

special temptations to be unthrifty, owing to the enforced idleness of two entire months in the year. Yet the teacher is not considered worthy, like the popular clergyman, of a well-filled purse to be spent on a trip to Europe. The desirability of some provision against old age is felt by all who look upon teaching as the work of their life. Unhappily, however, too many teachers regard their present work as merely a makeshift. They forget that they are the very persons who should be taxed for the benefit of those to whom teaching is a sacred vocation, the work of a lifetime. The inevitable result followed at St. Johns—the temporary teachers voted resolutely against any provision being made for their worthier colleagues. What is done cannot be helped. The present Pension Act is, we are aware, very imperfect. We do not see, however, the impossibility of its being amended into something better. But those who come and go have done their best to destroy a measure which might have given greater stability and a brighter future to the profession.

In the Debate on the Memorandum of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, the teachers generally appear to us to have taken the proper line. Notwithstanding the denial of the Roman Catholic Committee, the new School Law clearly appears to sanction a scheme of Sectarian Education. In voting for an unsectarian common system, the Convention shewed its true wisdom. The lines that separate Protestants and Catholics have no need of aggravation. The future of Canada demands that their differences should be minimized, that those of French and British extraction should be assimilated together. And long as the unsectarian system continues, the Protestants are willing to forego their rights in many matters that the poorer majority may receive a higher education. But they shewed their wisdom in strongly insisting upon their determination to administer their own funds for education, if a sectarian system is to be established. It would, indeed, be hard to find a more striking anomaly than the present composition of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction. What is really the sole protection of the minority against the majority is virtually the nominee of the majority. Happily, the Committee is composed of energetic, public-spirited men; but it is quite possible that this should not be the case. The Convention have done well in drawing attention to this subject.