

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

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DEPUTATION TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON SUPER- ANNUATION, ETC.

THE Public School Section of the Legislative Committee appointed by the Provincial Teachers' Association, at its last meeting, after two unsuccessful attempts, gained an interview with Mr. Crooks on Saturday, the eighth of January, to urge upon his attention the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Public School Section in August last. He courteously received the deputation, consisting of Mr. McAllister and Mr. Spence, and entered fully into a discussion of the resolutions that were submitted to him. These were as follows:—

1. That the discretionary power given to Public School Inspectors to permit third-class teachers, holding Intermediate and third-class certificates, to go up for their professional training for a second-class certificate at the end of a year's experience in teaching should be withdrawn.

2. That the present method of granting permits and permanent certificates to third-class teachers is liable to abuse, and should be altered so as to afford a reasonable guarantee that those teachers securing these privileges are worthy of them.

3. That the vote for Public School trustees should be by ballot.

4. That the age of candidates on entering the profession of teaching should be—for females eighteen (18), and for males twenty (20) years.

5. That twenty-five years' service in the profession, or having attained the age of fifty, entitle a teacher to superannuation.

6. That no teacher who retires before ten years' service be allowed a refund of more

than ten per cent. of his payments to the superannuation fund.

7. That the allowance to superannuated teachers be increased, and, if need be, that the yearly subscription to the fund be increased also.

8. That provision be made for the widows of superannuated teachers.

9. That rotation of examiners applied to the various Departmental Examinations would add to the improvement of education throughout the country.

10. That in the opinion of this Section, it would be to the advantage of the schools of the Province to retain the Apparatus part of the Depository for the present.

Mr. Crooks pointed out that Inspectors had now no discretionary power to shorten the term of service which a third-class teacher had to go through before going up for a second-class professional certificate, as the Department has fixed it at one year. He admitted that it was an open question whether the time was too short. It was reduced from two years to one to avoid the danger to the country of a scarcity of teachers. It was pointed out to him that the large numbers who annually secure intermediate certificates, added to those who are in possession of third-class certificates, not only render that danger very remote, but have, as a matter of fact, caused an over-supply of teachers in many districts. His attention was called to the fact that there is an appalling number of applicants for any situations of low grade that are offered, and that this mainly arises from the facilities afforded young people to enter the profession. So far as regards second-class teachers, this might be checked by lengthening the term of service before giving permission to any third-class teacher to secure