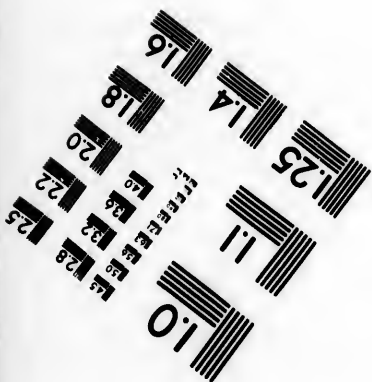
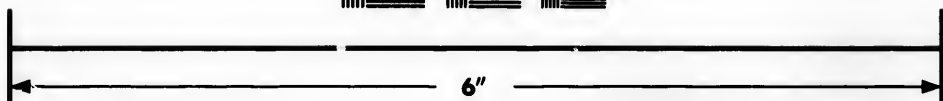
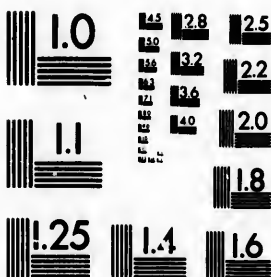


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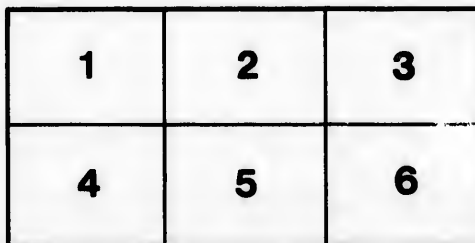
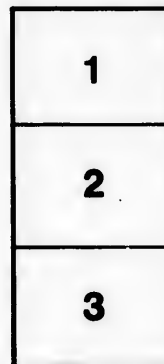
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## A.

STATEMENT, supplementary and explanatory, in connection with the Petition of trade of the Superintendent of Education through his mode of working the that Establishment and of the Department, the details of the stock kept in it, it until the rise of the present agitation.

## I. Sales in the Map, Chart, Globe Apparatus, School, Text

School books and text books.	Page of Catalogue.	Parties supplied.		Parties supplied.	
		Teachers and Local Superintendents.	Common schools.	Grammar schools.	Universities.
1. Atlases.....	22, 23, 24, 25.	Supplied with the whole column if "they relate to the duties of their profession."	Supplied with anything they may use.	Supplied with anything they may use.	Supplied with anything they may use.
2. Geographies and History....	25 and 26.				
3. Common school text books...	40.				
4. Grammar school text books..	41 to 44.				
5. Classical text books of reference, mathematics, &c.....	44 to 53.				
6. Works of Reference for teachers, and text books authorized by the University of Toronto.	54 to 56.				
7. Drawing books, materials and models.....	102 to 106.				
8. Writing books and requisites.	100 and 101.				
9. Vocal music.....	99.				
10. Maps.....	9 to 16.				
Globes.....	16 to 21.				
11. Scripture illustrations, historical and chronological charts.....	25 to 28.				
12. Maps of physical geography, object lessons of ditto, &c., &c., (head xv.).....	29 to 31.				
13. Geological maps, charts, and diagrams.....	31 to 33.				
Astronomical ditto, &c.....	33 to 40.				
Chemistry charts and apparatus.....	67 to 70.				
Natural philosophy do do....	71 to 88.				
School apparatus.....	90 to 92.				
Tables and reading lessons....	96 to 99.				
14. Text books on natural philosophy.....	89.				
15. Prize books.....	Separate catalogue.				

Toronto, 7th June, 1858.

fifty-one Booksellers of Canada West against the alleged interference with their Educational Depository, shewing in detail from the catalogues and documents of and the parties who are supplied by it at this time, or who have been supplied by

Book, &c., Department.		Public Library Scheme.	
Any Educational Institutions aided by public money.	Colleges, Private Schools, &c.	Public Library scheme—Parties supplied.	
Supplied with anything they may use.	Until very recently the following rule has been in force, (Preface to map &c, catalogue) "Colleges and private schools will be supplied with any of the articles mentioned in the catalogue at the prices stated." Single parties have also been supplied, if in connection with any Educational Institution of any kind, but this also is now said to be discontinued for a short time back; that it has been done heretofore is, however, a proof that the way is open to its being recommenced if it be thought proper by the Superintendent at any time that it should be so.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Common schools.....</li> <li>2. Grammar schools.....</li> <li>3. Municipal libraries—Report 1852, 193...</li> <li>4. Mechanics' Institutes—Special Report, 70</li> <li>5. Any public institution aided by public money—Special Report, 73.....</li> <li>6. Sabbath schools—Report 1855, table M, page 184.....</li> </ol>	<p>With 100 per cent., grant free.</p> <p>do</p> <p>do</p> <p>At catalogue prices.</p> <p>d,</p> <p>d,</p>

A bonus of 100 per cent has been given to all purchasers of maps and apparatus for grammar and common schools since 1855. They are supplied to others at the catalogue prices.

JOHN C. GEIKIE,  
Secretary Booksellers' Association of Canada.

## B

**STATEMENT of the objections of the Petitioning Booksellers to the Educational Depository, as now carried on by the Superintendent of Education.**

TORONTO, 5th June, 1858.

It is admitted on both sides that the Depository has a certain extent of direct legal authority for its operations, and no less so that it does not confine itself to the letter of the statute. In vindication of departures from the Acts under which it exists at all, the Superintendent urges that the general permission of the Act of 1855, to provide "Maps, apparatus and Libraries for the Common and Grammar Schools"\* involves the principle that he is at liberty to supply Text and School Books not only to Grammar Schools, but even to Universities and all † "Institutions aided by the public money," though they are not even mentioned in the Act, and though the law of 1850, (which is his only other authority,) allows him to provide only for the Schools then in existence—namely, Common Schools. He urges further that it involves the principle that he is at liberty to supply Mechanics' Institutes and other "bodies aided by public money" with Libraries.

In 1850 they authorized the establishment of "school libraries," which in 1855, in a supplementary act, they defined as meaning "libraries in connection with the Grammar and Common Schools of Upper Canada." Yet he supplies any and every library that wishes to buy from him—from those of Sabbath Schools to those of Mechanics' Institutes. As to "maps and apparatus" he is allowed by law to supply them, in the same way, to Grammar and Common Schools, and no others, and £2,500 are granted to get and keep up a stock.

Report 1855, Table M.

Law of 1855, quoted and referred to above.

To this we answer that the words of the Act are express, and we claim from Government protection from the arbitrary encroachments of any one using the public purse where he has no authority for them. If one step be allowed there is no limit short of the proscription of our trade, if it please the Superintendent to go so far. That there is reason to fear such an aggravation of the evils of which we complain, is shewn by the fact that Dr. Ryerson has stated that he intended getting a bonus for Mechanics' Institutes, &c., on all purchases made from him, as is now the case with School Libraries, which get a free gift of 100 per cent. on the amount they buy. This would give the last blow to our supplying any such libraries.

It is urged that these practices have been allowed to grow up unchecked, though made known through the official Reports, and that this is tantamount to their sanction.

Precisely the same ground is taken by the Hudson's Bay Company: with what amount of general acceptance is well known.

Proof that Text Books are not designed by the Act to be supplied by the Depository is seen in the fact that there is no grant made for their purchase. They are bought with money deducted from other Special Funds.

Further proof that School and Text Books generally are not provided for by law, is shewn in the fact that they are never accounted for in the yearly balances unless under the head of "Public Libraries, Maps and Apparatus."

