

and that could very well be replaced by the exercises on the literature. The omission of the absurd system of hieroglyphic phonetics and the introductory chapter devoted thereto would be a further improvement along this line. A shorter, simpler and more direct substitute would be a brief chapter on sounds, where the sound to be learned would be represented by its equivalent or its nearest equivalent in the mother tongue. Instead of this, the cumbersome, round-about and seemingly learned method is adopted of representing the foreign sound by a hieroglyphic, which is then explained by an English sound. The general grammatical contents could also be effectively shorter. The oral exercises are good enough in principle, but they should be suggestive rather than exhaustive. The editors forget that there are intelligent and inventive teachers in the schools. Such a revised grammar and reader as the above suggestions would produce would not cost, perhaps, much more than 50 cents. This would be something for a reforming and popular Minister of Education, and for self-sacrificing and public spirited editors to be proud of. It would be something which would make them live long in the memory of a grateful country.

As it is the grammar and reader costs a dollar and some of the prescribed literature is to be bought besides. Cheap editions of this additional prescribed literature are published in the States and would doubtless be imported by the publishers of the grammar and reader. As an instance of how nicely this would work, a certain little book once published by an American firm

was sold by them for 20c. The same book was imported by the patriotic publishers of our "High School Grammar and Reader," and sold for 60c. Possibly, similarly, some cheap editions of this extra literature, not found in the authorized book, will be available through the efforts of those gentlemen. But why not buy such a book direct from the American publishers at once? will be asked. The answer is that these publishers will only sell through their Canadian brethren of the craft who also control the grammar and reader. This is another example of how public-spirited some people can be.

Apart from the defects already referred to, the new grammar is in and for itself an improvement on the old one. The exercises are more connected and on concrete and familiar themes. They are, however, too long and the new words and expressions introduced with each lesson are too many. This is particularly noticeable in the early exercises. The editors have not been accustomed to dealing with young pupils, evidently, or they would have avoided this mistake. Mechanically, the book on inspection betrays flimsiness and shoddiness, characteristics that, unfortunately, also mark the productions of other Canadian publishers, especially in text books.

With its good and bad points, the grammar ought to stand on its own merits. The reader should do the same, and, apart from the grammar, and the Department should not allow itself to be made the cat's-paw of any ring of editors and publishers.

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You can no more help a people who do not help themselves, than you can help a man who does not help himself.—*Letter.*