

schools and the best means of promoting their interests. In the 5th section of the act it is provided—

“That in each county grammar school provision shall be made for giving instruction, by a teacher or teachers of competent ability and good morals, in all the higher branches of a practical English and commercial education, including the elements of natural philosophy and mechanics, and also in the Latin and Greek languages and mathematics, so far as to prepare students for University College or any College affiliated to the University of Toronto, according to a programme of studies and general rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, and approved by the Governor in Council; Provided always, that no grammar school shall be entitled to receive any part of the grammar school fund, which shall not be conducted according to such programme, rules, and regulations.”

This section of the act shows most clearly what ought to be the qualifications of persons selected as trustees of grammar schools; may I most earnestly entreat your council to spare no pains to select, both from the clergy and laity, without regard to sect or party, persons thus qualified to manage the affairs of your grammar schools, and at the same time interested in promoting their efficiency and success.

As the act did not come into force until the commencement of the current year, the regulations, programmes, &c., authorized by it, cannot be prepared, receive the approval of the proper authorities, and be published before March or April; and all parties concerned will not be able to become properly acquainted with them, and give them practical effect, before the beginning of the second half of the current year. The 17th section of the act confirms all existing appointments and arrangements until revoked or changed according to the provisions of the same.

The regulations, programmes, and forms for conducting grammar schools under the new act, will be prepared and transmitted with as little delay as possible; and I purpose then to address a circular to the several boards of trustees on their peculiar duties and responsibilities, and the position which grammar schools are intended to occupy, and the objects which they are expected to accomplish. I may, however, add in this place, that I intend to procure and provide text-books, and other requisites which may be recommended to be used in grammar schools, in the same way that I have provided text-books and other requisites for common schools; an arrangement which will be as convenient as it will be economical for all parties concerned.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. RYERSON.

P.S.—See also the important provision in the 28th section of the school act of 1850.

*Official Circular addressed to heads of townships and school municipalities in Upper Canada, in forwarding library books.*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR UPPER CANADA.

EDUCATION OFFICE, Toronto, January, 1854.

SIR,—I have pleasure in stating that on the I forwarded to your address box of Library Books, and immediately afterwards enclosed the Shipper's Receipt for the same.

You will please check off each book from your copy of the printed Catalogue issued by this Department, in order to compare it with the Invoice of your books, which will be made out and forwarded to you as soon as possible.

As I have been able to obtain many of the books on more favorable terms than formerly, you will find a considerable number of your books charged less than at the prices marked in the printed Catalogue—one object that I have in view being to provide the books at the least possible expense to the municipalities. With your books are sent, one copy of four volumes of the *Journal of Education*; one copy of my Annual School Reports for 1850 and 1851; printed labels to insert in the books, and a sufficient quantity of strong paper to cover them. For these no extra charge is made; nor for the boxes in which they are packed, nor for the conveyance of them to the wharf or railroad.

The Library Books, for the most part, being forwarded to the Municipalities some weeks later than I had intended, I think it proper now to offer some general explanations, which, I trust, will prove satisfactory to all parties concerned.

1. The labour and time required for examining the books and preparing the printed Catalogue and Regulations, put it out of my power to complete them until after the middle of August, and by the packet of the 1st of September, orders were sent for the books required from England, which were purchased and got ready to be shipped from Liverpool by the end of that month, but were detained in Liverpool nearly a month, on account of the steamers being completely filled with goods previously engaged. During the following month, the American purchases were made; but the orders, in some instances, were so varied and large, that the publishers had not sufficient stock in hand to execute them without two or three weeks' delay. The greater part of these books did not arrive until after the middle of November; and then it was necessary to check every invoice and sort the books according to the numbers on the official catalogue, before the selection of Libraries could be commenced. The method adopted has been first to select and send out the Libraries to the more distant municipalities, and to those which depended upon water navigation for the conveyance of their books, and then the libraries for the municipalities whose books would be conveyed by land. Favored by the mildness of the season, our wishes have been accomplished in every instance as far as depended on the lake navigation.

2. As it has been necessary to make the greatest exertions and haste to select and dispatch these Libraries, some errors and omissions may have occurred—all of which will be rectified on their being intimated to me. In a very few instances, the last edition of works mentioned in the printed catalogue had been exhausted, and another edition had not yet been printed. In such cases, for the book desired, another from the catalogue has been selected. Again, as I had to make up the first series of orders to the publishers, upon a conjecture as to the comparative number of copies of each work would be applied for, I have found that some particular books have been selected for every Library, and therefore a greater number of copies than I had ordered. In such cases, if another book equally good, on the same subject, could not be substituted, the completion of the list of books furnished, has been deferred, until I could get the works I desired. And as I have already sent off a second series of orders for another supply of Library books, I shall, in