The sale of Libraries to general Public Bodies has not even such a *quasi* claim to legality, the fact that they are supplied being noticed only obscurely in the end of Tables of the general Reports, so far as I have seen.

But, waiving this point of legality, which, yet, we think of vital importance to be regarded in all Departments, if abuses of all kinds are to be avoided, I would notice the further statement by Dr. Ryerson of the principle on which he thinks

\* Act 1855, 18th Vic, cap. 132, 3rd and 4th special grant.

† Mr. Hodgins' statement.

himself justified in going beyond the letter of the law. It is thus expressed by himself (Report, 1854, page 10,)—"If it be the duty of the Legislature to promote the education of the people by the establishment of public Schools, it is equally its duty to provide all possible facilities and means for supplying these schools with the maps, apparatus and libraries, which render them most instrumental in educating and instructing the people."

It is to be specially remarked that School and Text Books are not mentioned. No shadow of reason could have been shewn for supplying them, and yet they are supplied. It cannot for a moment be said that the Trade could not meet all the demand for this branch of the sales of the Depository.

There are two errors in the argument—

1st. There is taken for granted what is the very thing to be proved, that a Government Depository is the best means of supplying the public with the things mentioned. This we shall hereafter examine.

2nd. It is a fallacy to draw a general conclusion from a limited premise. Government interferes with private enterprise in any case only so far as it cannot be avoided. It builds highways, but the people provide their own vehicles: it manages the Post Office, but the ordinary public conveyances are employed so far as they are available. Government interferes with Education to meet claimant public wants which private enterprise is inadequate to satisfy. Necessity is the sole ground of such interference with any branch of private industry, or use of private capital:—the whole people in such a case combining (through Government, which is their acting committee,) to do what isolated effort fails to effect. The necessity which creates Government interference, limits it. The details of the School system are, therefore, only so far within the sphere of Government action as is necessary. It is not necessary that School Houses be built here by Government, though they are essential to Education—therefore they are not built. It is not necessary that School furniture be bought by Government—therefore Government does not meddle with it, though it is essential to education. And so on. In England the class provided with Education by the Privy Council Committee are such as need the State to provide both, and therefore they are provided.

The fact that it is not necessary here to provide such costly elements of education, or accessories to it, is, *à fortiori*, a mighty proof that Government provision of School and Text Books, which are a much less costly item, is unnecessary.

We assume it as certain that if we can supply them as well as the Depository—that is so as to meet the demand, we have no right to be interfered with.

That the saving on them effected by the Depository, does not bring them within the limits of things necessary to be furnished by the inability of the people to pay for them needs no proof.

In any case of poverty, we think there ought to be a gift of books, &c., if necessary, not a sale of them at a trifling reduction.

That the State does not need to provide School Houses or Furniture for the Schools we take as a proof that necessity cannot be urged on the ground of inability of the people to procure for themselves the maps, apparatus, and the other articles sold by the Depository, as enumerated in the table prefixed to this statement, for themselves.

We believe that necessity can no more be urged on the ground of the inability of the Trade to supply the country with them.

We are perfectly ready to acknowledge that the sale of such things has done good, but we urge that the Trade can, now, at least, if not in earlier days, supply all wants of the Schools without the intervention of the Depository.

The details on which we rest our claims we beg to submit at length. Assuming, in the meanwhile that it is a mere verbal fallacy, which I believe it is, to say, that if



Government ought to provide a system of Education because it is necessary it should, it therefore ought to provide accessories to Education for which such provision is unnecessary, the general assent that monopolies are wrong, tells with full force against the depository. As no one attempts to justify them, except on the ground of necessity, I shall only quote a single authority in defence of the freedom of the Book trade especially. It may be seen by it how carefully even the officers of the Education Committee guard against any unnecessary encroachment on private trade in Britain. "It is essential," says Sir James Kay Shuttleworth, "that the Government should avoid every form of interference which could discourage individual enterprise, the freedom of opinion, and the natural action of literature on the popular intelligence and taste, or of the trade in books in their production and diffusion. The Government is not an author, a holder of copyrights, a publisher of books, nor a patron of methods; much less is it to interfere in the formation of opinion by making Schools the organ of its own doctrines."

"I concur with the great publishing houses of London in their objections to any sales of the books of the Irish Commissioners in Great Britain, except through the ordinary channels of trade."

I refer the Committee further to the spirit in which the communications of Messrs. Longman and Murray are met by Lord John Russell, and others connected with the matter, as shewn in the minutes of the Irish National School Commissioners for 1851. There could be no more jealous care of private interests desired than they exhibit. The rights of citizenship and commerce are frankly acknowledged to be inviolable, except where imperative public necessity demand their infringement.

Dividing the general subject of the Depository into parts, the first to be considered is the supply by it of School and Text Books.

#### 1st. SCHOOL AND TEXT BOOKS.

In vindication of the immense stock of School and Text Books in the Depository, all the authority that can be pleaded is hidden in a clause of the Act of 1850, which reads thus:—"That it shall be the duty of the Chief Superintendent to take the general superintendence of the Normal School, and to use his best endeavors to provide for and recommend the use of uniform and approved Text Books in the Schools generally."† This authority extends, of course, only over the Schools then in being, which were simply the Common Schools mentioned in the Act, the present Grammar Schools not being then established. In the Act of 1853, by which the Grammar Schools were established, there is no hint of such an authority. The necessity for even this provision for Common School Books is now confessedly removed by their supply being left to the Trade, which publishes and sells them so cheap that the sale of them by the Depository has, to a large extent, been abandoned. May not this fact be accepted as an earnest of what would follow were the whole trade free?

2nd. The kinds kept are very numerous, the mere list of their titles filling in all nearly 25 pages. There are no less than eight editions of Virgil, seven of Horace, seven of Homer, and a like profusion of the other classics, with French, Mathematical, and general Text Books in profusion. The trade keeps all that are in use of the same books, with others on which the Depository has not as yet seized. They are essentially the books for a liberal education, and such as, in every country, it is the province of the trade to supply. Here, however, it is sought to supersede its agency and to supply even the highest seminaries through the public purse. The Depository claims the right of selling the books they use to all institutions aided by the public money, which means to Grammar Schools, to the Uni-

\* Public Education in England, iv, 293, 282, 295.

† Act 1850. ix. 7.

iversity, to Colleges, and I know not to what establishments besides. Hitherto, even individual students, and others not in connection with any seminary whatever, have been allowed to buy from it, but this has at last, we are told, been discontinued. Even Private Schools are invited in the preface of the catalogue to buy from the Depository, but, as it is now declared that this practice also is discontinued, we need only ask that a prohibition be made against its re-commencement at any future time, coupling with it that of selling to individual students or others.

In passing, we would notice the exceptions still made. It is said, that if parties from Private Schools, and other seminaries, say that any particular thing is not in town, the Depository will continue to supply it to them.

To guard against continual liability to abuse, we would ask that Booksellers be permitted to buy for cash from the Depository when they for a time run out, and that no such exceptional sales by it be allowed. I have, even in my own case, met with proof that parties get books from the Depository on the supposition that they are not in town, when they are. It is to be remembered, moreover, that the Depository itself not unfrequently runs short in its supplies.

4th. The supply of Grammar Schools with Text Books on the ground that it keeps up a uniformity of books, is not necessary, because we are quite willing to supply the kinds prescribed.

