

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

How the State of Minnesota Fixes the School-Book Monopoly.

From the Rockford (Iowa) Register.

While in St. Paul, recently, we thought we would look up the school text book law of Minnesota, with a view of throwing a little light on a question that is bound to command no little attention when our Legislature meets.

The Legislature of the State of Minnesota in February, 1878, passed a law, of which the following is the substance:

The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General were directed to immediately enter into contract with D. D. Merrill, of St. Paul, who was to give a \$25,000 bond that he would for a term of fifteen years, furnish all school text books required by the people of the State. The books furnished were to be equal to certain standard text books in general use, each of which was designated in the act. A commission of competent educators was appointed to examine and pass on this question. The books so accepted to be subject to change and revision not oftener than once in five years.

We quote section 2 of the act. It is quite interesting reading:

Sec. 2. The prices to be paid by the State for the above-named books shall be for the Speller 15 cents, present price 25 cents.

First Reader 10 cents, present price 20 cents.

Second Reader 20 cents, present price 45 cents.

Third Reader 30 cents, present price 60 cents.

Fourth Reader 40 cents, present price 90 cents.

First Grammar 25 cents, present price 60 cents.

Practical Grammar 50 cents, present price \$1.

First Arithmetic 12 cents, present price 25 cents.

Second Arithmetic 25 cents, present price 40 cents.

Third Arithmetic 50 cents, present price 94 cents.

First Geography 50 cents, present price 80 cents.

Second Geography 80 cents, present price \$1.50.

For other books than those in this section, named a proportional price, and no more, shall be paid by the State.

The books so published were furnished to local agents throughout the State upon the requisition of the County Superintendent, the people getting their books from these agents.

The circus opened immediately on the passage of this law. The then State Superintendent, lots of County Superintendents, professors and teachers, the most of them with a commission interest in the old system, the school book publishers, their agents and the whole crowd interested in the old syndicate set up a fearful, terrible howl, and have kept it up steadily until about two years ago, when they gave it up as a bad job and quit. They all said:

"The law will be repealed."

"Merrill can not get any books."

"Merrill can not buy or hire any plates of books in this country."

"The publishers have all combined against him."

"The publ shers can afford to spend half a million dollars to defeat the law."

The books were issued, however, just the same, and are in general use all over the State. Now here comes the meat in the cocoanut. After this law was passed how many books did Merrill have to publish himself, or rather compile and credit himself, in order to fill his contract with the State? We give the following list, which comprises all he furnishes. There are twenty-eight text books all told. The clever book marks with a star are the only ones he had to compile and publish. All the others, seventeen in number, he was able, by virtue of his contract, to procure from the same old syndicate, furnish them to the State at the prices fixed, and still have a margin of profit left.

The following is the list and prices at which they are furnished the State:

Common school speller, 15 cents.

*Appleton's First Reader, revised, 10 cents.

Appleton's Second Reader, 20 cents.

Appleton's Third Reader, 30 cents.

Appleton's Fourth Reader, 40 cents.

Appleton's Higher Reader, 90 cents.

*Advanced First Reader Supplementary, 15 cents.

*Advanced Second Reader Supplementary, 20 cents.

*Advanced Third Reader Supplementary, 30 cents.

*Advanced Fourth Reader Supplementary, 40 cents.

*Elementary Geography (Niles), 55 cents.

Common School Geography, 80 cents.

*Common School Geography (Niles), 80 cents.

Primary Arithmetic, 15 cents.

Intermediate Arithmetic, 25 cents.

Elementary Arithmetic, 30 cents.

Old Practical Arithmetic, 50 cents.

*New Practical Arithmetic, 50 cents.

Whitney & Knox, "How to Speak," etc., 27 cents.

Knox—Heath, "Parts of Speech, and How to Use Them," 50 cents.

*Lessons in Language, 25 cents.

English Grammar, 50 cents.

American History, 60 cents.

Physiology and Hygiene, 55 cents.

Academ c. Dictionary, \$1.43.

*Writing Books, 1 to 7, each 10 cents.

*Manual of Penmanship, \$1.10.

*Book-keeping, 10 books and other blanks, \$1.25.

