

TEXT BOOKS IN OHIO.

A BOARD of education in Ohio took action at their last meeting to secure a uniformity of text-books in the schools of the township. The board, after a full consideration of the subject, adopted a series of readers and arithmetics to be used to the exclusion of all other books in these branches. This action is opposed by the residents of one or more of the sub-districts, who have resolved to resist the authority of the board and continue the text-book anarchy which has so long reigned in the schools. This raises the question of the power of the board to force compliance with its action. Happily, on this point the school law is plain and specific. Section seventeen says: "The said board shall have power to determine the studies to be pursued, and the school-books to be used in the several schools under their control"; and section thirteen makes it the "duty of said board to prescribe rules and regulations for the government of all the common schools within their jurisdiction." The authority conferred by these two provisions is ample. If parents refuse to supply their children with the prescribed books, the board can exclude such children from the schools; if the local directors refuse to comply with their action, the board may assume exclusive control of the school, or they may order the school-house to be closed until their regulations are obeyed; if the teacher is at fault, the board may adopt a regulation forfeiting his pay or causing his dismissal.

We wish here to state that it will be impossible for the boards of education to secure uniformity of text-books in the schools under their control without subjecting some school patrons to temporary inconvenience. But shall the schools for this reason be crippled and the school funds wasted? Where is the wisdom in employing teachers and then suffering their best efforts to fail for the want of a uniformity of books in their classes? The boards in our towns and cities cause their authority in this text-book matter to be respected, and our country schools will never be efficient until the boards know their authority and duty, and resolve to maintain the one and discharge the other. We do not counsel frequent changes in school-books, but we do urge most emphatically uniformity. This must be secured, if we are to have efficient schools.—*Ohio Educational Monthly.*



OFFICIAL NOTICES.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, JULY 7TH, 1866.—"Provision being made by the School Law for the publication of a *Journal of Education*, the Council of Public Instruction directs that the said *Journal* be made the medium of official notices in connexion with the Educational Department."

T. H. RAND,

Sec'y to C. P. I.

I. To Teachers not supplied with Registers.

As a much larger number of schools are in operation this term than was anticipated, the edition of Registers is insufficient to supply a copy for each teacher engaged. All teachers who have been unable to procure a Register are notified that till the close of the present term, Oct. 31st, a careful record of the daily attendance of pupils will be accepted as a compliance with the requirements of the school law with respect to registration. In every such case, before signing the certificate contained in the TRUSTEES' RETURN, the teacher is authorized to erase the words "the prescribed Register," and insert in their stead, "a record of the daily attendance of the pupils." May, 1867.

II. Teachers' Agreements.

The attention of Teachers and Trustees is again called to the necessity of complying with the provision of the Law in relation to the disposal of the County Fund. It appears from the School Returns of the past Term that some teachers have in their agreements with Trustees in respect to salary, assumed all risk as to the amount to be received from the County Fund. Such proceeding is contrary to the provisions of the law and directly subversive of a most important principle of the school system, since the pecuniary penalty imposed upon the inhabitants of the section by the absence and irregular attendance of pupils is thereby inflicted upon the teacher, while the pecuniary rewards consequent upon a large and regular attendance of pupils at school is diverted from the people to the teacher. These results clearly tend to prevent the growth and development of a sentiment of

responsibility and interest among all the inhabitants of each section, and thus measurably defeat the object of the whole system—the education of every child in the province.

The Superintendent of Education, therefore, calls the attention of Teachers and Trustees to the following

NOTICE.

1. The COUNTY FUND is paid to the TRUSTEES of the section. The amount depends upon the number of pupils, the regularity of their attendance, and the number of prescribed teaching days on which school is open in any section during the term.
2. Teachers must engage with Trustees at a definite sum or rate. The Provincial grant is paid to teachers in addition to such specified sum.
3. The following form of agreement is in accordance with the law:

[FORM OF AGREEMENT.]

