

THE SCHOOL ACT.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. All Common Schools, which shall hereafter be designated and known as Public Schools, shall be free schools; and the Trustees of school sections, and the municipal councils of cities, towns, villages and townships, shall, in the manner now provided by law, levy and collect the rate upon all the taxable property of the school division, or municipality, (as the case may be) to defray the expenses of such schools, as determined by the Trustees thereof; Provided that Public School Boards in cities, towns and villages, may, if they deem it expedient, collect from parents and guardians of children attending their school, a sum not exceeding twenty cents per month, per pupil, to defray the cost of text books, stationery and other contingencies.

2. Each School corporation shall provide adequate accommodations for all children of school age in their school division, or municipality.

3. Every child, from the age of seven to twelve years inclusive, shall have the right to attend some school, or be otherwise educated for four months in each year; and any parent or guardian, who does not provide that each child between the ages aforesaid under his care shall attend some school, or be otherwise educated, as thus of right declared, shall be subject to the penalties hereinafter provided by this Act; Provided nevertheless, that any pupil who shall be adjudged so refractory by the trustees (or a majority of them) and the teacher, that his presence in the school is deemed injurious to the other pupils, may be dismissed from such school, and where practicable removed to a Industrial School; Provided that nothing herein shall be held to require any Roman Catholic to attend a public school, or to require a Protestant to attend a Roman Catholic school.

4. It shall be competent for the Police Magistrate of any city or town, and for the Magistrate in any village or township or town, where there is no Police Magistrate, to investigate and decide upon any complaint made by the Trustees, or any person authorized by them, against any parent or guardian for the violation of this Act, and to impose a fine not exceeding five dollars for the first wilful offence, and double that penalty for each subsequent offence; which fine and penalty shall be enforced as provided in the one hundred and fortieth section of the Consolidated School Act; Provided nevertheless, that the police magistrate or justice shall not be bound to, but may in his discretion, forego to issue the warrant for the imprisonment of the offender as in said section provided: Provided always, that it shall be the duty of such Magistrate to ascertain, as far as may be, the circumstances of any party complained of, and whether such alleged violation has been wilful, or has been caused by extreme poverty, or ill health, or too great a distance from any school; and in either of the latter cases the Magistrate shall not award punishment, but shall report the circumstances to the Trustees of the division in which the offence has occurred.

5. In each county or union of counties, there shall be one or more School Officers, to be called County Inspectors, who shall have charge of not more than one hundred and twenty, nor less than fifty schools each; Provided always, that it shall not be necessary to appoint more than one such officer in each riding of a county; And provided further, that in counties containing any Municipality wherein the French or German language is the common or prevailing language, an Inspector may have charge of any number of schools not less than forty.

6. Each city or town shall be a county for the purposes of this Act; and the Inspector shall be called the City or Town Inspector, and shall possess all the powers of a County Inspector in such city or town, except such as relate to investigating and deciding on School Trustee election complaints, which now by law devolve on the county judge.

7. The qualifications of county, city or town Inspector shall, from time to time, be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, which shall determine the time and manner of examination of candidates for certificates of qualification, and grant certificates of qualification; and no one not holding such certificate of qualification shall be eligible to be

at Wright's Sales Room.