

There are many advantages which the scheme suggests as likely to follow its adoption, and a few of these may here be mentioned :—

1. *To the Public :*

(a) Fuller protection from incompetent teachers.

(b) Better work in the schools.

2. *To the Cause of Education :*

(a) As the formation of the Teachers' Society will certainly give more permanency to the profession it will induce a larger number of able teachers to remain in the work.

(b) The danger of misdirected energy will be lessened.

3. *To the Teacher :*

(a) He will obviously have a better social position, a fuller recognition as a member of an organized profession.

(b) He will have the support and encouragement that a society formed for mutual protection and benefit confers.

(c) He will have a voice in the government of the Society that regulates his work, and which admits to membership in the profession; unprofessional competition for positions in our school system may thus be dealt with by teachers themselves.

(d) The defects of our system of examinations can be corrected by this organization without appealing to political bureaucracy for redress.

Having now laid this matter thus fully and in its varied aspects before you, some questions will likely arise in your minds as to the relations of the projected Society to the chief executive officer of the Department of Education. The matter is a deli-

cate one, particularly as I discuss it without having had the advantage of conferring first with the Honourable the Minister; but the benefits of the scheme are so obvious that I venture to think they will commend themselves, not only to you and to the profession at large, but to one who, in the person of the present Minister of Education, happily combines, with a thorough and practical knowledge of all branches of school work, an enthusiastic interest in the profession of teaching, and a laudable regard for the teacher's status and welfare. It may be taken for granted that the work of the college would relieve the Minister of many duties that are of necessity irksome and sometimes embarrassing. What these are, in the political connections of the Minister's functions and office, I need not refer to; they will occur to the minds of all of you.

The organization and operation of a Society, such as is here outlined will not lessen, in the slightest degree, the necessity for an executive head of the Department of Education. It will be necessary, indeed, that the details of the whole scheme should receive his concurrence, and that the aims and objects of the Society should meet with his full and cordial approval. It would be advantageous, moreover, were he to become an *ex officio* member of the College with special powers. With his sanction and co-operation, and the hearty endorsement of this meeting and of the profession at large, our undertaking should not fail of immediate and assured success.

CANADIAN LONGEVITY.—That the climate of Canada conduces to longevity is proven by the list of the veterans of the war of 1812-15 who still survive. The annual report of the Minister of Militia tells us that there are at present 62 of these warriors who are 90 years of age; 31, 91 years old; 36, 92

years; 17, 93 years; 23, 94 years; 15, 95 years; 5, 96 years; 6, 97 years; 8, 98 years; 4, 99 years; 2, 100 years, and 1, 101 years old. Facts like these would make more effective reading for immigration purposes than incorrect statements of the wages earned by mechanics and labourers.