

THE MODEL SCHOOLS.

But, Sir, on the main merits of the question I do not agree with the honorable member for North Huron; I do not agree with the honorable gentlemen who say it was an advisable thing or a wise thing to do away with our Model Schools. I never thought it was and I am not convinced still that it was a wise move. I am absolutely convinced, Sir, that in the legislation that this Government has passed in its various departments, a great weakness is the centralization of power. (Applause). I care not what Department you go into, the dominant note seems to be one-man power and a tendency to centralization all along the line. (Applause). Take, Sir, the question of "approved" or "non-approved" schools. The Inspector steps into one of our continuation classes or into one of our High Schools or Collegiate Institutes, and, perchance, Sir, if his liver is not in good order, after a few hours' examination of that school he dubs that school "non-approved," with what result, Sir? That any candidate from that school going up for examination must pass an examination in a number of subjects that he would not be required to pass in if the school had been marked "approved." Nay, Sir, carry that a trifle further, in one of our Collegiate Institutes where there are probably ten or fifteen teachers he may find something wrong in one form, and his liver in that half hour is in a bad state, he dubs the whole school "non-approved." I sound the note of warning, Sir, with all the vim that I am susceptible of against any such one-man power, and against any such centralization of power. (Applause).

TEXT BOOKS.

Now, Sir, a word or two as to the question of text books. I purpose to deal with the question briefly, as I fear I am occupying the time of the House to too great length. (Cries of "Go on.") The honorable member for North Huron gave us the history of the three sets of readers and the difficulties that naturally flowed from them, and the fact that one set had to be adopted. That is pretty ancient history. Let us get down to present day history, and to what has been done with reference to our present readers. Every speaker for the Opposition, barring the honorable member for North Huron, who has spoken during this debate, has told us in one form of words or another, and the public has been told through the press, that the price of the new readers is but 49c. That is the story. Sir, that is being sent all over this land. They do not mention, Sir, the amount that the Province has paid out of the people's money; they do not tell this House that the Province furnished the material; they do not tell us that there was a Commission appointed about two years ago, and they were paid by this Province for the work of preparing the manuscript and making selections for these readers. They were paid in 1908 alone \$11,000. The public accounts show this. What they were paid, all told, I have not the exact figures, but I have moved for a return and we will know the facts. Then, Sir, in addition to this the Government purchased and furnished the plates for the printer; this Province furnished all the illustrations; all electroplating. Nay, Sir, this Province actually paid for the setting up of the type for these readers. (Applause). Then what? Then, Sir, it is simply handed over to be printed. I want to say this, Sir, and I want to say it emphatically, that the Government, having paid the whole cost of making the selections of the readers, having furnished all the illustrations, having furnished all necessary electroplating and electrotyping, and having actually set up the type for running them off, I would not have objected if the Government had gone the limit and had actually printed the readers and had sent them forth to the public at cost price. (Applause). I am not sure, Sir, had they done this but that their position would have been unsailable; but, Sir, having paid a great portion of the cost, having prepared the work and paid for it and put everything in shape for merely running them off by the printer, I cannot congratulate this Government for doing what the Manitoba Government absolutely refused to do, and that is, turning over the printing to a huge departmental store in this city. (Applause). I want it distinctly understood, and I want to state my position unmistakably and emphatically, I don't care whether this huge departmental store was the lowest tenderer or not, the contract for printing the readers should not have been made by this Province or any other Province a special medium of advertising for any departmental store at the expense of the whole retail trade of the Province. (Applause). Sir, I have not one word against Mr. John Eaton. He is a keen, shrewd, business man, but, Sir, one swallow does not make a spring, one city does not make a Province, and one departmental store does not even make the great City of Toronto. (Ap-