

An inspection of the preceding table shows there was a steady increase in the number of those under sixty deriving benefit from the fund. In 1872, they were only 12 per cent. of the whole, but in 1878, they represented 83 per cent. of the recipients.

And the question is, were all these persons under sixty years of age disabled from practicing their profession? Was the medical examination as thorough as it should have been? Did they present themselves annually to their several inspectors? And did the inspectors correctly report thereon to the Minister of Education?

This teaching must be killing work indeed, when so many have to fall out of line before they reach five and forty or fifty years, and yet a glance at the preceding table shows a goodly array of those who passed the "three-score and ten."

For those who, owing to a poor constitution and over-taxed energies, are broken down, I have the greatest sympathy, and would be the last to object to their receiving substantial aid. But when men retire from the profession to enter the Civil Service or other walks in life and receive larger incomes than when teaching, and at the same time draw their superannuation allowance, is it not high time for an investigation.

I wonder, was it Goethe's Mephistophiles, the mischief-worker, who whispered in my ear as I busied myself in preparing my facts and figures for this paper: "Party," "Politics," "Favoritism," "Local influence," "Minister of Education," sounds grandiose for a people numbering less than two millions, but I am not so sure the step was a wise one, which substituted the portfolio of the Minister, for the tenure of office during pleasure.

Party is party, and I care not who the minister may be, nor what his political bias, from the very nature of his position private judgment, and that broader view of great questions granted to those placed above the turmoil of faction, can never be the lot of him who is a player in that game of political chance "the Ins and Outs."

My reason for dwelling upon the injustice of so large a number of those under the prescribed age participating in the fund, is, because I understand the Legislature feels too large a call is being made upon the public purse in aid of this fund, and contemplates introducing certain changes into its sources of revenue and its administration. The sources of revenue should be (a) an annual tax and (b) an examination fee.

The annual tax should be levied upon all teachers in active service irrespective of sex. When men and women are engaged in the same work they should share the same responsibilities and enjoy the same privileges. When woman enters any field of labor as a competitor with man, let the fight be a fair one and no favor. Let us hear nothing of the "weaker vessel" theory.

In the teaching profession we find there has been a vast increase of the female element since the year 1859 as the following table will show:—

OF THE FEMALE ELEMENT.				EXCESS OF	
Date.	Number of Males.	Number of Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1859	3115	1120	4235	1995	
1860	3100	1191	4291	1919	
1861	3031	1305	4336	1726	
1862	3115	1291	4406	1824	
1863	3094	1410	4504	1694	
1864	3011	1614	4625	1397	
1865	2930	1791	4721	1139	
1866	2925	1864	4789	1061	
1867	2849	2041	4890	803	
1868	2777	2219	4996	558	
1869	2775	2279	5054	496	
1870	2758	2412	5165	341	
1871	2641	2665	5306	.....	24
1872	2626	2850	5476	.....	224
1873	2581	3061	5642	.....	480
1874	2601	3185	5786	.....	534
1875	2645	3373	6018	.....	728
1876	2780	3495	6185	.....	625
1877	3020	3448	6468	.....	428
1878	3060	3413	6473	.....	853

Had the annual tax of four dollars been levied upon all teachers beginning with 1872, an examination fee of four dollars charged all applicants for certificates, and a more rigid investigation made of the claims of those under sixty, there would to-day be at least a hundred and thirty thousand dollars to the credit of the fund.

	Number of Teachers.	Number of Applicants for Examination.	Amount of Annual Tax.	Amount of Examination Fees.	Total Amount to the Credit of the Fund.	Amount Paid to those of 60 Years or Over.	Surplus to the Credit of the Fund.
1872	5476	4053	\$21,904	\$16,212	\$38,116	\$10,488	\$27,628
1873	5642	3633	22,568	14,532	37,100	16,314	20,786
1874	5736	2498	22,944	9,992	32,936	17,772	15,164
1875	6018	3879	24,072	15,516	39,588	19,592	19,996
1876	6185	4487	24,740	17,948	42,688	22,521	20,167
1877	6468	6288	25,872	25,152	51,024	25,325	25,699
1898	6473	4679	25,892	18,716	44,608	28,180	16,469
	Total.		\$167,992	\$118,068	\$286,060	\$140,151	\$145,909

I think the above table contains sufficient evidence to show that the Superannuation Fund could be made self-sustaining.

With respect to the administration of the fund, I would offer the following suggestions:

1. That no moneys be refunded to those retiring from the profession.

2. That the regulation relative to deceased teachers remain as at present.

3. That after a female has taught for not less than five, or a male not less than ten years, a certificate of deposit be granted to such, which certificate shall entitle the holder—upon attaining the age of sixty years—to (a) an annual pension of—dollars for every year taught, or if preferred by the holder, (b) to the payment in one sum of all moneys paid in, with compound interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

4. That in each inspectorate at the annual meeting of the Teachers' Convention, a committee of not less than six be appointed by the vote of the teachers then present, with the inspector as chairman *ex officio*, the duties of this committee to be the thorough investigation of the cases of all applicants for aid under sixty years of age.

5. That a list of all those under sixty receiving aid be published annually in the educational papers of the Province, giving specific information as to (a) name, (b) age, (c) county, (d) cause of inability to teach, (e) name of inspector, (f) name of medical examiner, (g) number of years of service (h) amount of aid.

6th. In the event of the death of the holder of a "Certificate of Deposit" before reaching the age of sixty, the face value of such certificate shall be paid to the representative of the said holder.

7th. That no allowance be made for any years taught prior to 1872 after the First day of January 1884, unless all arrears of tax are paid up by that date.

From the above it will be seen that the only persons who may be said to suffer from the superannuation scheme are those who, after teaching two or three years, try something else; and those who utilize the profession as a stepping-stone to one more lucrative. And these are the very parties who should suffer. It is they who lower the salaries and stand in the way of better men. The fact is it is yet too easy a thing to become a teacher, and it is to be hoped that the legislature now in session will, before its close, do something to protect the interests of those who, from inclination and fitness for the work, desire to make teaching their profession for life.