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the books composing the respective series was also presented. During the years 1854 and 1855, the number of volumes distributed by the undersigned, amounted to 258,986; the cost of the same was 150,787.<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>. Full details of the distribution to the respective counties in addition to the statement of the last annual report, will be found in the appendix."

It is to be observed that, in Ohio, the local authorities had nothing to do with the selection or the purchase of the books; they were selected and purchased by the State Commissioner of Schools, and the same series of books was sent to each County, according to population.

In the State of Indiana there is a State Board of Education, consisting of five members, "the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of State, the Auditor of State, and the Treasurer of State." The Superintendent selects and submits the list of books for the township libraries to the Board, which approves of them and authorizes the purchase of them by the State superintendent. The provision for libraries is even more magnificent in Indiana than in Ohio. The School Law of Indiana, passed in 1852, "imposed a tax of a quarter of a mill on the property, and an assessment of twenty-five cents on the poll, for the purpose of establishing a library in every civil township of the commonwealth. The library assessments collected during the two first years amounted to \$176,336. The State is divided into 690 townships, each of which was supplied with a library containing 321 volumes, making the aggregate 221,490 volumes. The cost of each library, exclusive of the expense of transportation and distribution, was \$213, and the aggregate cost of the whole of the books \$147,222. Precisely the same books were sent to each township of the State, consequently 690 copies of each of the 321 volumes were purchased and distributed, not through ordinary booksellers, but by the State Superintendent, who proceeded to New York and purchased all the books from six booksellers.

The liberality of the Indiana (as well as the Ohio) Legislature in providing funds for the establishment of public libraries, cannot be too highly applauded, nor the zeal of the State Superintendent in giving effect to that liberality, be too much admired; but it is questionable whether such purchases, and so general a report of the expenditure of so large a sum of money, would be deemed quite satisfactory in Canada, any more than the sole agency of the State Superintendent in distributing as well as selecting and purchasing the books for the libraries. It is also questionable whether the counties, townships, cities and towns

## LIBRARY WARNING FROM NEW YORK STATE.

### AMERICAN TESTIMONY IN FAVOUR OF THE UPPER CANADA SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

From a recent Report to the Canadian Legislature on Public Libraries in Upper Canada, and other matters, by the Chief Superintendent of Education, we make the following important and significant extracts. We commend them especially to the attention of enlightened Local Superintendents, School Trustees, and all others interested in the establishment and maintenance of public libraries in Upper Canada. The Chief Superintendent, after noticing the steps taken in Upper Canada to promote public libraries, thus refers to what has been done to accomplish the same object in the States of Ohio, Indiana, New York, and Rhode Island. The example of New York may justly be cited as a warning to Upper Canada:

*State of Ohio.*—"I will now advert briefly to what has been done in the neighboring States on this subject. By the Common School Act of the State of Ohio, which went into operation in 1854, the tenth of a mill on the valuation of property throughout the whole State was to be annually appropriated for the purchase of books and apparatus. That tax amounted the first year to eighty thousand dollars. Besides expending \$15,834.49 in the purchasing and distribution of school apparatus, the State Commissioner of Schools, in his annual report for 1855, makes the following statement in respect to the libraries:—"The subject of School District Libraries was fully discussed in the last annual report of the undersigned, and catalogue of