

teachers, but we can not as a rule expect to get first-class talent for the meagre and insufficient salaries paid in many parts of the State. There is a practical unanimity of opinion that the amount paid the average teacher is too small, especially when we consider the brains required for the position, and the work of no other class of people is so closely interwoven with the highest interests of our political, social and civil life. The State itself has fixed the standard of teaching very high, but not too high, and in fairness the minimum salary to be paid to any teacher should be fixed by the State somewhere in proportion to the order of skill required, and thereby encourage the best talent to make teaching a permanent profession.

#### REVISE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW:

Those who have to follow our public school law, and who are familiar with its provisions, agree that it should be carefully revised by men familiar with the needs of our public school system, so that the law may be equal to our new and modern demands and in keeping with progressive school work.

The law as it now stands is to an extent a patchwork, and it is in many instances inadequate and contradictory. A careful revision of the law would relieve it of these objections.

#### TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

The General Assembly, Chapter 196 of the Acts of 1902, adopted a most praiseworthy policy of pensioning incapacitated public school teachers who have spent twenty-five years in teaching and who are over 60 years of age.

This measure has met with the approval of the public school officials throughout the State. It has served to an extent as a stimulus and an encouragement, because it is universally recognized that our public school teachers are an underpaid class, consequently only in rare cases can a teacher accumulate any considerable means to provide against the inevitable infirmities of old age. The hard work, the small salaries and the feeling of ultimate dependence very naturally tend to discourage many capable