

trebled in the last six years, but the Government grant has remained stationary. The surplus is small, and rapidly diminishing. From my knowledge of the administration of the Fund I am willing to predict that the deficit will increase in future years. This deficit, which is now serious, is due to the amendments to the law that have been passed by the Government usually without the knowledge, always without the consent, and sometimes in opposition to the expressed views, of the Commission.

There have been five stages of increases to the minimum pensions, which have been increased first from \$50 to \$75, then from \$75 to \$100, then from \$100 to \$125, and finally to \$150.

As a consequence of these amendments, one teacher during her service only paid \$7.44 to the Pension Fund; she is now receiving \$150 a year, and will continue to receive that sum for the rest of her life. Another teacher made payments of \$7.50 during her service and likewise obtains \$150 a year as pension. Numerous others have paid sums as low as \$16.81, \$17.28, \$17.56, \$17.99, \$18.48, \$18.54, \$18.58, \$19.53. These are 10 examples of teachers from an alphabetical list which only extends to the letter "D". These 10 examples show that these teachers paid less than \$20 during their lifetime of teaching, and are now benefitting by a pension of \$150 a year through the amendments passed by the Government which did not, however, provide the sums necessary to pay for these benefits.

At the time when these five amendments were passed, calculations were made as to the cost of the changes. These increased costs were known when the amendments were passed, but the Government did not put aside the funds required to take care of the additional obligations for which they were responsible.

Moreover, the Government does not pay interest on the accumulated surplus of the present fund. At one time there was a surplus of about \$250,000. It can easily be shown that at a reasonable rate the accumulation of interest would have amounted to, at least, \$200,000.

The Pension Commission in recent years has requested its Chairman to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the serious situation caused by increasing deficits, and to secure greater support from Provincial funds. Furthermore, delegations from Protestant and Catholic Teachers' Associations interviewed the Prime Minister and Provincial Secretary during the last session of the Legislature. They were kindly received; copies of the requests were left with the Ministers who gave the delegates hope, without, however, giving definite assurances.

Delegates interviewed these Ministers a second time before the end of the session only to find that nothing had been done or would be done last year.