

well-trained teachers in almost every county, and County Inspectors whose appointments have depended upon their being first-class Teachers. I think, therefore, that Teachers' Institutes can now be advantageously established."

6. The sum estimated for superannuated worn-out teachers is \$19,608. (The sum actually voted last session was \$12,000.) "This sum," the Chief Superintendent remarks, "is based on a calculation of the amount of the retiring allowance to 148 old teachers, with 3,268 years aggregate service, at \$6 per year. The maximum sum authorized by law. Heretofore the grant was not sufficient to pay a worn-out teacher little more than one dollar a year for each year he had taught; by getting the grant increased, as also some increase in subscription, I was enabled to pay them at the rate of two dollars for each year they had taught. I have been able to pay superannuated teachers this year at the rate of \$4 per annum for each year they had taught. I explained verbally to your predecessor in office, (the Hon. A. Mackenzie), that the principle I proposed for the action of Parliament, was to grant dollars for dollars; that is, that the Parliament should grant one dollar for every dollar that should be paid by teachers for their support when superannuated; but for the current year I proposed the sum of \$12,000, though the teachers' subscriptions will amount at least to \$10,000. Instead of raising the allowance of superannuated teachers at once to the full sum of \$6 per annum for each year they had taught, I proposed to increase it gradually, and let the balance of the Parliament grant be *funded* or *invested*, and the interest added to the annual allowances to superannuated teachers. Mr. Mackenzie approved of this plan; and were it now carried out, there would not be over \$10,000, to be invested for that purpose; for the subscriptions of teachers, under the law of 1870, have amounted this year up to November \$10,756 71. Out of the grant of \$12,000 voted by Parliament last session, within \$1,243 29 of the whole amount has been covered by the teachers' subscriptions (which have been paid into the Provincial treasury). This \$1,243 29 has been the only sum paid out of the public revenue this year, (instead of \$6,000 as in former years), while the allowance to superannuated teachers has been increased one hundred per cent. But I do not dwell upon the trifling sum of \$1,243 29, actually paid this year to the superannuated teachers' fund by the Legislature; nor do I propose the investment of any part of the grant, as I suggested to Mr. Mackenzie last winter. On further consideration and observation, I think another plan will be more beneficial to superannuated teachers, to the profession of teaching, and more economical for Parliament. I propose that the number of superannuated teachers, and their aggregate years of service, shall be the basis on which the Parliamentary grant each year shall be made, allowing at the rate of \$6 per year to each teacher for each year of past service. This arrangement will cheer the heart of every old worn-out teacher; it will increase his allowance fifty per cent. over that of the current year; it will enable him to know what to depend upon in future, and each teacher in the work will know what to depend upon by teaching until he become superannuated, and the Parliament will only have to supply the sum necessary each year to meet the demand over and above the amount of the teachers' subscriptions.

As the aggregate sum proposed for 1873, is \$19,608; and the Teachers' subscriptions will be at least \$19,000; it follows that the Legislature will have actually to pay out of the public revenue less than \$10,000. I believe when this arrangement comes to be explained and understood, it will not only be acceptable to the Legislature, but the little opposition which has been attempted to be got up by such Teachers as only teach as a stepping-stone to some other pursuit or profession, will entirely disappear, and the permanence and efficiency of the Teachers' profession will be immensely promoted."

With a view to carry out this proposition, the Chief Superintendent submitted the following provision in the draft of the Bill which was approved and brought into the Legislature by the Hon. Attorney-General Mowat.

