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No cough remedy has ever been discovered which will cure every cough, but we think we have one that comes a little nearer to doing it than any other made. We have been sole agents for it for years; it has been tried in all manner of cases, and it has given the most universal satisfaction. We ask you to remember and try Carr's

BECAUSE it is safe;
BECAUSE it is the most certain to cure;
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BECAUSE it is equally good for children and adults, and
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THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

DURHAM, FEBRUARY 7, 1907

SCHOOL BOOKS TOO DEAR.

Report of Royal Commission.

Pupils of the Public schools of the province, or rather their parents, have in the past twenty years paid for the books they have used in their studies \$200,000 in excess of a fair price. This is the opinion of the Royal Commission which has been engaged since the end of last June in the investigation of the system of producing text books for use in the Public Schools of Ontario. The lucid and exhaustive report of that body, which was laid on the table of the Legislature yesterday, makes it clear that the literature required in the work of the schools were the subject of a system which prevented competition. As a result, the books published for use by school children were inferior in material and workmanship, and were sold at exorbitant rates. The phenomenon of excessive price prevailed in regard to the publications used in the High schools. The commissioners censured the Department of Education of the late Government, which authorized too large a selection of texts, duplicating those in many subjects, and which allowed slovenly work in their production. They suggest that the writing and printing of text books should be thrown open to competition, and that they be authorized only for a limited time. The department should secure copyrights and make the plates. Finally, they recommend that an inspector be appointed, at a fair salary, to protect the department and people from having books of poor quality foisted upon them. As a beginning toward the free supply of books to scholars in Ontario, which is favored, the commissioners suggest that public school books might be supplied to school boards at coast.

The commissioners, who have embodied their findings in 12 pages of printed matter, are Mr. T. W. Crothers, of St. Thomas, and Mr. John A. Cooper, Toronto. The secretary of the commission was Mr. A. C. Casselman, and the stenographer Mr. Clarkson James.

AN EXHAUSTIVE ENQUIRY.

The commissioners first review the course pursued by them in gathering the evidence upon which they have based their conclusions. They took evidence under oath from representative teachers, inspectors, educationalists, experts in bookmaking and all persons publishing the text-books used in Ontario schools. The paper used was chemically analyzed. The commissioners had expected to obtain as

stance from perusing the evidence taken by the former commission under the Ross Government, but found it had been destroyed. The commissioners had also visited some leading publishing houses in Boston, Norwood and New York.

The commissioners report that the text-book publishing in Ontario has fallen behind the times. Most of the books produced to-day, they say, are no better than those produced 20 years ago, whereas in the United States and Great Britain great progress has been made. The paper and type work in Ontario is inferior, but plate-making is more up-to-date. In binding, the United States binders, by the use of special machinery, produce better work at lower prices.

"Part of this general inferiority has been due to the absence of any insistent demand from the educational authorities, inspectors, or teachers for better work." The department allowed slovenly work, and apparently the inspectors and teachers either hesitated to criticize or were unfamiliar with conditions elsewhere. We believe that just as good books may be produced in Canada as elsewhere if the authorities insist upon an equally high standard."

METHODS OF PRODUCTION.

The report considers three general methods of producing text-books. The unsatisfactory one adopted by the late Government was to have an author prepare a text-book, then engage a publisher and fix the price to the general public. The author was not necessarily the most suitable man, while the publisher proceeded to make the most money he could out of his contract. Hence the present unsatisfactory books.

By a second method, the department might have the texts prepared, make its own plates, own all the rights, and have the printing done by tenders. This system might be expedient for the whole Dominion, but for one province it would be expensive and cumbersome.

The best method, say the commissioners, would be to throw both writing and publishing open to competition. This method would produce a text-book for nine provinces instead of one. Educationalists would be stimulated to do their best, and competition among publishers would result in the highest standards of bookmaking. This plan would be the best if the department maintained uniformity in all schools and authorized text-books for only a limited period.

While the Education Department of the day took a wise course in having the present Public school readers prepared by a Board of Educationists, the methods of publication produced books inferior in material and workmanship and exorbitant in price, as admitted by the publishers themselves. The commissioners quote from the evidence of Mr. W. J. Gage and Mr. S. G. Beatty in support of this statement.

RECEIVED EVIDENCE.

