

who may wish certificates of having completed courses of study in any school ;

(d) For a teachers' leaving course and teachers' institutes and conventions ;

2. To authorize text and reference books for the use of the pupils and teachers in all schools hereinbefore mentioned, as well as such maps, globes, charts and other apparatus or equipment as may be required for giving proper instruction in such schools ;

3. To prepare a list of books suitable for school libraries, and to make regulations for the management of such libraries ;

4. To make due provision for the training of teachers.

Here you see, Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner of Education, under this ordinance, has complete control of every school in the Northwest ; he has the control and management of every school, the licensing of teachers, the selecting of text-books, the appointment, classification, organization, and so forth, of all schools in the Northwest. Now, we go on further, and I find provisions defining more clearly how the schools shall be conducted. In clause 73 I find that in all elections for trustees ballots shall be used, whereas in Ontario trustees for the separate schools are always elected by open vote. I find this provision also in clause 62 :

Each person nominated for the office of trustee shall be a resident ratepayer of the district who has paid all taxes due by him to such district and is able to read and write.

No man can be elected a trustee of any school in the Northwest unless he is able to read and write—a very wise provision. In clause 82 there is a provision for an audit :

The books and accounts of every rural and village district shall be audited in each year prior to the annual meeting, by an official auditor in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the department.

Then in clause 95 I find the duties of teachers more clearly defined. I am only pointing out a few of the duties. Subsection 15 provides that no text-books or apparatus shall be used in the schools other than those authorized by the department. Every text-book or apparatus used in any school in the Northwest must be such as provided by the department. Subsection 17 gives the trustees power to engage a teacher or teachers duly qualified under the regulations of the department to teach in schools. No teacher can be employed in any school in the Northwest unless he is fully qualified ; that is, he has to pass a normal school examination and must have obtained a certificate. Now, here is an important clause in regard to the language to be used :

136. All schools shall be taught in the English language, but it shall be permissible for the board of any district to cause a primary course to be taught in the French language.

2. The board of any district may, subject to the regulations of the department, employ one or more competent persons to give instruction in any language other than English in the school of the district to all pupils whose parents or

Mr. CAMPBELL.

guardians have signified a willingness that they should receive the same, but such course of instruction shall not supersede or in any way interfere with the instruction by the teacher in charge of the school as required by the regulations of the department and this ordinance.

Then, as regards religious instruction, clause 137 provides :

No religious instruction except as hereinafter provided shall be permitted in the school of any district from the opening of such school until one-half hour previous to its closing in the afternoon, after which time any such instruction permitted or desired by the board may be given.

So that these ordinances provide that there shall be absolutely no religious instruction at all in any school in the Northwest, unless the board of trustees see fit to authorize it to be given for one-half hour before the close of the school.

2. It shall, however, be permissible for the board of any district to direct that the school be opened by the recitation of the Lord's prayer.

Now, in this connection I may say that I believe that is a wise provision. I think that in every school all over this vast Dominion it would be a wise provision that religious instruction should be given. I am not one of those who believe in Godless schools, as they are called ; I believe that among the boys and girls growing up in this Dominion of Canada to-day the great book of all books, the book that teaches a man, not only how to live, but also how to die, is almost a sealed book. They may read it at home on Sundays, but I am sorry to say that in our towns one hour a week in Sunday school is all the instruction they get ; and if you leave out the opening and closing exercises of the school, in all there is not half an hour a week given to the religious teaching of these children. I say that it is a lamentable thing that in this great Dominion of ours the Bible, the book we all prize and revere, is not taught to the children in these schools. Instead of finding fault with that provision, I say it is one of the best provisions in the ordinances of the Northwest Territories, providing, as they have, for that half hour's religious instruction, and I would not object if it were double that length of time. I have said that the qualifications of the teachers shall be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Clause 149 forbids the trustees to employ any one else :

No person shall be engaged, appointed, employed or retained as teacher in any school unless he holds a valid certificate of qualification issued under the regulations of the department.

Then again, we go a little farther and find some other clauses that are very commendable :

Duties of Teachers.

It shall be the duty of every teacher—