

assume that the annual cost to the country for the purchase of Readers is \$100,000, and I think that is a fair estimate, Mr. Warwick, if his statement is true, could well afford to have given Nelson four or five times more than he offered and then retain a handsome margin. But the fact of his offering Nelson only a small sum of money proves the insincerity of his proposition. It is also stated that on account of the price at which the first and second primers is sold, the country will be put to a serious loss.

Now I think I have shown pretty clearly that educationally the books could not be prepared for less money. I think I can also show that, as a matter of expense, the country is not put to any loss. By the last return received by the Education Department it appears that we have 100,000 pupils reading in the first part of the First Book. At the usual estimate of two books for every pupil the extra cost in this case would be \$10,000. We have 64,000 in the classes using the second part of the First Book, and I estimate that yearly the extra cost would be \$6,500, or a total of \$16,500. Our system of grading is such that I am able to say, on the authority of the most experienced teachers, any pupil can pass through the new second book in one year. Under the old system it required a longer time to get through the Second Book, consequently each pupil, as a rule, required two Second Books. By avoiding this extra expense we save a Second Book for 106,000 pupils in the Second Reader, or a saving of \$25,000. Our Third Reader is cheaper by five cents than the old or any other Third Reader ever published in Ontario, and this to 110,000 pupils amounts to \$5,500. We have, therefore, a saving of \$30,500 against a loss of \$16,500, or a profit of \$14,000.

The only subject now remaining for the consideration of the House is the cost of preparing the Readers. By the statement submitted it appears that the total cost is \$18,686, against which we have \$7,500 in cash, and about \$7,000 in wood cuts and type, and a set of electrotypes worth at least \$2,500, leaving the actual loss to the country at less than \$2,000. It is well known to every person acquainted with the trade that the set of electrotypes furnished the publishers will require renewal a good many times in