5th. It is not necessary, on account of the quantity of the books to be supplied, as if it were very great. The display of titles in the Depository Catalogue may be curious, but the aggregate sales are by no means so wonderful. The fact that only 257 boys in all Canada, at the writing of the last Report, were as far on even as the Greek rudiments, settles the point. No one can maintain that the Booksellers of Canada could not or would not keep 257 boys in Greek rudiments. Altogether, only 3,400 boys attended all the Grammar Schools of the Province in 1856, including even the lowest branches taught in them. Will any one say we could not keep the satchels of such a limited squad of urchins replenished? Only try us!\*

6. The benefits of the Depository sales are not received, at least in many cases, by the pupils, but by the Teacher, who charges full price for his purchases. I have myself offered a Teacher some Text Books at Depository prices if he would sell them at what they cost him, but he declined. On the 29th March last I had a conversation with another Teacher who openly condemned the whole scheme and readily acknowledged that he would never think of selling the books he bought from Dr. Ryerson for less than the Bookseller's price. The people were well enough able, he thought, to pay the trifle to which their full price amounted.

7th. Will any one say that those who use such Text Books can really require the trifling saving effected by buying from the Depository, supposing it reach them? If poor, the books are still much too high; if well-to-do it is only right that they pay the fair market value for their children's books.

8th. The supply of such books by the Depository is a great hindrance to the spread of the Book trade in the seats of the Grammar Schools, or other Seminaries, if in rural districts. As the nucleus of a trade the sales to such schools would be the beginning of a general business, or would strengthen it greatly if already begun. Any country Bookseller could testify how much it has hurt him. But there can be no need of proof, the fact stands self-evident as a necessary result.

9th. Even if the question of price be an element in the question the reduction is only apparent, and it is a question whether the general cost of the Depository

\* Report, 1856.

do not more than make up for it. I submit the following sample from my own books.

Mr. McCabe, Whitby Grammar School.

To John Geikie, Dr.

1858.

May 4, To 3 Anthon's Cæsar,.....	\$3 00	Depository price.	\$2 64
2 " Latin Dictionary	4 00	" "	3 30
1 Johnston's Classical Atlas	3 00	" "	2 50
	<u>\$10 00</u>	Cash,	<u>\$8 44</u>
Less 10 per cent.	1 00	Difference,	56
	<u>\$9 00</u>		<u>\$9 00</u>

Three months' credit, possibly 6 months.' \$9 00  
56c. off \$10 is only a fraction over five per cent.

If security be wanted that Booksellers will keep the books required, they will one and all give their testimony for it, and self-interest will add itself as a guarantee. As it is, they keep even now all that are sold to any extent. Is it worth while to maintain a costly establishment for five per cent. against retailers?

10th. But we claim that price has nothing to do with the question, unless it be maintained that the people are so poor that it is necessary to give them the one article of books out of all their purchases at a reduced price. We claim the right to free trade except where necessity comes in. To raise the wretched we are ready to give books as cheap as the Depository, and cheaper if needs be, but we maintain that Dr. Ryerson has no right to undersell us to purchasers who are able to pay the trifling profit by which among other items we live.

11th. One case may serve as an example of the injustice of the whole. According to the present rule, the Model Grammar School here will be supplied by the Depository. It cannot be pretended that we could not supply it as steadily and well as the Depository could, and surely the taxes we pay for it, in common with other citizens, are contribution enough, without forcing us to give in addition our profits on the books required. Let the poor children have their books free, if necessary, but why take a few pence on the purchase of each pupil attending, from our pockets when there is no necessity for it?

The case of Toronto in this instance is identical with that of all other towns where grammar schools are established. Except in a rare and likely partial case, nearly all seem supplied from the Normal School.

It is, in our view, a fatal objection to what has at best a *quasi* legality,—(we say it has not even that),—that there is not the like in any other country in the world. That it exists here can have risen only from the fact that though there is no grant made to him for them, Dr. Ryerson, of his own authority, bought these school and text books, and now keeps them.

Britain knows no such system. In answer to an application from a school, not expressly for the poor, the Secretary of the Privy Council Committee on Education writes as follows:—(Minutes of Council, 1850, page 78.)—"Their lordships' administration of the Parliamentary grant (in whatever form of assistance it may be applied) is confined to those schools only in which the principal object of the promoters is to educate the children of the laboring and other poorer classes. The minute of the 18th of December, 1847, (insinuating the system) is therefore inapplicable to middle or superior schools." To have quoted this would have saved Dr. Ryerson whole pages, shall I say, of mystification. It settles the merit of the comparison of the two schemes. Britain aids poverty, and is right in doing so; aids poverty, such as, thank God, is only, with us, a terrible memory of our fatherland and has no counterpart here. Dr. Ryerson

son aids competence and even wealth: takes from a struggling tradesman to give to a rich proprietor. Let there be grants for the poor and no one will object: but let there be no attempt at a parallel between supplying schools of every grade, public and private alike, as Dr. Ryerson has hitherto done, and the charitable bounty of England to the humble children of labor and sorrow.\*

In the face of these words of the Secretary himself, Dr. Ryerson tells us that the grants are made "without reference to the rank or condition of the pupils!" †

As overwhelming proof of the total difference between the system in England and that of the Depository, I further refer to the Schedule of the Privy Council Committee, containing a list of all their books, maps, &c. &c.

A sample copy of all the books on their lordships' lists amounts to £101 4s. sterling (\$506), and they have no money sunk in Depositories: a sample of all the items in Dr. Ryerson's Library Catalogue alone, on the average of 35 pages, from its two parts, amounts to \$5,867; and he is presumed to keep stock of the whole, not to speak of stock of the contents of a School Book, Map, and Apparatus Catalogue, of 98 pages, which he keeps in addition.

In England books are supplied by Government only for "the elementary instruction of children at school." What "the elementary instruction" of the children of the "laboring classes" of Britain is, and what the books it requires, we all know. None are to be found on their lordships' lists beyond this scope and character. Here, the Depository professes to keep no "elementary books" at all; but it does keep those for all other branches except the elementary. It begins where England ends. There, an obscure corner is taken from the trade: here, the corner is left, and the whole of the field is taken instead.

In England so thoroughly is the system an aid to the extreme poor only, that it is deemed necessary formally to recommend that "the scholars be encouraged to purchase the school books used in their school for themselves, and be allowed to take to their houses, under proper regulations, the books which belong to the school.

In England, books, maps, and diagrams can be applied for only once a year. From Dr. Ryerson they can be had at any time. There, books are for the school: here, for the scholar. There, the scholar cannot afford them even at the reduced price, so that he has, as a rule, in the schools helped, only the use of a book. Here, there is no pretence to reduce the Common School books to anything like the English prices. The parent who can give his child only an elementary education buys his books from the shops, while he who can give his son a Greek and Latin education, and is therefore in almost every case comparatively well to do, finds a great Depository provided to save him a few pence on Aristotle or Tacitus, if the pence in any case ever get beyond the teacher to the youth.

In England even the reduced prices are not low enough, so that a free grant of 50 per cent. is given once in three years on purchases whether of books or other things; it being required that in such cases the reduced prices shall be still further reduced in the same proportion as the grant bears to the total cost.

In Canada no grant for school books is ever made.

Of Ireland, the same facts hold good. The idea there is the same,—to raise the poor and him that hath no helper. There needs no other proof be cited than

\* See also Sir James K. Shuttleworth's book, *everywhere*.

