

Gage's Practical Speller.

*Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.
Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, Manitoba.
Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, British Columbia
Authorized for use in the Schools of North-West Territories.
Authorized for use in the Schools of New Brunswick.
Is used in a number of the best Schools of Ontario.
Is used largely in the Province of Nova Scotia.*

A series of graded lessons suitable for high and public schools, with words in general use, with abbreviations, etc., words of similar pronunciation and different spelling, a collection of the most difficult words in the English language, and a number of literary selections which may be used for dictation lessons and committed to memory by the pupil, together with Latin and Greek roots, affixes and prefixes most frequently found in the Public School Reader. 100th thousand. Price 30 cents.

THE old-fashioned Spelling book has been discarded by teachers generally. Many valid objections were properly urged against its use and it passed away.

Entire dependence upon *oral spelling* may also be fitly styled a method of bye-gone days. Unfortunately for the old spelling book, it was associated with all the folly and weakness of "oral spelling," and this partly accounts for its rejection.

What have the reformers given as a substitute for a speller? They took our bread and have given in return but a stone. The bread, even though a little stale, was much more wholesome than the stone. In Canada, parts of the lessons to be found in the Readers are taken as dictation lessons, and the pupils are turned loose on society to shock it by their bad spelling, and disgrace the schools which they attended and in which they should have been taught. The Readers do not contain all the words boys and girls will have to spell in life, and if they did, the lessons are not arranged in proper form for spelling lessons. Only a comparatively small portion of the Readers can be written from dictation in school. Bad as were the old spellers they were infinitely better than nothing. This fact is now recognized in Great Britain and the United States, in both of which countries many valuable spelling books have recently been issued. That these were necessary in England is clearly shown by the fact that at a recent Civil Service Examination "no less than 1,861 out of 1,972 failures were caused by bad spelling."

A practical dictation Speller is clearly a necessity, and this work has been prepared to supply an obvious want in the programme of Canadian schools. The claim to the name "practical" is based on the fact that it is not a mere collection of thousands of "long-tailed words in *osity* and *ation*," but contains a graded series of lessons to teach the pupils the proper spelling of the words all have to use.