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## OFFICIAL ANSWERS TO SCHOOL QUESTIONS.

In addition to the reports of school cases (tried before the superior courts), which we insert in the *Journal*, it is our purpose, from time to time, to answer in this form a few of the more numerous class of questions which are constantly being asked in official letters addressed to the Education Department.

## 1. TEACHERS' QUARTERLY EXAMINATION.

*Question.*—A teacher asks, "How often should school examinations be held? Who is responsible for holding them—the trustees or teacher?"

*Answer.*—The law requires the teacher to hold an examination of his school *once a quarter*. He alone is responsible for neglect in not holding them. The trustees have no power to prevent them being held. They, as well as the parents, should, without fail, be invited to attend and witness them, as required by law. A written notice of the time of examination should be sent by the teacher to the trustees, but it will be sufficient to notify the parents verbally through the children.

Teachers are public officers, and are required by law to hold these examinations at the end of every quarter. The parents and public have a right to know how the school progresses, and the best popular evidence that can be given is generally afforded at the Quarterly Examinations.

In order to test the real condition of the school, the Local Superintendent should not be satisfied with the results of the Quarterly Examination. He should choose an ordinary school working day on which to hold his inspection, which should be thorough and minute—but of his visit no previous notice should be given to the teacher.

Should teachers fail to hold the Quarterly Examination of

their school, it is proposed to deprive them of any share in the school grant for such neglect.

## 2. USE OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE FOR NON-SCHOOL PURPOSES.

*Question.*—A ratepayer objects to the use of a School House for other than school purposes, and asks is there no way to restrain trustees in such matters.

*Answer.*—Trustees have no legal power under the School Act to permit their School House to be used for other than school purposes. Usage, however, has invested them with a sort of discretion in this respect. If they should abuse their trust, an application can be made by any dissatisfied party to the Court of Chancery for an injunction to compel the Trustees to confine the use of their School House to school purposes; although no mandamus from the Court of Queen's Bench would likely be granted to compel the Trustees to allow it to be used for other than school purposes, unless there was an express provision in the deed, requiring the Trustees to open it for public or religious meetings.

## 3. CUSTODY OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

*Question.*—A teacher asks, What control has he over the school house, and what is his responsibility in the matter?

*Answer.*—The teacher has charge of the School House on behalf of the Trustees. He has no authority to use the School House other than as directed by the Trustees; nor to make use (or prevent the use) of it at any other time than during school hours, without the sanction of the Trustees. At the request of the Trustees he must at once deliver up the school house key to them, or else lose his legal right to claim any salary from them.

## 4. SWEEPING OF SCHOOL HOUSE.—FIRES, ETC.

*Question.*—A teacher complains that the trustees require him to sweep out the school-house, and perform other menial offices in regard to it. He asks: What protection has he in such a case?

*Answer.*—It is not the duty either of the teacher or pupils to make the school house fires, or to sweep the house itself. The teacher is employed to teach the school, but he is not employed to make the fires or clean the school house, any more than to repair it.

It is the duty of the trustees to provide for warming and cleaning the school house; and it is the duty of the teacher to see that the provision thus made by trustees for these purposes.