"Every teacher who, while engaged in his profession, contributes to the support of the Superannuated Teachers' Fund, as provided by law, shall, on retiring from the profession of teaching, as provided in the Consolidated School Act (22 Vic. ch. 64), and upon furnishing satisfactory proof to the Council of Public Instruction of good moral character, and of his age, and length of service as a public or high school teacher in Ontario, shall be entitled to an allowance or pension, at the rate of six dollars per annum for every year of such service: Every such teacher, on reaching the age of sixty years, shall be entitled to retire from the profession at his discretion: Every teacher under sixty years of age shall, in addition to proof of his age, furnish from time to time satisfactory testimony of being disabled from practising his profession: The retiring allowance shall cease at the close of the year of the death of the recipient, and may be discontinued at any time should the superannuated teacher fail to maintain a good moral character, to be vouched for (when required)

to the satisfaction of the Council of Public Instruction: And should any pensioner, with the consent of the Council, resume the profession of teaching, the payment of his allowance shall be suspended for the time so engaged, and, in such a case, a pension for the additional time of teacher shall be allowed him, on his compliance with the law and regulations, and his again being placed on the superannuation list by the Council."

For the *Journal of Education* the sum submitted was \$2,940, "including \$250 for engraving plans of new School-Houses in Ontario," and \$150 for Prizes for designs for Rural School-Houses and grounds."

The amount proposed for the Educational Depository was \$50,000, as against \$42,000 in 1872. This item elicited the following discussion in the House of Assembly:

"Mr. Gibson, of Huron, objected to the item. He did not think that the Government should keep a big book-store, while there were plenty of them on King Street. It was behind the age."

"Mr. Deroche thought that the keeping up of this book and map establishment, from which publications can be obtained at half-price, was an injustice to the general book and stationery trade, and should be discontinued by the Government. He contended, moreover, that some sections of the Province were benefited by it, while others did not receive those benefits."

"Mr. Ferguson said that this establishment was doing good, and should not be abolished."

Hon. Mr. Mowat was aware that many of the friends of the Government were opposed to this establishment, but he did not like to abolish it at present. He believed that many of the cogent reasons which were once to be brought in favour of it had ceased to exist. There were powerful considerations on both sides of the question, but 'on the whole' he thought that, if he occupied his present position next session, he would be prepared to decide whether he would submit a measure for its abolishment."

"Mr. Oliver had had the honour of presenting several petitions against the continuance of this establishment, and when a Reform Government came into power he fully expected that it would be abolished. He regretted to see that, on the contrary, the estimate for the purchase of these publications was greatly increased. But perhaps the Government might be excused by the fact that they hadn't been long in office."

"Mr. Farewell would regret to see this establishment abolished, because he regarded it as a valuable auxiliary to our invaluable school system. He regarded its existence as necessary to the perfecting of our Common School system—a system of which any Canadian may well be proud. One of the clearest evidences, he said, of a high state of civilization in this country is its admirable educational system, considered in all its parts, from the Common School up to our national University. Perhaps the machinery of this system is as perfect as any on the earth. The officers engaged in the several departments make it a specialty to attend, each to certain duties, and in this way become as nearly perfect as possible. One of the necessities of a perfect system of education is the means *ever at hand* to supply as cheaply as possible, such books, maps, and apparatus as experience has shown to be desirable, as aids to the teacher, and indispensable to the proper advancement of the student. The selection of the items which make up the Depository is made a specialty by those in charge of the business, and hon. members can readily see that instead of its being a huge monopoly, as some hon. members suppose, it simply supplies the wants of the schools, without, in any manner, interfering with the general trade of the Province. If any money be saved by the operations of the Depository it is saved for the country, and if anything be made it is made in the interests of the people. If we would keep our school machinery perfect, we must retain our Depository, and for so desirable, yes, so necessary an object, he (Mr. Farewell) would give his vote most heartily."

The following items were passed:—Salaries of clerks, &c., in Educational Depository, \$4,495 as against \$3,670 for 1872; contingencies for same, \$4,060 as against \$2,330 for 1872.

"Mr. Deroche thought that if the Premier was sincere in his promise of abolishing this establishment next session, the Government should not be asking for such largely increased votes in connection therewith. It seemed to be one of the proposals to send some gentleman connected with the Educational Department to England to transact some business in connection with this Depository. Now why should all this be done if the establishment was to be abolished as the Premier had promised?"

"Hon. Mr. Mowat said that until the establishment was abolished it should be carried on as usual. It was the usual business procedure to send agents to England to purchase, and while the Depository was continued it was but common prudence to operate it according to ordinary business principles."