† *Colonist*, 22nd March, 1858.

the prices of a few books in their list. I shall quote some samples. National Educational Report, 1851, page 42:—

Price of Book,	To National School.		To Poor Scholar.		Publishers' Price.	
	£0	3 3	£0	6 6	£0	12 0
"	0	0 11	0	1 10	0	3 6
"	0	0 6	0	1 0	0	2 6
"	0	0 8	0	1 4	0	3 0
"	0	1 0	0	0 0	0	5 0

The whole list, I may say, would make only a leaf or two of Dr. Ryerson's Catalogues.\*

Of the practice in reference to School and Text Books in the United States, Dr. Ryerson says (*Globe*, March 26, 1858): "In nearly every city and town in the neighboring States, (and some in Canada,) each board of education has its own school apparatus and book depository (furnished from abroad and at home at its pleasure,) from which it not only furnishes its schools, but the individual pupils, who are not left to go to individual booksellers to purchase the books recommended by the public school authorities, but can procure them at reduced prices at the Trustee Board's public depository. The same principle is acted upon in regard to the public school libraries."

On seeing this I wrote to various cities and towns asking if this were really correct, as I saw no traces of it or of anything like it in the reports of the various superintendents. In reply I received the following communications.

From Messrs. Phinney & Co., Buffalo, the largest firm in that city: "Parents purchase books for their children of regular booksellers or of their teachers, who sometimes keep them for sale (as here). The city pays for books used by indigent scholars, but the amount is small. We are not aware that school committees keep books for sale at reduced prices. If they do, parents must pay with private means." The firm who write, sold, last year, 200,000 of one school book, and this is their testimony from a point from which they overlook the great State of New York.

From Messrs. Gould & Lincoln, Boston, Massachusetts: "There is no provision made by the authorities to furnish books to the schools, the people generally obtaining them at the stores as they may require. In some cases books are furnished by teachers, but not at a reduced rate. In our city (Boston) there is a provision made whereby books are furnished gratis to such as are unable to purchase. There is no Depository in the State, of the nature you mention."

H. E. Sawyer, Esq., Education Office, Concord, New Hampshire: "There are no arrangements for the supply of books at the public expense. Text books are furnished by parents or guardians, save in cases of indigence."

John Kingsburn, Esquire, Providence, R. I.: "In most, if not all, of the towns the sale is through regular booksellers, from whom parents buy as they have need. In case of indigence, in some of the towns, and more especially the cities, children are supplied gratuitously. There is no Depository, neither is there any public or private fund by which books can be provided for scholars."

Messrs. D. B. Cooke & Co., Chicago, Illinois: "Books are not furnished to scholars in our public schools by the State at all. It is sometimes customary for the Board of Education to give to such as cannot pay, their books for nothing."

Connecticut, in like manner, disclaimed having any depository like ours; as also did Maine and others.

In Brooklyn, alone, was the one solitary example found of what Dr. Ryerson had said is the rule in "nearly every city and town of the neighboring States,"

\* I beg to refer the Committee, for the fullest further information, to the Twenty-Second Report of the Commissioner of National Education in Ireland, Parly. Papers, 1856. Vol. 27. Part I. Page 78.

Thus the scheme finds no support from England, Ireland, or America, and exists in no country save Canada.

What is thus everywhere prohibited, or felt unnecessary, or abstained from as unjust, cannot surely find a justification in our rich Province.

The objections to the sale of Grammar School Text-Books apply with equal and even greater force, in every particular, to the sale of University Text-Books, Classical Texts, and such like.

There can be no necessity alleged for supplying them; and yet, since they are kept, they must be so to supply those connected with such institutions, or following their studies. But is a public officer, confessedly without a word of a statute authorizing him to do so, to encroach on whatever department of our trade he likes, as if we had not a sacred claim for protection in our capital and enterprize where imperative public necessities do not require interference? I leave it to the justice of the Committee.

That many books, &c., have been sold in the past to some of the Professors and students of different colleges in the Province, and even to others who are not connected with any such institutions admits of no doubt. Is the practice to be continued in any measure? If the books be kept they must be kept to sell, and if sold, they must be so to individuals, as colleges do not often purchase Text Books in their corporate capacity. The only security against abuse is the prohibition of such stock being kept at all.

The objections to Grammar School Books being sold by the Depository must be felt to weigh equally heavy on the supply of the materials for drawing and writing, and the countless *et ceteras* of the catalogue. What amount of saving can be effected on such trifles? In the gross they come to an item in our sales, but how much can be the saving of each well-to-do yeoman's son who uses them? Let them be free to the poor, but let the rich pay the proper value for them.

The list of them kept at the Depository fills seven pages, and includes copy books, steel pens, slates, drawing books and paper, pencils, mathematical instruments, &c., &c. Why in a country like this should Government set up a business in steel pens?

#### PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

We are free to admit, as free as Dr. Ryerson would have us, that good has been done by the sales of libraries by the Depository. There is no question of it—many thousand volumes could not have been scattered without public benefit resulting.

At the same time it is a legitimate enquiry whether the same good could not, at least now, be done without invading the province of private trade, and to the avoidance of various evils connected with the present system.

England has no such system of libraries.

The meagre list supplied by the Privy Council Committee, made up of elementary English school books, and some books of reference for "Masters and pupil Teachers" of the humble schools, which are there the objects of Government aid, is ample proof of the fact. It is all they furnish, and though a copy of some of the strictly educational volumes it contains is sometimes spoken of as a library, it is as a "specimen library," the use of which "is intended to be that of seeing what any particular work is, and not that of employing it in private study." (Minutes, 1852; page 64.)

To turn to the States gives no ground for the plan that has been adopted among us. Let there be libraries in every school; but why should there be an expensive depository permanently maintained to supply them when there is not such a thing in England or America besides. Where is there a Catalogue of Library Books like ours? Each state differs from the other, and in only two, so far as I

have been able to discover, is there even an approximation to our plan. In the one of these the prices charged for the books is said to be higher even than those charged by Dr. Ryerson, which is condemnation enough, and in the other, the people in 1856 required the tax by which the system was maintained to be suspended. (Ohio Report, 1856, page 36.)

But why need we copy two out of the thirty-two States which more or less differ from them?

One objection among others to the present system in Canada is the hugeness of the list of books of which stock is kept, locking up as it does a large sum of the public money for a country like this and involving the presence of very many works either superfluous or trifling, or of indifferent worth, or too dull and professional for "Common and Grammar School Libraries," even though they be designed for "general reading."

I submit examples from different pages of the books, which the huge size of the present catalogue—231 pages—lands on the shelves of a school section library.

	Page.
Morfit's Perfumery .....	231
Kenten on Soaps.....	231
Morfit's Soap and Candles.....	231
Mortimer's Pyrotechnist's Companion.....	230
Reid's Watch and Clock Making, \$4.....	226
Overman's Manufacture of Iron, \$4.....	226
Neville's Hydraulic Formulæ, \$1.95.....	221
The Coin Collector's Manual, \$2.....	220
Condie on the Diseases of Children, (a Scientific Treatise for Medical Men), \$2.35.....	209
Bartlett on the treatment of Fevers, do. do. ....	209
The New York Civil and Criminal Justice. A complete treatise on the civil, criminal, and special powers and duties of Justices of the Peace in the State of New York, \$4 .....	203
Bouvier's Institutes of American Law, \$12.....	203
Woolrych on Waters and Water Courses, (Legal) \$2 60.....	202
Smith's Mercantile Law, \$3.60.....	202
Domat's Civil Law, \$9.00.....	201
Wheaton's International Law, \$3.60.....	201
Gardner's Music of Nature, or an attempt to prove that what is passionate and pleasing in the art of singing, speaking and performing upon musical instruments is derived from the sounds of the animated world, \$2.40 .....	125

These are only a very few out of multitudes as questionable in their fitness for the purpose in view.

