

6th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 15th—18th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 27th. Severe thunder storm, 6th, between 7.30 and 9 p.m. Trees prostrated, houses unroofed, and walls thrown down.

GODERICH.—Wind-storms, 10th. Fog, 3rd. Snow, 10th. Rain, 6th, 9th—14th, 17th, 18th, 25th, 26th.

STRATFORD.—Hail, 1st. Lightning and thunder with rain, 6th. Snow, (first) 10th. Indian summer, 20th—24th. Fogs, 8th, 17th, 18th, 25th, 29th. Snow, 10th, 15th, 19th. Rain, 1st, 6th, 12th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 25th, 26th, 27th. Difference of mean monthly temperature from average of 11 years, —1.23.

HAMILTON.—Very large lunar corona, 11th. Rose-coloured auroral arch on 14th, (at 6.25 p.m.) highest point about 75° above horizon. *Hamelis virginica* in blossom, 19th. Fogs, 17th, 25th. Snow, 11th, 15th. Rain, 1st, 6th, 7th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th.

SIMCOE.—Snow, 14th. Rain, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 17th, 22nd, 24th—27th.

WINDSOR.—Lightning and thunder with hail, 6th. Meteor from Sg. of *Pegasus* toward horizon at north. Lunar halo, 10th, 12th, 18th. Wind storm, 15th. Fog 24th. Rain, 6th, 12th, 17th. 25th, 26th. The aurora observed on 14th was of a brilliant scarlet color.

VII. Departmental Notices.

TRUSTEES' INCOMPLETE RETURNS.

Some Inspectors complain of the very great incompleteness of many of the school reports received from Trustees of rural sections, and ask what they should do with them? By reference to the reports themselves, Trustees will see that the Inspectors are directed to return to them all incomplete or incorrect reports. The law declares that a School Section shall forfeit its share of the School Fund, should its Trustees fail to furnish the Inspector with a full and satisfactory report yearly and half yearly. It will, therefore, save the Inspectors a good deal of time and trouble, and the Department some delay, if the Inspectors will promptly return to the Trustees all imperfect reports, so as to have each column correctly filled up. Should an Inspector's Reports to this Department be incomplete, they will have to be returned to him so that the desired information may be obtained.

POWER OF THE "RETIRING TRUSTEE."

In reply to many inquiries on this subject, we answer: That by the New School Act the lost power of the "retiring trustee" has been restored. Up to 1850, he had the same power as any other trustee, but in that year it was enacted that he could not lawfully sign an agreement with a teacher, the duration of which would extend beyond his period of service. That clause has now been repealed and the "retiring trustee" has now precisely the same powers in all respects as either of his colleagues.

NEW SCHOOL REGISTERS.

In reply to numerous applications for Public School Registers, &c., we desire to say that the new edition (including the modifications in the courses of study required by the new School Act) has been sent out to the County Clerks for distribution through the Inspectors. No copies will be sent out direct to individual schools from the Education Department. Trustees will, therefore, apply to the Inspector for them.

ASSISTANTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS A NECESSITY.

Trustees of High Schools will bear in mind that they are required to employ an Assistant Master, in order to give effect to the new programme. The qualifications of these assistants are, that they shall either hold a Public School Teacher's certificate, or at least be certified as an undergraduate in the faculty of Arts, of good standing in some university in Her Majesty's dominions.

The Trustees of each High School, now being established, are required, and consent to employ two masters in their School, whatever may be the number of pupils in attendance. In justice to these new Schools, and in order to carry out the prescribed programme of studies in High Schools, this rule will, at the close of the current six months, be applied to all the High

Schools in Ontario. When the application of the new principle of "payment by results" (authorized by the Act of last year), will come into force, it will necessitate a more thorough and satisfactory system of instruction than at present exists in many of the High Schools.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

The question is sometimes asked if it be necessary that an assistant teacher should hold a legal certificate. We reply: It is absolutely necessary that he should hold one. The law expressly declares that every person receiving any part of the School Fund as teacher shall hold a legal certificate of qualification. The Superior Courts have also decided that trustees cannot legally levy a rate for the payment of a teacher who does not possess the necessary qualifications as such under the School laws.

PRINTED SHEETS FOR SCHOOLS.

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SCHOOL LAW LECTURES—PART II.

THE SCHOOL LAW—Official Regulations and Decisions of the Superior Courts, relating to Township, City, Town and Incorporated Village; Municipal Councils; School Section Boundaries; City, Town and Village Public School Boards; Arbitrations and Awards; Public School Inspectors; Boards of Examiners; Chief Superintendent and Council of Public Instruction; also, the Acts relating to Roman Catholic, Protestant and Coloured Separate Schools. With a copious Index to Parts I. and II. Being the substance of Lectures to Normal School Students. By J. GEORGE HODGINS, LL.D., Barrister at Law, Deputy Superintendent of Education for Ontario.—Price, 75 cents; or 80 cents free by mail.

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