

among the original makers of school books the educational system of the Province has begun to be regarded with grave suspicion, as it has seemed to develop qualities of trade-jockeying and commercial unscrupulousness, in the matter of school books, utterly foreign to the experience and business methods of honourable men. That the Minister of Education has been wholly ignorant of the manner in which the authorized text-books have of late years been manipulated in their presentation to the schools of the Province, it is almost impossible to believe; and it is as difficult to suppose that he has not seen the *motif* for sanctioning the host of adapted books which a favoured house in the trade has managed to get approved by the Central Committee, and understood the intimate bond of union between the latter body and the publishing house referred to. So embarrassing indeed have been the favours which the Minister's advisers have showered upon this firm, that it is with evident difficulty that the house can now tell which of its publications are authorized and which are not, so delightfully confusing has been the luck which recent years, through "friends at court," have brought to the firm. But the matter has a serious aspect for the Minister in the account of his stewardship due to those who, however he may have himself shut his eyes to the intrigues of his subordinates, have not been unobservant spectators of the Committee's acts in the exercise of the judicial functions confidingly entrusted to them. What justification in their behalf the Minister will be prepared to offer, we know not; but those who have the interests of education at heart will demand something more satisfying than the results of a certain impeachment investigation, against the conclusions of which the lists of authorized books published by the firm con-

cerned in the enquiry are a palpable set-off.

Of course, in discussing this matter, it will be understood that we do not hold Mr. Crooks personally accountable for the successes of the firm of publishers to whom we refer, nor do we wish to fasten upon the Minister any responsibility for the character of whatever enterprise has enabled the house in question to flaunt its triumphs in the face of the profession. With such trade-tactics we cheerfully assure ourselves Mr. Crooks has had nothing to do, nor would we readily believe that they are such as commend themselves to his sense of propriety and good taste. There are circumstances, however, which officially identify him with the matter under notice, of which it is hardly possible that he could be unconscious, and concerning which we find ourselves compelled on ethical grounds, as well as in the interest of education and of the profession, to make some further comments. These circumstances particularly point to a seeming default of administrative supervision and authority, which we could have wished the Minister had been careful enough to have exercised. We refer to the intimate commercial relations of the house of which we have been writing with the senior Inspector of the Department whose books the firm has published, and which, despite the fact that they have no official authorization, have been industriously circulated in the schools of the Province—contrary to the edicts of the Department which forbid the use of all unauthorized books. The grave impropriety of Dr. McLellan's pecuniary interest in these books while holding his official position, is a circumstance which cannot be too strongly reprobated; and the perambulatory advertisement by the author of the books in question only adds to the indecorous charac-