

again in 1878, disappeared from the scene within three months of its receiving the second \$400, the whole effects of the Institute being sold by auction without the authorities knowing of the circumstance, or being able to ascertain the reason of the unaccountable disappearance of the Institute and its effects. Again, other Institutes continue to draw their \$400 a year from the Government, on the pledge that at least half of that sum would be raised by local effort, but which never becomes a reality. Berlin is an instance in point; claiming and receiving annually the full amount of the grant, while its membership fees for the last year were only \$29. This is not only dishonest, but manifestly unfair to other Institutes which not only raise the amount the law requires, but in many instances treble the sum by a local levy. The case of Woodstock makes this apparent by contrast. While this Institute draws from the Provincial Treasury the same sum as Berlin, it raises \$440 from members' fees, and has a membership of 256. In like case to Berlin, Alliston draws \$400 from the public chest, with but \$27 derived from members' fees. Similarly, Alexandria drew \$200, with a membership represented by \$15 from fees. These, and other violations of the law we could mention, call for a more rigorous inspection than seems hitherto to have been undertaken. The Minister of Education will, no doubt, see to this, and it would be well if he could devise some other plan than the existing one upon which the grant is based and apportioned. The system familiar to the Department, in connection with the School grants—payment by results—would here seem appropriate, and some rule should be laid down as to the proportionate expenditure by the Institutes on the Library, the Reading Room, and the Evening Classes, before the grant can be drawn. A rigorous audit by the Public School Inspectors should also be enforced, that the public money may not be squandered or diverted to purposes inconsistent with the objects of the Act. In the Institute accounts for reading-room expenditure we note what seems either curious book-keeping, or in-

stances of glaringly false returns. Penetanguishene, for instance, returns \$100 as having been spent upon the reading room, while all it is supplied with are 3 newspapers and 8 magazines. Peterboro', on the other hand, for less money had 19 newspapers and 17 magazines. Instances occur, also, of irregularities in connection with the library disbursements and of what looks like general juggling in the preparation of the accounts. There is evidence in the Report, also, that the Government grants, in some instances, are not expended in the year for which the money has been appropriated and drawn. The character of the books purchased, moreover, is not always in accordance with the conditions on which the grant is given. Other facts come to light in the Report which are not assuring to those who wish well to the institutions, and desire the continuance of the Government appropriations. If municipal honesty were in better repute, we would rather see the Institutes drop their inappropriate title and become Public Libraries, supported by municipal assessment, and free to the people. Some day, when the public mind sickens of party politics, we may see this realized. Meantime, let us profit by the disclosures of this "Special Report," and incite the Institutes to more active and honest work.

THE SCHOOL MAP TRADE.

AT intervals within the last twenty years we have contended that, once the doors of the Education Depository were closed, and Government relinquished its amateur trading operations, an impetus would be given to legitimate business enterprise in catering for the wants of the schools, that would not only convince the sceptical but astonish those who shared the opinion. With what correctness we premised what would follow the abolition of the Depository, now a *fait accompli*, a reference to our advertising pages, in the matter of Educational Map Manufacture, will indicate. The practical embargo upon manufacture being removed, and the trade thrown open to competition, we already see