

The changes made in the regulations last April, in part a re-arrangement of former regulations and in part new, provide larger room for the Bible and for its use. Trustees are no longer required to place a copy of the authorized Readings in each department of the schools, but the daily portions of Scripture "may be taken from the Book of Selections adopted by the Department for that purpose, or from the Bible, as the trustees, by resolution, may direct." While schools still "shall be opened with the Lord's Prayer and closed with the reading of the Scriptures and the Lord's Prayer, or the prayer authorized by the Department," in addition, "trustees may also order the reading of the Bible or the authorized Scripture Selections by both pupils and teachers at the opening and closing of the school." It is also "recommended that verses from the daily Scripture lesson be written on the blackboard and committed to memory by the pupils, and that on every suitable occasion, the authority of the Bible be invoked for the regulation of their conduct, and its precepts cited as the safest guide for life and duty."

The way is now clear for a very substantial amount of instruction in Scripture. It will be at the door of the Christian people of Ontario if the full allowance of Scripture reading is not ordered by trustees, or if the teachers are not of the stamp to make the Readings a source of profit to the pupils. Religious instruction by the ministers of the various Churches has all along been permitted and indeed encouraged by the Department. The systematic use of the Scriptures in the schools from day to day affords an excellent basis for a weekly lesson by the ministers. It has been found practicable in several places to unite the ministers of the various denominations in a common plan, whereby each in succession teaches all the pupils in the school. Effective work is being done through such co-operation. We see no reason why the method should not be very widely employed. We are looking for the day when not only systematic reading of the Bible "without comment or explanation," as now, will prevail in the schools, but systematic instruction as well, and by the regular teachers. It will help forward to this, not hinder, if by individual action or by co-operation, the ministers take advantage of the provisions of the law, and give the people practical demonstration of the advantages of Bible teaching in the schools.