

*Text Books*

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

25/29

Quebec, February 6th, 1930

Dear Sir Arthur:-

You are probably aware that the authorized readers for use in the Protestant schools of this Province are known as the Crown Readers and are published by the Nelson's, Edinburgh. They have, for over thirty years been our authorized texts and although probably the best that could be had at one time they have long been superseded in the public estimation by several other sets which are more in accordance with present day educational ideals. Moreover, they are authorized no longer in any other part of the world and the publishers would, in any case, be disinclined to produce new plates now necessary, for this Province alone.

Some two years ago I examined several sets of readers and concluded tentatively that a set known as the Reading and Thinking Readers, published by the Nelson's would, with certain alterations, be best adapted to our purposes.

In January 1929 I sent fifty paste-up copies to twenty-eight prominent teachers, Inspectors and Normal School Professors, inviting their criticisms under several heads of the books as presented to them with suggestions for further alterations that would adapt the books to Canadian use. I received nineteen replies, all containing valuable criticisms and suggestions. These were communicated to the Canadian Manager of the Nelson's and everything that could serve for the improvement of the readers was adopted under the supervision of Mr. E. C. Woodley, Principal of one of the Westmount schools. He did his work for the Nelson's, and apparently with much skill and judgment. I believe, but I am not sure, that Dr. Brunt of the School for Teachers was associated in the work.

I have instructed the publishers to send you a set which is now in final form for your consideration. You should remember that the press work in the books which you will receive is not equal to that which will be expected when the blocks of type are thoroughly prepared for permanent use. Unfortunately, through some misunderstanding, only fourteen sets are available for the use of the Protestant Committee, and it is too late to receive from Edinburgh supplementary sets in time for examination before the next meeting of the Protestant Committee on the 28th of February. To give the members of the Committee an opportunity to examine these books I am obliged, in some instances, to ask that after examination, the books be sent on to another member for his use. If there is no name given at the end of this circular letter you will understand that you will receive a set from some other member after he has examined it.

I shall be prepared to make a more complete report at the meeting of the Committee at the end of this month, either by submitting a new report, or by supplementing this orally, and by answering any questions that may be asked.

It may interest you to know that of the nineteen reports which I received from those who were asked to examine the books and to criticize them, eighteen pronounced the books even in their original form as distinctly superior to the Crown Readers. In its present form it is even better than it was before revision, and the prices that are offered are satisfactory, relatively, to those of other sets.

I send to you, herewith, a publisher's Memorandum which came to me first in the form of a letter. I asked that it should be printed as a pamphlet for your greater convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Director of Protestant Education

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