

## The Public School.

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## VI.

## RELATION OF TRUSTEES TO TEACHERS.

It lies wholly within the duties of trustees to determine the number and grade of teachers to be employed in their school, so long as they comply with the provisions of the School Act. When the average attendance in any school for three successive years exceeds fifty pupils, trustees are required to provide a second room and an assistant teacher. An additional room and additional teacher shall be provided for each additional fifty pupils.

In the case of public schools with continuation classes, that the school may rank in Class A, the teacher must hold a first-class certificate of qualification, unless in charge of the school in 1896, and continuously since that year. In order that the school may rank in Class B or C, the teacher may, at least, hold a second class certificate. If trustees employ an uncertificated teacher, they may be held personally liable for the amount of salary. To be valid all agreements between trustees and teachers shall be in writing, signed by the parties thereto, and shall be sealed by the corporate seal. (Blank forms of teachers agreement may be had at the MUNICIPAL WORLD Office.) Any teacher who wilfully neglects or refuses to carry out this agreement shall, on complaint of the trustees, be liable to the suspension of his certificate by the inspector, under whose jurisdiction he may be for the time being.

No person engaged to teach a public school shall be deemed a qualified teacher who does not, at the time of entering into an agreement with the trustees and during the whole period of such engagement, hold a legal certificate of qualification. Any teacher who enters into an agreement with a board of trustees for one year, and who serves under such an agreement for three months or over, shall be entitled to be paid his salary in the proportion which the number of days he has taught, bears to the whole number of teaching days in the year.

Every teacher shall be entitled to his salary during sickness, certified by a physician, for a period not exceeding four weeks for the entire year. This period may be increased at the pleasure of the trustees.

If at the expiration of a teacher's agreement with a board of trustees, his salary has not been paid in full, such salary shall continue at the rate mentioned in the agreement until paid, provided always that an action shall be commenced within three months after the salary is due and payable by the trustees.

All matters of differences between trustees and teachers, in regard to salary or other remuneration, under a valid agreement, shall, whatever the amount in

question, be brought in the Division Court of the division where the cause of action arose.

The most important duty, trustees owe the ratepayers of their section is prudence in the selection of a teacher. In many cases selections are made from applications made in answer to advertisements. In such cases, very often, wholly unsuitable, inefficient teachers, who cannot secure good situations where they are known, are employed, much to the disappointment of all interested in the school. It would be a good policy for trustees to keep a list of good teachers and when a change is necessary, make an effort to secure one of them even if it cost a few dollars more in his salary.

Having engaged a teacher with a reputation for efficiency, the trustees should arrange to visit the school together or in turn, regularly, to see that it is not lacking in equipment as the regulations require, and anything else that would add to its usefulness, and that the school is being conducted in accordance with regulations prescribing the duties of teachers. At such visits trustees will have opportunities to give both teachers and students encouragement in their work and to give their moral support to the teacher in the management and discipline of the school.

It is the duty of trustees to dismiss from the school, any pupil who shall be adjudged so refractory by the trustees and teacher, that his presence in the school is deemed injurious to the other pupils, and where practicable, to remove such pupil to an industrial school.

Trustees may collect from the parents or guardians of pupils attending school, a sum not exceeding twenty cents per month, per pupil, to defray the expense of text books and other school supplies.

They may exempt from the payment of school rates, wholly or in part, any indigent persons (notice of such exemption to be given to the clerk of the municipality, on or before the first day of August,) and where deemed necessary, may provide for the children of such person, text books and other school supplies at the expense of the section.

## Municipal Reform.

The question of municipal reform involves the election of competent officials, and the selection of trained subordinates: the enactment of new laws, and the enforcement of those already on the statute book; the maintenance of law and order, and the suppression of vice; the determination of whether a city shall own and operate its own franchises, or lease them to a private corporation, or give them away to private parties; municipal functions; of cleanliness, health and sanitation; municipal standards, taste and finally, of civic patriotism.

In different parts of the United States associations have been formed under different names. All these are combinations of citizens who have determined to

take matters into their own hands and compel reform and obtain effective and pure city government. And they appear to be doing it. In Canada, such organizations have only been attempted on a small scale. In Montreal an association was once formed which did good service in the direction of checking the combine which at that time controlled the civic council. But its action was more well meaning than effective in promoting lasting results. But the taking-the-bull-by-the-horns spirit so generally seen in the States is sadly lacking in Canada. We go on year by year feebly electing inefficient bodies of civic administrators and content ourselves with grumbling and recrimination when the inevitable results are seen. It will be a good day for Ottawa and other Canadian cities, when the citizens take the matter of municipal reform into their own hands and deal with it boldly and in a drastic manner. "The Citizens' Association, of Albany completely revolutionized the methods of administration." Why should not Ottawa's citizens do the same in connection with administration that year after year is becoming more and more the cause of unrest and distrust, which must necessarily gather strength as the civic undertakings, and consequent taxation increase in magnitude. But there is another point on which stress has to be laid, and no reform is to be looked for until the citizen awakes to a full sense of his duty and his public responsibility. We must, as Mr. Woodruff says, instill into our citizens a keener appreciation of their duties within the borders of their own town or city, and the true meaning of civic patriotism and its obligations, so that they may see there is "quite as much heroism in voting for one's principles on election day or in service on a board of aldermen, having the interests of a hundred thousand people and millions of dollars in its charge, as serving the country on the field of battle or on a battle ship." Does the average Ottawa voter think this? When we saw, for example, the voting on the main drainage by-law the other day, involving nearly half a million dollars immediately, and heaven knows what, prospectively, drawing out 1,263 voters out of some 5,000, there is grave reason for fearing that such is not the case. Apathy lies at the root of much of the evil deplored and it is perhaps hardly fair for any citizen to criticize hastily actions which he has done nothing to prevent, or deplore evils for the existence of which he himself is mainly responsible. But the present growing municipal evils must go. The fiat is proclaimed from the gulf to the northern fringe of civilization. The Americans are taking the means best suited to themselves to make them "go." It is time Canadians followed their example. Let Ottawa lead. We have before advocated the formation of a Citizens' Committee here and the present time is opportune for repeating the suggestion.—*Ottawa Free Press.*