

1. Can the trustees of the public school section whose school house we have named by by-law as a place where poll is to be held, refuse to allow the township the use of their school house for a polling place? (Said school has been used for election purposes for many years.)

2. Can the trustees prevent their school house being used as a polling place at Dominion or Provincial elections?

1. Yes. Before passing a by-law fixing the places at which polls are to be held, the council should ascertain whether the owners of the premises are willing that their buildings, or a portion thereof, should be used for this purpose. The fact that this school house has been previously used as a polling-booth, does not bind the trustees to allow it to be so used at future elections.

2. Yes.

Mode of Conducting Separate School Trustee Elections. —Qualification of Voters.

415—P. F. S.—Kindly let me know whether separate school supporters (I mean Roman Catholic separate school supporters) of rural districts must vote openly at all elections, or can they vote by ballot also?

2. And can all female supporters vote also at all elections? R. S. O., 1897 say so. Has any change been made since?

1. The mode of voting at elections of Separate school trustees in rural Separate school sections is set forth in sub-section 6 of section 27 of the Separate Schools Act. (R. S. O., 1897, chapter 294.) No provision is made for the use of the ballot at these elections as has been done in the case of elections of Separate school trustees in cities, towns and incorporated villages by section 32 of the Act or by section 61 of the *Public Schools Act*, 1901, in the case of the election of public school trustees in urban municipalities and townships.

2. Yes. If they are householders or freeholders of the full age of twenty-one years. No change has been made in the law in this regard since 1897.

Compensation for Sheep Killed by Dogs on Government Lands.

416—W. C. V.—The government bought seventeen acres of land in the township of A, and have erected rifle ranges on the property. This property is not assessed, hence pays no taxes. They keep a flock of sheep on their grounds, and recently a number of them were destroyed by dogs. This being government property, is the township liable for two-thirds proven damages to these sheep?

If the sheep, when killed, were on these lands, and the lands were enclosed, the owner is entitled to be paid by the township, the compensation mentioned in section 18 of chapter 271, R. S. O., 1897. (See also section 20 of the Act.) The mere fact that these are Government lands and exempt from taxation, does not affect the right of the owner of the sheep killed to compensation under the Act.

Levy and Collection of Cost of Small-pox Epidemic.

417—J. H. W.—The small-pox epidemic this year cost the township of N. \$1600. The

council wish to know if they can pay half the amount this year and allow the remainder to lay over till next year, or will they be obliged to levy for full amount this year?

Unless such a course would cause the aggregate rate in the municipality to be more than two cents on the dollar on the actual value, exclusive of school rate and local improvement rates, this amount should be levied and collected in the year in which the debt was incurred. (See sub-section 1 of section 402 of the Municipal Act.) If this cannot be done and the payment of the account will have to be extended over two or more years, since it is not part of the *ordinary expenditure* of the municipality, a by-law providing for the issue of debentures to raise the amount required will have to be submitted to and receive the assent of the electors. (See sub-section 1 of section 389 of the Act.)

Farewell Dinner to the Late Clerk of Gravenhurst.

The farewell dinner tendered Mr. B. H. Ardagh, at the Windsor House, recently, by the members of the Curing Club, Maonic Lodge, the town council, and citizens generally, was the best of the kind Gravenhurst has seen, says the *Banner*. An enthusiasm which manifested itself at the beginning was maintained to the last, and every toast was drunk with a heartiness not to be denied. Mayor Grant acted as chairman and toast master, and in a neat speech presented Mr. Ardagh with the following address:

MR. ARDAGH,—

We, who are assembled here to-night, have been called together at a moment's notice, on hearing of your immediate departure from amongst us, where for several years past you have been an honored resident, a game sportsman, and with the interests of the town, municipal and otherwise, at heart. We are assembled together to-night "to speed the parting guest," to enjoy with you the "good cheer" before us, and to wish you God speed and "bon voyage" on the journey, we understand, you purpose taking, and that wherever you may permanently locate in the future you may enjoy prosperity and make, as we are sure you will, as many and more friends as you leave behind you in Gravenhurst. It is hardly necessary for us to express the regret we feel at our loss through your departure, and only hope and trust that it may be for your benefit and advancement."

Mr. Ardagh replied with characteristic modesty, and in a few well chosen words he expressed his appreciation of the high honor done him.

On Monday evening, also, a very interesting event took place at the residence of Mr. H. H. Marter, when the officers and choir of St. James church, presented Mr. Ardagh with an address and a handsome Cabin Bag, and Collar and Cuff Case.

Municipal Politics.

The United States has had a large range of experience in Municipal Government. Her people have had to govern a great variety of cities in a great variety of conditions. From this long and varied experience, her thinking men have come to the conclusion that Municipal Government cannot long be clean or efficient under national party control, and that it is upon the issues of municipal politics that municipal elections should be decided. A like experience, though with a limited range, has been found to prevail in Canada. Every town and city that has undertaken to elect its municipal councils on a party basis has had occasion to regret the course it has adopted. The questions which divide men who vote for a mayor, councillor or school trustee because the candidate is Liberal or Conservative, and not because he is capable of dealing prudently and successfully with the local affairs of his town allows himself to fall into an error, which will militate against himself, against his fellow-citizen, and against the best interests of his town generally. For the past few years we have had little or no party politics in our municipal elections and it is to be hoped that in the future such a consideration will in no wise enter, but that every elector will vote for the men nominated simply because they believe they are the best fitted to manage our local affairs.—*Ex.*

In connection with the application of the Modern Telephone Company for a franchise from the city of Hamilton, Solicitor Mackelcan has written to the chairman of the Financial Committee, stating that he can find no provision in the Municipal Act to give the city power to enter into an agreement with the company to grant it a franchise, unless it is an exclusive franchise. As the Bell Company already has legal rights on the city streets, an exclusive right cannot be granted to any other company. Mr. Mackelcan points out that there are general Acts under which light and power, gas and water companies get power to use city streets, but no such Act in reference to telephone companies. The Bell Company gets its powers under special statutes of the Dominion and Province.

The city of Hamilton is to have telephone service at ten dollars a year for residences, and fifteen dollars for offices. This is a warning to the Bell Telephone people, and it may have a good influence.

The electors of the town of Mount Forest have recently, by large majorities, carried by-laws, granting bonuses of \$20,000, and \$12,000 respectively to a furniture factory and a moulding factory.