

place. If not appreciated as he should be, the teacher was gradually rising in the estimation of his fellowmen. One great difficulty he has to meet, is the very low salaries paid even to very good teachers, to those who had spared neither time nor money to qualify themselves for their calling. As a whole, there is no class, perhaps so poorly paid; and no wonder, then, that it is almost impossible for them to provide for future wants. If their salaries have increased it has not been in proportion to the cost of living, and their condition in this respect has not improved. Yet not one of those who have made teaching their calling for life, should remain satisfied with this state of things. It is in the interest not only of teachers, but of society at large, to see that a class of persons devoted to their interest, and who during many and long years have spared no pains to benefit society, should not, when disabled by age and infirmity, be left in want. A teacher should love his calling, and how can he love it and be happy in it if he has before him the prospect of seeing his last years spent perhaps in straitened circumstances? This question is now agitated in England, and if nothing very definite and satisfactory has yet been attained in that country, the time is not far distant when something will be done for teachers. That numerous body, comprising at least fifty thousand, will not remain satisfied till it has gained public opinion on its side and has attained something practical. Several members of Parliament have taken the matter into their hands and meetings of the most interesting character have often been held to discuss that question. He said that Mr. McKay had noticed that Prussia had already adopted, for a number of years, a system which provides for superannuated teachers: they must receive at least one-half of their ordinary salary, and that too when no longer able to work. Strange to say a military power has gone ahead of a commercial country in supporting and encouraging education. We speak of pensions for soldiers, and why not also for teachers? In Ontario the question has been of late agitated, and there is a law now passed compelling every teacher to subscribe towards a fund for superannuated teachers.