

of the meeting, the audit *must be considered as final on their part on behalf of the Section, and not open to discussion.* In case the meeting cannot agree upon the legality of the disputed item, the law requires the matter to be referred to the Chief Superintendent for final decision.

6. *Who may be Trustee.*—Any fit and proper person who is a resident assessed freholder, or householder of the School Section, may be Trustee thereof; but no Local Superintendent, Teacher, non-resident, or supporter of a Separate School can lawfully hold the office. The Chairman of the meeting (if otherwise eligible), may be elected. In that case he should make a verbal declaration of office before the Secretary of the meeting. Should a person elected as Trustee refuse to serve, he subjects himself to a penalty of five dollars; but a retiring Trustee need not serve for four years after his term of service expires.

7. *Mode of Trustee Election.*—In electing a Trustee, one of the three modes authorized by law may be adopted, viz.: (1) by acclamation; (2) by a show of hands; and (3) by polling the votes. The law requires the Chairman to adopt the latter mode at the request of any two electors present.

8. *Complaints to the Local Superintendent.*—*Appeals to the Chief.*—Any person having a legal objection, either to the proceedings of the annual meeting, or to the election of the Trustee, has a right of appeal against either in the first place, within twenty days, to the Local Superintendent. The Superintendent is required by law to receive and to investigate the complaint, and either confirm the proceedings and election, or set them aside within a reasonable time. Should any ratepayer object to his decision, no further proceedings should take place in the matter until an appeal is made to the Head of the Education Department, (as provided by law in such cases) and decided. Should the proceedings and election be set aside, the Local Superintendent, or Trustee, if desired, should call another meeting for a new election. If no complaint be made to the Superintendent in writing within twenty days after the meeting, the proceedings (however irregular they may have been) must be held to be valid and binding upon all parties concerned. It should be borne in mind that the complaint (if made at all) must be referred in the first place to the Local Superintendent having jurisdiction, and not to the Chief Superintendent. The law provides for an appeal from the decision of the Local Superintendent in such cases to the Chief Superintendent. In no case should the complaint in the first instance be made to the Education Department.

## II. IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.

1. *Day.*—Same as in rural Sections—second Wednesday in January. The proceedings commence and close at the same hours as do the Municipal elections.

2. *Notice of Meeting.*—The Trustees are required to give the same notice as rural Trustees, and have it posted up in the wards six days before the day of meeting. The meeting must be held at the same place as the last Municipal election.

3. *Electors.*—Every school ratepayer of the ward, whether resident or non-resident, who has paid a School tax during the year, is entitled to vote. In case of objection to a vote, a similar declaration is required of the elector as in rural Sections.

4. *Returning Officer.*—The Municipal Returning Officer presides *ex-officio* at the School elections, and is required to conduct the election in the same manner as an ordinary Municipal ward election. In case of wrong-doing on his part, he may be fined by the County Judge, who is also authorized to fine the Returning Officer in case of wrong-doing.

5. *Business.*—At the School meeting no other business beyond the election of Trustee is authorized or required to be done.

6. *Trustee.*—Any person in the Municipality may be elected as Trustee, and he holds office until his successor is elected.

7. *Contested Election.*—The appeal, in the case of a contested election, must be made in writing to the County Judge, within twenty days after the day of election. The expenses of the appeal must be borne by either of the parties concerned, at the option of the County Judge, who is also authorized to fine the Returning Officer in case of wrong-doing.

## GRAMMAR AND COMMON SCHOOL BILLS WITH-

DRAWN.

We regret to say that owing to the character of the alterations which were made in the Common School Bill during its passage through the House of Assembly, it was considered unadvisable to proceed further with the measure. To a modification in some sections of the Act, or even to their removal from

the Bill, no reasonable objection could be urged; but in regard to the more important provisions of the Bill, to modify them in their essential features, was to defeat the very object of the measure itself.

A great deal of time and attention had been given to the perfecting of these Bills, but it was found almost impossible, owing to the many conflicting views expressed from all quarters on their details, to arrive at even a comparative settlement of the question in harmony with the views of various parties interested in them. We trust, however, that at a future time, when the question comes again before the House, there will be a disposition to concede unimportant points, and to abandon theories which will not bear the test of practical experience, or produce the results which their now warm advocates predict for them.

We give below a report of the remarks which were made on the withdrawal of the Bills by the Honourable the Attorney-General:—

“Attorney-General MACDONALD moved the discharge of the Bill (No. 3), to amend the Common School Act of Upper Canada (Ontario). He said the discussion of last night had shown that this Bill, which had been prepared as the result of years of experience and of observation, and with a desire to advance the cause of education, had not received that treatment at the hands of the House which the Government had reasonably expected that it would. He had referred last night to the liberty which had been granted to all members of the House to propose amendments, but it was evident that there was a want of approbation to the views expressed in the measure. The Chief Superintendent had reason to believe that, at the large number of meetings, a large share of accord and approval was expressed in reference to the views he expressed. The result of his labours, and of the proceedings of the Committee of last Session, were found in the measure before the House. The Chief Superintendent asked the Government to assist him in his endeavour to advance the position of the Common and Grammar Schools of the Province. The Government had the fullest confidence in the venerable gentleman, and the country also, he believed, had confidence in him. (Hear, hear). The question of education was most intricate, and the manner in which he had treated the question evoked high admiration for his talents. They felt that he had laboured assiduously and industriously to give such a system of education to the country as had made it an example to other countries, and the manner in which he has introduced improvements in the system of education had had the result, that even the distant colony of Australia had adopted that system. These improvements might or might not be appreciated by the House—it was not the fault of the Government. The responsibility rested upon those members who had rejected the proposed alterations. He took it for granted that there should be no element of party spirit introduced into the discussion of such a measure. Although the Government had consented that there should be perfect liberty to every member to make alterations in the Bill, the alterations which had been made in reference to some portions were of a most important character, and defeated the purpose of the Bill. An effort had been made to give a higher character to the school education of the country, but the House had not responded to it in a liberal spirit, and was not prepared to pass the measure as introduced. The Government felt that unless these Bills were passed without their usefulness being marred, that they would not be calculated to be of advantage to the country. The Education Bill did not touch at all party or religious feelings, and the Government felt that a small majority was not either what the Government or the Chief Superintendent desired. He made these observations with regret, because these Bills were introduced with a desire to promote the education of the country. The House, however, had not considered them desirable, and it only now remained for him to announce the course the Government would pursue without keeping them in suspense. He hoped that the hon. members of the House would not have any cause to regret the course they had adopted of throwing away an opportunity of carrying out the plans of the Chief Superintendent. If there had been any cause to doubt the past career of the venerable chief, that he was not heart and soul in the cause of education, and if he had at the time left any other impression than that he was desirous of