

by state adoption and state contract, or by state publication. All independence and individualism in text-books are killed by this Procrustean method. The needs and preferences of different communities are disregarded, the voice of teachers and local superintendents and school boards is stifled by a centralizing and paternal policy, and dangers of political jobbery are immensely augmented. If experience has taught anything, it is that those schools are best served with suitable text-books where the competition is the freest, and especially where a fair degree of local option prevails in the selection. This is a principle that ought to have the indorsement of every organized educational body in this land, as fundamentally in the interest of good schools. The adopting unit should be the township or the county, for when it gets to be greater than this the teacher whose right it is largely to determine this question, is put on one side and his influence minimized. In this way, too, local needs can be recognized and supplied, and a proper individualism maintained, as against a system which aims to take the independence and life out of a system of schools by a plan compelling all concerned to think exactly alike.

The question of text-book supply is an all-important one—how to make it adequate, prompt, and reasonably cheap. "Free books" has been the most general recent answer, but this plan is not suited to all states. Moreover, it has only been carried so far as to lend books for the pupils' use for the time being. The full possession and ownership of the books by the pupils for use and reference at all times, in the school and at home, is the further necessary step to make the free-book plan complete. When the supply is not a public one, there should be a plan for the books to reach the children's hands as directly as may be from the publishers, at the lowest

competitive prices, without adding any intermediate profit, except the necessary and reasonable cost of distribution. Local option in the selection, and direct supply at the lowest publishers' prices, are the two points which meet the requirement and cover the whole ground.

Of the volume that might be written on the relation of the publisher to the schools, I have only here and there touched a few of the most obvious points. But it is easily seen that the relation is a close one, and that the work of the publisher all along the line is absolutely identified with the work of the teacher, superintendent, and school board, and that co operation and sympathy are the necessary watchwords; excellence and improvement in education profit both. We will give you our best service in an active, high-minded, business enterprise, and you will help us by approving our endeavors, and in preparing for us better and better books. This is the freedom and union which will best subserve the public interest.

Rockall, a desolate granite rock rising only seventy feet above the sea, between Iceland and the Hebrides, is to be made an English meteorological station. It lies 250 miles from land, the nearest point to it being the little island of St. Kilda, 150 miles away, and itself nearly a hundred miles from the main group of the Hebrides. Rockall is in the path of the cyclonic disturbances on the Atlantic, and the station there would give timely warning of storms that visit the British coast.

"A land of settled government,
A land of just and old renown,
Where Freedom broadens slowly
down
From precedent to precedent."

TENNYSON.