

for November and December, 1868], that the printing of the Education Department has been most economically managed."—

[EDUCATION OFFICE NOTE.]

Department of Public Instruction for Ontario,
1st February, 1869.

MEMORANDUM ON THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR ONTARIO.

When the present school system was first established, the duties of the Education Office were light, as the municipalities and school officers and schools were less than half the number that they now are; there was no auditing of school accounts from them, no payment of moneys to them through this office, no *Journal of Education*, no Provincial Normal and Model Schools, no provision for supplying municipalities and school sections with text-books, maps, apparatus, prize books and libraries; no Superannuated Teachers' Fund; no Educational Museum; the Grammar Schools did not report, or receive inspection through the Department, and the Separate Schools were not individually dealt with by it. The correspondence of the office at first amounted to less than 500 letters per annum. Since that time, its duties have so increased that it has been found necessary to divide the department into several branches—in each of which more labour is required than in the whole office before 1850. The School Act of 1850 more than doubled the duties of the department; and those duties have been much increased by the amended Grammar, Common, and Separate School Acts, as well as by the progress of the school system, and the growing interest of the country in the advancement of education and knowledge. The last Grammar School Act necessitated a close examination of Grammar School Returns and Meteorological Reports, involving much additional time and labour. Some idea may be formed of this increase from the fact that in 1850, the number of letters received amounted to 1180, and in 1867 to 8243. In 1850, the number of letters sent out from the department was 720, and in 1867 it amounted to 5581. Since 1850, there has therefore been an increase of nearly 700 per cent. (300 per cent. increase since 1852) in the number of letters received, and of nearly 800 per cent. (400 per cent. increase since 1852) in the number of letters sent out by the department; and this increase in the correspondence is but a fair indication of the increased labour in the other branches. The several branches into which the department has been divided, are as follows:—

1. *Council of Public Instruction*:—This branch includes the general duties of the Council, as defined by statute; its meetings; all matters connected with the Normal and Model Schools, such as their supervision, the appointments of masters and teachers, and servants; the auditing and payments of salaries and accounts; the admission of students and pupils; the care, furnishing, and repairs to the buildings (which have been planned, erected, and completed since 1850); the care and culture of the grounds—a square of nearly 8 acres. The books, stationery, etc., for the students in the Normal School (varying from 100 to 150), and for the 300 pupils in the Model Schools, are supplied upon written requisitions from the Head Master of the Normal School, and approved in writing by the Chief Superintendent. The requisitions are numbered and filed, as the authority for anything done or procured, under the general or special orders of the Council, by whom also all the regulations respecting the establishment and government of the Common and Grammar Schools, and Public Libraries throughout Ontario, are sanctioned, and the text-books used in the schools, and the books for the Public Libraries, are authorized. The law requires the Chief Superintendent to prepare these regulations, and all other matters for the consideration of the Council, to conduct all its correspondence and execute its orders. The Chief Clerk in the Education Office is also the Recording Clerk of the Council, and keeps the minutes, and the accounts of all moneys received and expended by it.

2. *Map and School Apparatus Depository*:—This branch includes the providing of the Normal and Model Schools with text-books and stationery; the purchase of maps, globes, and all descriptions of school apparatus for the schools throughout Ontario, and the correspondence relating thereto. These articles had been furnished to the schools to the amount (including also books for Public Libraries and prizes) of \$419,475, up to 31st December, 1867. The collection of school apparatus in this Depository is the most extensive in America, if not in Europe; so much so, that a partner of a large Scotch publishing house procured specimens of school requisites to the amount of about \$40, in order to re-produce them in Edinburgh; and the Secretary of the Board of Education for the State of Massachusetts purchased articles to the amount of nearly \$200, for the Education Office in Boston, as specimens for the schools in the State of Massachusetts. Charts and object lessons,

of about the same value, have also been obtained at our depository, for the purpose of introducing object teaching in the Normal and other schools at Oswego and other American towns. During the year 1854, at the suggestion and under the revision of this department, three large maps of British North America were undertaken—one in New York; one in Edinburgh, by Messrs. W. & A. Keith Johnston, Geographers to the Queen; and one in London, by the Messrs. Smith, publishers of the Irish National School Maps. These British maps of Canada and the Eastern Provinces were of the same size and style with the Johnston and National series of large maps of Europe, Asia, etc., and included our latest county and township divisions, lines of railroad, etc. The proofs of those beautiful maps were corrected in this office; and they were published and largely circulated—thus presenting, for the first time to the British public (besides providing them for the schools both in England and in Canada), maps of the present Dominion of Canada on a large scale, and also complete and comprehensive in detail. But it has always been an object kept in view to encourage the home manufacture of school apparatus of all kinds; and now by far the greater portion of these articles is the production of the Canadian maker, the maps being drawn, and the patterns furnished by this office.*

This Depository includes about 1000 different kinds of maps, charts, cheap and beautiful apparatus (to illustrate elementary instruction in different branches of Natural History, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Geometry, etc.) which have been obtained from London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paris, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other places, and the collection of which has cost much time and labour. But, as in the case of the maps, as well as school seats and desks, these articles are now principally manufactured in this country.

