

of the said question respectively. If no persons make application on that day, some might think that the clerk would have no appointments to make, but an application made at any time previous to polling day should be considered. The clerk shall appoint from among the applicants, if any for such appointment, or on behalf of the applicants for each municipality, ward or polling sub-division in the said district in writing, signed by them, two persons, on behalf of those interested, and desirous of obtaining the affirmative answer to the question, and a like number on behalf of the persons interested in and desirous of obtaining the negative answer. Before any person is so appointed he shall make and subscribe, before the clerk, a declaration in the form given in the act that he is desirous of obtaining the affirmative or negative answer. From this, it would appear that no persons could be appointed unless they came personally before the clerk and made the necessary declaration. The clerk should keep a list showing appointments for each polling place. At the polling, the agents are required to produce to the deputy returning officer their written appointments. Where no person has been appointed by the clerk, and in the absence of persons who have been duly authorized to attend at the polling place, any elector, upon making and subscribing, before the deputy returning officer or clerk, the declaration in the form, may be admitted to the polling place to act for the absent person.

There is apt to be a misunderstanding among deputy returning officers and clerks, owing to the fact that the voters' list required to be used, is same as required under the Municipal Act, with the addition of part three, and it must be thoroughly understood that, for the plebiscite vote, all in parts one and three, and *only the widows and unmarried women in part two* are entitled to plebiscite ballots.

In the ordinary polling book, to be provided for use at each polling sub-division, the clerk is required to add a column, headed Prohibition, and entries, as required by law, are to be made therein, showing the names of persons voting on the said question, in addition to the entries required to be made in the poll book at municipal elections. For this purpose, the right hand column in the poll book, used for remarks, may be divided. The proceedings, during the poll and at the close of the poll, are provided for in the act and are the same as in the case of municipal elections. To ensure correctness all deputy-returning officers should be required to employ a poll clerk, to be paid by the municipality, under the authority of section 26.

Good men do not differ as to whether extravagance should be checked and municipal affairs placed in the hands of competent and faithful officers.

A Practical Question.

Perhaps no more important practical question was discussed in any of the sections of the Provincial Association at its recent convention than that of the relation between the public school leaving and the high school entrance examinations. Viewed in the abstract, the most natural plan, and that which seems most in accordance with the idea of a unified and harmonious system, on which the Minister of Education so often dwells, would seem to be that the high school work should begin just where the public school work leaves off. The double examination appears illogical and anomalous. Few will now doubt that a step in the right direction was taken when the high school examinations were excepted as equivalents, *pro tanto*, for departmental and university examinations. Why should not the same principle be applied in the case of the public and high schools? It is clear, as was urged by some of the speakers, that the pupil who has passed the entrance can scarcely be relied on for any earnestness or enthusiasm in further public school work. He is pretty sure either to feel that his education is complete and that his school days ought to be over, or that his proper place is now in the high school, which is henceforth the goal of his ambition.

To our thinking the ideal system would be one in which the public schools should carry the pupil onward to the point, whether fixed at the end of the fifth-form work or elsewhere, at which he could profitably enter upon the high school course, and there should be no overlapping of the two. The completion of the regular public school course, as determined by a leaving examination or otherwise, should be the ticket of admission to the high school, without further test. But the real difficulty is the financial one, and that is, we fear, for the present insuperable. Not one in ten of the public schools, so far as we are able to judge, has the staff and other equipment necessary to enable it to do thoroughly and efficiently the work necessary to carry its pupils successfully to the end of the fifth form, and it would be, there is every reason to fear, impossible at present to induce the parents and trustees to provide the funds necessary to put the schools in a position to do this work. To require a teacher who has already, as the public school teachers in nine cases out of ten have, his or her hands more than full with the work of the four forms, to undertake fifth-form work in addition, would be not only unjust and cruel to the teacher, but destructive of thoroughness in the teaching. Not only would additional help be needed, but the payment of higher salaries to the teachers as well. In view of the fact that so large a proportion of the children never go beyond the public school, it would be a grand advance if fifth-form work could be made a regular and integral

part of the public school course. In many cases the fifth or last year would be worth more to the pupil than any two years preceding, because he would have reached a stage of maturity and of mental power which would enable him to turn his time to vastly better account than at any previous stage.

Until the tax-payers are willing to contribute much more largely for educational purposes, we fear the present illogical over-lapping system is the best practicable. Meanwhile, it is a legitimate and praiseworthy thing to work with a view to a better.—*Educational Journal*.

The Rights of the Wheelmen.

The case referred to on page 157 of THE WORLD (Oct.) has been again before the courts since our last issue. The plaintiff, Mr. Hardy, who suffered defeat in the original action, made application in the regular way, for a new trial. The application was not granted, for the reason given by His Honor Judge Elliott, in deciding the case for the defendant, when it came before him in the first instance. We notice that contributory negligence on the part of the defendant was a material factor in causing the learned judge to arrive at his conclusion in both the instances cited, as suggested in the Oct. issue of this paper.

Owing to the short time intervening between the meeting of the council on the 15th December and nominations, it will be necessary to have the financial statements, required under the provisions of section 263, sub-section 3, of the Municipal Act prepared, so that they can be placed in the printer's hands immediately after the meeting. The statement should show in detail, receipts and expenditure for the portion of the year ending on the day of said meeting, together with a statement of the assets and liabilities and uncollected taxes, and a similar statement in detail is required to be attached thereto respecting the last fifteen days of the preceding year. The statement should be signed by the mayor or reeve and by the treasurer, and published forthwith in such newspapers as the council may direct. Instead of publishing the statement in the newspaper the council may cause the same to be posted up not later than the 24th day of December in the offices of the clerk and treasurer, as well as the post offices in the municipality, and not less than twelve other conspicuous places therein. The clerk is required to procure not less than 100 additional copies of said statement and deliver or transmit by post to the electors who first request him to do so, one of such copies not later than the 24th day of December, and shall also produce copies of the said statement at the nomination. This section does not apply to East or West Algoma, North Renfrew, Muskoka, Parry Sound, or Haliburton.