A resume of the evidence regarding copyright and the cost of the readers is then given, with a comparison of their cost and present selling price, as follows:

First Reader, Part I, cost 4.10c, selling price 10c.

First Reader, Part II, cost 5.75c, selling price 15c.

Second Reader, cost 7.75c, selling price 25c.

Third Reader, cost 10.50c, selling price 35c.

Fourth Reader, cost 12c, selling price 45c.

Thus a set of readers costing 40c was sold to the trade at 95c and retailed at \$1.25. At an advance of six cents per set superior and satisfactory books could have been secured. In the past 22 years the Public school children of Ontario had used inferior books, and paid for them about \$200,000 in excess of a fair price.

REMEDIES FOR THE EVIL.

The commissioners recommended that if a satisfactory and modern set of readers cannot be secured the department should prepare one, secure all copyrights, make the plates, and give out the printing by tender, under proper specifications, to one firm. Greater attention should be paid to the size of the type, quantity of matter on a page, quality of illustrations and color of paper. Pupils should be able to read the books without straining their eyes, even in poorly lighted rooms. If necessary to continue the old readers for a time, they should be printed by tenders by one or two firms.

Only one primer should be authorized. If others are recommended for supplementary reading they should be purchased by the School Board and kept in the school-room.

The other Public school books—arithmetic, histories, grammars, etc.—are nearly all excessive in price and inferior in workmanship and material, some being worse than the readers. The exceptions are three of Morang's publications, which are typographically excellent. The system of having three or four authorized books on the one subject should be done away with, enabling the publisher to produce one improved book at a lower price. No paper having mechanical pulp in its composition should be used in text-books. The seven-cent writing and drawing books should be reduced to three cents, and the ten-cent writing books to five cents. The cost of scribbling and exercise books is a burden to parents, and some scheme should be devised to relieve them. Toronto pupils get all their supplies at a cost of 14 cents per pupil per year, paid by the city, while in towns where parents buy individually the cost is nearly one dollar for each pupil.

The list of books authorized for High schools and Collegiate Institutes is unnecessarily large, with duplicates in many subjects. Subjects could be fully treated in one book for each. When a pupil moves from one High school to another he frequently has to buy many new books at a cost of one dollar to eight dollars. School libraries should take the place of supplementary text-books.

HIGH SCHOOL BOOKS DEAR.

Many of the books have been authorized for more than ten years. While change for the sake of change is not desirable, a consultation should be held over any book after it has been in use five years. If, with slight revision, it could be brought up to date, it should then be licensed for

three years more. If found unsuitable another should be authorized after the expiry of a year. The change should be announced to the public and publisher at the same time.

The cost of all High school books is too high and should be materially reduced. The annotated texts in English, Latin, Greek, French and German should be less than one-third the present prices. The ruled blank books made by some enterprising publishers should be prohibited by the department, as their cost is exorbitant. The pupils might do their own ruling.

A table of High school books is given, showing books costing nine cents retailing for 50 cents, while one costing 20¢ sells for \$1.25.

INSPECTION INADEQUATE.

The system of inspection of text on behalf of the department has been entirely inadequate. The commissioners recommended the appointment of a special inspector at a good salary who would protect the department and keep the text books up to the standard. He should have a library, to which would be added all the leading text books published in the United States or Great Britain. He should keep in touch with the department, the teachers, and the inspectors, and thus discover early any defects in the books sent to the schools.

FAVORS FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Speaking on the subject of free text books, the report says:

"Everyone now favors a system of free education. A free school should include free equipment for all the school—maps, globes, etc., are now supplied free. And there seems no valid reason why text books and other school supplies should not be so provided. Indeed there are many cogent reasons why they should be supplied.

"The evidence concerning free text books systems, now in vogue in many States and in the leading cities in the United States, in the city of Toronto and Province of Manitoba, indicates that this is a subject to which the Department of Education should direct its serious attention. There is a marked tendency in all progressive communities on this continent toward this system. No place that has ever adopted it has gone back to the old system. It would be a special advantage in the newer and more sparsely settled districts in Ontario.

"In Ontario, a beginning might be made by supplying readers and other Public school books to all School Boards at cost. Later on readers might be supplied to rural schools free of charge. The rural School Boards purchase their books and supplies in such small quantities that they are not in a position to secure as close prices as the School Board in a city the size of Toronto. All the evidence brought before the commissioners indicated that on Public school books alone the Government might purchase for the School Board at a very large saving annually."

