

in prescribing this book after a slight suggested revision, they were consulting the educational and financial interests of the Province.

The larger Canadian history is not thrown out, for the pupils take this book into the high school where Canadian history should have had an important place.

It will be noticed that the Canadian and the British history of the high school grades will henceforth be merely reviews, the main lines of which should have been well understood in the common school grades.

Some teacher may say, "but our pupils skipped the history of the common schools, and therefore they must study Canadian and British History for the first time." If such a teacher should thereafter suggest that the Provincial Course should be adapted to his irregularly promoted pupils he should promptly leave the profession; for there are many without a school who can with advantage to the public and the profession, take his place.

But as is explained in the revised course of study, there is a very great reduction of the combined historical and geographical courses made by the device of evenly distributed optional questions, which practically reduces the amount of the prescription to half of what it was in the days when no optional questions were given. This allows teachers to have a full comprehensive course if they understand how to do it effectively and have the proper kind of students, or to take a narrower but more intensive course. The result of this wide option will be watched with great interest, for there is no subject which\* has been more abused as an instrument of cram than these two.

No text books are all that can be desired; and it is better to bear the ills we have than fly to others worse. Their use in the higher grades will be more satisfactory to the extent that the teachers of the higher grades are superior to those of the lower grades in teaching these subjects.

In the common school grades the division of the historical study is left to the principal of each school in the meantime.

## GEOGRAPHY.

*(Outline Maps to be filled in by the Pupil.)*

One of the most useful methods of studying geography is the filling in of an outline map by the pupil. Miss Ganong, of the Halifax Ladies' College, has published books of such maps, which can be had through A. & W. Mackinlay, Halifax. The Dominion of Canada book contains the same outline repeated five times on five leaves 10 by 13 inches, the first page giving instructions as to their use. The first map is for physical features, second for biological features, third for population and races, fourth for cities and towns, and fifth for railroads and industrial features. Ten cents per book is at the rate of two cents for each map. A book of five outline maps of Europe has also been published. In filling in these outlines the pupil has the geographical features impressed on his memory and understanding in an easy and utilizable manner.

TEXT REVISED UP TO DATE.

A. & W. Mackinlay, the publishers of the General Geography used in the high school grades, intend, we understand, to revise the text and bring it up to date. They kindly propose to take back at half price all copies of the present text bearing the dates of 1900, 1901, or 1902, in exchange for the new, wherever the new text may be introduced.