

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Government Too Slow.

Hamilton Times:—Mr. Rowell is right. Whatever the Government demands in the way of men or money will be freely given by the people. The trouble is the Government is too slow, too hesitating. It seems afraid to give the proper lead. It has to be pushed. While Britain and her allies are straining every nerve to cope with the enemy our Government is not doing its utmost. It is behind with equipment, and this hinders recruiting. Let the hall be crowded to-morrow night. Mr. Rowell will have a message for the people as well as for the Government.

Death to Hay Fever.

Montreal Gazette:—Announcement is made by the President of the American Hay Fever Prevention Association that hay fever will soon be entirely stamped out, and numbered among the forgotten afflictions of a past generation. Here's hoping, but, apropos, do better, we seem to recollect an announcement a short time ago by another national organization that wafflers were going to refuse tips.

Bulgaria, the Outlaw.

New York Herald:—King Ferdinand has taken the plunge and has placed himself outside the pale. He has sided with the alien, foreign alike in blood, habit and religion. He has locked arms with the Kaiser on one hand and the unspeakable Turk on the other, turning to a foe of a thousand years and from the friend who created his Balkan State. Those who take the sword shall perish by the sword. Henceforth in this war Bulgaria will be a hunted outlaw distrusted of all men and all nations, despised by the Turk and at the same time treated by the allies as a savage to be exterminated.

to incorporate in the superannuation bill a provision stating that teachers who retire before completing 40 years of service shall receive a pension actuarially equivalent to those who serve the full 40 years. Why is such a provision not in the teacher's interest? He intimates that such provision will ultimately be made; but the wording of the bill is decidedly more non-committal than Mr. Gray's statement would lead one to suppose. The framers of the bill appear to have worked upon one of two assumptions: either the average teacher does not remain in the profession 40 years, or if those who do so are the exception and not the rule, still they are the only ones who are entitled to a definite provision in the bill; the rest may pay 2 per cent. of their salary from year to year, and after 30 or 35 years of service, if their advancing age makes them the recipients of gentle hints about retiring to make way for new blood, they may, perhaps, secure a medical certificate of incapacity, and then accept such payments from the fund as may be agreeable to the managers thereof. Such a thing may happen repeatedly in the case of those who begin to teach at the age of 25, or even younger.

I think it will be found that those who are urging the acceptance of the scheme in its present state are men who are pretty sure they will still be holding down their jobs after 40 years' teaching. Let the bill be made really definite, instead of non-committal, along the lines mentioned above; let retirement with an annuity be placed at a certain age, say 60, instead of after a 40-year term of service. The latter arrangement simply penalizes the teacher who has taken some years at college between the ages of 20 and 25, to complete his own education. Let the superannuation scheme not force a teacher who is no longer young to hang on to his job with a death-grip long after his advancing age has become a jest among his pupils, that he may at least secure his little pension. And if some of us teachers must contribute to the support of others in their old age, let the number of those who share our earnings be reasonably large, instead of a devoted handful.

High School Teacher.