

TEXT BOOKS.

Comment.—In performing the duty of selecting and prescribing text-books for the Public Schools, the Council of Public Instruction has availed itself as fully as possible of the knowledge and experience of those who are engaged in the practical work of education. The sole aim of recent modifications has been to secure, at reasonable cost, a series of texts, *adapted for use in schools*. Change in authorized books is *in itself* a very undesirable thing; and it is hoped and believed that matters may remain where they are now for years to come, without substantial alteration.

The general effect of recent changes has been to largely and permanently reduce the cost of text-books, especially to pupils pursuing an extended course. The Council is engaged in inquiries and efforts with a view to still further diminish expense by securing, wherever practicable, a lowering in price and an improvement in the mechanical quality of the prescribed texts.

Inspectors and teachers are reminded:

1. That the Course of Study for Common Schools encourages an economical expenditure for text-books by providing a system of oral instruction for junior classes. Too many teachers try to satisfy themselves in respect to their more youthful pupils by placing in their hands text-books not needed in any case, and worse than useless when unaccompanied by proper oral exposition. A text-book should not be required for a child until he is prepared to use it intelligently.

2. That the regulation which makes it illegal and improper for a teacher to introduce unauthorized texts, by no means hinders him from giving his pupils the benefit of other treatises to whose explanations he may attach importance. The progressive teacher will always have such aids within reach, and will so use them as to impart variety and interest to his instructions.

LIST OF TEXT BOOKS PRESCRIBED FOR USE IN SCHOOLS, WITH NAMES OF PUBLISHERS.

ENGLISH.

Reading and Spelling. (1.) The Royal Series (Thomas Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh and London.)

(2.) The Maritime Series (Wm. Collins, Sons & Co., Glasgow and London.)

(3.) The Spelling Book Superseded—*English Edition.* (Sullivan Bros.)

NOTE.—In sections where French is the vernacular language, and the Trustees desire that English should also be taught, the French-English Readers of the Royal Series will be found very serviceable.

Grammar and Composition. (1.) English Grammar for Schools (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

(2.) Dalgleish's Introductory Text Book of English Composition (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

(3.) Dalgleish's Advanced Text Book of English Composition (Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.)

Geography. (1.) Calkin's Introductory Text Book (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

(2.) Calkin's Geography of the World (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

History. (1.) Calkin's History of British America (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

(2.) Outlines of British History (Thos. Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh and London.)

(3.) Swinton's Outlines of the World's History, Canadian Edition, (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

MATHEMATICS.

Arithmetic. (1.) Kirkland & Scott's Elementary Arithmetic (Gage & Co., Toronto.)

2. Hamblin Smith's Arithmetic (Gage & Co., Toronto.)

Algebra. Todhunter's Algebra for Beginners (Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto.)

Geometry. Euclid, Hamblin Smith's Edition (Gage & Co., Toronto.)

[First four books published as special Nova Scotia Edition.]

Practical Mathematics. Eaton's Elementary Practical Mathematics (D. H. Smith & Co., Truro.)

Book-keeping. Eaton & Frazer's treatise. (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

SCIENCE.

1. The Science Primers (Macmillan & Co., and James Campbell & Son, Toronto.)

- [1.] The Introductory Primer.
- [2.] Physical Geography.—Geikie.
- [3.] Physics.—Balfour Stewart.
- [4.] Geology.—Geikie.
- [5.] Physiology.—Foster.
- [6.] Astronomy.—Lockyer.

2. Tanner's First Principles of Agriculture (A. & W. Mackinlay.)

3. Gray's "How Plants Grow."

4. Steele's "Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry."

WRITING AND DRAWING.

1. Payson, Dutton and Scribner's Copy Books, Beattie's Copy Books, the Royal Series of Copy Books.

[The Council does not think it necessary to prescribe a single series of Copy Books, but only to require that one series shall be used exclusively in each School.]

2. Walter Smith's Series [Revised Edition,] Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, are published as "American Text-books of Art Education."

LIST OF BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS, BUT NOT PRESCRIBED FOR PUPILS.

(Trustees anxious to promote the physical, intellectual and moral welfare of the pupils in the schools under their charge, will do well to provide their teachers with the undermentioned books.)

Gage's Elements of Physics [Ginn, Heath & Co.]
Huxley and Youman's Physiology and Hygiene.
Dr. Richardson's Temperance Hand Book. (Ontario Edition).
Dr. Edward Smith's Manual of Health (A. & W. Mackinlay).
Dawson's Handbook of Zoology (Dawson Bros. Montreal).
N. A. Calkin's (Boston) Primary Object Lessons (Harper Bros., New York).
J. B. Calkin's Notes on Education.

NOTE.—Prang's Natural History Series of botanical and zoological drawings and cards is accompanied by an excellent manual of directions, and if possible, should be in every school.

INDUSTRIAL DRAWING FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE.

1. For first year. Nos. 5 and 6 of the American Text Book of Art Education (retail price 15 cents each.)

2. For second year. Nos. 7 and 8 of the same series, (retail price 25 cents each.)

The above books belong to the same series as those already used in our Common Schools. Nos. 5 and 6 are accompanied by a Manual for Teachers, giving full directions in regard to the use of the books. The retail price of this Manual will not exceed 60 cents. A small Manual accompanying Nos. 7 and 8 will be supplied gratuitously to teachers whose circumstances require them to use those books.

DATES OF MEETINGS OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cape Breton, June 5th. | West Hants, May 24th. |
| Richmond, July 2nd. | East Hants, June 19th. |
| S. Inverness, May 28th. | Kings, May 21st. |
| N. Inverness, June 4th. | Annapolis West, May 21st. |
| Victoria, June 7th. | Annapolis East, May 17th. |
| Antigonish, May 14th. | Digby, June 4th. |
| Guysboro, May 21st. | Clara, June 5th. |
| St. Mary's, July 2nd. | Shelburne, June 20th. |
| N. Pictou, May 17th. | Barrington, June 17th. |
| S. Pictou, May 20th. | Argyle, May 28rd. |
| S. Colchester, May 23rd. | Yarmouth, May 21st. |
| * West Colchester, May 23rd. | S. Queens, May 21st. |
| Sterling, May 27th. | N. Queens, June 18th. |
| Cumberland, May 31st. | * Lunenburg and New Dublin, |
| Parrsboro', May 21st. | May 16th. |
| Halifax West, — | Chester, May 14th. |
| Halifax Rural, — | |
| Halifax Shore, — | |

* At Great Village.

* At Lunenburg for the present year.