

resources; let it be "disestablished and dis-endowed"; let it enter the lists of honest competition against the existing book trade of the country, who are prepared to run the race against it, and win or lose by their own inherent ability and business experience; but on behalf of the trade of the Province we protest emphatically, and will continue to protest, against being taxed to support our opponents in trade, and to pay the expenses of an establishment whose only aims and uses are, first, the supply of places for political partisans; and secondly, the destruction of this branch of the country's industry and enterprise.

If it be asked why we attack the Depository, we reply, because it is opposed to the principles of free trade; because it involves the country in a large and useless expenditure; because it arrogates to itself duties for which there is no longer any necessity; and because it is impossible to carry out its maxims without serious detriment to the legitimate business of the Province. The Department professes to add 100 per cent. to all orders entrusted to it from Municipal or Public School Corporations; and it has asserted through the Press, that it pays its own expenses, and contributes something to the public revenue. We assert unhesitatingly that this statement is wholly inconsistent with fact, and arises either from wilful misrepresentation, or from a system of accountancy as peculiar to the Depository, as the arithmetic referred to in the former part of this article. It may be that, compared with the officials of the Depository, we are, to a great extent, ignorant of the matters involved in this business, but we are bold to affirm, that it is not in the power of the magnates of the Depository to import books, pay their freights and duties, and sell them at one-half the sterling rates without very considerable loss. If we are in error, we are not too proud to receive instruction, even from the Depository.

The question, therefore, arises, how is the deficiency made up? and we reply, from the public revenue, or, in other words, the public pay in taxes what they save in the cost of their children's school books and stationery—a process familiarly called "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

We have said there is no longer any necessity for the existence of the Department. The increased education of the country, as the result of the *arduous* and *long-continued* efforts of the Department, should be a sufficient guarantee that the selection of books for schools and libraries may be safely entrusted to the judgment of the school corporations, without involving the necessity of a public functionary for that purpose.

We venture to submit that it would be vastly more consistent with the advanced spirit of the age, and with the interests of the country, if the public money, now annually expended at the Depository, were distributed in the shape of an increase of stipend, among the school teachers of the Province, whose salaries are, in many instances, miserably inadequate, and out of all proportion to the ability required and services rendered. To us, it has long been a matter of surprise that men can be found to undergo a long period of preparatory training, and pass a series of searching examinations, for the very questionable honour of becoming a country school teacher with \$100 to \$600 per annum; and we would suggest to the teachers of the country that the same amount of brain and physical exertion, employed in commercial life, would be likely to make them far greater return.

We venture to predict that the present anomalous state of things cannot long continue, and we anticipate the day, not far in the future, when the Depository, with all its attendant red-tapeism and circumlocution, will be numbered among the things of the past.

* Vide Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for 1868, page 53.

TRADE MONOPOLIES.

The Principles upon which the commercial relations of the day are based, are essentially those of *Free Trade*.

The day has gone by when monopoly can be successfully maintained in any of the commodities of daily life, except by the manufacturer, in so far as his rights are protected by patent or other legal safeguard.

In this article we use the term monopoly as applying to the old-fashioned and exploded notion of granting to middle-men the exclusive agency for the sale of any specific article throughout a given district or country, rather than to the rights of an inventor or manufacturer to confine the *production* of his wares, either to his own establishment, or to the establishments of those whom he may license for the purpose.

It used to be the custom (and attempts are occasionally made, even now, to revive it), for the manufacturer to grant to one individual or firm the exclusive right of sale of his productions, over a given area. Several causes combined to make this, in these earlier times, not only a prudent but a necessary measure. The comparatively small demand, the sparseness of the population, the small number of the wholesale houses, and the high rates of