

example and been aided by the co-operation of the Government Board of Education in Ireland, and of Her Majesty's Privy Council Committee on Education in England, have consulted and received the cordial expression of approving co-operation from a county convention in each county of Upper Canada, in regard to that very system of public libraries which has been so grossly assailed by certain parties in Toronto."

In 1851, Dr. Ryerson, in an address which he presented to Lord Elgin, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Normal School, thus refers to the subject of school library books, and their prices:—

"Arrangements have recently been made, and will be carried into effect in the course of a few months, by which maps, school-books, and every description of school apparatus will be provided for and rendered accessible upon the same terms to all the public schools of Upper Canada;—also, books for libraries, including a large selection of the books best adapted for popular reading, that issue from both the British and American press. By the arrangements which have been entered into, and which have been effected in England by the aid of the Imperial Government, through the cordial and active exertions of Earl Grey, these facilities for school improvement and general knowledge, will be rendered accessible to the municipal and school authorities throughout Upper Canada at an average expense of more than twenty-five per cent. less than they could have otherwise been procured, if procured at all;—facilities which obstacles hitherto insuperable, have prevented any Educational Department in the neighbouring States from providing for the advancement of popular education and the diffusion of useful knowledge."

In November, 1852, the Legislature having asked for a Return showing "what books, &c., for schools or teachers had been purchased or sold by the Superintendent of Education, West," Dr. Ryerson reported as follows:—

"Next to providing plans for school-houses, school text-books, maps and other requisites, I deemed the establishment of public school libraries of the greatest importance, and learned how many errors had been committed, and how many comparative failures had been experienced, in attempts to establish public school libraries in the neighbouring States, I thought to avoid such mistakes and disappointments, as far as possible, by selecting a variety of the most suitable and popular reading books in each department of human knowledge, and by making arrangements for procuring them and supplying them to each municipality and school corporation, upon the lowest terms possible—thus partially aiding parties establishing libraries in the selection of them, and giving them the assurance that every book included in the list from which they might make their selection, had been carefully examined and recommended by disinterested persons (*i.e.*, the Council of Public Instruction) and rendered accessible to them at the lowest cost prices, from a department, the building and all the contingent expenses of which were otherwise provided for. With a view to these objects, I submitted to the Governor-General the recommendations contained in letters 1 and 2 of the accompanying appendix; and my recommendations having been approved by His Excellency, I proceeded to make the preliminary arrangements to give them effect, in the manner detailed in letters 3, 4 and 5 of the accompanying appendix. Lord Grey and the Marquis of Lansdowne (who was then Chairman of the Privy Council Committee on Education) took a lively interest in the arrangements which I proposed; and the letters referred to will show the pains they took to promote the objects I had in view. It will be seen by papers 6, 7 and 8, in the appendix to these returns, that Her Majesty's Government had made arrangements to procure, for the schools aided by Parliamentary grants in England, school maps and books at an average of forty-three per cent. below the ordinary selling prices; and through the interposition of Her Majesty's Government, I was enabled to render that arrangement available to schools in Canada.

"At the same time, it occurred to me that I might make a still further and more advantageous arrangement. In the arrangement with the Privy Council Committee, I was restricted to the transmission of four orders per year—to the publications contained in their list—and also to their agents (Messrs. Long-

man & Co.) who were allowed five per cent. for executing their orders. After conferring with the Secretary of the Privy Council Committee on Education, who entered fully into my views, I called personally upon the principal publishers concerned, to ascertain whether they would execute my orders directly from Canada for their publications, upon the terms to which they had consented through the medium of the Privy Council Committee on Education. To my proposition, all the publishers to whom I applied, both in England and Scotland, unanimously and readily assented—having no wish that a London house should receive five per cent. for packing and forwarding their publications, and being desirous of extending their business connections in Canada. By this arrangement I saved the five per cent. otherwise payable to the Longmans on all publications procured through them. I was enabled to extend the arrangement to other publications than the text books and maps contained in the Privy Council Committee's list, and to make it available for maps and school apparatus of every description, and to books for libraries, for which I selected specimens to the number of nearly 2,000 volumes. But to accomplish all these objects, I found, required as many months as I had calculated weeks.

"6th. After my return from England, I made arrangements with publishers in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, similar to those which I had made with British publishers, for procuring such school maps and other school requisites as I might require, and also books for libraries, selecting about 2,000 volumes as specimens.

"7th. As all the publications included in these arrangements were to be paid for on receipt of the invoices from England, and on the receipt of the books themselves from the United States, and were to be disposed of to no other parties than municipalities and school authorities, and for school purposes alone, the publishers agreed, of course, to supply them below the ordinary wholesale prices.

"9th. The result of these arrangements is, that every description of the best school maps, apparatus and text books required for the schools, and the books for libraries, are and will be supplied to the remotest municipalities in Upper Canada at lower prices than the same publications can be purchased by the public where they are printed, either in the United States or Great Britain.

"10th. As to the rule by which the prices of these publications are determined, inquiries were made of several parties in Toronto, as to the average expenses per cent. for books or stationery imported from England and the United States; and a corresponding charge was added to the original prices of the publications in question. In case the expenses are not, at any time, equal to the estimate made of them, the balance is added to the *Depository Fund*, the accounts in connection with which are kept distinct from all other accounts of the department. Should the fund amount to about a thousand pounds, it would replace the advances temporarily made from the library appropriation."

The "terms" on which library books were first supplied to the schools were explained by the Chief Superintendent in the following extracts from circulars issued in October, 1853, and January, 1854:—

(1.) *Extract from Circular dated October, 1853.*

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES—FIRST APPORTIONMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY GRANT.

To the Municipalities of Townships, Cities, Towns, Villages, and School Sections.

The time having arrived for making the first apportionment of the Legislative Grant for the establishment of School Libraries in Upper Canada, the Chief Superintendent of Schools proceeds to explain the basis on which he proposes to make the apportionment, and the manner in which he thinks, under the circumstances, it should be made.

2. After much consideration, and in harmony with the principle on which the School Fund in each Municipality is distributed, local