

THE SCHOOLTEACHERS ARE NOT AGREED

About Their New Pension Measure

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

It Has Some Objectionable Features.

NOTABLY AS TO INCOME TAX

Which Will Form the Nucleus of the School Fund.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OPPOSES IT.

Principals and Teachers Frankly Express Their Views For and Against the Bill.

Among the various matters which are pending before the Legislature is one in which the schoolteachers, not only of this city, but the State at large, are taking a deep interest.

pension organization, and most of them paid. It netted perhaps \$350 or \$400. The expenses of the committee have included the salaries they have sacrificed while away, traveling and hotel expenses and, of course, a few flowers, books and other incidentals.

There is by no means a unanimity of opinion among the local teachers and principals as to the advisability of passing such a measure. Interviews with members of the department revealed this yesterday. While some teachers favor the proposition of a pension for teachers who have grown old or disabled in the service, they find fault with the methods adopted for raising funds. Many do not think "just the idea" to pay teachers a pension out of the dog license fund and out of the revenue derived from licenses of pawnbrokers, billiard-hall keepers, second-hand dealers and junkmen. As one of these put it: "If the State cannot pay us out of a special fund that may be raised for the purpose, I want none of it."

Another point which is not appreciated is the creation of a commission, which they claim is a needless expense and takes the handling of funds out of the jurisdiction where they properly belong—either the State Board of Education or in local boards.

Then again, the act provides that on the last day of June of each year the Auditor of the city or county shall report as to all moneys paid out during the year, and as to the general standing of the fund, after which all surplus remaining in the said fund during the three years next preceding shall be transferred to the general fund of the city and county. This money may be retransferred through in case the pension fund should be depleted.

A strong objection urged against this is that no donations, legacies or bequests will ever be made to the fund if the money is to be turned over into the general fund of the city or county. "Nobody," said one of the teachers, "who might desire to leave some-

accordance with the previous salary and services of the teacher who may wish to retire. You see in some parts of the State salaries are very small, some teachers getting only \$50 a month. Well, such a teacher could retire and get the same salary as a teacher who had been getting \$100 or more. I think we will be the net gain at that or two-thirds of the salary last received by the teacher.

"As to the dog license and other license clauses mentioned I must say personally that I do not want them in the bill. They are objectionable, but that is easily remedied by the stroke of a pen if the teachers have any feeling over the matter, and I understand that they have. We want to do all our amending to the bill while it is in the hands of the Senate committee and not when it comes up for passage.

"With all these or any other amendments which may seem proper I think the bill will pass, and I sincerely hope so. "It is for the good of the public schools and the children who must get their education there. Most of the teachers who have taught for twenty or twenty-five years have acquired a great many friends in the community and also in the Board of Education. In the natural course of time these teachers must fail, mentally and physically, and practically become incapable. But the Board of Education, or whatever authority may exist to govern the schools, is naturally unwilling to put these old servants out of a way of making a living. The result is that in many cases men and women who are practically disabled by age, and the wear of years are retained in positions to the detriment of the school service. If they can be retired on a comfortable pension, or if they know that they will not fall into want, everything will be more agreeable. It is my opinion that most teachers would resign after serving the best years of their lives knowing that they would be provided for in old age.

"Do I think it would be more to the advantage of the teachers and better for the State treasury if the teachers organized themselves and cared for the old and disabled in their profession themselves? No, I do not. I do not think such an organization would succeed. The teachers are the servants of the State, and put in the best years of their life for the good of the community. The State should, therefore, be back of a proposition of this kind. It would strengthen it, give it a backing and assure it complete success. Besides, under this bill a large part of the revenue would come from the teachers themselves. If the dog license and other money turn

California, but when our population numbers millions it will be increased in the same ratio. The teachers are as well paid as the average clerk or the average professional man or woman who works for a salary—the average preacher, doctor or newspaper man, for instance. It is not at all the old professions who gain large incomes.

