

Although from the increase in the number and rank of our teachers the fixed provincial grant of \$182,500 caused the allowance to each to fall \$1.18 on each \$60, it is gratifying to know, that trustees on the average have so much appreciated the improved character of the teachers that not only was this deficit made good by the sections, but more than made good. It is no small satisfaction to find, that although teachers' salaries have been falling, as a rule, during the last five years in most of the provinces, under our present arrangements they have been steadily increasing, and that notwithstanding the gradual lowering of the provincial grant to each, salaries during the past year actually increased, on the average. The increases were as follow :

| Class. | A. | B. | C. | D. |
|----------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Male Teachers..... | \$46.94 | \$7.85 | \$9.07 | \$2.26 |
| Female Teachers..... | 29.52 | 0.84 | 1.04 | 1.53 |

This increase was the spontaneous offering of the people in their desire to hold or obtain teachers with good records. Without increasing remuneration we cannot expect the profession to improve much. Our future progress is conditioned by salary and the general cost of living, as well as by the adoption of improved accommodations, apparatus and methods.

That this continued improvement is not due solely to the reduction in the number of licenses issued is suggested by the following figures, showing the number of licenses granted each year since 1893:

| | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. | 1896. | 1897. |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Licenses Granted..... | 218. | 250. | 365. | 513. | 571. |

Four hundred more candidates than went up to the Provincial High School Examination in 1896, presented themselves for examination in 1897. But as a small fee was required to be paid by those not taking the examination in regular order, the cost of the examination was less. The great rush of candidates to examination did not mean, it appears, a sudden advance in preparedness, so much as it indicated over-sanguine expectations. Out of 2,917 only 957 obtained the grades applied for, although 1415 received certificates of some grade. The unprecedented growth in popularity of this voluntary examination system, as well as the annual "ups and downs" which appear to follow a regular alternation law, are shown at a glance in the table below :

| | 1892. | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. | 1896. | 1897. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Candidates Examined | 1,432 | 1,506 | 1,922 | 2,399 | 2,517 | 2,917 |
| Rec. Grade applied for..... | 175 | 598 | 760 | 684 | 1,313 | 957 |

It must be remembered, too, that the standard since 1893 was being gradually raised until 1897, when the accommodation expedients authorized during the transition from the old to the new course could be completely dropped. Some of our best institutions have their bad years, due sometimes to poor teachers in the preparatory schools, as well as accidents in the high school departments. On such occasions the results of examination produce a profound feeling of local dissatisfaction—which it should—to be succeeded in the following year,