

lishing houses. They seem to regard it as a great evil that they cannot divert this sacred fund from its appropriate channel. Almost daily applications are made to the State Superintendent for permission to apply the library money to the payment of teachers' wages, and that, too, when the section is destitute of many useful items of apparatus; sometimes even of a globe and blackboard."

#### 4. STEPS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR ONTARIO TO SUPPLY OUR SCHOOLS WITH CHEAP AND USEFUL BOOKS, MAPS AND APPARATUS, &c.

It now remains for us to state what are the steps which have been taken by the Ontario Department to supply the schools with prize and library books, maps and apparatus. In 1850 and 1851, the Chief Superintendent of Education went to England and the United States, and made special and advantageous arrangements with publishers there to furnish the Department with such books, etc., as might be required, at the lowest rates. These arrangements have been revised from time to time. The last revision was made in 1867, when the Deputy Superintendent was authorized to proceed to England to confer with the leading publishers personally on the subject, which he did, and made arrangements with about fifty (47) publishers. From his Report to the Chief Superintendent on the result of his mission, we make the following extracts. He says: "Upon enquiry, I found that none of our old publishers were disposed to offer better terms than I had been enabled to make with them some years ago. The new publishers, too, were as little disposed as the old ones to offer more than the usual trade terms to exporters. With several of the publishers I had some little difficulty, when I first called, to induce them to modify their terms. They alleged that they had already given us their best export terms for cash. After sundry conferences and explanations, they were at length induced, with two or three exceptions, to agree to an additional discount for cash of 2½, 5, 7½ or 10 per cent. (as the case might be) over and above their former rates of discount to the Department. Five per cent. was the average additional discount which I was thus enabled to secure for the Department, together with the advantage, in most cases, as heretofore, of the odd books, viz. :—7 as 6½, 13 as 12, or 25 as 24. This additional discount will be quite sufficient to pay the customs duty which has recently been imposed upon books coming into the Province, and thus enable the Department to supply the schools with a very greatly increased variety of books at the old rates, viz. :—on an average currency for sterling prices (*i.e.*, 20 cents for the shilling sterling)."

These arrangements for the purchase of books, &c., having been explained to the Committee of the House of Assembly, appointed to inquire into the matter, together with the terms on which the books are supplied to the schools, the Committee reported to the House upon the facts as follows:—

"Your Committee have also made a thorough investigation of the Depository department, and find that the existing arrangements for purchasing stock are *satisfactory, and well fitted for securing the same on the most favourable terms. The mode of disposing of the books is equally satisfactory.*"

#### 5. ROUTINE IN THE DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO THE EDUCATIONAL DEPOSITORY.

From the Report of the Committee of the House of Assembly, and from the Memorandum of the Deputy Superintendent laid before the House of Assembly in 1869, with the Chief Superintendent's Return on the subject, we select the following passages relating to the routine observed in the management of the Depository:—

The Committee on the House of Assembly reports as follows:—

"Your Committee find that the system adopted by the Department is of so thorough and complete a character, that no funds can by any possibility be received without being checked by proper officers, whose several duties require them to make entries in various books, through which every item can readily be traced.

"They find that all moneys received by the Department are regularly deposited to the credit of the Government, with the exceptions of moneys intended to be disbursed in the purchase of articles outside of the institution [Trustees' School Seals merely], and that all expenditures are made by cheque, properly countersigned by the different heads of the department to which they respectively belong.

"They find that a perfect system of registration of every communication received by the Department is maintained, by means of which the several officers, to whose department the communication has reference, are immediately apprized of the contents, and answers are promptly returned to the same.

"Your Committee find that the amount yearly received by the Department from the Municipalities for books, maps, &c., is very

considerable, amounting in 1868 to \$20,004.30, which sum is paid directly into the Public Treasury, and should be regarded as an offset against the amount granted the Department."

2. The memorandum of the Deputy Superintendent states that all orders for England or the United States for Books and requisites, are prepared by him for approval by the Chief Superintendent. Requisitions for articles to be manufactured in the city are supervised by him for approval by the Chief, before having them submitted to tender by the Clerk of Libraries. [Requisitions to the Stationery Office, and all orders for printing to the Queen's Printer from the Department and Normal School, are made in the same manner.]

All contracts, agreements, bills, and invoices are examined, and payment recommended by the Deputy. Bills for articles despatched are compared with the sales paper, and approved by him before being sent off by post.

The selling prices of all library and prize books, and all other school requisites received from England or elsewhere, are, under the general scale approved by the Chief Superintendent, determined by the Deputy for the Clerk of Libraries, before their being marked and put away in their places.

The selection of books for local school libraries and prizes, after revision by the Clerk of Libraries, is examined and approved by the Deputy Superintendent before despatch. The object of this additional supervision is to see that the style, character, and number of the books selected, are in accordance with the order and wishes of the Municipal Council, or High, Public, or Separate School Trustees sending the remittance. This care is the more necessary in cases—now becoming more numerous every year—when parties leave the selection of library and prize books entirely to the Department. In such cases, regard is had to the condition of the school, the number and ages of the scholars, the character of the neighbourhood, whether old or new settlement, and the attainments of the pupils, the nature of the population, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, or mixed nationality—whether Irish, Scotch, or German, &c., or any other peculiarity suggested by the parties sending the order, or incident to the case.

NOTE.—Great care is taken to prevent the occurrence of mistakes in the Depository, and hitherto with very gratifying success. As a matter of routine, each clerk having anything to do with an order affixes his initials to it, indicating that part of it for which he is responsible. Thus in case of complaint, which rarely occurs, any neglect or omission is readily traced. In a year's transactions, involving the sending out of from \$35,000 to \$40,000 worth of material to the schools, not more than from six to eight such cases occur. When they do, the case is fully enquired into, and every explanation given. In most instances, it has been found that the fault or oversight has been with the parties themselves.

#### 6. OPINIONS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND OTHERS AS TO THE BOOKS AND REQUISITES SENT OUT.

As to the satisfaction felt by the School Trustees and others, to whom these requisites were sent, we make the following extracts from letters received at the Department, viz. :—

*Lindsay.*—"Please accept my best thanks for the choice selection you have made me for our Library. Also, for the beautiful township prize. Everyone is delighted with it. We have enquired at some book stores as to the price of our library books, and find your terms such as you state them to be. The best thing Dr. Ryerson can do, is to publish his prices with those of the booksellers. It will be the best possible advertisement. What I have seen stated somewhere, is perfectly true as to the advantage to booksellers derived from your establishment. The more libraries established through the country, the greater the taste for reading, and the larger the trade to gratify that taste. '*L'appetit vient en mangeant,*' is as true of reading as of eating."

*Hullett.*—"The books you sent us last year gave satisfaction."

*Euphemia.*—"Your selection of prize books, last December, was very suitable."

*Emily.*—"The prizes sent gave the greatest satisfaction, and we hope to send for similar favours once or twice a year."

*Raleigh.*—"We got a No. 1 package of prize books last year, which was very satisfactory."

*Osborne Township.*—"The books (\$40 worth) which we received last year from the Department, for a township competitive examination, gave entire satisfaction, and the Council begs you will make the selection for this year also of \$80 worth."

*Blanford.*—"You made a selection for us last year, and the selection suited us very well. Will you have the kindness to make one again?"

*Pakenham Township.*—"Permit me to thank you for your cour-