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THE BOOK DEPOSITORY.

In calling the attention of our readers to the Book Depository, we would be sorry to under-rate its usefulness. It is beyond doubt that when it was established and for many years afterwards, it was a very valuable appendage of our educational system. Containing, as it always did, many valuable works of a literary, scientific, and historical character, it was a grand depot from which the smaller libraries in school sections and municipalities could be replenished. The inducement offered by the Education Department of furnishing books at half price, no doubt stimulated many Boards of Trustees to a degree of liberality that would not be exhibited under different circumstances.

At the time too, when the Depository was established the facilities for the purchase of books, was comparatively limited. Well assorted book stores were confined to the large cities and towns; trustees were not so well informed in regard to the literature

suitable for libraries, and the limited character of the trade, rendered a great book depot like the Depository a valuable accessory.

With the increase of population, however, the general diffusion of knowledge, for which the Depository no doubt deserves some credit, and the increased facility for the purchase of books, it becomes a question worthy of some consideration whether or not there is any longer any necessity for its existence. There are various standpoints from which this question may be viewed.

It is quite evident, that so far as the public convenience is concerned, there is no longer any necessity for such a Depository. There is not a county in Ontario, but has the facility within itself for supplying any books that may be required either for libraries or prizes.

Again, the *character* of the literature to be distributed, must be considered. It has been one of the best features of the Deposi-