

the debt. The answer to this was that the Crown lands and timber of the Province belonged as much to posterity as to this generation. He proceeded to deal with the question of the claim of Quebec on the Dominion Government on account of the amount retained out of the subsidy on account of the increased debt from 1867 to 1873, and which he stated the Treasurer of this Province said he would join. He stated that even if allowed, every Province in the Dominion except Prince Edward Island would be entitled to make a similar claim; and he asserted that as Ontario paid from two-thirds to three-fourths of the taxes of the Dominion it would be to the disadvantage of Ontario to join in any such demand. He next proceeded to discuss the amendment proposed by the member for West Peterboro' with regard to the authorization of two sets of Readers, and endeavoured to show that the Minister of Education had been guilty of inconsistency in saying in the debate on Wednesday night that he was responsible for his predecessor's conduct and had assumed it, while he had said in another place that he had entered the Ministry on the condition that there should be only one set of Readers. He proceeded to repeat the charge against the Minister of Education with regard to the Gage & Co.

The SPEAKER here said that the charge, after being flatly denied, should not be repeated.

After that considerable discussion arose upon the point.

Mr. MEREDITH, resuming, made a restatement of the charge, and endeavoured to show that the relation of the Minister of Education with Mr. Gage was that of a person pushing their publication. He concluded by contending that all the consequences of publishers having spent money on the books must be borne by the Government.

Mr. HARDY reviewed the position of the member for London with reference to the charge against the Minister of Education. But the leader of the Opposition did not say that anything wrong had taken place; he did not say that there was anything improper. It was shown that the Minister of Education had merely stood in the same position to the Gages that Henry Ward Beecher and the other lecturers in the United States to the lecture bureaus, and there was not the slightest reason for saying that he was in any sense engaged in pushing books of the concern. Dealing with the "condition" question of the Minister of Education's entry into the Government. Assuming that there was a condition, which there was not; suppose he did say, I will only come into the Government upon the condition that there should be one series of Readers—was that a very bad condition, or did it place him in a very humiliating position as the one who had authorized two series of Readers? The Government knew that the present Minister of Education was in favour of one series only, and all the members of the Government knew. Suppose there had been a change of policy in the Government on this point? He would call the attention of the House to the cry of a people shackled by the unwise policy of the Dominion Government that the bonds should be burst. When it was shown that Confederation was threatened, and an earnest protest rang out from the North-West prairies, Sir John Macdonald stepped down and out, and handed over his portfolio to an irresponsible man as far as the people were concerned, who changed his policy and issued new

regulations. Now compare the two positions:—In one place there was a decision upon a point upon which there might be justly two opinions, and the other which everyone condemned. Yet the Dominion Ministry had not been assailed for making the change. He proceeded to review all the steps taken for a change of Readers from the circular issued by Mr. Crooks in 1882 to the report of the Central Committee to which the matter was referred. He demonstrated the absolute impartiality of the Committee, with their admirable fitness for the duty, and showed that the action of the Government had been consonant with the recommendations of the Committee.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. HARDY, resuming the debate, said he knew of no Government in the world which could say that they had always decided in the wisest way. He had shown that the action of the Government was not unreasonable in sanctioning the two sets of Readers. The whole arguments advanced on the question were summarized and presented to the Government by the Central Committee, and it sanctioned the authorization of two sets. He had had occasion to ascertain the practices of other countries in this respect. The Ontario Government had adhered to the course of having one set of Readers more than any other country except Germany. In England there were no less than seven series of books in actual use. It was true that they had an examination standard, but in order to reach that standard they made the selection of one or two series in each school. In Massachusetts each town or township Board selected its own Reader from any Readers published throughout the Union. He showed the number of Readers used in other States in the Union in support of his argument. The Government might have gone on without deserving censure and authorized the three Readers. Individually he would not say that it would have been a wise course. The greater the authorization, however, the less the monopoly. Some prominent educationists were in favour of the three Readers, Professor Young was in

