

town. Notice of such sittings is to be given to the county clerk, and by him published weekly for two successive weeks in two newspapers within the county. The county clerk, upon receipt of the notice, is required to send a copy thereof to the clerk of each municipality in the county.

The commission may take evidence and hear county or other municipal councils or representatives or committees thereof, and other parties interested, either personally or by counsel or agent, and may receive any such written statement as they may think proper, and generally may take all such proceedings as will enable them fairly to divide the county, and where necessary group the municipalities thereof into county council divisions for the purposes of this act.

In making such division of counties the commissioners shall treat the counties united for municipal purposes, as though they were separate counties, and shall make the divisions upon the basis of population for each of the united counties separately.

In forming the county council divisions the commission shall have regard especially to assessed value, and population and extent of territory, and shall not, in making such division divide local municipalities, unless where, in the opinion of the commission, it is plainly necessary so to do in order to arrive at a fair and reasonable division, but in no case shall polling sub-divisions be divided.

The commissioners are required to commence their duties not later than the fifteenth day of May, and to make their final reports on or before the fifteenth day of October, 1896.

The expenses of the commissioners are to be paid by the Provincial treasurer, and all other expenses of what kind so ever, shall be paid by the treasurer of the county for the work done or expenses incurred in respect of each particular county, after they have been certified by the warden of such county.

#### CHANGES IN DIVISIONS.

The judge of the county court of the county, the warden thereof and the clerk of the peace, shall constitute a board, whose duty it shall be when a new village is erected or a town is separated from the county, or is erected into a city, and the arrangement into county council divisions is thereby disturbed by their order to attach such village to some convenient county council division or to re-arrange the county council divisions affected, and, if necessary, the adjoining division or divisions, but in so doing the board shall make only such changes as the altered circumstances require.

A county council elected under this act shall not, during any one term in which it is elected, raise by by-law for contracting debts or loans more than \$20,000 over and above the sums required for its ordinary expenditure without submitting such by-law or by-laws for the assent of the electors.

#### POPULATION.

The population of any county, is for the purposes of the act, to be ascertained by reference to the population of the local municipalities as shown by the last decennial census of the Dominion of Canada.

This act does not apply to the Provisional County of Haliburton.

Nothing in the act contained is to affect the election of a reeve or deputy reeve in local municipalities as provided for by the Municipal Act.

In building country roads get rid of heavy grades, either by location or cutting. The steepest grade determines the load to be hauled. The road should never keep to the alignment of the property to the sacrifice of good grade; and, to avoid expense, do not make the roadway too wide.

#### Line Fences Act, 1896.

Section 9 of the Line Fences Act is amended by inserting after the word "immediately," in the sixth and seventh lines thereof, the words "take proceedings to," and by adding to the said section the following proviso:

Provided, nevertheless, that instead of requiring execution to be issued upon such judgment the party entitled to enforce the judgment may obtain a certificate from the clerk of the division court of the amount due for debt and costs in respect of such judgment, and shall be entitled, upon lodging the same with the clerk of the municipality, to have the amount so certified placed upon the collector's roll, and the same may be collected in the same manner as taxes are collected, and shall, until so collected or otherwise paid, be a charge upon the lands liable for the payment thereof, and in such case execution shall not thereafter issue on such judgment.

#### An Act to Amend the Act Respecting Voters Lists in Unorganized Territories.

1. Chapter 2 of the act passed in the fifty-fifth year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled: *An Act Respecting Voters' Lists in Unorganized Territories* is hereby suspended for one year from the passing of this act.

2. Until a new voters' list has been prepared under an act of the Legislature of this Province, the voters' list prepared and certified under the said act, in the year 1895, shall in any election to the Legislative Assembly be the lawful voters' lists for the polling sub-divisions to which such voters' lists are applicable.

#### An Act Respecting Tax Sales in the Unorganized Districts.

1. It shall not be necessary to publish in a newspaper in the city of Toronto other than the *Ontario Gazette* the advertisement of any sale of lands for taxes required by section 34 of chapter 185 of the Revised Statute of Ontario, 1887.

An exchange states that the rural district council at Tiverton, in England, proposes to purchase a steam-roller and a sleeping car. The novelty of the latter struck us as unusual; but there is wisdom, it seems, underlying it. Hitherto lodgings for the man working a hired steam-roller have cost a guinea a week and the working expenses a pound a day. It is estimated that by carrying out the proposal considerable saving will be effected eventually in this respect. The roller is to cost £480 and the sleeping-car £55. The latter will not, of course, be as luxurious as a pullman sleeping-car, but it is hoped may meet the purpose for which it is intended. How does the proposal appeal to other councils?

#### Duties of Trustees.

Interesting reading would be afforded if a census were taken of trustees (1) who know their duties and fulfil them, (2) who know their duties and neglect them, (3) who are woefully ignorant of their duties and take no means of informing themselves. This latter class I think would be found to constitute a large majority. One of the chief duties of trustees is to visit the school regularly. How many know this, or knowing it, wilfully neglect it?

A large number of trustees seem to think they are elected to finance the affairs of the section. They will haggle over an item of ten cents for two tin cups for drinking, and will conduct the people's business in the same picayunish manner as their own. They will engage the cheapest teacher who offers, and if they succeed in lowering the general school rate a half-mill on the dollar will point with pride to their successful stewardship. What seems to be needed more than a western normal school is a training school for trustees.—*Chatham Banner*.

The drainage bill introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Casey, the member for West Elgin, met a harsh fate, but it contained remedies for grievances which are serious, and which must be dealt with by our parliamentary representatives. As the law stands, many farmers are absolutely unable to properly drain lands which are crossed by railways, the expense of complying with the demands of the companies, or of fighting a case through the Railway Committee, being practically prohibitory. Most of the railways have put in pipe culverts across their lines. If a farmer desires to lower these in order to drain his land he can only do so on terms—and often hard terms—prescribed by the company. Neither can he, except, at a most unreasonable cost, secure additional culverts, and therefore frequently has to go long distances to secure outlets for water, perhaps brought on his lands from lands above. When the bill was before the Railway Committee, the prevailing opinion seemed to be that a general bill should be passed applying to the Dominion. This is now being prepared and will be presented during the next session. The Federal Parliament should certainly deal with this important subject.

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The council of the township of Sidney will address a circular letter to each path-master, setting forth the advantages to be derived from the commutation of statute labor, and directing them to obtain the opinion of the ratepayers in their respective divisions.

1. As to whether they are satisfied with the present system.

2. And if in favor of commuting the statute labor, at what price per day.