

too large a profit to the publishers, the Department has the power, at the end of five years, to reduce the selling price to the consumer. 5. In the event of the publishers violating the conditions of the contract in any substantial way, the Department may cancel the same and offer the publication to some other firm; but if, on the other hand, the contract is in all material respects kept inviolate, then it remains in full force and effect for ten years. 6. It is also a condition of the agreement that the books should be printed and published in Canada. The earlier editions of the Irish readers were published in Great Britain, the old Ontario readers in Glasgow, the Royal readers in Edinburgh, and Gage's in the United States. For the first time in the history of Ontario, it may be said that we have a purely Canadian series.

Now there are two main objections urged against my course on this question: the first is that I have established a monopoly, and the second that the books are too dear. In regard to the first it must be noticed that the books are published by three firms; that the price of each book is fixed by agreement, and that even if published by fifty firms there is no probability that the books would be sold for less than the price fixed by law. There can be no monopoly in the true sense of the term except when the monopolists themselves regulate the price of the article, as do the cotton lords and certain other large manufacturers of woollen and iron goods. But even under Dr. Ryerson the publication of text books was limited to a few men. Campbell published the old readers from 1868 to 1871, Campbell and Warwick from 1871 to 1878, and during the fifteen years they remained authorized there were only four publishers in all supplying them to the trade. Even if the new readers were thrown open to public competition, not more than six firms in Ontario could be found with suitable plant for the kind of work required. But before dismissing the cry of "monopoly," let me ask in all kindness who is it that raises the cry? Does it not come from those who politically supported the Pacific Railway scheme in the undisturbed possession of their trade of half a continent for twenty years? But it is said the policy of the Government was framed in the interest of Mr. Nelson, who is a large stockholder in the *Globe*. This I deny. Mr. Nelson has his share, no doubt, of the profits, but he was the loser to the extent of over \$25,000 by the withdrawal of authorization from his readers. Why not say it was framed to suit the two other firms, with whom an agreement in identical terms was made? Nelson derived no advantage in which they didn't share equally, and certainly they are not political allies of the Government.

Secondly, it is said the readers are too dear.

The following comparisons show the relative prices of the new series with those previously authorized or prepared:

Authorized series—	Pages.	Cost.	Cents per 100	
			Pages.	
Gage's.....	752	\$1. 31	17½	
Royal.....	972	1. 50	15½	
Royal Canadian.....	955	1. 80	18½	
New Readers.....	976	1. 35	13½	