"One thing that should be considered is that if such a law is created many old teachers, who have permanently retired, would go to get back to the schools that they might soon retire on a pension. Then it does not provide for the ones that a person most wants to provide for—his family. I think I get what I am entitled to, and that I save the State money and it owes me none. I think the teachers should be opposed to it, too, for the reason that a general reduction of salaries would naturally follow.

"I think the dog license or any other fund is a poor source to draw a teacher's income from. If the teachers are worthy of a pension it should come from direct taxation. The salary surpluses to go into the fund would be a big sum in San Francisco, and at the present time the retirement expenditure would result in a deficit. I don't believe the bill will pass because I believe the Legislature to be composed of men of more sense."

THE SUPERINTENDENT SPEAKS.

He Is Decidedly Opposed to Pensions for Teachers.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew J. Moulder holds very decided views as to the proposition of pensioning teachers. While not desiring to discuss the details of the bill he expressed himself as strongly opposed to pensions.

"Of course," he said, "there are exceptions, as I will explain. In the first place, no one knows better than I do that a school-teacher's life is not one perpetual summer day. I think there is more tendency to nervous disorders among teachers than in many other professions. The strain on their nerves is high, and in the course of time they must make room for younger and fresher teachers, just as a first-class locomotive engineer gets so worn out that he can no longer trust himself with a passenger train, and is given a slow-going freight-engine.

"But, recognizing all this, that is no reason why a person who has worked a certain number of years in a certain profession should be allowed to retire with an annuity. Why should teachers expect it any more than carpenters, janitors and others who might be named?"

"It is different when a person becomes disabled through age or infirmities. Why, humanity alone should prompt us to care for him or her. But if that is the case, as regards this bill, I am free to say that there are not more than six persons in the department that I know of who are entitled to its benefits.

"As I said, I do not care to discuss the details of this bill, for I have paid but little attention to them. The tendency of the measure would be to induce feeble-minded teachers to withdraw from service as soon as they had worked the specified time. What would be the result? The State would be paying out large sums of money to strong, healthy people who could support themselves otherwise. No, the principle is wrong.

"If the teachers would organize a society of their own and pay out a certain amount of money toward a fund which they could draw on when they got old and incapacitated, that is another matter. But I doubt whether it would succeed. Look at our present Teachers' Mutual Aid Society."

"It is a very worthy association. I have contributed my share toward it, and so have many in the department. But look at it. Of the 873 teachers in this department I don't think there are more than 300 who belong to it. They will not pay out 50 cents a month. I don't say they are mean, but they are thoughtless. They are young and in health, and do not need my assistance, so they do not think of those who do. Now, is it not when persons who act thus become old or disabled, to take them in hand and say, 'Well, you didn't help us at all when you could afford it, but still we'll see that you are comfortable for the rest of your days?' Still, that is not exactly the point as regards this pension matter. That will not be a benefit to the department.

"What do you think about using the dog license and broker license moneys for the pension fund?" was asked. "Well, it don't sound well, but, then, beggars can't be choosers, you know," and Mr. Moulder laughed.

ASSESSES THE TEACHERS.

How Miss Campbell Would Create a Pension Fund.

Miss Campbell, one of the teachers in the Broadway Grammar School, has given the pension question a considerable thought, but she is opposed to a regular State system of providing for the teachers. She said: "I am not in favor of pensioning the teachers in any such way as was proposed two years ago. I think if there should be any fund of the kind kept up the teachers should be assessed for the amount, and I believe that is the only true way to go at it for the rest of your days. Still, that is not exactly the point as regards this pension matter. That will not be a benefit to the department."

LET TEACHERS CONTRIBUTE.

So Says T. H. McCarthy of the Washington Grammar School.

