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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education beg leave to submit the following report on the several matters submitted for their consideration:

1. The Color Line in Schools .- This subject came before the Com-The color Line in Schools.— This subject table before the color mittee in the form of a numerously signed petition from colored citizens of Halifax, praying for the repeal of those parts of the Act relating to Public Instruction, which conditionally provide for separate schools for different colors, and from the operation of which petitioners represented that they were suffering hardship. After full discussion of the subject matter of the petition, Mr. Hockin, a member of the Committee, announced his intention of testing the sense of the Legislature by moving for the repeal of hose sections of the law complained of. In view of this announce-ment, which was subsequently carried into effect, the Committee deemed if unnecessary to take any formal action in the premises. 2. Text Books for Public Schools.—The resolutions of Mr.

Fraser, M. P. P., bearing on this subject were read and carefully considered. Mr. Fraser himself was in attendance and rendered valuable aid to the Committee in the consideration of this import-ant subject. The Superintendent of Education was given an opportunity of explaining the principles which had guided him in his recommendations on the subject of text books. He represented that he had found a large number of works prescribed in each of several of the most important branches. The preferences of teachers for one or other of these different text books, kept tend-ing to article mean large number of works one consider teachers ing to entirely uncalled for changes, as teacher succeeded teacher In the period of the practical carrying out of this principle had caused some inconvenience, economy, and educational efficiency. As to be preserved as the period of the caused some inconvenience and loss, but these were in his opinion far more than counter-balanced by the permanent gain secured as respects convenience, economy, and educational efficiency. As to the evil of unnecessary and capricious changes in text books, he I, and the Superintendent did not think there was any such differ-

expressed his full concurrence with Mr. Fraser's remarks in the

Legislature. Most of the existing text books passed under the review of the Committee, the inquries instituted relating to the circumstances under which they were prescribed, their price, binding, and general adaptation to use in the Public Schools.

The Superintendent was asked to explain why the principle of reducing the prescribed books to a single text, or a single series, in each subject had not been extended to the school readers, two series of which, the Royal and Maritime, were still in use. In reply, the Superintendent stated that the subject of the readers had engaged Superintendent stated that the subject of the readers had engaged the attention of at least one of the Councils under which he had served, and that it had been decided in view of the somewhat special circumstances under which the two series were nearly simultaneously prescribed in 1876, to postpone definite action until time had at least partially solved the problem of "the survival of the fittest." On being asked the proportions in which the two series were used, he replied that reports under his hand from the Inspectors of Schools led him to suppose that the Royal Series was used in about the proportion of 8, or possibly 9, to 1 of the Mari-time. In reply to a question from Mr. Fraser, it was explained that the new edition of Calkin's advanced Geography was sold at \$1.25, instead of \$1.50, the price of the old edition. Several mem-\$1.25, instead of \$1.50, the price of the old edition. Several mem-\$1.25, instead of \$1.50, the price of the old edition. Several mem-bers of the Committee expressed the opinion that the book is bulkier than the necessities of our schools require and that it is bound in an inferior manner. The Superintendent called attention to the fact that an Elementary Geography at 55 cents by the same author was prescribed for junior pupils, and that the larger book should not be in the hands of pupils until they have completed the 7th Grade of the Common School Course of Study. No doubt this general instruction was often disregarded, but the Department was doing what it could to prevent loss to parents by the use of books