favour of it as well as Professor Dupuis. The question had been made a political question. The organ of the hon. gentleman opposite had said that it would be in the interests of the public financially to have more than one series. The Opposition would have been on different sides of this question if the Government had been on different sides. (Hear, hear.) They had proposed a buncomb resolution in order to have a catch vote. They had set a little trap for those members who were unaware, but they had been enlightened a little. (Hear, hear.) There was one feature about this question, and that was that it was entirely new in this country. Such a case had not happened within the memory of any of the hon. gentlemen in the House. The Government had had no experience of this kind. They had to contend against the tactics of two or three rival publishers who were trying to force their books upon the community. It had been said that the power of selection had been taken from the Public School inspectors. Some of the inspectors had had something to do with these books.

Mr. CARNEGIE—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. HARDY said the hon. gentleman had said "hear, hear" and pointed to the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education had had

#### NOTHING TO DO WITH THESE BOOKS.

He was not even a Public School Inspector at the time of the authorization of these books. (Hear, hear.) It was well known that some school inspectors had publicly entered upon a canvass for one series or another. Some had been assisting in the editing of these books. Did anyone wish to say, where an inspector was in that position, that they should have the right to say that any book should not come into his district? It would have been placing more power with inspectors than was in the hands of the Minister of Education, as the Minister of Education was controlled by his colleagues. He did not lay any charge against the school inspectors, because as a body of men their superiors might not be found in this country as educationists. (Hear, hear.) He had not one reproach to make against them. Some of these Inspectors had had business transactions with the different publishers, and they would very likely be inclined to pre-judge the question. They were not responsible directly to the Government, and the Government had thought it unwise to place the disposal of these books in their hands. It had been left in the hands of the Boards of Trustees and the teachers conjointly. Certain objections had been raised by the hon. member from Hastings as to the changing to one series. The Minister of Education had been charged with not giving all the facts. As to the manner in which Mr. Ross would deal with the publishers perhaps it was not desirable to make public. He was looking out that there should be no increase in the price of books. These negotiations were still in progress. As to the retail dealers, they should not for a moment assume that it had not been looked into. The publishers had agreed to take the old books from the retail dealers at the cost price and sell them as best they could. This was announced to the retail dealers by circular. Information had been obtained as to the amount of these books throughout the country. The publishers had given a bond to the Education Department that they would take these books off the hands of the retail dealers, and the retail dealers were satisfied. It was not difficult to see that the two series now in use would be exhausted in eighteen months. Certain of the series now authorized could form part of the new series and they would not be wholly useless. He was sure that the Government would have no difficulty in satisfying the retail dealers, parents, and publishers on this question. It had been stated that the Education Department had introduced the Royal Readers into the Normal and Model Schools without first obtaining the assent of the headmasters. He did not know that the Government required to get the assent of the headmasters. The Royal Readers had been introduced because they had been recommended by the Central Committees as the best, and they also recommended two other series as No. 1 and No. 2 in point of literary excellence. These books were all complete when examined by that Committee. What did the Government organ, the high authority in educational matters, say as far back as the 29th of May:—"We commend the Royal Readers to the public as beyond question the choicest and best from every point of view." It goes on to say, "Of one fact, however, we are fully convinced that the Royal Readers occupy a much higher place and more fully deserve universal patronage than any of their predecessors and competitors." Further, the *Mail* said:—"The first remark naturally occurs to one is the eminently Canadian character of the Royal Readers. It has evidently been the aim of the publishers to make their books eminently Canadian."

Mr. MEREDITH asked if there was an undertaking that the books should be published in Canada, and whether that was reported on.

Mr. HARDY said that both of them gave an undertaking that they would print the books in Canada unless otherwise allowed by the Department. Both the publishers had been allowed to depart from this with respect to their first editions. The first edition of the Royal Readers was published in Scotland, and a portion of the first edition of the other in the United States. He proceeded to show that other Provinces had adopted both