

previous year, the Government will be contributing nearly \$9000 of the public funds for aiding worn out teachers—the number of whom receiving aid last year was 142. This will enable the Education Department to appropriate a larger sum for each year's service (unless the number of Superannuated Teachers increases largely,) than they have been able to do heretofore. The largest amount paid any teacher last year was \$170; the smallest \$12. The amount appropriated for the current year will probably bring up the pension to \$6 for each year's service, being the amount originally aimed at. The low salaries received by teachers, in many cases, make it impossible for them to provide against the wants of old age and infirmity, and we hope, not only to see the salaries increased, but a much larger contribution made towards those who have spent their best years in a profession that does not bring much pecuniary reward.

—The article in the January Number of the *ONTARIO TEACHER*, though somewhat severely criticised, has been all but universally approved of, by the friends of education in the Province. A slight objection, however, has been made to the proposition restricting the franchise to First Class Provincial Teachers. The *Mail* has characterised this as "most illiberal." Now while in a certain sense it is not as liberal as might be desirable by some, it is far more liberal than the system now existing. At present neither are teachers of any kind represented on the Council of Public Instruction, nor have First or Second Class Teachers a voice in the appointments made. Our proposal then, is not fairly open to the charge of "illiberality" by those who are opposed to the Elective principle in every shape or form.

We observe that in some cases teachers themselves have objected to our basis of representation. Our reply is that the hints thrown out by us were made, partially to elicit discussion, and we are only too glad to find the profession giving the subject some attention. To us as advocates of the scheme it would give the greatest pleasure to extend the franchise to the widest possible limits, and if it is felt desirable that Second Class Teachers should have a voice in the election of two members of the Council of Public Instruction, there need be no fear that any opposition will be offered by us. But we felt and still feel, that there are many good and valid reasons for the restriction we at first proposed. By maintaining this, we do not by any means cast reflections upon the very large and useful class that would be excluded. Any restriction of the franchise must begin and end at some point. Politically the franchise is now withheld from a large class of our population, many of them just as intelligent and

capable of exercising it judiciously, as the majority of those who enjoy it. Upon those only is it conferred who fulfil certain conditions, and no one is prevented from complying with those conditions. So in our case. The standard of qualification is the holding of a First Class Certificate. This no teacher is prevented from attaining to. And it was to give an additional inducement to all to exert themselves to attain this qualification, that we drew the distinction to which objection is now made.

A similar objection might be made to the selection of Inspectors from First Class Teachers. The mere literary superiority which they possess would not, of itself, qualify them for their responsible positions. In point of experience and skill as teachers they may not be in advance of many holding Second Class Certificates. But the fact that they worked themselves up to the highest round of the professional ladder, gave them a precedence, which we feel satisfied, they fully merit. To confer the franchise upon those attaining similar distinction, but who were not Inspectors, would be carrying out the same principle. And our hope is, that before many years, the majority and not the minority, as it now is, will be men whose scholarship will entitle them to any privilege which the Government in its wisdom may see fit to confer upon them. In connection with the foregoing we insert the following communication :

To the Editor of the Ontario Teacher,

SIR,—I consider the remarks made by you in the first issue of your journal relative to the Council of Public Instruction to be highly pertinent, and I agree with you that a re-construction of that body on the principle of representation is very desirable. I would, however, urge some objections to voting being confined exclusively to First Class Provincial Teachers. Would it, I ask, be fair, that the large majority of the profession, many of whom are doing useful and important work, should be ignored in those matters in which they are so deeply concerned, as for instance the Superannuation Fund to which all male teachers contribute alike? Many teachers who hold first class certificates under the old law cannot expect more than a second on the programme when their present certificates are annulled; some of them are men in the meridian of life, and from family circumstances cannot devote that time which is necessary to prepare themselves for a first class Provincial certificate. There are also a few teachers, not many I believe, who hold old first class life certificates for particular counties, which certificates are perpetuated by the School Act; should these persons be excluded from voting more than the old county Superintendents, who are now Inspectors by virtue of their previous offices, or High School