

OFFICE OF THE QUEEN'S PRINTER.

To the HON. G. W. ROSS,
Minister of Education.

The undersigned respectfully report :—

That after making a careful estimate of the cost of publishing the "Ontario Readers," we find the profits to be made by the publishers fair and reasonable.

That we are also of the opinion, after having regard to their beauty, the quality of the paper used, and the strength of the binding (judging from those now issued), that the prices at which they are being sold are lower than any series of school books ever published in this Province.

That the average profit to the publishers will not in our opinion exceed 25 per cent.

That the estimate was made at a time when paper and other material, entering into the manufacture of books, could be purchased at unusually low prices.

(Signed)	JOHN NOTMAN, <i>Queen's Printer.</i>
"	GEO. E. THOMAS, <i>Asst. Queen's Printer.</i>
"	H. M. WILKINSON, <i>Asst. Accountant,</i> <i>Education Department.</i>

But it is said that Mr. Warwick has offered to publish the books for one-third less than the price at which they are now sold. Let us examine this statement closely and see what it means. To sell the books at one-third less than the present price is to sell them for ninety cents. From this has to be deducted the profits of the retail dealers, say twenty-five per cent. on the usual terms of sale, which also means five per cent. additional for cash. Now, deducting these discounts from the ninety cents, at which Mr. Warwick proposed to sell the books, would necessitate their production, including the profits of the publishers, for sixty-three cents. Will any reasonable man say that such is possible. Even Mr. Warwick's own actions disprove his statement. When Mr. Nelson was seeking for somebody to purchase his interest in those books Mr. Warwick, among other publishers, made him an offer of \$1,750 per annum for his (Nelson's) right. Now, if this was all Mr. Warwick was prepared to offer Nelson, he was either deceiving Mr. Nelson as to the profits of the old Readers, or else he is endeavouring to deceive the public by an offer which he knew was not open to acceptance. If we