I submit whether it be requisite to the provision of excellent readable libraries for the readers, old or young, of "Common and Grammar School Libraries," that the catalogue should be swelled at the public cost, with a large number and value of such works, and with whole multitudes of others as little attractive.

If necessary I could name witnesses who would testify that the libraries supplied by the depository are not so attractive as they might be, as I have no doubt Dr. Ryerson could in their favour. But if libraries as good and as full as could be desired can be supplied by the trade, why keep up a depository to provide them?

The value sold by Dr. Ryerson in 1856 was £1819. Could the trade not sell this amount or ten times as much? But Dr. Ryerson claims advantages for his library system,—1st, in keeping out bad books,—2nd, in preventing imposition,—3rd, in putting all parts of Canada on an equal footing except in freight; and 4th, in getting a large variety of reading for all. The 3rd advantage is shared with



him by the booksellers, as the Express or other conveyances carry booksellers parcels as cheap as they do his. Moreover, were the trade free, books would be bought at all the chief towns, not as now, only in Toronto from Dr. Ryerson. The names of the booksellers of all parts of the Province appended to the petitions against the Depository, shows their expectation of a part of the business to be done. They all agree in stating that they could or do sell as cheap as Dr. Ryerson, and it would be the fault of any locality if it did not buy at the cheapest market. Let a good catalogue be drawn up, not by Dr. Ryerson alone, or, if possible, at all, but by a number of our best men—of books selected on the plan of the Grammar School text-books as being most “easily obtained,” and let this be recommended as a guide for the choice of libraries. Let each Municipality appoint a library committee from among the professional or educated men in the township, and let them choose what books they think best suited to their neighbourhood, from this official list, or from others that may be furnished them by the trade. Let them buy where they like as cheaply as they can, and let the signature of their chairman entitle the seller to the bonus now kept by Dr. Ryerson in his own hands. Look at the admirable selection of Grammar School Trustees and County Boards of Instruction, and see if there be any difficulty in working this scheme wisely and well; or look at the Library Committees or sub-committees chosen by Mechanics’ Institutes to purchase books for them. This would prevent the introduction of any of the evils Dr. Ryerson deprecates—would let each district have free action and make it possible to add continually the best new books. Does Dr. Ryerson suppose or wish it to be supposed that in any Township there are not men abundantly able to choose excellent libraries, or that he is better able than any or all other men in Canada to choose them? Where then are all our lawyers, clergy, doctors, and private men of education and intelligence?

If a selected catalogue were thought inadvisable, let the present catalogue be retained, and if it be thought better to give the proposed Library Committees no discretion, let selections from its contents be the condition of the grant. When was there ever a demand that did not create a supply?

#### MAPS, APPARATUS, &c.

Of maps and apparatus, the whole value sold by the Depository in 1856 (the last year reported) was £2,330 worth. Can it be supposed that the trade could not supply this, or far more than this? But would booksellers and others keep the kinds wanted. Look at Dr. Ryerson’s tables of the articles sold, or go to any school house and see its furnishings, and the question will answer itself. There is nothing extraordinary wanted, nothing that any tradesman could or would not easily keep. One house in Britain could supply more than the Depository many times over, and why should not Canada equal it at least?

Once and again, Dr. Ryerson speaks of the collection of maps, apparatus, and so forth, as “the most extensive in America, if not in Europe,”\* and “the most extensive and complete he has ever seen.”† He has been over Europe, Britain, and America, empires, kingdoms, and mighty States, glittering with wealth and teeming with population, and yet none of them have seen the necessity, however perfect their School System, of keeping together such an array of expensive et ceteras for their schools, as Dr. Ryerson has accumulated for this poor young clearing in the woods, our Canada West. Globes and maps, from all possible makers and publishers, assuredly not all best, page after page of philosophical, chemical and geological instruments, specimens, tests, furnaces, bottles, laboratories, re-agents, retorts, &c., &c., from \$100 a set, down, are provided for our Grammar and Com-

\* Report 1855, 7.

† Report 1854, 203.



mon Schools, which alone Dr. Ryerson has the right to supply, the whole number of boys in all Canada, in the Public Schools, advanced even so far as the Greek rudiments, being only 257, by the last returns. Alas for the public money in these times! Costly apparatus can be very seldom wanted in so poor a country as Canada, and it is a question which is submitted, whether it be worth while keeping public funds locked up in it for an occasional order. At the least, all the ordinary apparatus, and the whole of the maps, &c., could be provided as well by the trade.

In maps, indeed, the fact has already been shewn, by the publication of large maps by Mr. Scobie, many years ago, at prices, which, retail, were very little higher than those of the Depository even now.

The testimony of Dr. Ryerson himself, that "the splendid National School maps are being printed in Toronto, and on Canadian paper, and in a style in every respect equal to the English originals, and at even lower prices,"\* is a sample of what trade could do were it free, and if private enterprise could hope for impartial encouragement.

There is no room for doubt that were the bounty of Government given through the trade instead of passing into the hands of the Superintendent, a very short time would see all the usual school apparatus, &c., made in Canada, as the school furniture is now. The fact that both in maps and in school furniture Canadian manufacturers can defy foreign competition, is I submit, an earnest of what they would do were enterprise quickened by an open market, and the stimulus of the public grants.

The small money value of the apparatus commonly sold is security enough that its supply would soon grow into a trade in every considerable place in the Province.

Apparatus is provided in Britain only to the same classes as obtain other help, and the Normal and Training Schools, where teachers for the schools of the humble are taught. There is no thought of supplying it to the whole country, or to any at all but those whose position imperatively calls for aid. The grants of it are given in by the same conditions of poverty. It is only another development of the fundamental aim to raise the helpless. One provision of such grants, not quoted by Dr. Ryerson, it would be well he should see himself enforced in Canada. To get apparatus the teacher must pass a searching examination on the science it illustrates, and a Training School for such teachers can only get it if a lecturer be provided who has made "Experimental Science his special study."†

Returning from sales confessedly permitted by law, I would beg the attention of the Committee particularly to the claim set up by Dr. Ryerson to sell libraries to any institution receiving any portion of the Government money, such as *Mechanics' Institutes*, and the like. Neither in England nor America is the book trade or any other trade so interfered with. If free commerce as a whole be necessary to the prosperity of a people, as we all admit, it must be equally necessary for any part of the people if that part is to share in the prosperity. Is any one who may be invested for the time with a public office to turn round on a class of fellow-citizens and make free as he likes with their livelihood, because he thinks it an advantage to another part of the public that he should do so? We claim the rights of British citizenship, that Government shall not intrude on trade except when an imperative public necessity demands.

\* Letter in the *Colonist*, March 22, 1858.

† Minutes of the Council, 1855.

See a circular, illustrative of the freedom of the book trade in England. It is only a sample of many similar :

To Book Clubs, Mechanics' Institutes, Book-Hawking Societies, Literary Institutions, &c.

