

## CORRESPONDENCE

In the July number of THE MISCELLANY you asked the opinion of your readers regarding the usefulness of publishing the treasurer's accounts in the month of December. W. M. says he cannot see much good arising from it; you endorse his views, and so far as printing the simple statement of receipts and expenditure is concerned I agree with you both. The following is the plan adopted by our township. For the past ten years we have got printed in pamphlet form 500 copies a year of the minutes and proceedings of the council. These copies are always ready for distribution at the nomination. An abstract statement of the receipts and expenditure, certified by the reeve and treasurer, is now added, since the law requires the publication of the treasurer's accounts. These printed minutes and certified statement may not exactly be according to the letter of the law, but I think the spirit is there; and I am satisfied the ratepayer can see and understand *how* and *where* his hard-earned money goes which he pays in taxes to the collector. At the same time he can see how the affairs of the township are administered, and it no doubt helps to guide him to give an intelligent vote at the polls. Every township clerk who uses Lytle's Ready Reckoner in preparing their collector's rolls—and everyone should—are under a lasting obligation to the compiler, for it saves time and trouble and is worth its price twice told every year to all who need it. THE MISCELLANY is a welcome visitor; it supplies a long-felt want, and as time goes on its worth will be more and more appreciated by municipal officers.

S.

## RURAL SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

As rural school trustees have not always the latest statutes at hand, and as heretofore our school laws have been somewhat complicated to the average person through the intermixture of sections relating exclusively to different classes of schools, we have been requested to prepare a synopsis of the duties of township trustees in a short form, and now cheerfully comply with the request.

The legal name of school corporations in townships is "The Board of Public School Trustees for School Section —, of the Township of —, in the County of —." They must have a seal, as contracts with teachers and others to be binding must have the seal attached. Three trustees are all that rural sections are to have, and they hold office three years, except those elected for the first time in a new school section. In the latter event, if elected without opposition the first proposed and elected shall continue in office for two years from the date of the next annual school meeting; the second proposed and elected holds office for one year beyond that date, and the third or last person proposed holds office until the next annual meeting. In case of a poll being taken, the trustees then rank in seniority according to the votes polled, the one having the highest vote being elected for the longest term, etc. If a tie vote, then the first nominated has seniority. After the first election one trustee is elected annually for three years, but if elected to fill a vacancy he shall hold office only for the unexpired term of the person whose place he fills. Any trustee may resign provided he gets the written consent of his colleagues in office. Any retiring trustee may be re-elected with his own consent, but otherwise he is exempted for four years. If the ratepayers at an annual meeting desire to re-elect a retiring trustee they

should make sure if he is absent that he consents, otherwise the election would be informal, but we have no doubt the election would hold if he consented as soon as he became aware of his election. The persons qualified to be elected are "such persons as are resident ratepayers of the full age of twenty-one years, and not disqualified under this Act." This would include women as well as men. Those disqualified are persons holding the office of Public School inspector, or a teacher, and any trustee who is convicted of felony or misdemeanor, or becomes insane, or absents himself from the meetings of the board for three consecutive months without authority of the board entered on the minutes, or if he ceases to be an actual resident of the section, or has any pecuniary interest in or from any contract, agreement or engagement, either in his own name or in the name of another, vacates his seat, and a new election must be held. However, the secretary-treasurer may be a trustee, and may legally receive such compensation for his services as may be approved at the annual meeting of the ratepayers and duly entered on the minutes. If any person elected as a school trustee attends any meetings of the school board as such, after being disqualified, he is liable to a penalty of \$20 for every meeting so attended. If on the other hand, any person chosen as trustee refuses to serve he shall forfeit the sum of \$5. A person chosen as trustee and who has not refused to accept the office can be fined \$20 by a justice of the peace if he neglects or refuses to perform the duties required of him.

All boards of trustees other than union boards of High and Public Schools, are to hold their first meeting in the year on the third Wednesday in January at 7 p. m., unless some other hour of the day has been fixed by resolution of the former board at a former meeting. At this first meeting in each year, the secretary presides until a chairman has been appointed. In the event of the votes for chairman being a tie, the trustee present who is the highest assessed on the last revised assessment roll is to have an additional or casting vote. The next thing in order would be the appointment of a secretary-treasurer, who may be one of the trustees, or any other person. After the organization, the chairman has always the same right to vote on any question as other members of the board, but in the case of a tie the motion would be negatived. A majority of the members of the board when present would form a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of such quorum is necessary to bind the corporation. In rural sections two trustees would form a quorum, but they would have to be unanimous as there could not be a majority of votes otherwise. The secretary-treasurer is to give such security for the faithful disbursement of school moneys passing through his hands as the trustees require, and the bond has to be deposited with the clerk of the municipality. If any loss should occur in school funds through unfaithfulness of the secretary-treasurer the trustees would become personally liable for the loss unless they had taken proper security as required by the Act.

All notices of meetings are to be given by the secretary-treasurer to each of the trustees, or notice may be given by any one of the trustees to the others by notifying them personally, or in writing, or by sending a written notice to their residences. No time is laid down at which such