

II. And be it enacted, That no rate shall be imposed upon the inhabitants of any school section, according to the whole number of children, or of the number of children of legal school age, residing in such section."

It will be observed that one or all of the *three modes* above referred to, can be adopted by the annual meeting; but the *amount* of the expenses to be incurred, is left to the Trustees. The Trustees, as the elected representatives of the section, *are required* by the several clauses of the 12th section of the Act, to incur certain expenses in providing instruction for the children of such section; and no public meeting has the right or power by illegally voting that no tax shall be levied, to restrict them,—and thereby *annul* the provisions of an Act of Parliament. (1). If the meeting decides upon *voluntary subscription*, the Trustees are bound to obtain as much as the residents in their section will subscribe, and to collect it as if it were a *rate-bill* or *rate*, as authorized by the second clause of the 12th section of the Act; and provide any balance in the manner prescribed by the latter part of the seventh clause of the 12th section—by a tax upon the rateable property in the school section, *and in no other way*. (2) If a *rate-bill* be decided upon, *the amount per month, or per quarter for each child attending the school should be fixed*, so that all parents sending to the school may know, at the commencement of the year, how much rate-bill they will have to pay. But should the school meeting not resolve upon any particular sum to be paid for the attendance of each child, the Trustees can levy the rate-bill per child attending the school, at the sum usually levied, and then assess and collect whatever balance may be required to pay the Teacher's salary and other expenses of the school, as authorized by the latter part of the 7th clause of the 12th section of the Act referred to. (3). But the most simple, equitable and patriotic mode of supporting each school is by *rate on property*, and then *opening the school to all the children of school age in the section*,—as FREE as the sun light of heaven. The inhabitants of upwards of 855 school sections in Upper Canada adopted this mode of supporting their schools in 1851; and some of the early results are attested in the extracts from local reports, given in the Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent of Schools, just published, pp. 65-130. In the Report for 1850, will also be found the Address of the Chief Superintendent to the People of Upper Canada, "On the System of Free Schools." In every case where a FREE SCHOOL is adopted, two things should be specially remembered—there should be *room* for all children in the section who will attend school, and there should be a *teacher competent to teach them all*.

#### ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETINGS IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND INCORPORATED VILLAGES.

The system of school-management in cities, towns, and villages, (on account of their dense population,) is different from that in school-sections of townships.

1. An annual school meeting is to be held in each ward of a city or town, and within the municipal boundaries of each village, on the same day and at the same hour, as in school-sections—at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the second Wednesday (12th day) of January, 1853. The following are the provisions of the law relating to school elections in cities and towns:—

"XXIII. And it be enacted, That on the second Wednesday in January of each year, at the time prescribed by the second section of this Act, one fit and proper person shall be elected Trustee in each ward of every city and town, and shall continue in office two years, and until his successor is elected: Provided always, that such election shall be held at the place where the last municipal election was held for such ward, and under the direction of the same returning officer, or, in his default, of such person as the electors present shall choose; and such election shall be conducted in the same manner as an ordinary municipal election in each ward of such city or town."

There being no ward divisions of villages and towns with municipalities only, the School Trustees, (two of whom retire annually,) are elected for the whole municipality. The following second proviso in the 25th section of the Act, provides for elections in incorporated villages and "towns with municipalities only":—

"Provided secondly, that there shall be a school meeting annually in each incorporated village, at which two persons shall be chosen Trustees, in place of the two retiring from office, and shall continue in office two years, and until their successors are elected."

The supplementary Act passed at the last Session of the Legislature, 16th Victoria, chapter 23, enacts, section 7th,—

"That in case of the right of any person to vote at an election of a Trustee or Trustees in any city, town, or incorporated village, be objected to, the Returning Officer presiding at such election shall require the person whose right of voting is thus objected to, to make the following declaration:—'I do declare and affirm that I have been rated on the assessment roll of this city, (town or village, *as the case may be*), as a freeholder, (or householder, *as the case may be*), and that I have paid a tax in this ward, (or village, *as the case may be*), within the last twelve months, and that I am legally qualified to vote at this election.' And the person making such declaration shall be permitted to vote: Provided always, that any person who shall, on the complaint of any person, be convicted of wilfully making a false declaration of his right to vote, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment in the manner provided for similar cases in the seventh section of the said Act, thirteenth and fourteenth Victoria, chapter forty-eight."

2. Notices for holding the above meetings in cities, towns, and incorporated villages, should be issued by the Board of School Trustees, at least six days before such meetings, in at least three public places in each ward of a city, town municipality, and incorporated village.

3. In regard to any village which has been incorporated, *during the present year*, the supplementary Act above quoted, provides, "That an election of a Board of School Trustees for such village shall take place, as soon as convenient, in the manner provided and authorised for incorporated villages in the twenty-fifth section of the said Act, thirteenth and fourteenth Victoria, chapter 48: Provided always, that the time of the first election of such Board of School Trustees, shall be fixed by the Reeve of such village, or in case of his neglecting to do so for one month, by any two freeholders in such village, on giving six days' notice, in at least three public places in such village."

It will be seen from the foregoing, that elections in such *newly incorporated villages cannot* take place on the second Wednesday in January, as in other villages, as the Town-reeve, who will not be elected until the third Monday in the same month (17th January) cannot fix the time for holding the school elections until after that period. He should, however, "as soon as convenient," issue the requisite notices for the election of a Board of School Trustees in such newly incorporated village.

4. From the provisions of the School Act it will be perceived that no other business except the election of School Trustees devolves upon an annual school meeting in cities, towns, and incorporated villages. The trustees are required, however, "At the close of each year, to *prepare and publish, in one or more of the public papers, or otherwise*, for the information of the inhabitants of such city, town, or incorporated village, an annual report of their proceedings, and of the progress and state of the schools under their charge, and of the receipt and expenditure of all school moneys."

5. The supplementary School Act of last Session confers new and extensive powers upon the Board of School Trustees in cities, towns, and villages, in regard to levying and collecting moneys for school purposes within their respective municipal boundaries. The following are the provisions of the law on this subject, section 1:—

"The Board of School Trustees in each city, town, and incorporated village, shall, in addition to the powers with which they are now legally invested, possess and exercise, as far as they shall judge expedient, in regard to each such city, town, and incorporated village, all the powers with which the Trustees of each school-section are or may be invested by law in regard to each such school-section." These powers are defined at length in the 12th section of the school act, 13th and 14th Victoria, chapter 48.

With these increased and important powers and responsibilities conferred upon the Trustees of cities, towns and villages, how important it is to elect none but the most devoted friends of popular education as School Trustees?