Messrs. PARTRIDGE, AND Co.,

Booksellers & Publishers, 34, Paternoster-Row, London,

beg to inform the Secretaries, Committees, and Promoters of Book Clubs, Mechanics' Institutes, Book-Hawking Societies, Literary Institutions, &c., that they supply Books and Periodicals on the most liberal terms.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

Among the numerous Institutes, &c., supplied by Messrs. Partridge & Co., are the following :

Society of Arts, Adelphi.  
 Westminster Free Library.  
 Islington Young Men's Christian Society Union.  
 Deptford Institute.  
 Brighton and South Coast Railway Library.  
 Alton Mechanics' Institute,  
 Barnsley Mechanic's Institute and Literary Society.  
 Bileston Institute.  
 Brigg Reading Society.  
 Bristol Athenæum.  
 Bromsgrove Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Bury St. Edmunds' Athenæum.  
 Caistor Mechanics' Institute.  
 Cambridge Mechanics' Institute.  
 Bridport Literary Institute.  
 Carmarthen Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Glasgow Mechanics' Institute.  
 Halifax Mechanics' Institute.  
 Hastings Mechanics' Institute.  
 Hereford Permanent Library.  
 Hitchin Mechanics' Institute.  
 Horncastle Mechanics' Institute.  
 Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute.  
 Longton Athenæum.  
 Maasham Mechanics' Institute.  
 Newport Athenæum.  
 Odiham Mechanics' Institute.  
 Pembroke Dock Mechanics' Institute.  
 Peterborough Mechanics' Institute.  
 Radway Mechanics' Institute.  
 Red Hill Institute.  
 Sevenoaks Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Sheffield Free Public Library.  
 Stafford Mechanics' Institute.  
 Stamford Institute.  
 Wakefield Mechanics' Institute.  
 Welshpool Reading Society.  
 Whitehaven Mechanics' Institute.  
 Wirksworth Mechanics' Institute.  
 Wisbech Mechanics' Institute.  
 Weymouth Literary Institute.  
 Barnardcastle Mechanics' Institute.  
 York Institute of Science and Literature.  
 East Retford Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Buckingham Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Aberdeen Mechanics' Institute.  
 Cowes Athenæum.  
 Lowestoffe Institute.  
 Stratford-on-Avon Institute.  
 Louth Mechanics' Institute.  
 Durham Mechanics' Institute.  
 Folkestone Harveian Literary Institute.  
 Isle of Sheppy Mechanics' Institute.  
 Chippenham Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Woburn Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Leicester Mechanics' Institute.  
 Fenton Literary and Scientific Institute.  
 Stockton Mechanics' Institute.

Windsor Mechanics' Institute.  
 Bromley Literary Institute.  
 Guildford Mechanics' Institute.  
 Painswick Mechanics' Institute.  
 Black Dike Mills Scientific and Literary Institute.  
 Halifax Riponden Hall School.  
 Lowestoffe St. John's Parochial Institute.  
 Royston Mechanics' Institute.  
 Melbourne (Derby) Mechanics' Institute.  
 Morpeth Mechanics' Institute.  
 High Green (Sheffield) Institute.  
 Whitechurch Mechanics' Institute.  
 Annan Mechanics' Institute.  
 Burton Literary Society.  
 Workshop Mechanics' Institute.

\*.\* Single volumes sent post free, by return, on receipt of the published price in stamps, or otherwise.

The sum of the controversy is briefly this. We claim the Superintendent's entire and formal withdrawal from what we believe to be his unauthorized sales to Grammar and Private schools, and colleges, and the university, and from his equally unauthorised sales to individuals, whether connected with any such institutions or not. We claim this as a right even on the unbending ground of law, and no less so on every consideration alike of justice and expediency. On the same double grounds, and with equal force, we claim that he leave untouched the supply of the libraries of institutes and other general public societies. With the school book trade he has no right to interfere, as there is no need that he should. With any but the schools specified in the acts under whose authority he is, he has nothing whatever to do, and even with them the letter of the statute marks the legitimate bounds of his transactions. On the custom of the associations I have mentioned his intrusion is equally unwarranted and unnecessary. We dispute his right to consider prices in either the one case or the other; although it is certain that we sell in quantities as cheaply as he, our charges have nothing to do with the matter. It is not for him, set as he is over public schools only, and even over them in a limited relation, to lay the details of the literary trade of the country on a bed of Procrustes of his own contriving, and force them to fit it. The profits of the retail trade are the livelihood of the Province. The rates of a larger traffic regulate themselves by competition. Over freedom to both it is the very province of the Government to watch, and it discharges the design of its institution then only aright when it shields the humblest of its citizens in the use and the fruit of his enterprize and industry. A pretty pass things would come to if every Head of a Department were to stretch his facilities to the utmost to attract to himself what he could of the commerce of the country! Buying and selling are sacred rights, and no St. Simonism, or dreams of Louis Blanc, which would make Government the general producer and trader, can make the world think otherwise.

In the supply of maps, apparatus, and libraries for the Common and Grammar schools, the Depository has the law at its back. Fortified thus, we waive the question of right, and offer only that of expediency. If Dr. Ryerson's tables be correct, the value of these items supplied to such schools from his Establishment is hardly worth the cost of its maintenance, especially when we know that as good libraries could be furnished as cheaply, and the simple maps and apparatus that are used, no less so, by the growth and competition of free trade, without its intervention. Were the Depository prices like those of the Privy Council in England, it would be different. But is it credible that a large demand could not secure an average deduction of twenty per cent., which is the outside of Dr. Ryerson's discount? In 1856 the expenses of the year, so far as given in the Library account, which allows £266 as salaries for the Depository—though \$6,630 are charged in 1857 for those of the various assistants in the office—were

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£1,258\*, the total value of sales and grants being apparently £5,823‡. The expenses were thus twenty-two per cent. at the least on the gross receipts. Could there be any difficulty in serving the Public Schools as cheaply by private enterprise, when the deductions allowed would be so much clear gain? Supposing even only one half the per centage to be added to Dr. Ryerson's prices, it would make them only ten per cent. less than retail, which is exactly the discount allowed by Booksellers, even now, on the smallest purchase by Teachers. I have no disposition to impute any thing dark or disgraceful, but I feel sure that we know only a part of the real cost of the Depository. Were it dispensed with, it is not unreasonable to believe that a large sum could be saved in salaries alone. Even on the lower ground of expediency, is it worth while to support an establishment which is an actual loss to the country, while it is a great encroachment on trade?

But, even supposing, what I do not know to be the case, that these figures admit of some more favorable interpretation, other points rise to make the expediency of the system questionable. Dr. Ryerson repeatedly speaks of the saving effected by his Depository, and urges it as one of the great grounds on which he claims support for his plans. But, compared with the English prices (of the Privy Council Committee) his charges are very high. He tells us† that he buys at the same prices as they, and yet on forty-one maps there is an average difference of fifty per cent. against his catalogue, and on eleven school books (all I could find in the two lists) there is a difference against him of thirty-three per cent.

Further, many of the school books are very slightly reduced, and it is hard to understand how they can be said to be sold "at cost," as is repeatedly stated by Dr. Ryerson.‖ In addition to the invoice quoted before I copy the following particulars from his catalogues:

Page 53—	Selling Price.	Dep'y Price.
Colenso's Arithmetic.....	4s. 6d. = \$1.12½	.. \$1.05.
“ Elements of Algebra for use of Schools .....	1s. 6d.	0.37½ .. 0.35.
“ Key.....	2s. 6d.	0.62½ .. 0.60.
“ Euclid .....	6s. 6d.	1.62½ .. 1.50.
“ Geometrical Problems ....	3s. 6d.	0.87½ .. 0.85.
Page 41—Arnold's Latin Prose Composition...	1.00	.. 0.87.
42 Collot's, 5 different books, each .....	0.56	.. 0.50.

Nor does the Library Catalogue seem any more intelligible as to prices. Thus on Messrs. Carter's Books (172, 173, 177, and passim) the reduction is apparently only 20 per cent., which is always allowed wholesale by the Trade who deal in the books of that house.

