

Concerning the School District and Teachers.

Since last issue the annual school meeting has been held in the various country districts throughout the Province, and, no doubt, the Inspectors have had in addition to their every-day routine endless difficulties and disputes to settle, regarding the validity and procedure of said meeting.

It would be interesting and perhaps instructive to take a peep over an Inspector's shoulder at some of the copies of the minutes sent to him, as by law required, after the meeting, and signed by the secretary and chairman. It may be here remarked that many districts entirely neglect to send the copy. And let it further be noticed that, though the fourteen days have expired within which impeachments of the proceedings of school meetings may be made (Sec. 99), they will continue to be made until the next annual meeting, even if no notice can be taken of them.

The law requires that the annual meeting, of which six full days' notice shall be given, shall be held on the second Thursday in October, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

As to the notices: they must be signed by the trustees, or a majority of them, and not by the secretary. If they are not properly signed an appeal to the Inspector within the time above specified will invalidate the meeting, and a new one will be called. And let us pause here, to notice the procedure in the matter of calling another meeting. By Sec. 99, School Manual, a complaint in writing is made and inquired into by the Inspector, subject to an appeal within fourteen days after his decision to the Chief Superintendent, whose decision shall be final. If a new meeting is to be called, by Sec. 57, the Board of Education or the Chief Superintendent has power to direct the Inspector to call a general school meeting, which shall have power to transact any business that might have been done at the annual meeting. The Inspector will fill in the form of notice supplied him and sign it; but because he calls the meeting he is under no obligation, as some ratepayers think, to attend it in person. If that were the case, an Inspector would often have to be in three or four places at the same time. This, then, is the usual mode of procedure where a district has failed to hold its annual meeting. Six days' notice means six *full* days, not including the day of posting nor the day of meeting. The notices must be posted in at least two public places in the district. The time of meeting must not be varied or the day changed. It is on Thursday and cannot be postponed until some other day, except as the law provides; viz., a meeting

may be *continued* until four o'clock on Thursday and adjourned until Friday and so continued; but no further adjournment shall take place. Objections have been made to school meetings because they have not opened at sharp ten o'clock. It is ten o'clock until it is eleven in common usage. Many trustees ask in the case of a general or special meeting to have it in the evening. While in many cases it would be a great convenience to hold it then it cannot lawfully be done.

After the meeting has been called to order a chairman must be selected, who must be a qualified voter. What is a qualified voter? Any one who is entitled to pay on real estate, personal property or income, or any one who pays taxes in excess of a poll, and has paid all the taxes that have been *imposed* upon him. Now, here comes up a much debated question. Is a man who actually possesses the property qualification at the time of the meeting, but who did not at the time the assessment was made, or from interested motives was not placed on the list, entitled to vote? It has been decided that his vote is good as he has paid all the taxes that have been imposed upon him. If a ratepayer who has not paid his taxes votes without being challenged his vote must be counted. If he takes the declaration and votes it must be accepted; but if he has taken a false declaration he is liable to a penalty. If a ratepayer refuses to take the declaration the chairman must not count his vote. C.

(To be continued.)

On the classification of the school depends in great measure the success of the teacher's work. It is a very grave mistake, therefore, to accept a faulty classification as a legacy from a predecessor, or to adopt a defective one in obedience to the wishes of prejudiced parents. Even a few pupils misplaced in classes too advanced for them, destroy the harmony of the school, are a hindrance to the progress of the classes and a continual annoyance to the teacher. Let the tests of the prescribed course of study, therefore, be vigorously applied at the beginning of the term, and pupils assigned to their respective grades without fear or favor according to the best judgment of the teacher. Fault-finding and adverse criticism there may be and probably will be, and generally in proportion to the necessity existing for a re-classification; but the teacher may safely trust to the results of the term's work to justify the step. With an excellent curriculum of studies prescribed by authority, published, and in the hands of teachers for over five years, it would seem that this advice should be unnecessary. Unfortunately, however, as our best teachers know to their grief, there are still many