

the cause of education, the necessary school books of a common English education are to be obtained as cheaply in Canada as in any country. It is only the higher class educational works that have to be imported. Now, however, there is a probability that even these will be supplied in abundance at the cheapest rates. Under the law and by direction of the Council of Public Instruction, the text books used in Grammar Schools have been rendered uniform, so that for these, as in the case of the books used in common schools, a demand will be at once established. The market will be as readily supplied. The works are nearly all of them free of copyright in this country, the Latin and Greek grammars and reading-books being American revised editions of established English works. Competition is therefore free. Already a leading firm in Toronto announces the speedy publication at half the present prices of the works of the uniform series. It will become in consequence an easier matter for parents to send their promising boys to the Grammar School to finish their education, or as preparatory to the University. Academic education will flourish in Canada, and the rising generation will have the opportunity to grow up in culture and refinement. —*Kingston News.*

III. Papers on Departmental Book supply.

1. DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLY OF SCHOOL BOOKS, MAPS AND APPARATUS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

School requisites to the value of \$10,000 prime cost, were furnished, in accordance with the official notice of the Superintendent, to school trustees, during the months of November and December. The city of Halifax is not included in the above. Orders from sections in every county in the Province have been received, and the articles promptly despatched. It is impossible to over-estimate the benefits which must result from this generous provision of the school law. Teachers will soon have the satisfaction of seeing their schools well equipped with excellent books, and other necessary materials. Thus the effectiveness of their labours will be greatly increased.

Until the more common wants of the schools with respect to text-books, slates, maps, rulers, &c., are supplied, it has been deemed prudent to restrict the articles furnished at half cost to those in the list given in the official notice.

On account of the large number of orders which have been received, a few books are not in stock; but a further supply has been ordered.

Several Inspectors and Commissioners have suggested the establishment of county and district agencies for the sale of school books at reduced rates. This proposal, at first sight, would seem to be feasible, and well calculated to effect the end desired. But a careful examination of the whole subject, will, we believe, result in a preference for the present arrangement. Communication both by land and water is frequent and regular with the capital, and when the railroad shall be opened to Pictou on the north, and Annapolis on the west, there will be scarcely a school section in the province which cannot as readily procure books from Halifax as from the shire town. But it is not wholly nor chiefly a question of convenience. It is a question of books and materials at half the prime cost, or at three times that amount. It is impossible to supply school materials through twenty or thirty agencies without consuming the chief portion of the original grant in commissions, and expenses of supervision. This consideration is sufficient of itself to show the impracticability of supplying school books and apparatus at anything like the present low rates by means of numerous agencies throughout the province. One central agency has been found sufficient in Upper Canada, and after a little longer experience Trustees will find no difficulty in procuring for their schools the necessary materials from Halifax. In the more distant rural sections we would suggest that Boards of Trustees give their orders in the form prescribed, to the nearest merchant, and have their parcels transmitted to his care.

The official regulations are as follows:—WHEREAS, by the 20th Section of the Amended School Law, the ratepayers of each school section are empowered to assess themselves for the purchase of prescribed School Books, Maps, and Apparatus; and WHEREAS, by the 16th subdivision of the 6th section of the said law, an annual Provincial Grant is provided to enable the Superintendent of Education to furnish the above articles at half their cost, to School Trustees,—notice is hereby given, that the Superintendent of Education will furnish, as below, School Books, Maps, and Apparatus, to extent of the Provincial Grant in aid of the same.

Trustees must carefully comply with the following Regulations:—

The following are the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction with reference to all Books, Maps, and Apparatus fur-

nished to Trustees, under the operation of Sec. 6 (15) of the law concerning Public Schools:—

Reg. 1.—They shall be the property of the School Section, and not of private individuals (except as specified in Reg. 5.)

Reg. 2.—Any pupil shall be entitled, free of charge, to the use of such school books as the teacher may deem necessary.

Reg. 3.—Any pupil shall have the privilege of taking home with him any books, &c., which, in the opinion of the teacher, may be required for study or use out of school.

Reg. 4.—Pupils, or their parents or guardians, shall be responsible for any damage done to books beyond reasonable wear and tear.

Reg. 5.—Any pupil desiring it, may be allowed to purchase from the trustees the books required by him, provided the same be done without prejudice to the claims of other pupils; the price to be, in all cases, the same as advertised in the official notice published from time to time in the *Journal of Education*. No pupil who has been allowed to purchase a book shall have any claim on the trustees for the free use of another of the same kind.

Reg. 6.—Any section neglecting to provide a sufficient supply of books, maps, and apparatus, may be deprived of the public grants.

Reg. 7.—Trustees shall make such further regulations, agreeably to law, as may be necessary to ensure the careful use and preservation of books, maps, and apparatus belonging to the section.

Any section infringing in any way upon the above regulations will forfeit the privilege of purchasing books, &c., at half cost.

The amount expended by the Province in aid of books and apparatus was \$4,855.72, an increase of \$855.72 over last year. These indispensable articles of school work have been provided almost entirely within the past two years. Much, however, remains to be accomplished before the schools are properly supplied with all necessary materials. The arrangement adopted by the Legislature at its last session, for the supply of books and apparatus to School Trustees at half cost, came into operation at the beginning of the present school year. It is confidently anticipated that a large number of sections will early avail themselves of so advantageous a mode of securing the books and apparatus needed, so far as these have yet been provided; and when experience has furnished such data as are necessary to form accurate estimates of the probable demand for each article, it will be possible to ensure the speedy and full execution of every order received.—*Chief Superintendent's Report for 1866, p. xxi.*

2. SUPPLY OF LIBRARY AND SCHOOL BOOKS, (COLONY OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.)

From the report of the Board of Education for the Colony of Victoria, (Australia) for 1865, we select the following:—The Board say,

During the past year, the stock of school-books has been considerably increased, in order that a few months' supply may always be kept on hand.

The value of the book stock is estimated at £7,000. There is, in addition, a sum of £1,500 remitted to England for the purchase of books, which increases the total to £8,500.

The Library consists of a large number of specimens of new books, suitable for schools, the difficulty of selection having been much increased, in consequence of the very numerous school-books which have been published within the last few years.

In 1865 the number of applications for school requisites was 1,817, being an increase of 95 over the previous year.

The book sales realised £2,724 3s. 11d. during the same period, showing an increase over 1864 of £415 0s. 9d.

The actual value of the apparatus supplied is greater than the amount shown above, for the Board, besides supplying books at prime cost, have issued to schools during the year not less than 1,200 maps and black boards at half price.

The printed list of books sanctioned by the Board of Education will be found in the Appendix.

The Board will provide such books and school requisites as they may deem necessary or fit for the use of Common Schools, and these will be furnished at as low a rate as possible to Local Committees and teachers. Local Committees may require the scholars to pay for them, but not at prices higher than those charged by the Board, plus the cost of carriage.

The Board will publish from time to time a list of the books in stock, for the information of Local Committees and teachers.

APPLICATION FOR BOOKS AND REQUISITES.

Amount _____ } _____ School,
Forwarded _____ } _____ day of _____ 186 .

I have the honor to request that the Commissioners of Education