

school within its jurisdiction. Now, in cases of difficulty as to the needs and requirements of a certain school, what body is more capable of settling the question fairly and justly, than the Local Education authority, cognizant as it should be of the condition of each school in its immediate area ?

Again, considering the Act from the standpoint of the rate-payers, we notice an improvement which is most commendable. The School Boards often levied assessments in their respective districts without due regard to the amount of taxation which the ratepayers could bear. Under the new Act the town council or the county council, as the case be, will levy the rates ; and no body can better gauge the weight of the rating burden than a council thoroughly familiar with every financial detail in their district.

Another point to be noted in discussing the changes effected by the Act, is the ability of the men chosen to administer the educational affairs of the district. If we consider the character of the School Boards in general as popularly elected bodies, we cannot deny that in many cases they have done noble work in the cause of education. Yet, in numerous instances, instead of being a body thoroughly representative of the ratepayers ; instead of being a body chosen by a majority of electors to look after education in their respective areas, there is abundant proof that in a majority of instances these School Boards actually represented not more than forty per cent of the ratepayers qualified to vote at the Board elections. The evil effects of this state of affairs can be at once perceived. Nor is the cause beyond our knowing. The people did not take an interest in the election of the best men to the responsible position of school trustees. Moreover, the elections were often controlled by a few who, by their underhand plotting and canvassing were able to secure their elections to positions in which they hoped to reap the rewards of their narrow and selfish ambition. The fact is plain that in many of the school districts of England, the School Boards have never been a body representative of the people.

Now, experience and observation in civic affairs make it evident that no corporate body is more popularly elected, more thoroughly representative of the taxpayers of the community, or