

The Government believed it to be a pressing duty not to permit the prices of school text-books to be advanced during the war. When every other necessity grew more costly, the children paid no more for their school books. Considering the greatly increased prices for paper, labor and every other element entering into the production of books, it is a marvellous achievement that the prices have been kept at the old level. It may not be possible to secure publishers willing to continue this policy as contracts expire. But of one thing the people of Ontario may be sure; the Government will find some means—even if the books have to be printed in the Government printing office—to keep down the cost of books to moderate prices, so that the school children shall not feel the burden.

### INCREASE IN RURAL GRANTS

The legislative grant to rural schools was increased from \$120,000 in 1905 to \$380,000 in 1907, to \$400,000 in 1913, and to \$500,000 in 1918. The total grant is now distributed with a view to ensuring a maximum of good results throughout the system. The Department abandoned the old plan of paying on the basis of average attendance (whereby a premium was put on inequality of distribution) and substituted for it a basis designed to stimulate local effort to secure the following results:—

- (1) Higher salaries to teachers.
- (2) Encouragement to employ teachers with the best grade of certificates.
- (3) Better equipment for the schools.
- (4) Healthier accommodations for the pupils.

This system of distribution has worked to great advantage. It has led to better school accommodation and equipment, and to better salaries for the teachers.

The following are some of the increases in public school grants:—

	1904	1913.	1918.
Rural Schools .....	\$123,000	\$400,000	\$500,000
Urban Schools .....	120,000	190,000	195,000
Assisted Schools .....	15,000	53,000	68,000
Schools in New Districts.....	45,000	110,000	110,000

In distributing this grant to rural schools the Department is required by law to divide it on the basis of population and average attendance. Regulations were made to govern this distribu-