

10. CERTAIN GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

3. Out of any grants made from time to time in aid of Public and High Schools, the Lieutenant-Governor may authorize the expenditure annually of such sums as may from time to time be voted by the Legislative Assembly for the purposes following:—

2. Through the Chief Superintendent of Education.

6. For the purchase, from time to time, of books, publications, specimens, models, and objects, suitable for a Canadian library and museum, to be kept in the Normal School buildings at Toronto, and to consist of books, publications and objects relating to education and other departments of science and literature, and specimens, models, and objects illustrating the physical resources and artificial productions of Canada, especially in reference to mineralogy, zoology, agriculture, and manufactures;

7. For supplying a copy of the *Journal of Education* to every School Corporation, and every School Inspector;

8. For the establishment and support of libraries in connection with the Schools;

9. For providing the Schools with maps and apparatus and prizes upon the same terms, and in the same manner as books are provided for School libraries;

10. For the payment of a salesman and assistant clerks of the public library, prize, map and school apparatus depositories, in connection with the Department of Public Instruction.

The whole of the sub-sections 26 and 27 of section 27, and sub-sections 27, 28 and 29 of section 31, of the Act 37 Vic., cap. 27, are new, and form part of the amendments made to the School law in 1874; but sub-sections 24 and 25 of section 27, sub-section 26 of sub-section 31, and the whole of section 33, formed part of the Consolidated Statutes, 22 Vic., cap. 64. The sub-sections quoted were originally passed in 1850, while section 33 was passed in 1855.

In construing the word "cost," in the Act of 1874, the phrase "upon the same terms" (which was first used by the Legislature in the School Law in 1855, and re-enacted in a consolidated form—without alteration—in 1859 and 1874) would throw some light on the question, especially as the "terms" upon which schools were supplied with library books in 1855 are explained by the Chief Superintendent of Education at that time to mean "at cost,"—including charges—with the 100 per cent. bonus allowed by the Legislature.

In order to understand the intention of the Legislature all through its enactments on this subject, it will be necessary to give an historical *resumé* of the whole question, and to quote those portions of the successive statutes and official documents and explanations which bear directly upon the subject.

In 1848, Dr. Ryerson, the Chief Superintendent, submitted a draft of a Bill to the Government, in the 13th section of which he proposes to set apart £2,000 (\$8,000) annually for commencing a system of school libraries, accompanying it with the following remarks:—

"The *Thirteenth Section* proposes a small provision for commencing the establishment of Common School Libraries. I propose to do so on the same principle and in the same manner with that which has been so extensively and so successfully adopted in the neighbouring States—except that the regulations for this purpose are there made by the sole authority of the State Superintendent of Schools, whereas I propose that here such regulations shall be sanctioned by the Governor General in Council.

"On the importance of such a provision, I need not say a word. On this section becoming law, I shall soon be prepared to submit a draft of the requisite regulations for carrying it into effect, and also to suggest means by which a selection of suitable books may be made and procured from England and the School Libraries of the States of Massachusetts and New York, and submitted to the consideration of the Board of Education, and then the modes of procuring, at the lowest prices, for any part of Upper Canada, the books which the Board may sanction for Common School Libraries."

The provision here recommended was partially adopted in the School Act of 1849. With a view to prepare the way for establishing the contemplated libraries, the Chief Superintendent, in 1849, addressed the following letter to the Provincial Secretary:—

("Copy.)

"EDUCATION OFFICE,
"Toronto, 16th July, 1849.

"SIR,—I have the honour to submit to the favourable consideration of the Governor-General in Council the following remarks and recommendations, with a few to the introduction of School Libraries into Upper Canada, as contemplated by each of the Common School Acts which have been sanctioned by the Legislature. There can be but one opinion as to the great importance of introducing into each township of Upper Canada, as soon as possible, a Township Library, with branches for the several school sections, consisting of a suitable selection of entertaining and instructive books, in the various departments of biography, travels, history (ancient and modern), natural philosophy and history, practical arts, agriculture, literature, political economy, &c., &c., &c. It is not easy to conceive the vast and salutary influence that would be exerted upon the entire population, the young portion especially, in furnishing useful occupation for leisure hours, in improving the tastes and feelings, in elevating and enlarging the views, in prompting to varied and useful enterprise, that would flow from the introduction of such a fountain of knowledge and enjoyment in each township in Upper Canada.

"But in order even to commence so noble and beneficial an undertaking, two things are necessary; the first is, to obtain, and for the Board of Education to examine and select the proper books; the second is to render such books easily and cheaply accessible to every part of the Province. As the books are not and cannot be published in this country, they must, for some time at least, be obtained from abroad—from England and the United States, arrangements must be made for that purpose, as the ordinary agencies of book trade are insufficient.

"When in Dublin, in 1845, I arranged with the National Board to obtain their books for schools in Upper Canada at cost prices, much below the wholesale prices, to the British public; and by means of that arrangement those excellent books are now sold in Upper Canada, about twenty per cent. cheaper than they were three years since; and we now say to each of our Canadian booksellers, that if he will agree not to sell those books at more than two-pence currency for every penny sterling that he pays for them, we will give him a certificate to the National Board in Dublin to obtain them at the reduced prices. By this simple arrangement private trade is encouraged, at excellent profits, rather than interfered with; and the books are then sold at much lower prices than heretofore. The selling prices of the books are published in the printed forms and regulations for schools, and are uniform in every part of the Province, and known to every Trustee and Teacher. A Canadian house has reprinted an edition of most of these books (fac-similes of the Dublin edition) at even lower prices than the imported editions.

"Now, I propose the adoption of an extension of the same arrangements to procure books for School Libraries. I propose to make an arrangement with some of the book societies in London (such as the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, &c.) and the cheap library publishers in London and Edinburgh, for procuring such of their works as may be required for School Libraries in Canada at the lowest prices. I propose to make the same arrangements with the National Board in Dublin, for procuring portions of the series of books which they have lately selected and adopted for School Libraries, that we have heretofore made in order to procure their school books. And as but few of the books composing the School Libraries in the neighbouring States of New York and Massachusetts are of an exclusively local and politically objectionable character, and as the greater part of their School Library books are as suitable to the youth of Canada as to those of the United States—many of the books being re-prints of English works, and translations from the French and German—I propose to make a similar arrangement with School Library (and perhaps some other) publishers in New York and Boston, that I have above proposed to make with English publishers.

"According to this arrangement, I propose to secure, at the cheapest rate possible to the reading youth and people of Canada, the best popular works which emanate from the British and American press. There will thus be a British and an American series, with the price affixed to each, and directions where and how they may be procured, leaving to local councils or committees the option of selecting from either series, or from both, at their discretion.

"In the catalogue of these library books, I think a characteristic notice of each book should be inserted (including two or three sentences but of course, requiring considerable thought, judgment and labour in the preparation.) A catalogue should be furnished to each local council, and the books generally be also brought to the notice of the public, in the columns of the *Journal of Education*, and personally by the Chief Superintendent, during his visits