

to-day shows how necessary it was that this important matter, belonging entirely to the people of Ontario should be in such hands as would make the whole education system one over which the people should have control. He had such an opinion of the people of Ontario that he had no fear of educational questions being made the football of political parties; and he believed it would be found that all these questions, contrary to the general course in the past, could be fully discussed by the people, and their conclusions adopted with perfect safety. With regard to this question of the Depository, he was not very familiar with all the details as to the position of the Canadian book trade and other matters which had been referred to, but his duty as chief executive officer of the Department, would be to fully inform himself on these questions, in order that such views as he thought should be carried out should be placed before the Government, so that they might come to a conclusion upon which the desired action should be taken. Upon the question he might say that it should be considered according to their present position—the position in which the year 1876 found the Province of Ontario. Ever since Confederation this interest, like all other large interests, had developed in an extraordinary degree. If we could point to our railways and manufactures as indications of our material progress we could also point to the book trade as indicating our intellectual progress. He had no intention of flattering the gentlemen present, but no one would say that there could be a better indication of the intellectual progress of our country than the development of the book trade. In his opinion it was only upon the fullest consideration that a Government should assume to carry on a trade which, in ordinary circumstances, the law of supply and demand should regulate. As a principle of political economy there must be something exceptional in the question to vindicate its continuance; something which they could claim to be a justification for the Government carrying on such a trade. He could only say at present, however, that any decision which the Government might come to would be upon the fullest consideration which could be brought to bear upon the question. He then referred to the separate resolutions of the Convention, remarking

that though there had been much to justify the existence of the Book Depository in the past in Ontario, as there had been in Ireland, it would be his duty to consider the whole matter according to what was required at present from a public point of view, and not, of course, in the special interests of any trade. As he understood them, they were not asking additional protection for any trade. The question was, whether it was in the public interest that the Depository should continue to supply the people with books. He proposed to give the fullest consideration to their representations in connection with the whole question.

After a vote of thanks to the Minister of Education for the courteous reception, the deputation withdrew.

UNITED STATES.

—The Chicago Board of Education has appropriated \$788,585.94 for school purposes for the nine months beginning April 1, 1876, and ending Jan. 1, 1877.

—Ohio will expend \$8,000 in making an educational exhibition at Philadelphia, \$1,000 of which will be used in erecting a model school building.

—Iowa has no Normal School for the training of teachers, though it claims several universities. The Legislature now in session has a bill appropriating \$25,000 to supply this deficiency.

—In 1820, Philadelphia, with a population of 137,097, had 5,369 pupils in its public schools, and expended \$22,059 in maintaining them. In 1875, with a population of about 750,060, there were 95,552 pupils taught in the schools at a cost of \$1,634,653.26. The ratio of pupils to the number of inhabitants has increased from one in about twenty-five to one in eight, and the cost per pupil had increased from \$4 to about \$17.

FOREIGN AND BRITISH.

—Dr. Frederick H. Gerrist wrote recently to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* a strong plea on behalf of the co-education of the sexes, in which he dwelt upon the success which has attended the experiment in the University of Michigan, and especially in the medical department.

—A pungent and well informed critic exposes in the *Chicago Tribune* a shameless attempt at plagiarism by the author of a