

peculiar circumstances make it desirable that local option in the selection of text-books should be exercised. The present regulations are sufficiently elastic to admit of the supplying of the wants of such exceptional localities. Financially, uniformity has much to recommend itself to the favourable consideration of the teachers, although it is possible that in some cases they become subservient to the words of the text-books. It is frequently stated, and correctly so, that no two persons put precisely the same construction upon the same sentence. It therefore follows that the repetition of similar language in definitions and statements of principles does not necessarily involve a subservience to any text-book. Moreover, it is almost impossible for any teacher to retain his position for any lengthy period unless his methods of teaching are in accord with the best at present known.

In viewing the subject from different standpoints, I am strongly of the opinion that the teachers of this Province should, by all legitimate means, sustain the Education Department in continuing to make the authorization of text-books a necessary preliminary to their introduction into the schools. We are justly proud of our school system, and of the high position our schools occupy when compared with those of other countries; but we too often fail to consider how much uniformity of text-books has contributed to this desirable state of things.