

citizens did they know the state of the case. Montreal supplies one-third the finances of the Province, and it stands to reason it would see that charity began at home. But, unfortunately for us, the city has not yet become imbued with a sense of the importance of its education, or else has misunderstood the matter. Less than a year ago the Board of School Commissioners here petitioned the City Council to grant them an increase of taxation. Only one-half of the amount asked was accorded, and the Board was thus handicapped. Now, the members of that Board have in several ways shown a desire to consult the interest of its teachers, but cannot spend what it has not got.

The women teachers of this city presented a petition that the scale of their salaries be increased, and especially that \$245 (\$250 less superannuation) is too little for anyone to live upon for twelve months. Let me prove this last statement. Board in this city is \$3.50 to \$4.50 per week, *i.e.*, \$182 to \$234 per annum, according to the locality of the school. For, when a teacher cannot afford to drive, she must live near her school. That is, the unfortunate teacher has \$11 to \$63 from which to pay annually for clothing, doctor's bills, books, church contributions, etc., and finally, though by no means least, take advantage of the educational advantages the city holds out to her so temptingly. Perhaps you believe I exaggerate or make an error in mathematical computation, because so many do come forward to receive this exceedingly small sum. On enquiry, you will find these live with their parents and are exempted from board, or pay a mere nominal amount, or else kind friends compassionate them and receive them into their homes during the summer months. Even at the best the majority of them cannot rise in salary beyond \$392 (\$400 less pension deduction). I do not believe that a teacher should necessarily be able to save the first year of her teaching, but after that she should be able to lay by in store for a rainy day and the old age, which comes none the less rapidly for the petty stings of insufficient means.

"Evil is wrought by want of thought far more than want of heart." I am positive our fellow-citizens do not recognize these facts or they would not suffer themselves to lie under this stigma. Do they wish their children educated at the expense of private individuals? If not, let them so raise their school tax as to pay their teachers a fair and just remuneration for labor conscientiously and successfully performed—so well done that our sons and daughters have almost universal success