

## ABOUT RURAL LAW

In this column will be answered for any paid-up subscriber, free of charge, questions of law. Make your questions brief and to the point. This column is in charge of a competent lawyer, who will, from time to time, publish herein notes on current legal matters of interest to farmers. Address your communications to "Legal Column," *The Farming World*, Toronto.

### Father's Will

J. G. R. (Subscriber)—We cannot answer your question without seeing the will of your father or a copy of it. If you will send us the will or a copy we will then be in a position to answer your question.

### About Lost Time

A man hires with me for a year. He loses about two weeks off time. When his year is out do I have to let him put in the lost time or can I charge him with it?—Enquirer (Ontario).

We presume that nothing was said in the agreement between you in re-

ference to lost time and that the man was hired to work for you for one year for a fixed sum. If so, he would be entitled to the statutory holidays only unless you agreed to allow him others in addition thereto. If you did not agree to allow other "off days" and he insisted on taking them and did take them and refused to work, you could, unless perhaps under some special circumstances, treat it as a breach of his agreement. If, however, he was off for an occasional day and you did not object to it, but acquiesced in it and permitted him to return to work for you, we do not see that you can now treat it as a breach of his agreement and refuse to pay him in full when his year is out. If there was no understanding between you in regard to the lost time and the man is unwilling that you should make any reduction from his wages for same and is willing to make it up the better course for you to follow is to allow him to do so, provided you do not wish to pay him in full without him so doing.

### Electing School Trustee

Is it legal to elect a school trustee when the person so elected is not present at the annual meeting?—B. L. (Ontario).

In the particulars given us you do not say to what class of school board the trustee was elected a member, but we presume he was elected a member of a board of rural school trustees under the provisions of "The Public Schools Act." There is nothing in this Act which says that a person not present at the annual meeting of the ratepayers of the section cannot be elected a trustee for such section. Provided therefore the person elected as trustee is properly qualified to act as such in other respects the mere fact that he was not present at the annual meeting will not make his election void or illegal.

### A Wife's Consent

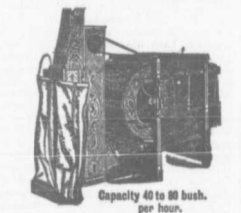
A owns a farm which he wishes to sell and he has entered into an agreement to sell it to B. A's wife does not want him to sell the farm and says she will not sign any papers. Can A sell it without her consent?—E. L. (Ontario).

A can sell the farm without his wife's consent, but if she survives A she will be entitled to dower in the farm unless she joins in the deed of the farm to the purchaser to bar her dower or signs some other proper document releasing same.

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