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ALTHOUGH the Province of Ontario complains of the salaries paid to her teachers, to judge from the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Quebec, that Province is even in worse plight.

A few quotations from the appendix containing the reports of the school inspectors may not be inappropriate, and may be of interest as showing how our sister Province views this all-important question:

"Many persons who have all the qualifications required for teaching," says M. Begin, of Rimouski, "prefer to remain with their families, instead of ruining their health in a miserable little school house for the slight remuneration of fifty or sixty dollars a year. How can we expect any person who has any confidence in her own ability, to consent, without some very urgent reason, to sacrifice a whole year for such a slender pittance?"

The inspector for Ste. Julie, Megantic, pathetically writes:—"I repeat that I have only two male teachers in my extensive

district, and it appears that next year I shall have only one. This is due to the fact that the salaries offered to male teachers are too small. It is useless to complain every year about this state of affairs; it is an evil which seems incurable in my district. All the remedies which I have suggested have been ineffectual. One of those two teachers holds an academy certificate, and gets the small salary of two hundred dollars. Fortunately for him, he is unmarried. The other, who has a wife and family, trusts to Providence and lives on three hundred dollars. The latter, Mr. Joseph Onesime Thibault, is a first-class teacher, is well trained, and would make an excellent school inspector if necessary. Let us now return to the question of the salaries paid to the female teachers; the average of which is seventy-five dollars, or about one-half the amount of a servant's wages. In the Province of Ontario the average is two hundred dollars. The same remarks apply to the salaries of the male teachers and of the inspectors, which, in the last-mentioned Province, are much higher than in ours. Why should there be such a difference? In any case the people of Ontario seem to appreciate better than ours do the value of the services rendered by those officers."

On the proposal to establish a minimum of salary Mr. Gay, of Hull, writes an important paragraph:—"There was paid under this heading during the year the sum of \$24,424, which gives an average of \$152 for every person, say \$223 for every master, and \$138 for every school mistress. The same sum divided by 6,694, the number of pupils inscribed on the rolls of the schools under control, gives an average of \$3.60 per child, or of \$5.25 if we consider only the average attendance. Allow me to say one word as to the proposal to establish the minimum of the salaries. I do not think that such a project could be carried out here, for the following reason: In this district there are about 30 teachers who get only \$100 per annum, which is assuredly little enough. But let us see whether, under certain circumstances, it is not sufficient. By comparing in each

of these thirty schools the teacher's salary with the number of children between 7 and 14 years of age belonging to the district, I find that this amount of \$100 is sometimes equal to \$9 per child and sometimes \$1.35. Now, if the minimum were raised by law from \$100 to \$150, the result would be the overtaxing of some ratepayers whilst others would get their schools too cheap. The law, to be a fair one, should therefore base the minimum of the salaries on the number of children between 7 and 14 years of age in each district. It would not always be easy for the government to ascertain exactly the number of children as soon as it is known that the greater such number the greater will be the teacher's salary. But let us admit that it can exercise an efficient control in this respect, and let us see how it will be able to exact the payment of the minimum established. What penalty will be inflicted for non-compliance with the law? Surely it could be no other than the confiscation of the legislative grant, which is about from \$10 to \$15 per school. On the other hand, owing to the smallness of the salaries, the increase could not be less than 50 per cent.; in the case I have mentioned it would be \$50. So that the commissioners would be called upon to increase their teacher's salary by \$50, or to lose a grant of \$15. It is easy to guess what their answer would be; and we can easily see that coercive measures would be neither practicable nor useful."

"The average salary of the male teachers," says the inspector for Huntingdon, "is \$858, and of the female teachers, \$221.63. The city average salaries for gentlemen is \$985.76, and for ladies, \$317.28; the country average salary for gentlemen is \$464.09, and for ladies, \$166.22. The country school teacher's salary is annually increasing; there was need for it, and still is. The pecuniary inducement is so small—entirely inadequate to the responsibility, that teachers are not easily secured, because many well qualified are not inclined to devote themselves to teaching, especially as they know the difficulty of getting a convenient boarding place."