Piles get quick relief from Dr. Shoop's Magic Ointment. Remember it's made ALONE for Piles—and it works with certainty and satisfaction. Itching, painful, protruding, or blind piles disappear like magic by its use. Try it and see! MacFarlane & Co.

CLASSIC CITY CHRONICLES.

(By W. H. Blakeston.)

On Friday, Feb. 1st, Rev. Alexander Langford, D. D., the esteemed and greatly beloved pastor of the Central Methodist Church, completed 50 years in the ministry. As a fitting celebration of this rare event a magnificent banquet was held in the Methodist church on Friday evening. The lecture room of the church was beautifully decorated and tables set with a seating capacity for 250 people. As these tables were filled twice and partly filled a third time there were over 500 people present. At one table on a raised platform were Dr. and Mrs. Langford, Miss Langford, Professor and Mrs. Langford, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K. C., and his wife, Rev. Dr. Carman, Rev. Dr. Potts, Chancellor Burwash, Rev. David Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Langford and Mrs. Henry Langford. Behind this table was a fine picture of the Dr. with the significant dates 1857-1907 underneath. After supper an exceedingly unique program was carried out, consisting of short, pithy, kindly and appreciative addresses from representatives from nearly every circuit travelled by Dr. Langford during his long and eminently successful ministerial career. Dr. Langford's reply to all the kind words said during the evening was a characteristic blending of pathos and humor. That he was more than ordinarily moved by the overwhelming expressions of love and esteem showered upon him goes without saying. As Dr. Carman appropriately remarked: "If Dr. Langford could stand what he has stood to-night he could stand anything." Dr. Langford's concluding words were "I thank you one and all and pray God that the richest blessings of Heaven may continue to rest on all the churches.

NOTES.

The representative from Sarnia was a witty Irishman. He told a story which is worth repeating. "Some years ago a man who was giving exhibitions of the power of magnetism struck a small burg where he had an admiring audience. After showing the force of a strong magnet on a piece of iron he asked any one if they had ever seen such a wonderful drawing power, one old fellow got up and said: "I don't know much about that 'ere iron and magnet but I know that many a year ago I knew a little girl dressed in calico who used to draw me 14 miles every Sunday over rough roads."

During the evening many of the speakers referred in gracious words to the sweetness and helpfulness of Mrs. Langford which prompted the Dr. to tell this story. Once upon a time a certain lady decided to sell her house and so gave the matter into the hands of a real estate agent who at once advertised the property in the local papers. The next day the agent was surprised to see the lady step into the office and hear her say "I've decided not to sell my house as I have come to the conclusion since seeing the advertisement that I have got a pretty good

one and I'm going to keep it;" and "I am going to keep my wife" said the Doctor, amidst the hearty laughter that greeted this pleasant sally.

Perhaps however it was a delegate from Brantford that made us feel cold and hot in about one second of time. "Why," said he, "I heard a man say when the Doctor was with us that we didn't want him any longer." This didn't seem much like a joke until we remembered that Dr. Langford is about 6 feet 4 inches high and as straight as an arrow and then we laughed loud and long.

If there is one thing more than another that we have to take as it comes it is the weather and to-day (Saturday) it wasn't in monotonous doses we got it either. In the morning it was balmy as the spring. At noon it reminded us of March but at night it was an old-fashioned February blizzard.

LOCAL NEWS.

To many the introduction of coal is comparatively new, and it will be well to be careful. Seldom a week passes without some accounts being recorded of accidents and death from coal gas. A few nights ago Mrs. Siegner imagined she smelled gas, but made no investigation. Later on she woke up feeling distressed from the fumes. She roused Mr. Siegner who was enjoying the calm, peaceful repose of a man with a clear conscience. He first opened the doors and windows and then sought for the cause of trouble. The furnace pipe had become dislocated and gas was escaping. Had discovery not been made just in time it is hard to say what the result would have been. Mr. Siegner felt the effects for some time. We are glad it wasn't worse as we have no desire yet to lose the family from our town.