3. *Public Library and Prize Depository*:—This branch includes the procuring and providing of books for the Public Libraries and school prizes, with catalogues, regulations, and correspondence relating to them. Nearly 4000 different works are contained in the catalogue, the selection and examination of which, for the sanction of the Council of Public Instruction, and arrangements for procuring which, from more than sixty publishers in Great Britain and the United States, have involved a great amount of time and labour during many years. Upwards of 64,000 volumes of prize books were supplied to municipalities and school sections during the twelve months ending December, 1867, and 5426 for Public Libraries—total, nearly 70,000. And from the commencement of the operation of the Depository, 333,422 volumes have been sent for prizes, and 224,647 for libraries—total, nearly 600,000. To obtain and keep up the necessary supply of books, orders for them must be made up and sent off from month to month, the payments made,

* The following is a list of these articles of home manufacture now being made in this Province, chiefly in Toronto:—*Departmental Maps*:—(1). British North America, including Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, B. Columbia, etc.—size, 3 feet 10½ in. by 5 feet 4 in.; (2). The World; (3). Europe; (4). Asia; (5). Africa; (6). America; (7). British Isles; (8). United States; (9). Palestine—each 5 feet 5 in. by 4 feet 4 in.; (10). Canada; (11). Europe; (12). Asia; (13). Africa; (14). America—each 4 feet 2 in. by 3 feet 6 in. *Globes*:—(1). Three inch Hemisphere globe (hinged); (2). Six inch Semi-frame, large stand; (3). Six inch globe, walnut stand; (4). Twelve inch globe, low stand, with quadrant and compass; Twelve inch globe, with high stand; (5). Eighteen inch globe, with high stand; Eighteen inch globe, with low stand; (6). Thirty inch globe, low stand, with quadrant; (7). Solar Telluric globe, with metal stand and frame. *Apparatus*:—Canadian School Planetarium (Solar system), high stand; Ditto, low stand; The Tellurian, for illustrating the various phenomena resulting from the relations of the Sun, Moon, and Earth to each other, on wood stand, and sun coloured; Air Pump, barrel 7½ by 2 inches, plate 8 inches, basement walnut, well finished; Air Pump, barrel 7 by 1½ inches, ditto plate, 6 inches; Hemispherical Cups, with stop-cock, handles, and stand; Electrical Machine, plate 12 inches, prime conductor 12 by 3 inches, insulated crank, and in every respect well finished; Electrical Discharger, large glass handle; Mechanical Powers, cherry frame, with four sets brass pulleys, with silk cord, two sets brass weights, simple and compound levers, wheels and axle, screw and lever with nut, screw as an inclined plane, wedge in sections, inclined plane with arc and binding screw, carriage, ship's capstan, etc., complete; Ditto, ditto, smaller set. Set of twenty Geometrical Forms and Arithmetical Solids, containing blocks to demonstrate the carpenter's theorem, that the square of the hypotenuse equals the sum of the squares of the other two sides; Flat black-board Brush, of lamb's wool, with handle on the top; Archimedes Screw Pump, with stand and cistern; Centrifugal Machine, mahogany frame, with brass geared wheels, also eight illustrations of centrifugal forces; of the cause of bodies revolving on their smallest diameter, of the flattening of the poles, etc.; Pointers (long and short) for Globe and Black-board Teaching; Dissected Cube Root Block, in box, for illustrating square and cube roots, but especially the latter; Cone, with sections, in boxwood, pinned; Insulating Stool, polished wooden top, 13 inches by 11 inches, four massive glass legs; Numeral Frame (Abacus), various sizes; Non-Evaporating Ink Wells (metal); Common Ink Wells, with iron covers; Over and Undershot Water Wheels; Canadian Rotary Map Stand, mounted on castors; Map Case, for hanging on a wall. *Charts*:—Macallum's Chart of Natural History; Robertson's Chronological Chart; Browne's Geometrical Diagrams; Merritt's Historic Chart of British North America.