THE TEACHERS ON THE PENSION ACT.

Two meetings of the Protestant Teachers' Association of Montreal have been held at the Normal School to discuss the Pension Act. At the first meeting (held on Feb. 18th) the Hon. L. Archambault and Mr. Lacroix were present and explained the act for the benefit of the Protestant Teachers. It had been drawn up it was shown, without statistics having been obtained, but the speakers maintained that, though open to amendment, it was a good act. One of its advantages was that the government would undertake to administer the funds without expense to the teachers.

It was however received with little welcome by the Protestant teachers. The Rev. E. I. Rexford, who spoke with some animus, objected to the term "benevolent" fund as applied to it, and showed numerous defects in detail, such as that the present teachers had to pay for old teachers as well as for their successors. Some teachers would obtain a pension after having contributed to the fund only a quarter or a third as much as others. The scheme compared unfavorably with the Grand Trunk superannuation fund as well as with those of the Civil Service and of the teachers in Ontario. It was unfair also to lady teachers. He proposed a Resolution to be ultimately voted upon.

Dr. Howe after testifying to the accuracy of the calculations, which Dr. Robins had separately printed for the benefit of the teachers, showed the imperfection of the act as it encouraged early retirement from work. The vote on the Resolution was deferred till the adjourned meeting, which was held upon the 25th.

The discussion was resumed by the Chairman (Dr. McGregor) and by Prof. Hicks, who spoke in favour of the act. Dr. Kelley, who followed, showed that the Protestant Commissioners had been quite in the dark about it and were not consulted at all. It was a capital thing for those who would retire in 5 years. One doing so after 40 years service would get a pension of $1,000 a year, having paid in only $800. If he died leaving a widow she would get $500, and if she died leaving children it would be continued to them. One who retired at the age of 48 would get seven times as much as he put in, whilst one who retired at the age of 58 would get only five times as much. Moreover a