

clerks, (at least beyond the \$1,400 per annum, payable by Statute out of "grants" made by the Legislature).

Question 3rd.—Whether the phrase "on the same terms," which originally occurred in the Act of 1855, and is continued in the Consolidated Acts of 1859 and 1874, would not determine the cost of the books to the Schools, on the principle of the rates of charge for them as they existed in 1855, viz:—the prime cost of the books from the original publisher, with the added charge for exchange, freight, shipping charges, duty, insurance, salaries, and the estimated percentage for stock depreciations.

Question 4th.—Whether an added profit out of books supplied to the Schools from the Educational Depository over and above the amount of actual expenditure for them, contingent expenses of management and percentage for depreciation of stock, was contemplated or authorized, or is contemplated and authorized by the Legislature under its successive Acts bearing upon the subject.

J. GEORGE HODGINS,
Deputy Superintendent.

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF ONTARIO TO THE
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

TORONTO, 27th August, 1874.

SIR,—Your letter of the 24th ult., asking my opinion under the statute as to "what should be regarded as cost prices of books provided by the Educational Department for Libraries and Prizes for the Public and High Schools, and who should determine those prices," was received at my house when I was absent, during the "long vacation," and I only put my hand on it yesterday.

I presume there are parties interested in the discussion of the questions submitted in your letter, who may wish to be heard in the matter. I think the better course will be to have the case appended to your letter set down for argument in the Court, and the usual notice given to the parties interested, that they may be heard and their views presented to the Court before any decision is come to.

Of course, if the parties desire it, the argument can take place before myself instead of the full court.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. B. RICHARDS,
Chief Justice.

To the REV. DR. RYERSON, &c., &c., &c.,
TORONTO.

CIRCULAR TO BOOKSELLERS IN REGARD TO THE FORE-
GOING CASE SUBMITTED TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

(Copy.) EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 7th September, 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—I have thought proper to submit a special case to one of the Judges of the Superior Courts, as authorized by the 32nd Section, Sub-section 3rd of the New School Act, 37 Vic., Chapter 27, in order to obtain an authoritative decision as to whether the Council of Public Instruction, or Chief Superintendent, or the Booksellers, are to determine the prices and the principle of determining the prices of Books to be sanctioned by the Council under the new clauses on the subject introduced into the School Acts.

I have caused a statement of the case to be prepared so far as the Education Department is concerned, and have forwarded it to the Honourable the Chief Justice of Ontario, who has intimated to me a desire that parties interested adversely to the views which I hold on this subject should have an opportunity of being heard before him.

Under these circumstances I have to request that should you desire to take any steps in the matter, you will be good enough to name your legal adviser, and prepare and transmit to the Chief Justice your counter case, and also a copy of it to me, so that a time may be fixed by the Chief Justice for the argument of the whole case. On your application, I will furnish you with a copy of the case, as I have submitted it, as soon as printed.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed,) E. RYERSON.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPART-
MENT OF ONTARIO AND MESSRS. THOS. NELSON & SONS, EDINBURGH.

(Laid before the Council of Public Instruction, 25th June, 1874.)

Copy.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 21st May, 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to state that Messrs. Campbell & Sons, booksellers in this city, (and your agents as stated here,) offer the Schomberg Cotta 6s. 6d. series of books to the schools at \$1 each. As you have charged this Department more than this sum in London for each of the books in question, I will thank you to explain how the discrepancy arises.

I am aware of your discrimination of — per cent. in favour of Messrs. Campbell, as against this Department, but you must have allowed even better terms than usual to them, while you compel this Department to pay a much larger price for the same books.

We, of course, keep the Schomberg Cotta books for our schools, but we have to derive our supply from an American source, owing to your unjustly high prices to us for the same books.

Your house, knowing of the unpleasant discussion on the book question, between Messrs. Campbell and this Department, refused me (when in London in 1867), any larger discount than — per cent. off trade prices, no matter what quantity of books were ordered, yet you do not hesitate to unreasonably discriminate against the Department, in favour of those very booksellers, under the circumstances.

I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,
(Signed) J. GEORGE HODGINS,
Deputy Superintendent.

Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Sons,
Publishers, &c.,
London, England.

Copy.

REPLY TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.

Edinburgh, June 6th, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter just to hand, we beg to inform you that you are under a mistake when you suppose that we are kept informed of the unpleasant discussions between Messrs. Campbell & Sons and your Department. Unfortunately, perhaps, for ourselves we are not well posted on Ontario matters. Having our hands full on this side, we have not been able to give that attention to Canadian matters that we ought to have done.

In regard to the special matter referred to in your letter of May 21st just to hand, we beg to say that the circumstances are these:—Messrs. Campbell & Sons represented to us that they could not sell our edition of the Schomberg Cotta family owing to the competition caused by the American reprint. In the expectation of a large and steady sale, we decided to print an edition on inferior paper, especially for Canada. This was done and the price was reduced. But after all the sale did not amount to much, and was not sufficient to induce us to continue printing specially for Canada. This will explain how the price came at first to be reduced. As far as we are concerned, there was no intention whatever of placing your Department at a disadvantage. The object was simply to meet the competition in our ordinary trade with book-sellers.

We find that during the last year you have had from our London house only a few copies of the Schomberg Cotta series. They were the same as sold in this country at 6s. 6d., and charged at our usual trade prices with — per cent. discount, as on other books supplied to you.

Now that you have called our attention to the matter, we shall cheerfully make an allowance on these copies, though it will be a loss to us, inasmuch as they were the same as sold in England.

Messrs. Campbell have had a few copies from us of the English editions at a reduced price, simply because the demand was not sufficient to induce us to print another special edition for Canada.

The above statement puts you in possession of all we know of the matter—and we trust will remove from your mind the impression that we made purposely a discriminating difference of price in favour of Messrs. Campbell against you. As you are aware, and state in your letter, our terms to Messrs. Campbell on all our books are slightly different from those on which we supply you. But we do not think this unjust. Messrs. Campbell have hitherto acted as our general agents. They travel through the country and incur expenses which must be paid. They cannot do this unless some allowance is made to them. As it is our interest to have our publications sold everywhere, you will at once see that it is a matter of importance to us to have them regularly brought under the notice of booksellers in every town and village, and this we can only do by agencies like that of Messrs. Campbell.

Beyond this we have no interest whatever in any way in Messrs. Campbell's business, or in any of their publications. We at one time hoped that we would have been able to produce school books for Canada, as we possess facilities in many ways for getting up superior books, but we were disappointed. We trust yet, however, through some channel, to accomplish this.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) THOS. NELSON & SONS.

* The whole matter was fully discussed at the time (in 1867) between Mr. P. C. Nelson, manager of the London house, and Mr. Hodgins.—[Ed. Journal of Education.]