

Examinations would add to the improvement of education throughout the country.

10. That in the opinion of this section, it would be to the advantage of the Province to retain the apparatus part of the Depository for the present year.

The Committee, consisting of Mr. McAllister, Mr. Spence, and Mr. Doan, had no less than three interviews with the Minister of Education to discuss the foregoing resolutions with him. On the 8th of January last they laid them before him. In regard to the first, he pointed out that Inspectors had now no discretionary power, as the Department had decided by regulation that all candidates for Second Class Certificates might be admitted to professional training after one year's experience in teaching. He admitted that it was an open question whether the term was too short or not, and said he did not consider the present regulations as unalterable, and, upon the urgent representations of the Committee, he gave them to understand that the term of service should be lengthened so soon as the supply of teachers would warrant it.

He assured the deputation that strict inquiry was made in every case before a permit was granted. When the Inspector did not certify a scarcity of teachers as a reason for the application for a permit, it was refused. The number was yearly decreasing, and he hoped permits would soon be things of the past, except in the remote districts.

He was, in principle, opposed to secret voting, and therefore could hold out no hope of proposing to introduce the ballot into School Trustee elections.

He admitted the desirability of making a higher limit for the age of both male and female candidates for the teaching profession, but doubted whether the respective ages should be twenty and eighteen, or nineteen and eighteen.

He did not think any good purpose would be gained by retaining the apparatus portion of the Depository, as articles of a better quality, and at less price, can be got from private dealers.

He had already adopted the principle of rotation of examiners, and proposed to have more Public School Inspectors among the sub-examiners. The fitness of Public School Masters to act as sub-examiners was brought before him, and he promised to give the matter his consideration.

The remaining and indeed the main portion of the interviews the Minister granted the Committee was taken up in discussing the Superannuation Scheme. The views of the Public School Section were first laid before him. He then submitted a scheme of his own to the Committee, and finally he asked them to lay any plan they could agree upon before him, and he would give it fair consideration.