T. H. McCarthy, vice-principal of the Washington Grammar School, is opposed to the measure from every point of view. He said: "If the teachers want pensions, let them contribute to a fund the same as the policemen and firemen do. We are a well-paid class of workers and I really see no need for any pension being granted to any teacher just because they are teachers. "If the State starts in to pension the teachers they might just as well pension every one else. Mr. White, the principal, coincides with my view on this matter. We have frequently talked upon the subject, and I know he is opposed to any pensioning by the State, or in any form other than by contributions from the teachers. This could be done and bring better results than any other plan."

SHE FAVORS PENSIONS.

Miss Hurley Says That the Proposed Measure Is a Good One.

Miss J. M. A. Hurley, principal of the Sherman Primary School, favors the bill and was conversant with the provisions of the measure, having heard them read at the meeting of the teachers Tuesday afternoon.

"I believe it is a good idea to pension the teachers," she said, "because many of them, when they are tired of their work, resign if they knew they would have something to fall back on. I believe most all the teachers have been contributing to the fund to secure the passage of the bill, which, according to my idea, means the general approval of those employed in the schools."

"The bill was taken up by sections at the meeting on Tuesday and thoroughly discussed. It met with little opposition from the teachers present. "Now, in my school very few of the teachers would be affected by the bill, as the majority are young teachers; but in other schools there are many who would be affected if they were pensioned. So, I think, you will find to be the sentiment all over the city."

ARE YET UNDAUNTED.

Teachers Have Another Bill for Pensions.

THE WORK OF THREE WOMEN.

They Prepare a Plan That Is Not Unconstitutional.

MRS. CRAVEN'S LUCID EXPLANATION.

Funds to Be Raised From Salaries, Donations, Bequests and a Percentage on Dog Licenses.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 8.—Nothing daunted by the rejection of their bill for the pensioning of teachers by the Assembly committee on retirement, the teachers of San Francisco to-day introduced a bill in the House from which is eliminated all appropriations of moneys from the State or county. The organization of county boards to consist of the County Treasurer,

teaching," she urged. "Men and women will feel that they can give themselves up to it heart and soul without having the fear of being turned out to starve in their old age constantly haunting them. We want the law to be constitutional, of course. I have been working on one for three years. It has been rewritten a thousand times. The best lawyers have passed favorably upon it, and then discovered errors. Yesterday we thought we had a bill without a flaw. Yet last night we found what would undoubtedly have been a fatal error in it."

Mrs. Bradley explained that what was wanted was to get the bill a law and in working order. When people saw its success then hope of monetary aid from the State might be entertained. She was sure that when so much money was being left to orphan asylums many people would be found interested in a fund to pension aged teachers.

Mrs. Craven was ill to-day, having endured too much mental exertion in her interviews with the opponents of the bill. She was confined to her room all the afternoon, but this evening talked of the prospects of the bill.

"You may state that it is constitutional," she said decidedly. "A. C. Freeman has passed upon it and the Attorney-General says it is all right. Governor Budd is with us, too, and has promised to sign the bill when it passes the Legislature."

She had heard the objection raised that no bill was required and that a corporation could be formed that would serve the purpose just as well and without so much bother.

"I have particularly good reasons for wanting this to be made a part of the law

TO-NIGHT'S MEETING.

Corruption Will Be Talked in the Temple.

PUBLIC OPINION DESIRED.

The Civic Federation Want Waymire's Bill Indorsed.

ONE HUNDRED TO GO TO SACRAMENTO.

Special Cars Will Be Used to Carry the Lobby to the Capital City on Monday.

One hundred citizens are to go to Sacramento in special cars to push the Waymire bill through the Legislature. Their services have been tendered the Civic Federation and accepted. The party will go to the capital on Monday.

To-night the degradation of the municipal offices of San Francisco will be discussed at Metropolitan Hall. All day today wagons containing bells and drums will parade the streets in order that those who hear may know that the corruption in the city will be outlined in full, and that the whole people are invited to attend the meeting and lend their assistance in furthering the effort of securing an investigation of the Police Department and other offices as outlined in the Waymire bill.

