

—We quote the following from an address given by Mr. J. Taylor Kay, the Librarian of Owen's College, Manchester, England:—"For many years a remarkable fact has been before my notice, and continually confirmed by a long experience in the Manchester Free Libraries, that school boys or students who took to novel reading to any great extent, never made much progress in after-life. They neglected real practical life for a sensually imaginative one."

—The fallacy that the increase of Crime goes on *pari passu* with the advance of Education, has been well replied to in Dr. ALLISON's late articles in the SCHOOL JOURNAL. This fallacy is being revived in those newspapers which are not ashamed, at this time of day, to abet the cry of selfish Wealth against Education. We are sorry to say that the *Chatham Tribune*, in an article of the most reactionary kind against State aid to Education, resurrects this false doctrine. It says Lord Brougham's prophecy has failed as to Education lessening Crime.

—We are glad to see that the important practical question of Superannuation has been well and thoroughly discussed at the last Middlesex Teachers' Association. We differ from some of the speakers in considering that in this, as in all schemes of Insurance for the industrial classes to which Government aid is given, the payment of an annual sum should be obligatory on all.

—Lord Dunraven's proposal for throwing open public museums and galleries on Sundays does not seem to be approved of by the English school journals. It would no doubt lead to a considerable amount of Sunday work, besides the interference with the religious interests and feelings of the people. There are other opportunities for artistic culture without trenching on the Day of Rest.

—The London School Board has at last closed the vexed question of "keeping in," by expressing disapproval of the practice as a rule, while leaving exceptional cases to the discretion of the teachers. This is probably as far as legislation can provide for the application of a fixed rule to widely differing circumstances.

—At Stubersheim, near Ulm, in Germany, a school has been established for girls of the peasant class to learn farm work, cooking and washing, also sewing, mending and knitting. The village doctor gives some instruction in hygiene and natural history. These classes are only held in winter.

—Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., praises the methods of training at the far-famed Girton College, because students are not admitted there till the age of eighteen. She objects to "haste, excitement, and over stimulation" in the education of girls.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION OR PROVIDENT FUND.

No subject has been discussed so largely during the past two years by the teachers of Ontario as the superannuation question. The time for action by the Legislature is near at hand, and we hope that every Association in the Province will consider at an early day the points submitted in the following circular from the Legislative Committee of the Provincial Association. We have already given a large amount of attention to this subject; but we propose during the next few months to publish all the information we can obtain concerning the working of Teachers' Provident Funds, or Pension Acts in other countries:

CIRCULAR TO PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

DEAR SIR,—The Legislative Committee of the Ontario Teachers' Association respectfully request you to bring this circular under the notice of your local Teachers' Association. As the result of several interviews we have had with the Minister of Education on the subject of amendments to the present law respecting superannuation allowances to teachers, he has expressed his willingness to consider and submit for the sanction of the Legislature at its next session such amendments as would fairly represent the views of the great majority of the teachers on the subject, and which the Legislature could reasonably be expected to approve of. If your Association has already held its first semi-annual convention for the present year, please bring the subject before the teachers in your inspectorial division by means of a special meeting, or in any other way which you think best. It is very desirable, in order that the answers to this circular may be carefully considered by the Legislative Committee before the next meeting of the Provincial Association, that the opinions of your Association be sent to the Secretary of this Committee on or before the first day of July next.

The Minister thinks the following propositions are necessarily involved in the consideration of the basis of any new system, and that it is desirable that the opinions of the Teachers' Associations should be given specifically on each of such propositions:

1. In lieu of the present provisions of the law respecting the Superannuated Teachers' Fund, the "Teachers' Retiring Provident Fund," in this Act termed "the Fund," is hereby established, and such fund shall consist of all sums that may from time to time be appropriated by the Legislature out of the consolidated revenue of the Province, and of all sums hereinafter provided to be paid by all persons entitled to a retiring allowance as hereinafter also provided.

2. The following are entitled to a retiring allowance, namely: every male teacher of a public or separate school holding a first, second or third-class certificate of qualification under the regulations of the Education Department, or a valid county board certificate of the old standard; also every female teacher of a public or separate school holding any like certificate: also every legally qualified master or assistant master of a high school or collegiate institute, and every public or high school inspector.

3. The conditions on which such person shall be entitled to the retiring allowance are as follows: each person must have contributed annually to this fund a sum equal to two per cent. of his salary—limited to one thousand dollars as the highest—payable to him during each year of the period of his service.

4. Every male teacher of a public school is required to make such payments annually into the fund during the period or periods in which he is engaged in teaching:

5. It shall be optional with any female teacher, separate school teacher, high school master or assistant master, or public or high school inspector, to make such annual payments into the fund; but no such person shall be entitled to any of the benefits of the fund unless such annual payments are made by such person in each year during his period of service, within such periods as may be provided by the regulations of the Education Department.

6. Every teacher, master or inspector with whom it is optional to contribute to the fund shall, during each year of his or her service, and not otherwise contributing to the fund, pay the sum of two dollars for the purposes thereof, and such payments shall be considered and taken as payments made *pro tanto* to the fund, in case such teacher, master or inspector should at any time during his or her period of service become a contributor to the fund under the option aforesaid.