

OFFICIAL NOTICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

[The following "General Circular" issued by the Department has, we learn, been distributed among School Trustees, and members of School Boards. In the interest of the profession, however, we have thought it important to give place to it in these columns, where reference may be more handily made to it.—ED.]

GENERAL CIRCULAR.

The Amendments in the School Law during the Session just closed, make it necessary that Municipal Corporations and officials, School Corporations and officials, and the public generally should be informed of their nature and effect; and I propose to do this in the like order as in the Revised Statutes.

I.—AMENDMENTS IN THE LAW.

1. It is now the duty of the Minister to apportion annually, on or before the first of May in each year, the Legislative Grant in aid of Public and Separate Schools according to the returns for the last preceding year of the whole population of Ontario, which the Clerks of the respective Counties, Cities and Towns separated are now required to furnish to the Minister on or before the first day of April in each year. This duty is, therefore, to be performed immediately by the several Clerks, using as the basis of their returns for the population of each County, City or Town separated the Assessment Rolls for the last year.

2. School Corporations purchasing authorized prize or library books, maps or apparatus from booksellers or others, are entitled to an equal amount from the Depository stock or in cash, as they may desire. Normal School students can obtain from the Depository, at cost price, text and library books, maps and apparatus—Teachers' Associations, works on education, and Public Institutions receiving Provincial aid, library, prize and text books, maps and apparatus.

3. The Franchise in the case of all Public Schools has been extended so as to include income voters who have paid a school tax,

while all formerly qualified continue to be so.

4. The mode of electing the Trustees of School Boards in Cities, Towns, Villages and Townships, has been clearly provided for, as will be seen from the Act itself; while in the case of Rural School Sections the old mode has not been changed except as to the day of the Annual Meeting, which will in future be on the last Wednesday in December in each year, or if a holiday on the day following.

5. The duties of Municipal Councils in organized Townships apply to every organized Township in the Province; but with respect to unorganized Townships and Municipalities composed of more than one Township, but without County organization, the law is now clear, owing to the amendment in section 10 of the new Act, which provides that the Municipal Councils in such case can form portions of the Townships into School Sections or a School Board as they see fit.

6. It is important to know that the powers of Trustees of rural school sections to levy or collect upon their own authority public school rates has ceased, excepting as to pending proceedings, which may be prosecuted until the rates are collected; and henceforth the machinery for the collection of all school rates as well as other rates is the same, the basis for the requisition of the School Trustees being the Assessment Roll, and the collections being through the Municipal Collector and other Municipal officials.

7. Any surplus school money (not derived from the Municipalities' Fund, or the Municipal Loan Fund surplus) may be apportioned amongst school sections according to the