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into the — day of — A.D. 186 — between (name of teacher) a duly licensed teacher of the — class of the one part, and (names of trustees) Trustees of School Section No. — in the District of — of the second part.

The said (name of teacher) on his (or her) part, in consideration of the below mentioned agreements by the parties of the second part, hereby covenants and agrees with the said (names of Trustees) Trustees as aforesaid and their successors in office, diligently and faithfully to teach a public school in the said section, under the authority of the said Trustees and their successors in office, during the School Year (or Term) ending on the thirty-first day of October next, (or the thirtieth day of April, as the case may be).

And the said Trustees and their successors in office on their part covenant and agree with the said (name of teacher) Teacher as aforesaid, to pay the said (name of teacher) out of the School Funds, under their control, at the rate of — dollars for the School Year (or Term).

And it is hereby further mutually agreed that both parties to this agreement shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of the School Law and the Regulations made under its authority by the Council of Public Instruction.

In Witness whereof the parties to these presents have hereto subscribed their names on the day and year first above written.

Witness,

(Name of Witness.)

(Name of Teacher.)

(Names of Trustees.)

4. Each Inspector is instructed to report every case of illegal stipulation on the part of teachers, in reference to the County Fund. May, 1867.

III. To Trustees of Public Schools.

1. "A relation being established between the trustees and the teacher, it becomes the duty of the former, on behalf of the people, to see that the scholars are making sure progress, that there is life in the school both intellectual and moral,—in short, that the great ends sought by the education of the young are being realized in the section over which they preside. All may not be able to form a nice judgment upon its intellectual aspect, but none can fail to estimate correctly its social and moral tone. While the law does not sanction the teaching in our public schools of the peculiar views which characterize the different denominations of Christians, it does instruct the teacher "to inculcate by precept and example a respect for religion and the principles of Christian morality." To the trustees the people must look to see their desires in this respect, so far as is consonant with the spirit of the law, carried into effect by the teacher."—*Comments and Regulations of Council of Public Instruction, p. 51, reg. 5.*

2. Whereas it has been represented to the Council of Public Instruction that Trustees of Public Schools have, in certain cases, required pupils, on pain of forfeiting school privileges, to be present during devotional exercises not approved of by their parents; and whereas such proceeding is contrary to the principles of the School Law, the following additional Regulation is made for the direction of Trustees, the better to ensure the carrying out of the spirit of the Law in this behalf:—

ORDERED, That in cases where the parents or guardians of children in actual attendance on any public school (or department) signify in writing to the Trustees their conscientious objection to any portion of such devotional exercises as may be conducted therein under the sanction of the Trustees, such devotional exercises shall either be so modified as not to offend the religious feelings of those so objecting, or shall be held immediately before the time fixed for the opening or after the time fixed for the close of the daily work of the school; and no children, whose parents or guardians signify conscientious objections thereto, shall be required to be present during such devotional exercises. March, 1867.

3. "The hours of teaching shall not exceed six each day, exclusive of the hour allowed at noon for recreation. Trustees, however, may determine upon a less number of hours. A short recess should be allowed about the middle of both the morning and afternoon session. In elementary departments, especially, Trustees should exercise special care that the children are not confined in the school room too long."—*Comments and Regulations of Council of Public Instruction, p. 43, reg. 2.*

IV. Amendments to the School Law.

The following Act to amend the general law of the Province concerning public schools, passed during the late session of parliament, is published for the information of school officers and the people generally:—

AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE ACT FOR THE BETTER ENCOURAGEMENT OF EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows:

1. The several Boards of Commissioners shall have power at the semi-annual meeting in May of each year, by vote of at least two-thirds present thereof, to unite two or more School Sections into one School Section, on a petition addressed to the Board of Commissioners by a majority of the rate-payers of each of the sections, setting forth that they have agreed among themselves on the terms on which the existing liabilities shall be borne by the rate-payers in the several sections.
2. The union shall take effect on the day fixed by law for the next Annual School Meeting thereafter, notice of which meeting shall be issued by