

THE ABOLITION OF THE EDUCATION DEPOSITORY.

It cannot be said that in the matter of closing at an early day the doors of the Education Depository of Ontario, Mr. Crooks has shewn himself to be in any sense a hasty innovator. For twenty years, to our knowledge, has the abolition of the establishment been called for. The trade have fought against it as an illegitimate interference with commerce, and the public have decried it because of its inefficiency and cost. Notwithstanding the arguments repeatedly advanced for its discontinuance, those interested in its operations have always managed to keep it going. It was the one preserve that Confederation had left in the Province to officialism. Hence, at all hazards, it was to be defended and maintained. From an influential and disinterested source, six years ago, it received its death-blow, but the careful tending of many nurses has thus far kept the vital spark alive. What, in this interval of decrepitude, it has unwarrantably cost the Province, only the life-annuitants of the institution can approximately guess. With its profit and loss account the country has never been made familiar, but the accumulation of unsaleable stock is a speaking commentary upon its management. What the character of that stock is, the ten thousand recently printed catalogues of labelled literary rubbish throw some light on. A dear Educational whistle the Depository has ever been, but it entailed the greatest loss upon the country when, under Dr. Ryerson's *regime*, Mr. Mowat weakly sacrificed to its maintenance the able men who composed the last Council of Public Instruction. It may be instructive to remember that the latest official act of that body was to urge upon Government the step which Mr. Crooks, after these six additional years of galvanized life for the institution, is now about to take. The reflection is not a pleasant one that, for that suggestion—treason then, but loyalty now—the country lost the services of men who were doing a priceless work for education and the school system of Ontario.

CABINET MINISTERS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS IN VACATION.

The Ontario Government has given the screw of economy another turn in reducing the grant to the Ontario School of Art, an institution which has proved itself highly deserving of the small annual pittance the local Government has hitherto contributed towards its support. Of course, if gubernatorial jaunts are to be annually provided for, and at the cost of the one to Manitoba of last summer, with its outlay of \$5,444 for travelling expenses, wine bills, and cigars, it is not to be wondered at that Educational art must go without encouragement and technical drawing be limited to the uses for which "corkscrews," and not crayon stumps, are the indispensable auxiliaries. The drafts upon the Provincial Treasury for this holiday spree of His Honour and Mr. Wood curiously enough come to light while the Minister of Education is considering petitions to shorten the brief summer vacation of the over-worked and ill-paid teacher. How Mr. Crooks can entertain the idea of despoiling the teacher of any portion of his well-earned holidays, while the country learns how, and at what public cost, his colleague the Treasurer spends his, is more than we can comprehend. But without drawing further parallels, it is time that this petty cavilling at the summer holidays of the schools should cease, and the few who clamour for their curtailment be made to know that, in the interest of the teacher and the pupil alike, the full mid-summer vacation is an indispensable provision of the educational system. It would be both immoral and the falsest economy to abridge the holidays; and Mr. Crooks should leave no door open to the chance of option, in any section of the country, of their abridgment.

MODEL SCHOOLS AND THE DEFICIENCIES OF TEACHERS IN TRAINING.

There are two or three suggestive pages in the current Report of the Minister of Education for Ontario which greatly relieve