

schools must be manned—and well-manned—with qualified teachers, and qualified teachers are always reluctant to accept appointments where the tenure of office is uncertain. Nevertheless with the assistance of an unusually large supply of teachers from the training schools, and with the generous recognition on the part of teachers of the peculiar need of the schools, boards will probably be able to fill all posts with qualified teachers and at the same time keep those posts open for teachers who have gone abroad in the service of their country.

The salary question also presents serious difficulties. It has been claimed that the law will not permit boards to pay salaries to teachers who do not teach. But this claim need not cause hesitation. If necessary, Legislatures would hurry to legalize such payments. If two or more teachers volunteer from the same small urban centre the burden of two sets of salaries, those of the teachers at the front, and those of the temporary teachers, might be very great. Even when one teacher volunteers, the burden of two salaries would not be insignificant in these days of large givings and thin purses. Moreover, one and the same rule should not always apply. In the eyes of the school board, as well as in those of the war office, the unmarried man cannot rank with the married man in the matter of salary. But all these difficulties weigh as nothing when set over against the fact that these men have taken their lives in their hands and gone forth to fight for us and for our civilisation.

We cannot hesitate. We must try to do what London and Toronto have tried to do—keep all posts open and continue all salaries!

One-Year Terms.—School trustees generally hold office in Canada for either two or three years. Agitations in favour of one-year terms are not infrequent especially in the larger cities. Such an agitation is almost chronic in Toronto.

No doubt long terms, terms of five or six years, are quite objectionable. Sheltered by such a long term the unworthy trustee loses all sense of fear and proceeds boldly to work his will. Unable to make his opinion felt immediately, the impatient voter loses hope and interest and the school becomes the property of a self-perpetuating group of trustees. In short, long terms are undemocratic—and impossible in this country. But the one-year term is also by no means free from objections. It is not fair to argue from municipal councils to school boards. The function of a school board is highly technical and special. Even if it were fair the argument would prove little. The one-year term for municipal councils itself has not won universal endorsement. Annual elections mean annual recurrences of expense, worry, and even tumult, and tend to restrict candidatures to men who can bear the expense and who love public office for its own sake. A trustee cannot make his worth known to