

# The Canada School Journal.

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## The Canada School Journal

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1875.*

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*Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.*

*Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.*

*Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.*

*Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.*

*Recommended by the Chief Superintendent of Education, P. E. Island.*

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

In view of the "Canada School Journal" being published as a weekly paper on and after January 1st, 1885, we have decided to accept no more subscriptions at the old rate of one dollar. Those whose names are then on our mailing list will be supplied with the "Weekly Journal" in lieu of the Monthly without additional charge until the expiration of their subscription. See our terms for the Weekly "Canada School Journal."

### THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

One of the most important educational questions to be submitted to Parliament will be the future of the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. It has been currently reported that important changes are to be made, and it is said that in some respects these changes will not be in the interests of the teaching profession. We are not in a position to state what the Minister of Education intends to do in regard to this question, but we have reason to believe that the following are among the proposals likely to be submitted to the Legislature:

1. That no payments towards the Superannuation Fund be allowed in future.
2. That teachers shall not be allowed in future to pay arrears for the time they taught before 1871.

These questions are of great importance to those teachers who intend to devote their lives to teaching. If the teachers themselves acknowledge by their indifference that they are not

anxious for the continued existence of the fund, our representatives in Parliament may well be excused for doing away with a large annual expenditure in favor of those who have grown old or who have become physically disabled in the profession. We are of opinion that a provident fund should be continued. We do not like the word "superannuation"; it savors of charity. It is surely possible to establish such a fund on an equitable basis. There are three fundamental principles which should be incorporated among the rules for maintaining this fund:

1. The Government should make an annual grant in its favor, based on the actual number of teachers engaged in the province.
2. All teachers, male and female, should pay a minimum sum of say four dollars per annum.
3. Teachers should be allowed to pay more than four dollars each year within certain limitations.

The principle of Government aid has already been granted. The plan proposed would make it as nearly as possible a fixed rather than a variable amount. This would relieve the Government from any fears regarding the possible increase of the demands of the fund to an alarming extent, and it would also enable the teachers to calculate accurately the amount which they would fairly be entitled to receive.

The payment of four dollars per annum by all teachers would simply be a tax or fee connected with the position of a teacher. It would not be unfair to female teachers, as they would, if they continued in the profession, be entitled to the benefits of the fund. It must also be remembered that the very large number of female teachers entering the profession and offering to teach at such low rates, must reduce the salaries of male teachers, and thus prevent their making proper provision for the future. As a larger percentage of women than of men leave the profession, the payments by all teachers would be to the advantage of the fund.

The principle of allowing the payment of more than four dollars per annum by those who wish to provide more fully for their declining years or for ill health seems to be perfectly just. It would induce a habit of thrift and relieve the teachers from all anxiety incident to the investment of their surplus funds in the ordinary securities. A man would feel safe when he had the Government for his bankers.

With regard to the payment of arrears before 1871, we hold that it would be a gross breach of faith for the Government to withdraw the privilege without giving due notice of their intention to do so.

We urge teachers in convention and in other ways to make themselves heard, and to endeavor to secure what they believe to be their rights, and we will be glad to receive for publication in the JOURNAL short communications bearing on any phase of the question.