

heard nothing to alter our opinion, but rather to confirm it. However, if this experiment must be made, we shall be glad, though we do not hope, to see it succeed. We suspect that the plan of co-education proposed has little to recommend it but the plea of so-called economy. The resolution is but a sign of the times and another warning to educationists. Grants for prize books and apparatus have disappeared; the Collegiate Institute grant is constantly menaced, the superannuation fund is in jeopardy, the High School grant is threatened, and they will all, in time, go as the grants for prizes and apparatus have gone, to preserve a fund for building more railways, more public works, and those other ways of spending public money in which politicians of all parties take special pleasure.

THE HOUSE AND THE SUPER-ANNUATION QUESTION.

THERE is, we gather from opinions expressed in the House, a feeling of unrest respecting the Teachers' Superannuation Fund in this Province. Many members, we apprehend, are in favour of the abolition of the system as necessarily involving a large annual expenditure, and in itself not a desirable system to encourage or perpetuate. Nor are teachers, we have good reason to know, a unit upon the merits of the scheme. Many regard the enforced payment of the annual levy upon their salary as a species of legislative tyranny, which should have no place in a country governed by free institutions. Doubtless all teachers would prefer to be independent of public bounty, if independence were possible. But there's the rub. Salaries are still so small that few public school teachers can put by anything for the rainy day or old age. Moreover, the profession is swarming with young people, who avowedly do not intend to make teaching their life-work, and who, to obtain some ready money to enable them to prepare for other employments, are eager to underbid and supplant men and women who have grown old in the public service. The public,

as a general rule, has no conscience or sentiment in the matter. In nine cases out of ten the hawk of cheap wares wins the day. If the trustees should be so patriotic as to prefer merit to cheapness, an indignation meeting of the rate-payers would soon let the views of the section be known. Hence salaries are mere pittance, and it is not possible for the public school teacher, except by ruinous economy, to lay by anything. In such circumstances it is natural for the veteran teacher, who has given his best years for a merely nominal sum to the State, to look to the State for support in his old age. This is the plain logic of the facts. The present method is, doubtless, very unsatisfactory, but it is not so bad as to be past remedy. If the House will not put the fund in such a form as to provide a yearly grant to every worn-out and disabled teacher, and sufficient to keep the wolf from the door, let it make the profession an incorporation, as is done in the case of the lawyers and doctors, with a right to fix a tariff for their work and to regulate admission into and continuance in the body corporate. If this power be granted, we venture to assert that all the evils that now beset the profession will immediately disappear. But if Parliament will not agree to this, then it must be prepared to stop the supply of cheap teachers or to supplement the teachers' pittance by a liberal grant from a Superannuation Fund. If it can be shown, however, that the abolition of the Superannuation Fund would indirectly, as some urge, be the cause of increasing teachers' salaries, we say let it be abolished at once, with of course a due regard to the interests of those who have already contributed to the fund. If the law of supply and demand is a panacea for commercial evils, let the law apply also to teaching.

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