Routledge's Books (167-170, and passim) are in many cases sold much higher than the trade retails them, and generally at a merely nominal reduction.

\* Report, 1856, part 2, Table T.

† Text Books .....	£1546	5	6
Libraries.....	1840	10	8
Maps, &c.....	2380	4	4
Sales to Normal School .....	106	6	9

£5823 7 3 —Report, 1856.

‡ "Her Majesty's Government had made arrangements to procure for the Schools, aided by Parliamentary Grants in England, school maps and books at an average of forty-three per cent. below the ordinary selling prices, and \* \* \* I was enabled to render that arrangement available to Schools in Upper Canada."—Report, 1852, 205.

‖ "Every book in the list has been rendered accessible \* \* at the lowest cost prices, from a Department the buildings and all the contingent expenses of which are otherwise provided for.—Report, 1852, 205.

I submit illustrations of some more of the Depository prices:  
 Johnston's large maps (page 10) are 38 cents each above cost, after paying freight.  
 " Small " " do " " do  
 " Small Atlases (24) can be supplied at Depository prices, and give an excellent wholesale profit.

Baker's Tabular View (page 26) is offered wholesale for 50 cents; Depository price, \$2 50.

Smith's Astronomy (35) sells, retail, at 80 cents; Depository price, 88 cents.

Morse's Geography (40) sells to teachers at 45c., " 50 "

Varty's Graphic Illustrations of Animals (61) is offered wholesale for \$3 88; Depository price, \$7.

Russell's Crimea—retail price, \$2; Depository price, \$2 00.

Seven Wonders of the World—retail price, 75 cents; Depository price, 70 cents.

Lares and Penates is offered wholesale, for 50 cents; Depository price, \$1 25.

Robson's Great Sieges—retail price, \$1; Depository price, \$1 00.

Battles of British Army, " 1 " 1 00.

Forrest's Every Boy's Book, " 1 50 " 1 70.

Louis' School Days, 75 " 1 00.

It is thus with many more. In quoting them, let me deprecate any suspicion of an intention to criminate. Buying badly is an easy solution of the difficulty.

Comparison of the Prices of the Privy Council Committee and those of the Depository; the cost being the same to both:

11 Irish National Maps are charged by the Education Committee each .....	\$2 00	By the Depository...	\$3 00
10 Johnston's Maps .....	1 50	" .....	2 38
10 " .....	87½	" .....	1 38
9 " .....	1 50	" .....	2 38
1 Christian Knowledge Society's Map.....	2 12	" .....	3 50
1 " .....	2 12	" .....	3 00
1 Varty's Map .....	2 18	" .....	3 00
Colenso's Arithmetic .....	2s. 8½d., stg.	" .....	4s. 3d. stg.
" Algebra .....	2 8½	" .....	3 6
Pott's Euclid .....	2 3	" .....	3 0
Colenso's Trigonometry (p. 1) .. ..	2 6	" .....	3 5
" " (p. 2) .. ..	1 9	" .....	3 5
Mulhauser's Manual.....	1 6	" .....	2 0
Wilhelm's Method .....	3 0	" .....	4 0
Hullah's Grammar .....	2 3	" .....	3 0
Johnston's Atlases .....	8 0	" .....	10 0

An illustration of his prices may be given from my own books.

I sold the Depository on December 4, 1856, the following books at the prices stated. They are charged as quoted, in the catalogue.

Library Catalogue.	Cost.	Sold by Depository at
Page 164. Sunbeams in College,	3s. 1d.	3s. 9d.
" Ethics of Sabbath,	3s. 6d.	4s.
" Millie Howard,	3s. 6d.	4s.
" The Cotton Tree,	1s. 6d.	2s.
" The Red Brick House,	3s. 6d.	4s.
86. Ballantyne's Poems,	5s. 3d.	6s.
64. Earnest Students,	4s. 4½d.	5s.
" Miles McKenzie,	5s. 3d.	6s. 3d.
" Mary of Kilmany,	1s. 9d.	2s.

" Voice in the Desert,	3s. 9d.	4s. 4½d.
49. Eight books, each at	3s. 1d.	72 cents each.
38. Burton's Meccah,	5s. 3d.	6s. 3d.
195. Perth's Life,	16s. 6d.	18s.

There can be no dispute respecting these figures, and yet they tell only a small part of the story of the whole catalogue, as they refer to only a few items. The rest can only be known by the production of all the invoices of the Depository and the discovery thence of the actual cost price, after the deduction of any discounts, bonuses and other abatements. It seems a great reason why the Trade should have an opportunity of trying what it can do to supply the place of the Depository, that although that institution has the public purse at its control, and buys so largely, it buys so ill and sells so high. How much dead loss must it be to the country when multitudes of the things it has can be sold with a profit by the trade at the same prices, and it is remembered that to its apparent prices has to be added the cost of management, value of dead stock, &c., &c.

We would ask if stock has ever been taken by the Depository? There must now be on hand in it what has cost the country, first and last, a very large sum.

But the whole of the Booksellers' grievances do not end here. Changes are imperatively demanded in Dr. Ryerson's other relations to literature, if it is to thrive in our midst. Booksellers are the employers of authors, and both suffer as things are. With trade free and prosperous, surplus capital would soon create a literature. It cannot at present. Dr. Ryerson's monopoly of school patronage, moreover, makes him the arbiter of the fate of all educational publications. Mr. Hodgins can get his books sanctioned though they are so severely reviewed, but what bookseller not in Dr. Ryerson's favour, would venture on any enterprise where a similar sanction was required? We can have no educational literature, as things are, except such as grows under Dr. Ryerson's smile. Is it right that any single man should have such power? Let any one remember Milton's splendid pleadings for a free press and his statement of the evils of a censorship, and he will know the effects on the literature of Canada of Dr. Ryerson's self-assumed position. Government could never have designed him to be the autocrat of the literary trade of this country. It is of no use for him to run behind the name of the Council of Instruction; with his opposition it would seem disrespectful to favor any book. The prestige of office, the limited leisure of the Council for educational details, the aversion to debate natural to gentlemen in such a position, leave the fortune of a book or of anything else substantially in Dr. Ryerson's hands. Of course we are favored with assurances from his own pen of his patronage of everything Canadian, but it must be patronage, and patronage implies a suppleness of the knee on the part of the receiver that is rather degrading, and hints at a cold shade for offenders, in a manner altogether incompatible with a free community and the limited authority of a servant of the general public. If Dr. Ryerson wish instances of his standing in the way of Canadian enterprise, I shall quote them.

I submitted Morell's Grammar, through Dr. Jennings, months ago, for the sanction of the Council of Public Instruction, wishing no more than that a favourable opinion might be passed upon it. But to this day I have had no reply, and I do not expect I shall ever have any. Mr. Hodgins's Geography, with all its mistakes, can get through—but the production of one of Her Majesty's most famed Inspectors, of one of the first philosophic writers and acutest grammarians, has to stand in the outer court, though bearing the eulogies of the most distinguished educationists of Britain.

Mr. McMullen, of Brockville, has written a History of Canada, which is at once a most readable and instructive book, and brings down our story to recent

times. But in the last page there is a criticism on the Depository system which has sealed its fate with Dr. Ryerson, in whose catalogue it finds no place, though he offers no substitute for it. No other History yet completed brings down our annals at all so far, excepting perhaps the little school-book of Miss Roy.

