

sidered vital should be struck from the lists. In the public schools, at any rate, there is no reason why Reading should not have all the time bestowed upon it that its importance demands. If the Regulations were made elastic and the teacher allowed more discretion, we feel sure that Reading as an exercise would be the gainer. In all grades of schools, so far as the teacher is concerned, the desire is to simplify rather than elaborate educational operations. It is a pity that the Department does not recognize and give effect to this. Of recent years there has been a too-much withdrawing of attention from necessary to showy subjects of instruction. This policy should at once be reversed, and every encouragement given to training in the substantial rudiments of our mother tongue. It is almost generally admitted that too much time is given to Mathematics, and that a good deal of what is taught in this branch is of a fancy kind. Without unduly discounting that science, it is absurd that it should be pursued to the exclusion of subjects of more practical value. Let it have its place, but let us at the same time recognize how little it contributes to mental cultivation. Reading, at all events, must have more attention, as upon this foundation can anything be reared in the way of culture and sound learning.

#### THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

THE teacher who had the temerity to catechize the Minister of Education at the recent session of the Provincial Teachers' Association as to what was being done by the Department on the subject of Superannuation was really entitled, we think, to more consideration at the hands of Mr. Crooks than it can be said he received. Both the questioner and the Profession at large are deeply interested in the policy of the Department as to a matter which vitally affects the future of all of them, and though the gentleman from South Grey was perhaps a little blunt in his demand upon Mr. Crooks, the Minister should not leave the matter so long in doubt as to the character and extent of the provision the Department intends to make for

teachers who have put in a lengthened service, and whose savings, under the most favourable conditions, can be but trifling.

#### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

ATTENTION has been directed to the large number of children who receive no education at all, by the interesting Report of the News-boys' Lodging, fostered by Professor Wilson. We have already directed our readers' notice to this blot on our educational system in the review of the Minister's Report on Education. We see no way of gathering this class of our children into the schools but by a compulsory law, vigorously carried out. The increased expense attending this would have to be liberally shared by the Government, in supplementing the efforts of those school corporations whose duty it should be to carry out the law. We know of no way in which public money could be better spent than in saving this class of children from becoming feeders to our criminal population, as they are in every danger now of becoming. The present Government have shewn that they are alive to the necessity of attending to our criminal class by building the Mercer Reformatory for women. But prevention is better than cure: it would be better to get control of the boys and girls before they become candidates for the Central Prison, or the Andrew Mercer Reformatory, and train them, not only in knowledge, but in industry, so that they would have the means of earning an honest living. It is true we have the Penetanguishene Reformatory; but this institution deals with boys who have been once convicted, and are therefore already to some extent inured to crime. We want industrial schools similar to those under the management of the London School Board, and placed under the direction of men and women of large experience in the management of children. We emphasize this latter point in view of the character of some recent political appointments. It does not augur well for the purity of purpose of our Local Government, when they passed over the whole profession of High and Public school teachers in the Province, and selected a