

change in the present system was needed, as they had reached a point when the fund involved a loss to the province of \$40,000 a year; that the total amount paid out was \$438,736; paid in, \$167,390; total loss during the twelve years, \$272,335. He thought hon. gentlemen would agree with him that this burden on the finances of the Province should not be increased. Nowhere on this continent outside of Canada could they find such another system in vogue. He would not advocate any system which had led teachers, or compelled them, to pay a certain amount of money into the fund, and prevented them from enjoying it. What he thought should be done was that the door should be shut against any more teachers paying into the fund and becoming in future a burden on the province. He trusted that the Minister of Education would give the matter his serious attention.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex) said he had given this subject some attention, and hoped during the recess to obtain the views of teachers on it. He well recollected the time when the fund was instituted, and the views advanced in favour of it. By it they were made civil servants, on the ground that the teacher's salary was very low, that he was a public benefactor, that he was spending his time more in the interests of his Province than in his own interests, and by making this allowance it was thought an appropriation would be made which would serve him when he was no longer able to act as teacher. He thought it was a mistake for them to consider the teacher as a civil servant. The profession was one, although the salary was not a high one, in which they should endeavour to cultivate a higher feeling of independence than was usually attached to civil servants. (Hear, hear.) The question of abolishing the fund was beset with many difficulties, and two views of the matter immediately presented themselves. One was that the fund should be self-sustaining, but if that view were adopted it would be a heavy tax on the profession, and the payment would have to be greatly increased. At present the teachers paid \$4 a year, and it would be needful at once to increase it to \$16, and eventually to \$20. If they considered the question of the abolition of the fund they would not have to overlook those who were sharing in it now, and the refunding to those who were not yet claimants upon it. The amount due to those who were not yet pensioners was about \$100,000.

Mr. Meredith asked for the amount withdrawn from the fund.

Mr. Ross said the total amount withdrawn was \$22,586, and there now stood to the credit of the teachers the sum of \$140,000, but as many had left the country it would be reduced to the \$100,000 he had previously mentioned. He was not prepared to say exactly what he would do, or what he thought best. From the information he would no doubt receive during the recess he thought next year he might be able to bring down a scheme to make it self-sustaining or else would lead to its abolition.

Mr. Meredith agreed with the last speaker, that the fund should not be continued if it could be avoided. He concurred in the observations of the member for West Durham, that so far as that House was concerned there was no necessity for grafting on the provincial system any scheme of super-annuation. He thought it was far better to pay those in the employ of the province as they should be paid, so that they might be enabled to save something against a rainy day, rather than that they should be dependent on the Province for a gratuity. He trusted that the discussion would result in something being proposed next session that would tend to relieve the Province of a liability of this kind.

Mr. Mowat said that the analogy afforded by what was done at Ottawa had probably led to the institution of this fund. He thought that if the teachers had not received this allowance some of them would actually have been starving. Nobody could dispute the fact that teachers' salaries were so low that nothing could be saved from them, and it would be a lamentable thing if those who had spent their lives in performing a duty, the most important, perhaps, in the State, should be deprived of this assistance. He trusted that the Minister would be able to arrive at some scheme which would meet the object of the fund without increasing the burden on the Province.

Mr. Harcourt suggested that to the motion the following words be added:—"And the amount paid out to teachers who have withdrawn from the profession during the same period." He said he thought if the Minister of Education were to address a circular to the teachers that fully ninety per cent. of them would be in favour of the abolition of the fund.

The motion, with Mr. Harcourt's addition, was adopted.—*Mail and Globe Report.*