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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

	PAGE
I. THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS.—(2) Authorized Text-Books for Grammar Schools	1
II. PAPER ON SAVINGS BANK.—(1) School Section Savings Banks	2
III. LIST OF PROVINCIAL CERTIFICATES.—(1) Full List of Provincial Certificates	4
IV. PAPERS ON METEOROLOGY.—(1) The Sun's Atmosphere. (2) Abstract of Monthly Meteorological Results. (3) Shooting Stars at Hamilton... ..	11
V. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—Calendar for the Year 1868. Grammar School Teachers' Association. Board of Directors of the Ontario Teacher's Association. Meeting in aid of the Blind. London Collegiate Institute. Victoria College. Legislative Grants to American Colleges. St. Jerome's College, Berlin. Queen's University, Kingston. Mr. Biggar's Donation. Educational Museum	14

1. THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS.

After some unavoidable delay the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario was last month enabled to issue a carefully revised list of Text-Books for use in our Grammar Schools. This list was published in the *Journal* for December, and we repeat it again in this number, as approved (so far as concerns the *prescribed* books) by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, for the information of the Grammar School Trustees and Head Masters concerned.

It will be seen that the general principle upon which these Text-Books have been selected throughout, is the excellent and only practicable one of leaving no option to the Trustees or Masters in the choice of Text-Books on particular subjects. Many of the masters have themselves expressed the wish that this should be done, for their own protection against the importunities of parents and others. The only single departure from this principle in the books prescribed is in the case of Latin Grammars. Preference has been justly given by the Council to the admirable series of Latin Books prepared by Dr. Harkness; but the reputation of T. Kerchever Arnold's Latin books was so well established, and the books themselves were so generally used in our Grammar Schools, that the Council reluctantly consented to depart in this single instance from the salutary rule which they had laid down on the subject, and to permit Arnold's books (Spencer's Edition) to continue to be used, at least for the present, in our Grammar Schools. To prevent mistake, it may be well to intimate to masters of schools, that the only choice authorized by the Council lies between the use of Harkness's books *alone*, or Arnold's books in connection with Smith's Grammar. Harkness's and Arnold's with Smith's books cannot be used in the

same school, but Harkness' alone, or Arnold's books in connection with Smith's Grammar may be used.

As intimated in the published list, the books *recommended* may be used or not, at the discretion of the Boards of Trustees and Head Masters. Those named as recommended, are selected as being, in the opinion of the Council, the best books at present available on the subjects specified.

It will be understood, in regard to the *prescribed* Text-Books, that their use in the schools is imperative on the part of Trustees and masters.

In regard to the books mentioned under the heads IV, V, VI, and VII (French, English, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Modern Geography and History) the use of these books, of which some are now undergoing revision, is optional during the current year, but the observance of the list will be strictly enforced after next December.

We hope soon to publish a list of Text-Books authorized for use in the Common Schools; but in the mean time the books enumerated under the heads V, VI, VII, and IX, may be used.

The introduction of the new series of reading books into the Grammar and Common Schools may, at the option of Trustees of schools, be deferred until January, 1869, although it is presumed that the school authorities will bring them into use as soon as circumstances permit. Trustees will be particular to note that no new Readers can be lawfully used in either Grammar or Common Schools, unless they have printed on the title pages, and on the covers of the books the words, "*Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario.*" This intimation is necessary in consequence of the existence of some readers not so sanctioned, and the numerous inquiries on the subject which have been addressed to the Educational department.

2. AUTHORIZED TEXT BOOKS FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The following is a Revised List of Text Books sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario. Those of them which are prescribed for use in the Grammar Schools, by the Council, were approved by His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the 22nd of January, as provided by law. As to the time when the Reading Books in the English branches shall come into use, see paragraph four.