All this has been planned on account of the request of D. Gilbert Decker, Stewart Menzies that a strong expression of the people should be had in order to revive the corpse, considered by the Legislature as buried.

Mayor Sutro has been asked to preside at the meeting. His Honor is suffering from a severe cold, and if his ailment is no better to-night he will be represented upon the platform by a letter of regret and advice.

The 100 men who will go to Sacramento are to act as vice-presidents of the meeting and will occupy the platform.

The committee having the arrangement of the gathering in hand split into sub-committees yesterday and each took a certain portion of the work. Rev. E. R. Dille had the selection of speakers and the choice of vice-presidents. The programme will be a long one in the line of speech-making. General charges of corruption in the Police Department will be made and the side of life needing investigating portrayed.

It was at first intended to have a petition prepared for those attending the meeting to sign, but that plan has been abandoned. The special carloads are expected to voice the sentiments of the people of San Francisco when they reach Sacramento.

In addition to that the speeches made from the platform to-night will be taken in full and transcribed for the perusal of the legislators. Rev. E. R. Dille will act as master of ceremonies until a regular chairman is selected.

George T. Gaden had charge of the outdoor arrangements. He has secured the Temple for the night, and has received sufficient donations to pay the expenses of hiring the hall and wagons to be paraded this morning. Attention has been paid to the possibility of an overflow meeting, in case a sufficient number of citizens respond to the call to warrant it.

I. J. Truman devoted what time he could spare in looking up citizens who desired to take part in the movement.

The Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, Merchants' Association and the Union League were called upon to see what action they would take. It was understood that all the organizations would be represented at the meeting.

Music will be on hand at 7:30, at which hour the meeting will be called to order and the list of vice-presidents will be read. Then the talk of corruption will be told.

Switzerland is about to establish a state bank at Berne, which will have the exclusive right to issue bank notes. The capital is fixed at 25,000,000 francs, the Swiss confederation making itself responsible for all liabilities.

There are estimated to be 1,000,000 Germans in the United States.



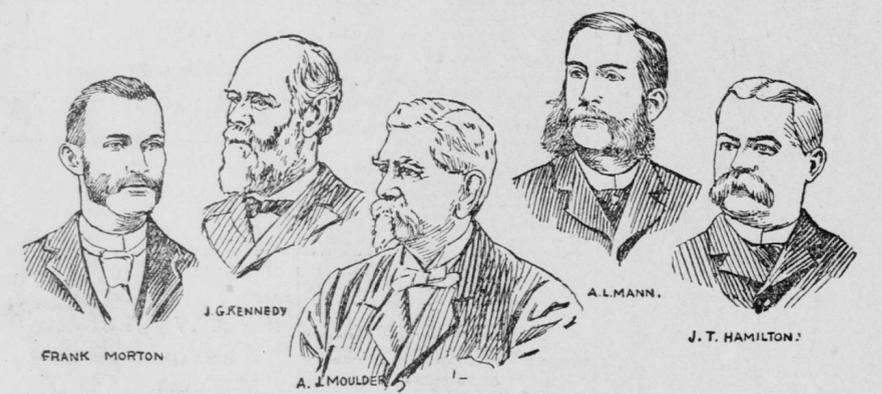
KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many, who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system and dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.

1000 LETTER HEADS \$3.00. SEND FOR SAMPLES. 1000 Business Cards \$1.75. Pacific Printing Co., 543 Clay Street, S. F.



SOME OF THE PROMINENT EDUCATORS WHO DO NOT FAVOR THE PROPOSED PENSION LAW. [Drawn by a "Call" artist from photographs.]

ers' annuity and retirement fund in the several cities and counties of the State.

In the main the bill is drawn upon the same lines as the one which was introduced in the Legislature of 1893. By that proposed act teachers were to have been allowed to retire after twenty years of service upon half pay up to a certain limit, and also the main source of supply for the payment of pensions was to come by direct taxation. That bill, in spite of the efforts of many teachers who were interested, was defeated by a small majority.

