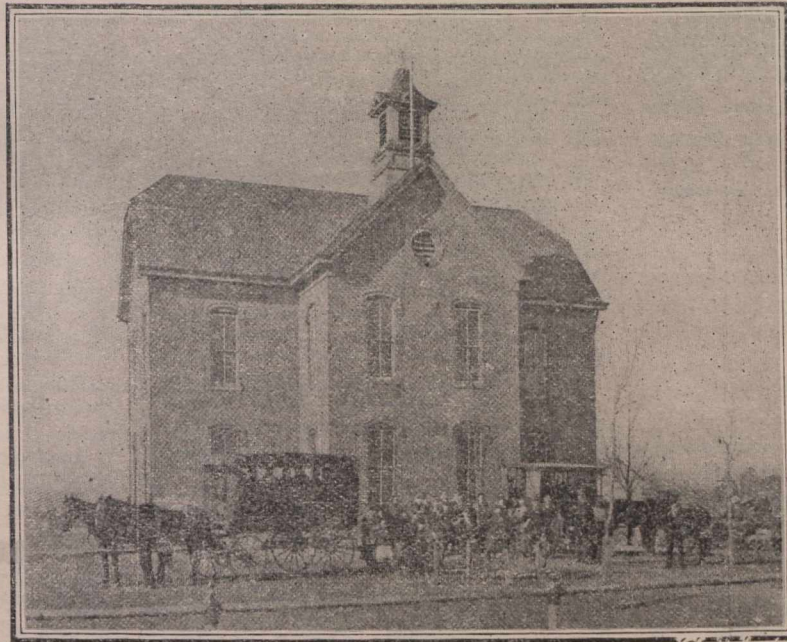


Free Voting.

A system of voting that has brought about good results wherever introduced in municipal elections is that known as "cumulative" or "free voting," which respects the freedom and independence of the voter. The election of county councillors is conducted according to this system. The two candidates who receive the most votes are elected, even though one of them by reason of the other being much the more popular, has very few votes. A small number of votes does not seem to be material except in a salutary way by intending to dissuade unworthy men pushing for nomination. Free voting has much in common with what has been designated proportional representation, minority representation and personal representation. It has nevertheless distinctive principles and objects of its own which are less theoretical, more readily understood and can be more easily carried into effect than the methods and purposes included under either of those designations. When the fundamental principle of free voting is understood it will be found to include all that is most desirable. The paramount and distinctive principles of free voting cannot be too much emphasized. It gives the voter a real freedom to vote according to his judgment and sense of duty and (2) it enables him, when several candidates are to be voted for at the same time, to concentrate all his votes upon one or more of them as he chooses. The law cannot tell a citizen whom to vote for. It can only give him real freedom of choice in bestowing his vote. In free voting the minority can be represented to the extent due to its numbers. The greater the number of officials to be elected at the same time, the more complete will be minority representation. A small proportion of the voters may elect men who truly represent them and they may continue to reelect them thus causing great non partisan interests to be effectively represented. Another advantage of free voting, though by no means apparent at first, is yet important. It would enable men of superior education and ability to make themselves increasingly effective. Free voting will lead the people generally to take more interest in public affairs by dividing them more equally and facilitating discussions. If universally adopted in municipal elections it would result in better municipal government. The system is in operation in some of the United States and in England and Scotland for election of members of the school boards, with the

result that wherever in operation, party politics seem to have been so little regarded that the political opinions of the elected members are not even mentioned in the accounts we have seen. In municipalities, where the political opinions of candidates are considered, the dominant party controls the election of members of the council and the same influence is brought to bear in the appointment of officials. This often results in leaving the minority, which may have the largest interest in municipal expenditures and taxation, entirely unrepresented. No one can reasonably oppose Legislation which will give to all parties as well as to all citizens that proportion of the offices, which is due to the number and intelligence of its municipal adherents. This system of election is bound to be introduced sooner or later in Ontario and we commend it to all who may be desirous of promoting a more equitable representation in municipal councils.



A CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, SHOWING WAGONS FOR TRANSPORTING PUPILS.

Consolidated Schools.

The amendments to the School Act passed by the Legislature at the last session authorize trustees to pay for the conveyance of pupils from a rural school section to a school in any adjoining municipality, and provide for the consolidation of sections for the purpose of establishing a Central School, all of the sections to continue to be represented on the joint Board of Trustees, which, in addition to the ordinary powers of trustees, will have authority to pay for the conveyance of pupils to the school.

These amendments refer to a most important movement that is calculated to improve the Public School system of America. It is already well established in some of the United States. Sir William Macdonald, of Montreal, will introduce the system in Canada by establishing a Consolidated School in each of the

Provinces, in which nature study and manual training will be features of the instruction. Professor Robertson, Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, accompanied by other educationalists, has recently investigated the workings of the system in the United States, and sums up some of the advantages afforded by the consolidation of rural schools and the free transportation of pupils as follows:

1. It results in the attendance of a larger number of the children in the locality, particularly of those under the age of eight years and of those over fifteen years.

2. It brings about a more regular attendance of pupils of all grades of advancement.

3. It insures the engagement and retention of some teachers of higher qualifications and longer experience in rural schools.

4. It creates conditions for a proper classification of pupils and for such a grading of the schools as permits the pupils to be placed where they can work to the best advantage for their own improvement.

5. It permits the timetable to be so arranged that teachers can give each class and every pupil in the class more direct help and supervision.

6. It provides the beneficial influences of fairly large classes of pupils of about equal advancement (a) by more companionship; (b) by friendly rivalries to excel; (c) by children learning from each other, and (d) co-operating under careful discipline, and (e) by class enthusiasms.

7. It makes it convenient for boys and girls in rural districts to obtain a High

School education without leaving home.

8. It leads to the erection of better school buildings and more satisfactory equipment in all the requisites of a good school.

9. It makes it practicable for rural schools to enrich their courses for all pupils by nature study, manual training, and household science, as well as by better music, and for advanced pupils by instruction in agriculture, horticulture and allied subjects.

10. It stimulates public interest in the schools and brings to the pupils of a township an institution in which all can have an equal interest and a worthy pride.

11. It may lead to an improvement of the public roads in the country parts.

12. It would facilitate the rural free delivery of the mail.

Contracts for the construction of waterworks and sewerage systems in Hawkesbury have been awarded.