

to continue doing it, ought not to be thrown away at the pleasure of a School Board, a manager, or a head master. A term of probation is necessary at the outset, but when a man has proved his ability and fitness for the profession of a teacher, and when he once has obtained the position *optima forma*, when on account of his advanced years, he is no longer able to earn his livelihood by a change of profession, he has a right to demand to be allowed to remain in his position, or to be removed only with a due compensation for the loss of office.—*Schoolmaster*.

THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

A NUMBER of members of the Legislature aired their opinions upon the Superannuation Fund in the course of a short discussion during the late session. They feared that it was going to be a heavy tax on the Province, and incontinently proposed to do away with it. Mr. Crooks, while admitting that the appropriation for the fund was increasing, did not speak so rashly. He repeated the promise he made to the deputation that waited upon him in reference to it, and we have no doubt he will redeem it by taking the whole subject into consideration during the recess. When these Members of Parliament propose such a summary way of dealing with the matter, we might remind them that teachers are intelligent human beings, and may not always be disposed to have their interests tossed about like a foot-ball. The teachers never sought, as a body, to have a superannuation fund in its present shape, indeed they fought strenuously against it, but now that its compulsory provisions have been in force for several years, the least they can expect is to have it put on a satisfactory footing, not after it has been dangling before their view to have it thrust contemptuously aside as if there were no vested interests concerned. Before it can be made to answer its purpose, it must be so enlarged by increased contributions from the teachers themselves, as well as from other sources, that the pension a retired teacher may get will be sufficient to comfortably support him. The period that must

elapse before a teacher can partake of its benefits must be shortened, especially for ladies. The method of becoming a pensioner must be made as simple as is consistent with the proper allotment of the fund. The discussion in the House on this matter is but one indication of the lack of regard for the interests and opinions of teachers which prevails with our local legislators. The proposed curtailment of the summer holidays is another. But the most flagrant was our disfranchisement by the withdrawal from us of the right to elect representatives to the Council of Public Instruction without granting us any equivalent whatever. With these facts before us, we may pertinently ask, Is it not time that teachers throughout the country began to exercise some direct political influence? Every teacher, whether male or female, is very favourably situated for directing opinion in our political affairs; and seeing the head of our educational establishment is a Cabinet Minister, it is becoming more apparent every day that the only way we can effectively influence school legislation is through the local members. Had every teacher brought to bear what influence he had upon these gentlemen we venture to assert that there would not have been such an outcry for the shortening of the summer holidays in the rural sections. In England the public school teachers are becoming a power that both parties are beginning to respect; there is no reason why it should not be the same in each Province of the Dominion.

THE PLACE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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THE place of anything in school work is, I take it, to be determined by its importance, and its importance by its utility. Now, if I can shew that a regularly organized system of written examinations is of practical utility in the working of a school, I shall be entitled to claim for it the consideration of the teaching fraternity. Examinations are an admitted necessity in the school organization.