

Instructions to Deputy-Returning Officers.

The following instructions to deputy-returning officers are taken from a circular sent out by Mr. W. A. Clark, Clerk and Returning Officer for the Township of York in December last:

1. Poll opens at 9 o'clock a. m. and closes at 5 o'clock p. m. (For Secrecy of proceedings and declarations. See Secs. 169 and 170 of the Act.)

2. The names of the electors entitled to vote in your Division for the election of Reeve and Deputy Reeves and County Councillors will be found in parts 1 and 2 of the certified Voters' List given you; in Part 1 if resident, and in Part 2 if non-resident. The names of widows and spinsters will be found in Part 2 only.

3. Except as provided by Sec. 141 of the Act, a copy of which is furnished you, *no person can vote in your sub-division unless his, or her, name appears in either Part 1 or Part 2 of said certified List.*

"COUNTY COUNCILS ACT,"—SEC. 13.

4. The persons qualified to vote for County Councillors are the persons qualified to vote at the election of members of the Council of the local municipality and all local municipal clerks, and no others; and each person so qualified shall be entitled to as many votes as there are members of the County Council to be elected in his County Council Division, and he may, at his option, when there are two County Councillors to be elected, give both of his votes to one candidate, in which case he shall place two crosses within the division of the ballot wherein is the name of such candidate. But where any person being a resident voter is on the Voters' List for two or more municipalities within any County Council Division, he shall vote for County Councillors in that municipality only in which he resides, and only at the polling place of the polling sub-division in which he resides, if he is entitled to vote at such polling place. In case a voter is not resident within the division, he shall vote only once within any division, whether his name is on the Voters' List of said division in more than one polling sub-division or not.

5. No person shall vote more than once for Reeve or Deputy-Reeves at any election for Reeve or Deputy-Reeves, or any of them. (See Sec. 140.) Before handing a ballot (or ballots) to an elector who is not a resident of your polling sub-division, ask the following question: "*Have you voted before at this election for Reeve or Deputy-Reeves or for Councillors within this County Council Division?*"

6. Place your initials on the back of each ballot given a voter, and see that the voter's name is entered by your Poll Clerk in the Poll Book, and that he places a mark in the proper column to indicate what ballots such voter has received. This must be strictly observed, especially when a vote is being taken for election of County Councillors in addition to the

vote for election of Reeve and Deputy-Reeves, or any of them.

7. After the close of the poll and ballots are counted, place all ballots, used and unused, and all forms and certificates, in their proper envelopes, seal and place in your ballot-box; lock and seal your ballot box; *return same forthwith to me at Town Hall.* Fill up and return at same time to me, over your own signature, the form of statement of returns from your polling sub-division (*this statement you must be careful not to enclose in your Ballot Box, but deliver by hand*), which statement must show—The names of the several candidates in order in which they appear on the ballots, and the number of ballots cast in favor of each candidate placed opposite his name. (See Sec. 155 of Act.)

8. A similar statement will be made out and returned in the same manner (*not to be enclosed in Ballot Box*) when vote is taken for election of County Councillors.

9. Fill in form of account in connection with your sub-division, being particular to give name and address of each person entitled to pay for services.

Continuation Classes.

The establishment of Continuation Classes provided for in Section 8 of the Public Schools Act, is to be recommended. The demand for fifth form work in the Public School has been recognized in these classes. The first requisite is that the teacher employed shall possess a first-class certificate.

To provide for the extra expense a Legislative grant will be made equal to the average amount per pupil paid by the Legislative towards the maintenance of High School pupils and County Councils are authorized to give an equivalent to the Government Grant or more as they may deem expedient.

In fixing the grants County Councils should consider that these classes will eventually reduce the cost of maintenance and attendance of county pupils at the High Schools.

It is not desirable that every school should introduce fifth form work, and we would recommend County Councils to encourage and regulate the establishment of a limited number of the classes so located that the whole community may participate in the benefits to be derived therefrom.

At the annual meeting of the United States National Road Parliament, recently held in Nashville, Tenn., resolutions were adopted favoring the payment of road taxes in money; recommending state aid to be appropriated in each state so as to secure the co-operation of the townships; advising the employment of convict labor for the preparation of road material within penitentiary walls, as is done in California, thus leaving the construction of roads to free labor.

High School Act—Amendments Wanted.

The Wellington County Council is requesting the co-operation of other councils in a petition to the Legislature to amend Section 31 of the High Schools Act which requires counties to pay the cost of the maintenance of County pupils, when that cost is more than the Legislative grant and fees received from pupils. It is claimed that under the present law very gross injustices arise, and that a fair and equitable distribution of the grants to the High Schools in accordance with work performed, apparently cannot be obtained as the cost to the county per pupil in some of the schools is more than double the amount in others of similar or superior equipment. The amendment suggested as a more equitable mode of ascertaining the liability of the county is as follows:

Find the total expenditure for maintenance and the total number of pupils and of days attendance in all the high schools in the Province for one or more years and from this basis the average cost of one pupil for one year could be obtained, which would be the unit of cost. To this amount add or deduct for superior or inferior equipment according to the recommendation of the Inspector of High Schools. It would then be an easy matter to ascertain the liability of the county for maintenance of county pupils in each school by multiplying the said average cost by the number of county pupils in attendance at said school and deducting the amount of the Legislative grant and fees received from county pupils.

Another amendment suggested is that sub-section 7, of said section 31, of said act, should be amended by striking out the word "may" in the fourth line of said sub-section and inserting the word "shall" in lieu thereof.

The necessity of this amendment is apparent where a High School is situated in a municipality bordering on an adjoining county.

The difficulty the Wellington Council wish to get over is that some High School Boards are more extravagant than others, and that under the present law they must pay the cost of maintenance of County pupils whether it appears reasonable or not. County Councils have their representatives on the Trustee Boards who should protect their interests, and we think it would be better to appoint more competent trustees or ask for legislation to increase this representation, than to amend the law as suggested.

We would recommend that the High School law be amended so that the Secretary and Treasurer of all High Schools receiving grants from the County will be required to present at the first meeting of the County Council in every year, detailed statements verified under oath containing the information referred to in sub-section 2 of section 31 of the Act.

As a result of their treasurer's defalcation the County Council of Simcoe will ask special legislation authorizing the issue of debentures to the amount of \$60,000 to meet this liability.

In Kentucky the names of persons wanted in court are cried from the front steps of the court houses, and it is said that Kentucky is the only State in the Union where the custom prevails.