might be complied with, and it is important for no act or proceeding of a rural school corporation will be valid or binding on any person affected thereby unless proper notice has been given. Nor would such act or proceeding be valid or binding unless adopted at a regular or special meeting at which at least two trustees are present and such resolution entered in the minutes and signed by two trustees. Trustees may at their first meeting appoint the times for holding regular meetings, and in that case the shortness of the notice or the absence of the trustee should not invalidate the legality of such meeting. Notice must, however, be given in all cases whether a regular or special meeting.

Trustees are to have possession of all school property of whatever kind, be it lands, movables or money, which is to be held, used or disbursed for Public School purposes only. They are required to keep the school-house, furniture, outbuildings and enclosures in proper repair, and to see that the well, closets and premises generally are kept in a proper sanitary condition. They are to provide adequate accommodation and a legally qualified teacher or teachers for two-thirds of the children of Public School supporters resident in the section as ascertained from the census of the last assessment roll. They are to visit the school under their charge from time to time to see that it is conducted according to law. They are to dismiss from the school any pupil whom they and the principal of the school have adjudged so refractory that his presence in school is deemed injurious to the other pupils, and where practicable such refractory pupil is to be sent to an industrial school. The trustees are to see that the school is supplied with a visitor's book, register and suitable maps, and other necessary equipment, and to procure annually for the benefit of their school section some periodical devoted to education, and to do whatever they may deem expedient in regard to procuring prize and library books for their school.

Trustees may exempt in their discretion from the payment of school rates, in whole or part, any indigent persons, but notice of such exemption must be given by the trustees to the clerk of the municipality on or before the 1st August. The trustees may also if deemed necessary provide school books and supplies for the children of indigent persons.

The trustees are to make application to the township council on or before the 1st of August to levy and collect from the ratepayers of the school section such sum as may be necessary for the support of the school and other school purposes. The teachers' salaries are payable quarterly, and if funds are not on hand to meet the teacher's salary when due, the trustees are authorized to borrow on their promissory note duly sealed with the school corporation seal such amount as may be necessary, and may pay interest not exceeding eight per cent. for the use of the money borrowed until the taxes are collected.

The trustees are required to give written notice to the inspector and to the municipal clerk before the 15th January each year, of the names and addresses of the several trustees then in office, and of the teachers employed by them.

The annual school meeting and other special meetings of the ratepayers to fill vacancies and the like, are to be appointed and called by the trustees as required. At least three public notices have to be posted within the section not less than six days before the date of meeting, containing particulars as to time and object of meeting. They have to prepare and read at the annual meeting of the ratepayers a report of the business of the year then ending, together with a detailed account of all school moneys received and expended by them during the year. This report has to be signed by the trustees and school auditors.

The semi-annual returns of the average attendance of pupils to the inspector are to be sent not later than the 15th July and 31st December, and should this be neglected the section would not be entitled to its apportionment from the school fund, but the trustees would be held responsible for the amount. There is a manifest error in the new Act relating to this matter, for sub-section 13 of section 40 makes the dates for the returns as above; whereas 206 gives the dates for these returns as the 30th June and 31st December. One or the other must be wrong, and the safer course would be to follow the date of Section 206 making the midsummer return due on the 30th June. There is also an annual return on the forms prescribed by the Education Department, to be sent to the inspector on or before the 1st of January, but should it not be sent him by the 15th January, each of the trustees would be liable in the sum of \$5 per week after the latter date until it was returned.

The above contains the main features of the Public School Act as it relates to the trustees of rural sections:

WE are in receipt, through the kindness of A. Stephen, Esq., clerk of the township of Sullivan in the county of Grey, of four neat pamphlets containing the minutes of council and treasurer's annual statement for 1890, auditors' report for 1890, voters' list for 1891, and township by-laws as revised up to 1886, in which is also included extracts from the statutes relating to line fences, ditches, road allowances, snow fences, health, etc. These pamphlets contain everything that the ratepayer may wish to see relating to local matters in a most convenient form for reference, and we commend the system to municipalities that have not yet adopted it. The publication of by-laws, minutes, etc., in pamphlet form is becoming somewhat general in the wealthier municipalities in Western Ontario, but we are not aware that such is the case in the eastern portion of the province. The township of Sullivan is a populous and wealthy municipality, as we should judge from the total of the collector's roll and its having five polling places. The clerk has no less than forty post offices to keep track of in preparing his voters' list, which is quite an item of work in itself.