

complaints of the unjust regulation in regard to the books prescribed, which gave to one firm in the city the monopoly of all the Readers supplied to the schools throughout the Province. This having been brought to the notice of the Council of Public Instruction, and a change in the books being deemed desirable on other grounds as well they requested me to recommend a series of Readers that would be suitable for the Schools, and, at the same time, throw the supplying of them open to the competition of all the trade, free from any monopoly. I accordingly after careful examination of a number of different works, recommended Collins' series, which the Council of Public Instruction accordingly prescribed. This decision I communicated to the various booksellers, who in consequence made large importations. During the time that this arrangement was in progress Mr. Archibald received and opened a communication addressed to the Educational office from the agent of Collins, and retained it in his possession for some time, and only delivered it up when necessary in consequence of a telegram enquiring as to the receipt of this letter, and which rendered further concealment on his part impossible. This letter was important as containing terms on which his Readers could be furnished.

The information thus obtained, I have reasons to believe from statements by Mr. Archibald made to me, he communicated to parties that had heretofore had the monopoly of Readers, and commenced intriguing to have books prescribed of which it was feared by other booksellers Messrs. McKinlay might continue to command the monopoly; and to that end, amongst other things, Mr. A. got up and circulated petitions in the city and country, praying the Council of Public Instruction to place on the list of prescribed books the Royal Readers, and wrote and telegraphed to influential parties in the country to get up and forward petitions to the same effect. The Council of Public Instruction acted on these petitions as if they were the voluntary and *bona fide* expression of the opinions of the signers of them, and by this means were induced to prescribe the Royal Readers, when, in fact, the whole thing originated with the book monopolists of Halifax or with Mr. Archibald himself, who thus used his office not only to influence parties against the action of the Council of Public Instruction, but to perpetuate a monopoly that had become odious to the trade generally and likely to be burdensome to the schools using the books.

It needs no comment to show that conduct such as this is insubordinate and unbecoming in the highest degree in one holding a subordinate situation, is subversive of all discipline, and renders nugatory the action of this office and of the Council of Public Instruction itself.

The Council will perceive that if such conduct be tolerated it would be impossible for the Superintendent of Education to carry into effect the instructions of the Council of Public Instruction, or at any time to prescribe books where such rivalry and jealousy