

action of the Educational Department. The Department also granted to every publisher in this country, with the sanction of the Irish Board, the right to re-print these books; and several editions of the National Books, printed upon Canadian paper, and published by our own publishers, were now before the public, which had the effect of reducing their price 25 or 30 per cent. The time has now come for revising these books for our schools; and a competent committee of revision was about being appointed by the Council of Public Instruction, to perform this important duty. When revised the book, as before, would be given gratuitously to any person who would undertake to publish them for sale to the schools. He might also state that for years most of the globes, school maps, and apparatus used in schools have been manufactured in Canada upon the most advantageous terms. Thus a set of Mechanical Powers of a certain quality procured in England or the United States could not be sold for less than \$30, while a similar set, in every respect equal, was produced and sold in Canada for \$20. The same was true of the chief part of the other articles in the Depository. He thought that Canada should not only have her own school laws and her own teachers, but that we should have every article required for our schools manufactured in our own country.

NECESSITY FOR A CANADIAN SERIES OF SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS.

It was found, that when the new system of decimal currency was adopted in Canada, the two National Arithmetics in use would require to be adapted to that system. The larger Arithmetic of the National Series had been so altered, and it was followed by the Elementary Arithmetic, Algebra, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, two Geographies, and a School History of all the British North American Provinces. Thus the whole series was gradually becoming *Canadianized*, as it were. Speaking of the Canadian Geographies, he said: It was very generally known that our American neighbours, perhaps with pardonable pride, had represented themselves and their country, in their own geographies, as the greatest people and country in the world; and as many of these geographies were in use in Canadian schools, it was at once felt that it would be an advantage to replace them by works more strictly national in their character. This was now done through the spirited enterprise of Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal, who furnished two admirably illustrated geographies at 45 cts. and 65 cts. each. Thus in our endeavours to prepare Canadian Geographies, we have made ourselves and sister Provinces a good deal more respectable in size than we have hitherto been made to appear.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES, MAPS AND APPARATUS.

Some years since, the Department, in its endeavours to render maps, globes, and school apparatus accessible in this country at the lowest possible rates, had found that in England the government had arranged with several publishers for the production of maps at prices about forty per cent. below the retail charges, and upon which terms they were furnished to the schools in England, aided by Parliamentary grants. On application, the publishers agreed to extend their arrangement to the Department of Education in Upper Canada; and in like manner the publishers of books in England and the United States agreed to furnish the books required for the Common School Libraries at greatly reduced rates. As to the necessity for these libraries, he might mention that in one of our towns, a boys' association was formed at school, for the purchase of bad books to the amount of about \$100; when discovered, it was broken up, the books burnt, and a good library substituted. The young will read bad books if they cannot get good ones. There are from 3,000 to 4,000 different works in the Educational Depository, for the formation of libraries in school sections. Most of these books, maps, and apparatus could now be sent to every town in Upper Canada at a cost less than that at which they could be obtained in the cities of Edinburgh, London, New York, Boston, or Philadelphia.

DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN INDUSTRY IN THE HOME MANUFACTURE OF MAPS AND APPARATUS.

The first step of the Department in obtaining text books had been to procure them cheaply by importation, and then to open the way for Canadian enterprise by their reproduction. So also with maps, orreries, tellurians, thermometers, and other apparatus, the object of the Department has been to produce everything that we required ourselves, and more than one hundred of these different articles were now reproduced in this country. In the re-engraving of maps, changes had been introduced so as to adapt them to the present state of geographical knowledge. In the maps which have now been published, great pains had been taken to render, as conspicuous as possible, places of importance in British and Colonial history; and due prominence had also been given to those places in the Crimea, rendered famous by the Russian war; in China, by Lord Elgin opening up to commerce places which until lately had been unknown; and in the United States by the late great civil war. In the matter of School furniture, selections had been made of models

in New York and Boston, and these models were shown to Cabinet-makers in this country to receive their proposals for constructing the same. The consequence had been that a new branch of trade had sprung up in our own country—the manufacture of School furniture. Thus we have gone on encouraging the industry of our own people; first mounting the maps, next reprinting the readers, preparing Canadian text books, making the furniture, and now engraving the maps. In this way it had been sought to develop Canadian industry, and to import nothing that we can make ourselves. This he considered was one of the most important features of the system. Not only should our School system and our School architecture be Canadian, but Canadian skill and enterprise should produce or manufacture everything that the country requires. By the employment of Canadian capital and skill several thousands of pounds were annually saved to the country. If the price of every bushel of wheat and every foot of lumber sent to foreign markets was expended in Canada we should be so much the richer. He thought it of the greatest importance for the interest of the country and its general advancement, that we should be producers of that which we consume, and that we should send as little of the money out of the country to the foreign producer—for we wanted it all—as possible. He thought it worthy of remark that, so far as we know in history, there was no record of a purely agricultural people ever rising to importance among nations; and that with our forests of timber, and our resources in metals, minerals, raw materials, and natural advantages, it was desirable to encourage a spirit of self-reliance so as to depend upon ourselves for the articles we required. He was aware that it had been insinuated that he had advocated the doctrine called "protection." If any thing could be inferred from his remarks it was the doctrine of Free Trade, for, in fact, he had proved that School Books had been produced in Canada cheaper than they could be imported, and indeed the manufacture of the articles alluded to had commenced long before the present financial system of the Province was inaugurated. Protection was a question of legislation, and he did not interfere with matters of that kind; nor did he think it the business of a true patriot to mix the question of education with any section of party politics. Six or eight different administrations had been in power since the establishment of the present school system, and he had never, so far as the interests of education were concerned, found any difference, no matter to which party the government of the day might belong.

2. DR. RYERSON'S COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson returned to this city on Thursday last, having completed his tour and fulfilled all his engagements for holding school conventions for all the counties of Upper Canada. These conventions appear to have been generally very largely attended. The object of them was to explain certain proposed amendments in the school law, and to ascertain the opinion of those present at such conventions after hearing the explanations given and discussing such amendments; also, to receive any further suggestions which might be made for improving the school system. The amendment proposed to the School law were chiefly these:—1. To modify the constitution and duties of County Boards of Public Instruction and provide for the better examination and giving certificates of qualifications to teachers. 2. To provide for enforcing on parents and guardians who refuse to educate their children, the education of such children for about four months in the year, from the ages of seven to fourteen years. 3. To provide for Boards of School Trustees in townships as are now provided for cities and towns.

In the first two of the proposed amendments, we understand, the conventions for all the counties concurred with two exceptions. In the last of the proposed amendments, the conventions for twenty-seven counties concurred, and thirteen dissented. Besides the County Councils for four counties being in session, desiring to be addressed by the Chief Superintendent, expressed their nearly unanimous concurrence in all the suggestions made by him for the improvement of the School Law.—*Leader*.

II. Papers on Text Books and Libraries.

1. THE NATIONAL READERS IN OUR SCHOOLS.

A scheme has been recently set on foot, by interested persons, to supersede the National readers by American and other unauthorised books. Some teachers also having probably unwittingly joined in this movement by unreasonably depreciating the character of the National books, the Chief Superintendent has thus referred to the subject, in a letter published in the *Toronto Globe* of the 27th inst.:

"I know there are parties who are opposed to these readers. Some on religious, some on political, and others, on purely selfish grounds. In a letter, a Presbyterian clergyman informs me, from his own personal knowledge, that the object of the movers of the very memorial quoted as authority against the national readers, was