Dr. Ryerson has recently imported large numbers of very indifferent picture-frames from abroad, which could have been made in this country, and saved at least something from leaving it.

The late Mr. Ramsay of Montreal made an arrangement some time since with Messrs. Simms & McIntyre of Belfast to buy from them as many of Thompson's Arithmetic as the Province might need, at the rate of 18s. a dozen. Shortly after Dr. Ryerson went home and Mr. Ramsay speedily received a letter from the Belfast house, informing him that Dr. Ryerson had bargained with them to pay 24s. a dozen, for the same books, and that in justice to that gentleman they could not fulfil their engagements with Mr. Ramsay.

I beg to submit the following statement from Mr. Maclear, of this City.

"Mr. Maclear, of this City, imported in 1848 a stock of Chambers' School Maps and Educational Books, which he was never able to sell in the legitimate way, owing to the fact that Dr. Ryerson's Depository offered them at prices which would not remunerate a retail dealer. Indeed, by this time it was impossible to sell them or such goods by retail at all, as all persons interested in educational matters were then in the habit of purchasing at Dr. Ryerson's shop, so that rather than lose the goods entirely, Mr. Maclear was obliged to beg of Mr. Hodgins to buy them at any price, which that gentleman consented to do, but notwithstanding having bought them at his own price, when payment was requested the seller was required to submit to a further discount in order to obtain it.

Mr. M. also offered, time after time, to publish and supply the Depository with any and every Map, Chart, &c., required, cheaper than it was possible for such articles to be imported, and having a large stock of School Maps on hand, he frequently requested Mr. Hodgins to purchase them, but that gentleman, if he ever bought any, seemed to make it a point to take that Map of which Mr. M., the publisher, had the smallest quantity, thus rendering the remainder less saleable than ever.

Mr. M. also offered to get up and publish a general School Geography, to supersede Morse's very anti-British book, now used here, submitting it, sheet by sheet, before publication, for the approval of Dr. Ryerson, or his Deputy. Yet even here Dr. R. hardly extended his accustomed and proverbial civility to the maker of the proposal.

This treatment of an individual in a position to carry out his undertaking, contrasted strongly with the fact that, so far as the writer knows, the only Book, Map, Chart, &c., of Canadian production, now in use in the Public Schools, are got up by persons employed about the Educational establishment.

And if one individual, boasting no superiority in such matters over his fellow tradesmen, was and is in a position to do so much, are there not scores of others equally ready and competent to the task.

Yet the booksellers of Canada are insultingly told that they cannot supply the requirements of the country in these respects, and that the universally recognised principles of commerce must be violated in their case, that the taxes of the country of which they pay their full share are to be squandered in an unnatural crusade against them. Is not the present unparalleled commercial distress caused by the overtrading polity of our business men, and to this rule the booksellers unfortunately present no exception. Who then will dare repeat the foul slander on the booksellers of Canada, that they are less able or less willing than other tradesmen to introduce to the country, even



to its remotest village, a supply in their line as ample as other merchants do in theirs.

One more significant fact connected with this extraordinary business is, that Dr. Ryerson, in justification of his having pocketed the people's money—not the Inspector, Attorney, or Receiver General's money—pleads that his duties are far beyond what the law requires, while those duties, or rather evils, are altogether self-imposed; and alas for Religion and Morality, leading to consequences which have drawn tears to many eyes!"

The impossibility of any bookseller who differs from him entertaining a hope of countenance for any projected enterprise, receives a vivid illustration from the subjoined specimen of coarseness and overbearing language, disgraceful to any one, but doubly so to a public officer.

Contrast with the style of this allusion to a gentleman who differs from him the fact that Mr. Hodgins' Geography is advertised on the cover of the Library Catalogue, which goes every where through the Province, and on the cover of at least another publication of the Education office, and that only a part of the 'Notice' of it by the Council of Public Instruction, is quoted in either case, the favorable part being retained and the rest suppressed, and it will be seen by contrast what it means to stand in Dr. Ryerson's favor.

One more effect of the Depository system, and I have done. At this moment, Dr. Ryerson has so monopolized the map trade of the country that the public cannot get such a thing at all. Large maps are forced out of the market by his monopoly. Only this day, moreover, a gentleman from the country informed me that in his village, not a copy of a book he specified could be had, from the same reason; the Depository competition shut it out from general sale.

But there is no use attempting to state the whole case. That no other country, however anxious for education, has let any one build up such an establishment or exercise such a partial censorship is its sufficient condemnation.

To correct a number of cognate evils the only reasonable hope of success lies in our reaching their source. The Depository does not stand alone as the speckled bird of the Educational Department. Some other of its branches, if as thoroughly sifted, would be found equally faulty. Could it be otherwise with such a centralizing scheme as Dr. Ryerson has constructed. Every clause of the school acts is only a step by which he rises to his solitary "throne of burning state." Every trace of power and patronage that was worth the taking has been gleaned, to dignify his office and disparage that of all others by comparison. The Governor General is not more irresponsible, and enjoys a far less glorious reign. In 1856, Dr. Ryerson's revenue amounted to £56,000, of which he had the sole and unquestioned expenditure. In 1857 it amounted to £65,392, with the use of an official palace and other additions. To spend £10,000 of our taxes on whatever he pleases for his Depository was only one of his high prerogatives. Another £10,182 have been spent in the last two years on his "Provincial Library and Museum." This vast sum has

\* The objections noticed in the following paragraphs of this Report have been put forth by a respectable cooper, who has of late years become a wooden ware and toy merchant of this city—a gentleman who is very religious when writing against our public schools, and who has had an expensive mania for writing and publishing against them during several years; who, according to his own account published, on the eve of the Session of Parliament one year, a series of letters against the public school system under the signature of a "Layman;" another year he published one or two numbers of a ponderous Educational Review, of which I believe some thirty copies were sold; a third year he published another series of letters, under the signature of a "Protestant," appearing in the first instance in the anti-public school "Catholic Citizen" newspaper, and afterwards in a pamphlet; a fourth year he published, in the same newspaper and afterwards in pamphlet, another series of letters under the signature of "Aguus Dallas." In these letters, which, as on previous occasions, he has scattered abroad with a liberal hand, he complains that his previous labors have been unnoticed. He will now experience the gratification of having them recorded and noticed.—[Dr. Ryerson's Special Report, 52.



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been expended by him on copies of pictures and on picture frames, and stucco casts, &c. What could he possibly know critically of the fine arts? As an elderly Canadian, brought up in our then unpeopled wilderness, he could hardly have seen such a thing as a really fine painting till his official visit to Europe. In England, a commission, comprising a number of such men as Sir Edwin Landseer, Lord Macaulay and Mr. Grote, was recently appointed to do what Dr. Ryerson has been permitted to attempt alone. Yet who can restrain him if his confidence carry him thus far? Our "National Gallery" is a mere bagatelle which he selects at our cost in his moments of leisure! Is there any other officer in the Province who has clothed himself with like power, for Dr. Ryerson is himself the author of the acts which place us thus at his feet?

If anything be wanting to shew that a defence by the Superintendent is but questionable proof, it is only to be remembered over what he has thrown his Ægis as defiantly as he now throws it before his Depository. Not to call up his Leonidas letters in which he stood forth as the champion of the ruler against the people, we have in the very Special Report before us as fierce a demonstration in favor of a plan of Separate Schools which pleases no single party in the Province, and still later, we have seen him attempt no less unshrinkingly a vindication of personal acts which the moral sense of the community seems to condemn.

JOHN C. GEIKIE.

