

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

The 3rd clause of the 26th section of the school Act makes it the duty of the Municipal Council of each County "To appoint annually a local Superintendent of schools for the whole county, or for one or more townships in such county, as it shall judge expedient," &c., &c.

By the supplementary Act of the present Session of the Legislature, 16th Victoria, chapter 23, the foregoing clause of the law has been modified, so far as it relates to the annual appointment of a local Superintendent, in the following terms:—

"V. And be it enacted, That any person who has been, or may be, appointed local Superintendent of Schools shall continue in office, (unless he resigns, or is removed from office for neglect of duty, improper conduct, or incompetency,) until the first day of April of the year following that of his appointment, and during the pleasure of the Council appointing him:—Provided always, that no local Superintendent shall be a teacher or trustee of any common school during the period of his being in office."

This is one of the most important duties that each County Council has to perform. The value of the office of local Superintendent depends entirely upon the qualifications, abilities, and industry of the person appointed. We implore the members of County Councils not to allow themselves to be influenced by any personal or local consideration in appointing or continuing any person in the office of local Superintendent who is not a good scholar, in at least all the branches of an English education. To appoint any person not thus qualified, however good a man he may be in other respects, is a burlesque upon the office itself, is a waste of public money, and is a great injury to the improvement and interests of the schools. It will be recollected that it is not only the duty of the local Superintendent to attend to financial and other matters of business that require judgment and knowledge, but to the examination of teachers and schools in English grammar, arithmetic, geography, history, algebra, mensuration, &c., &c., and to prepare and deliver public lectures on education in each school section. The local Superintendent should, therefore, not only be better educated than the school teachers generally under his inspection, including a knowledge of teaching, but he should be the best educated man within the limits of his charge, if such person can be obtained to perform the duties of the office. We sincerely hope that there will be no exceptions the ensuing year to the care and discretion which County Councils have generally exercised the last and present year in the selection and appointment of local Superintendents.

AN ACT

TO MAKE CERTAIN PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO COMMON SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA FOR A LIMITED PERIOD.

16th Victoria, chapter XXIII.

[10th November, 1852.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make some further provision for the improvement of Common Schools in Upper Canada, and to modify and extend some of the provisions of the Act thirteenth and fourteenth Victoria, chapter forty-eight, intituled, An Act for the better establishment and maintenance of Common Schools in

13 and 14 Vict. ch. 48 cited.

Upper Canada; Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Board of School Trustees in each City, Town and Incorporated Village, shall, in addition to the

Powers of City, Town and Village Trustees extended.

powers with which they are now legally invested, possess and exercise, as far as they shall judge expedient, in regard to each such City, Town and Incorporated Village, all the powers with which the Trustees of each School Section are or may be invested by law in regard to each such School Section.

II. And be it enacted, That no rate shall be imposed upon the inhabitants of any School Section according to the whole number of children, or of the number of children of legal school age, residing in such section: Provided, that the Trustees of each School Section shall see that each School under their charge is, at all times, duly provided with a Register and Visitors' Book, in the form prepared according to law: Provided, secondly, that the Trustees of each School Section shall have authority to take such steps as they may judge expedient to unite their schools with any public Grammar School, which shall be situated within or adjacent to the limits of their School Section: Provided, thirdly, that the Trustees of each School Section shall be personally responsible for the amount of any School moneys which shall be forfeited and lost to such School Section during the period of their continuance in office, in consequence of their neglect of duty; and the amount thus forfeited or lost shall be collected and applied in the manner provided by the ninth section of the said Act, thirteenth and fourteenth Victoria, chapter forty-eight, for the collection and application of the fines imposed by the said section: Provided, fourthly, that the Trustees of each School Section, shall, each personally forfeit the sum of one pound five shillings for each and every week that they shall neglect, after the fifteenth of January in each year, to prepare and forward to their local Superintendent of Schools, their School Report, as required by law, for the year ending the thirty-first December immediately preceding; and which sum or sums thus forfeited, shall be sued for by such local Superintendent, and collected and applied in the manner provided by the proviso of this section, immediately preceding: Provided, fifthly, that no agreement between Trustees and a Teacher in any School Section, made between the first of October and the second Wednesday in January, shall be valid or binding on either party after the second Wednesday in January, unless such agreement shall have been signed by the two Trustees of such School Section, whose period of office shall extend to one year beyond the second Wednesday of January, after the signing of such agreement.

No rate per capita shall be imposed upon children.

Trustees to provide Register and Visitors' Book.

Union with Grammar School.

Personal responsibility of Trustees.

Application of fines on Trustees.

Penalty on Trustees for delaying Report.

How applied.

Agreements with Teachers not valid in certain cases.

Trustees to assess for School Sites.

Proviso—Must call a Special Meeting therefor.

Mode of proceeding.

Children from other Sections not to be reported

Local Superintendent to continue in office till April, or longer.

Shall not be a Trustee or Teacher.

Powers and obligations. Relating to visits.

III. And be it enacted, That the Trustees of each School Section shall have the same authority to assess and collect rates for the purpose of purchasing School Sites and the erection of School Houses, with which they are, or may be invested by law to assess and collect for other School purposes: Provided always, that they shall take no steps for procuring a School Site on which to erect a new School House, or changing the site of a School House established, or that may be hereafter established, without calling a Special Meeting of the Freeholders and Householdors of their Section to consider the matter; and if a majority of such Freeholders and Householdors present at such Meeting, differ from a majority of the Trustees, as to the site of a School House, the question shall be disposed of in the manner prescribed by the eleventh section of the said Act, thirteenth and fourteenth Victoria, chapter forty-eight.

IV. And be it enacted, That in the event of any person residing in one School Section, sending a child or children to the School of a neighbouring School Section, such child or children shall not be returned as attending any other than the School of the Section in which the parents or guardians of such child or children reside.

V. And be it enacted, That any person who has been, or may be, appointed local Superintendent of Schools shall continue in office, (unless he resigns, or is removed from office for neglect of duty, improper conduct or incompetency,) until the first day of April of the year following that of his appointment, and during the pleasure of the Council appointing him: Provided always, that no local Superintendent shall be a Teacher or Trustee of any Common School during the period of his being in office: Provided, secondly, that no local Superintendent shall be required (unless he shall judge it expedient, and except with a view to the adjust-