We take up considerable space in this issue with matters relating to the amendments and proposed amendments to the Public Schools Act. A communication appears on page three under the signature of Norman McIntyre of S. S. No. 10, Glenelg and Egremont. As this communication was ordered to be published in the two Durham papers and three city papers it should not be overlooked by our readers. We have no comment whatever to make on it at present. These matters should be fully discussed by the people in a proper spirit, and their opinions should be known at headquarters. Just in this connection we may refer our readers also to another article on the School Question where it is shown by a special commission the advisability of changing the system of school book production and school book supplies. As a change in this direction would, on paper, save the country thousands of dollars annually we see no reason why either side of politics, would think such a change objectionable.

NOTICE.

The stolen harrows advertised by me a few weeks ago have not been returned to me personally and I again give notice that action will be taken by Saturday the 16th. inst. if the matter is not previously settled. They were wooden six bull harrows, which were advertised on a sale bill. The parties are known.—2

GUARANTEED STOMACH REMEDY

Will Refund Money if Mi-o-na Fails to Cure.

You may ask why it is that Mi-o-na stomach tablets are sold under a guarantee to refund the money unless they cure, when no other treatment for stomach troubles is sold in this manner.

The answer is simple and conclusive.

Other medicines for stomach troubles merely digest the food, while Mi-o-na strengthens the whole digestive system so that it soon becomes able to care for all the food that is eaten.

If you do not use your arm or leg for a month the muscles become flabby and weak and you have to resort to artificial help. It is the same way with the stomach muscles. If they are not used, they become so weak that it is necessary to continue using a digestive with the food you eat.

On the other hand, when you use Mi-o-na, your stomach soon grows so strong that you can give up the use of medicine.

Mi-o-na costs 50c a box and does more real good than a dozen boxes of ordinary tablets.

We absolutely agree that your money will be refunded should you buy a 50c box of Mi-o-na stomach tablets and not be satisfied with the results. Mi-o-na is sold by druggists everywhere, or will be sent my mail on receipt of price, 50c.

Write to-day for a free sample package, and also give us your symptoms, and one of the best known stomach specialists will give you your case his careful and personal attention without charge. Booth's Mi-o-na Company Buffalo, N. Y.

Farm for Sale.

One of the best farms in the Township of Bentinck. 208 acres, new brick house, two large bank barns, land first class, all cleared except 20 acres. Snap to quick purchaser. \$1500 down, balance at 4¢ per cent. Apply to

MACKAY & DUNN,
Vendor's Solicitors.

Feb. 6th, 1907—tf.

A STITCH IN TIME

SAVES NINE

It's easy to cure a cold when it first begins. In the beginning buy our

GRIP CAPSULES

Take them according to directions and your cold will disappear.

SOLD ONLY AT

GUN'S DRUG STORE

20% DISCOUNT

We will not allow ourselves to be undersold, and to make you sure that we are giving the very best bargains we'll give you the very liberal discount of 20 per cent.



Felt Slippers with felt or leather soles
Felt Boots with felt or leather soles
Misses' and Women's Cardigans
Men's, Women's and Boys' Overshoes
Felt Gaiters and Mackinaw Socks
Leggings and Hockney Boots
Ankle Supports
Fancy Velvet and Fancy House Shoes

We are preparing for spring trade and have not room to carry winter goods over.

Orders & Repairing carefully & promptly attended to

PEEL, the shoeman

CASH ONLY.

DURHAM AND OWEN SOUND

What's in a Name?

EVERYTHING

Our reputation is made by the goods we sell and the values we give. Nothing we can say will so fully endorse our new lines for spring as seeing the goods and making your own comparisons. Take advantage of the reductions stock-taking brings you. We have too many winter goods in some departments and there'll be no let up in the ruthless price sacrificing until they're down to normal conditions. We must get them into the more easily counted commodity—cash.

MEN'S OVERCOATS

Regular	\$15.00, now	\$12.00
"	12.00, "	10.00
"	10.00, "	8.00
"	8.00, "	6.00

MEN'S SUITS

Regular	\$12.00, now	\$10.00
"	10.00, "	8.00
"	7.00 and \$8.00, now	6.00



Men's Winter Caps, Underwear, Flannel Ties, Shirts, Winter Footwear, Etc.

Ladies' Furs

Only 3 Fur Jackets left. They should go quick at the prices we have put on them.

Ruffs, Muffs, Caperines, Fur Caps, only a few to clear.

Now for a Clean Up in All Winter Footwear

All remnants in Dress Goods, Cottons, etc., from our stock-taking must go NOW.

JAMES IRELAND

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