

opened the door to the inlet of intrigue and party wire-pulling, but to have shown justice to the third set of Readers, the merits of which Mr. Hardy had refused to consider, authorized it equally with the other two, and restricted the use of all to a limited period. With the judgment of the country to help him, he could then have narrowed his choice to the best of the three series in the market, and on the most advantageous terms to the public, given in exclusive authorization. An alternative course was open to him in submitting the three series to a competent and rigidly impartial board of appraisers, ascertained which was the most meritorious and useful for both teachers and taught, honourably and fearlessly authorized it, and given compensation to the publishers of the rejected series that had snatched a hasty and partizan authorization. Instead of taking one or other of these courses we know what has happened.—*The Canada Educational Monthly.*

THE SCHOOL BOOK MONOPOLY IN CANADA.—Quite a furor has been caused in the school book trade in the Dominion by the Minister of Education having authorized a new set of common school Readers, and secured to three publishing houses the exclusive right of publication, at a fixed rate for ten years.

BOOKS AND NOTIONS, a clever monthly journal, published in Toronto, by Mr. J. J. Dyas, commented in very strong terms in its January issue on this arbitrary action of the Minister. The leading paper of the Dominion, *The Mail*, took the matter up and devoted considerable space to its discussion. A meeting of the trade was called, and a committee appointed to wait on the Minister, but did not succeed in securing any better terms from him or the publishers. The booksellers complained very justly that the discount—20 per cent. off the selling price, and an extra 5 per cent. on a purchase of \$1000 is insufficient. The Minister replied that 16½ per cent. off the selling price was all that was allowed in New York, but he did not say that there is no fixed retail price here and dealers can add 33½ per cent. on the cost price, and thereby realize the legitimate profit recognized in the trade, while in Canada this is impossible, as the Minister has his retail price so thoroughly known that an increased price cannot be obtained.

At an adjourned meeting of the booksellers an association was formed, of which Mr. T. J. Day was elected president, and a resolution was unanimously passed, by which the trade resolved to have no further dealing with the three firms so long as the monopoly existed. Whether this resolve will prove a success depends entirely on the unanimity of the trade in acting up to it. * * *

Evidently the Minister of Education has placed himself in an unenviable position, and one from which he will have some difficulty in gracefully extricating himself. The retail dealers of the Dominion are to be congratulated on having in **BOOKS AND NOTIONS** such an able journal to defend their rights.—*N. Y. Newsdealer and Stationer.*

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