

The granting of permits at present lies mainly in the hands of the County Inspector and the Minister, and is the source of bitter accusations of favouritism, partiality and nepotism against the one, and of political jobbery against the other.

If permits are to continue, and Mr. Crooks has no desire to let politics or anything else but the welfare of education guide him in granting them, let him have the recommendation of his own responsible nominee as well as that of the County Inspector. We will then have the air cleared of the accusations we have heard hurled against both himself and the unlucky Inspectors.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SECTION OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Committee entrusted with the duty of providing work for the Public School Section at the next meeting of the Provincial Association, which begins on the 10th of August next, has determined that the members attending it shall not be idle. The following is a list of the subjects proposed for discussion, with the names of their introducers:—

1. Recent Legislation.—W. B. Harvey.
2. Uniformity of Text-books.—S. S. Herner.
3. Representation at the Provincial Association.—F. W. Chapman.
4. Means of Supply of Teachers.—H. Dickenson.
5. Rotation of Examiners.—Samuel McAllister.
6. Is any change in the Superannuation Fund desirable?—R. Boyle.

Three at least of these subjects—the second, third and sixth—have been before the Association at previous meetings, and the fact of their being put upon the programme for the present year is an indication of the importance attached to them by the profession throughout the country. It is to be hoped that the efforts to make the Provincial Convention an assembly of delegates will be advanced by the deliberations at the approaching meeting. The important points to be decided before a re-organization of the Association can take place are:—1. The number of delegates to be sent from each local Association. 2. Upon what basis High School teachers and Public School inspectors are to be represented. It may be at once conceded that if the Association is to contain a fair portion of the most active-minded and intelligent educationists of the country, we cannot have representation according to numbers. This would give a large preponderance

to Public School teachers, and a trifling representation to inspectors. The wisdom of the Public School Section and of the general Association will be well employed in devising a plan by which High School teachers and inspectors may be fairly represented at the same time that the Public School element will have its great predominance in numbers equitably recognized.

The present method of superannuation has two radical faults: the sixty years' limit in active service, and the smallness of the allowance made to worn-out teachers. No one, not even the Minister of Education himself, pretends that the present allowance is sufficient to induce a competent teacher to remain in the profession to take the benefit of it when he has to retire. It bears so small a proportion to his salary, little as that may be, that he does not anticipate much pleasure in the enjoyment of it after his life of toil, for the simple reason that it will only partially relieve him of the anxieties of keeping the wolf from the door.

We have already expressed our opinion that teachers would be quite willing to increase their annual contribution in order to secure an allowance large enough to enable them to end their days in comfort. Until the privilege of retiring after a shorter term of service be conceded, and the allowance be increased to an amount that indicates a fair valuation of the character of the services performed and of their duration, the good sought by the establishment of the Superannuation Fund, either in securing competent teachers for our schools, or in inducing them to remain in the profession, will not be accomplished.

The discussion that took place upon the question of the "Uniformity of Text-books," at the last meeting, shewed that there was considerable danger in meddling with the present plan. If there were no restriction upon the use of text-books in our schools, many of our boards and of our teachers would become the victims of enterprising and unscrupulous publishers. If we were certain that every board or every teacher was competent to form a sound opinion upon the books to be used in the schools, there would be less objection to giving latitude in the choice of text-books. But even then there would be danger of a serious evil which a United States visitor forcibly illustrated at the last meeting, when he stated that he knew of a school in Pennsylvania in which sixteen different text-books in geography were used. The chief objection to uniformity of text-books is that the best book may not be authorized for the work that has to be done. The only way to get rid of this, or, at all events, to minimize it, is to have a thor-