

purpose would be gained by retaining it. The articles that had been kept in stock were not of the best quality, and as a matter of fact, he had seen apparatus in High Schools that had been got from New York, because of better workmanship, and at a less expense than that supplied by the Department. He pointed out that already various parties had begun to meet the demand which the Depository had supplied, and he had no doubt competition would be keen enough to enable the purchaser to get the best value for his money.

The resolution on Rotation of Examiners had already been acted upon, but he kindly gave the deputation some explanation of his views on the formation of the new Committee. Professor Young, on his urgent representation, had consented to continue in his position as Chairman, beyond this, he allowed the deputation to infer that no appointment had been made, but his opinion was favourable to placing the three High School Inspectors upon the Committee, subject, of course, to the established conditions of retirement. He further thought that it would be desirable to have at least two of these officials always on. The remaining members would be selected on account of their special fitness for the duties that would be required of them. As the work of Public School Inspectors in examining for non-professional certificates had now ceased, he thought the body of sub-examiners, whose duties would in future be more onerous, should be largely recruited from these Inspectors. They would be valuable on account of their experience in similar work.

In regard to Superannuation, the Minister stated that in the year 1880 there were 391 superannuated teachers drawing pensions, which amounted to \$41,751; the amount contributed by the teachers in the same year was \$14,065; of this \$11,565 was made up of the regular subscriptions; the balance was arrears that had been paid in. The highest pension paid to any teacher was \$284, for 48 years' service; the lowest was \$56, for 10 years' service.

He had caused a scheme to be drafted

which he submitted to the consideration of the deputation. He did not think well of the proposal that was referred to in Mr. Boyle's paper, of charging a fee for entrance to the profession; but as teachers got a good deal of their training for nothing, and were at no expense for their examinations, he thought that it would not be unjust to levy a yearly contribution from each male and female teacher of \$3, and let this go to swell the superannuation fund. He would give teachers the option of increasing their yearly payments, so as to secure a larger allowance. He gave the following figures as an indication of what might be proposed:—

- A contribution of \$3 per year for 25 years would secure an allowance of \$100 per year.
- A contribution of \$6 per year for 25 years would secure an allowance of \$120 per year.
- A contribution of \$8 per year for 25 years would secure an allowance of \$135 per year.
- A contribution of \$10 per year for 25 years would secure an allowance of \$150 per year.

He would propose that no allowance should be made for less than ten years' service.

When the case of widows was brought to his notice, he said that they could be provided for in the details. It was pointed out to him that by the Quebec scheme widows and children were allowed one-half the husband's pension. By this scheme Mr. Crooks reckoned that, for 391 superannuated teachers, \$34,839 per annum would be needed; of this, the teachers would contribute \$20,833 and the Government \$14,006. Having spent two hours with the deputation, he expressed his regret that another engagement called him away, but he kindly gave them the various documents he had used in drafting his proposed scheme, that they might examine them, and form their own conclusions. In parting with the deputation he said they would see he had tried to redeem the promise he had made to a similar deputation last year—to give the matter of superannuation his earnest consideration.

The same gentlemen, accompanied by Mr. Doan—the third member of the deputation—met the Minister, by his request, on Monday, the 17th of January. He stated then, that since last meeting them, the matter of super-