The present bill provides as follows: That the Superintendent of Public Schools, the County Treasurer and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of each county of the city and county, and their successors shall constitute a board of trustees of the schoolteachers' annuity and retirement fund; the same board shall have charge of and administer the said fund and order payments therefrom, according to the provisions of the act; also, whenever any teacher shall have taught in the public schools of the State for twenty years, said teacher shall at his or her request be retired by said board, and shall thereafter receive an annuity out of said fund of \$45 a month; if said teacher has taught for twenty-five years or she shall be retired upon an annuity of \$50 a month.

As regards provisions for a fund for the payments, the money withheld from the salaries of teachers during the preceding month on account of absence from duty, or for any cause, and 1 per cent of the amount due each teacher as salary for the same time shall be placed to the credit of the fund; also all donations and legacies and the like shall be paid in. There must also be placed to the credit of the fund 5 per cent of all sums collected for licenses of pawnbrokers, billiard-hall keepers, dealers in second-hand goods and junkstores, and one-fourth of all moneys collected for the licensing of dogs.

The act will be binding upon all public school teachers only who shall, within ninety days after the act takes effect, sign and deliver a contract by which they agree to be bound by the proposed measure.

The act as originally introduced and the source of revenue was 5 per cent of the amount collected for licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, but for obvious reasons this was eliminated.

During all the time that the agitation in favor of pensioning teachers has been going on, its life and financial support has proceeded from San Francisco. An organization embracing several hundred teachers here and a considerable number in Oakland and elsewhere in the State has been kept up. The affairs of the association have been controlled by an executive committee, and legislative bills have been framed by a special committee of five of the executive committee.

The ordinary expenses of the work have been met by a tax of 10 cents a month on all members, and in legislative seasons special contributions have been asked. Two years ago the committee that so nearly put through the bill then presented came home and presented an expense bill that created a deficiency and caused a call on members for 1 per cent of their monthly salaries.

This year the task of presenting the measure to the legislative committees and the legislators generally has been confided to Mrs. Nettie K. Craven, Mrs. Bradley, teacher of drawing in the Polytechnic High School; Miss Murphy, principal of the Tehama-street Primary School; F. M. Campbell of Oakland and Deputy Superintendent Babcock of this city. The ladies mentioned devoted several days to lobbying at Sacramento about the time the bill was introduced.

thing for the teachers' fund would do if it is to be turned over to the city or county."

Following will be found comments upon the proposed measure by some of the local teachers and principals.

PRINCIPAL JOSEPH O'CONNOR.

He Believes in the Theory but Not in the Bill.

Joseph O'Connor, principal of the Horace Mann School, favors the theory but not the present bill. "I believe in pensioning teachers," he said, "because worn-out teachers would not be so long retained in the service to the injury of the children. The teachers aid in protecting the country as much as the army and navy. They often break down because of the severity of the work and the nervous tension, and it does not seem right to let them go to the almshouse. If a man worked for me for twenty-five years as faithfully as most teachers work, and then became incapacitated, without means of support, I should not turn him out to starve. There is something of gratitude due to people who have done public service for twenty-five years and broken down under it."

"The main thing is to retire the few who get broken down that the younger and stronger may be put in their places. The best and easiest way to provide a pension fund would be for the law to authorize the proper officials of every county to withhold 1 or 1 1/2 per cent of the salaries of all teachers, who have taught, say ten years or more. The main objection I have to the present bill is that the pensions are not graded according to rank and previous salary. In some instances found in the country the pension would amount to more than the yearly salary. The fact that the pension would be for the law to authorize the proper officials of every county to withhold 1 or 1 1/2 per cent of the salaries of all teachers, who have taught, say ten years or more. The main objection I have to the present bill is that the pensions are not graded according to rank and previous salary. In some instances found in the country the pension would amount to more than the yearly salary. 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