We personally examined most of these books. They appear to be in every way as good, both in subject-matter and typographical work, as the books used in Iowa. They cost just about half the money ours do. We do not pretend to say that the course pursued by our sister State was the very best way to secure the result sought, because we do not know; but this much we want to show in this article, viz.: That the thing can be done. In all probability the wise men of Des Moines can devise some plan that will be an improvement on the Minnesota law.

The Register is in favor of free text-books, and uniformity as to most of them. The State could then make contracts that would be at better rates than those given above.

"ALL NATIONS WITNESSES."

The Wonderful Mistakes of Scientists and Educators.

"Prove all things" seems to be the guiding maxim of the people of this age. This would be all right, were it not for the "know-nos" in every community, who are sure that every introducer of new ideas is a "crank," and that every new invention is "utterly impracticable."

The astonishing fact is that in this class educated men and scientists are found. In the days of George Stephenson, the perfector of the locomotive engine, the scientists proved conclusively that a railway train could never be driven by steam power successfully without peril; but the rushing express trains all over the world show how mistaken they were. There went up a gulf of laughter at Professor Morse's proposition to make the lightning of heaven's errand boy, and it was proved conclusively that the thing could never be done; but now all the news of the wide world by Associated Press, put in your hands every morning and night, has made all nations witnesses.

Rev. Dr. Talmage in one of his sermons says: If ten men should come to you when you are sick with appalling sickness, and say they had the same sickness and took a certain medicine, and it cured them, you would probably take it. Now, suppose ten other men should come up and say, "We don't believe there is anything in that medicine." "Well," I say, "have you tried it?" "No, I never tried it; but I don't believe there is anything in it." Of course you discredit their testimony. The skeptic may come and say, "There is no power in your religion." "Have you ever tried it?" "No, no." Then avantur! Let me take the testimony of the millions of souls that have been converted to God, and comforted in trial, and soothed in the last hour. We will take their testimony as they cry "We are witnesses!"

The proprietors of Warner's safe cure have received over 10,000 voluntary testimonies to the efficacy of that medicine. These have come from almost every civilized country, and they may fairly claim it has made all nations witnesses.

The evidence comes from all classes. The highest medical authorities, like Dr. Robson, late surgeon in the English navy, and Dr. Wilson, editor of "Health" of London, Eng.; and clergymen of the highest reputation, like Rev. Dr. Rankin, ex-chaplain of the U. S. Senate, and Dr. Kendrick, of the Rochester University, one of the international revisers of the New Testament, are among the published witnesses.

Hundreds of these testimonials have been and are being published. They can be easily verified. A standing offer of \$5,000 for proof that any one of them is not true, so far as the proprietor knows, is a fair guarantee of their genuineness.

If a man is suffering from any one of the ailments, of which there are so many, growing out of kidney derangement, it is not more foolish for him to refuse to try Warner's safe cure when thousands testify they have been cured by it?

The man who refuses to believe that anything can be valuable because it is in conflict with old ideas and methods are the men who "get left" in this world and go before their time to try another.

Aaron Burr as a Flatterer.

Aaron Burr was a most courtly gentleman "of the old school." His insinuating gallantry found its way to all hearts, and if he ever did make a mistake in using the language of compliment, he was quick to retrieve it.

Soon after a long absence in Europe, he met in New York a lady somewhat advanced in years. He was passing her without recognition, when she said: "Colonel, don't you remember me?"

"I do not, madam."

"I am Miss K——, sir."

"What!" he exclaimed, "Miss K——, yet?"

"Yes, sir," repeated the lady, somewhat offended, "Miss K——, yet!"

Perceiving his error, he gently took her hand, saying in his suave and emphatic manner, "Well, madam, then I venture to assert that it is not the fault of my sex."—*Youth's Companion*.

Elections in Corsica.

The Corsicans have nothing to learn in the art of carrying an election. They vote for those who are out of town and for those who are dead. They stuff the ballot-box. They scratch a ticket with a bit of lead pencil under the thumb nail, or with a sponge dipped in oil. They run away with the ballot-box. They fight, and a Corsican will bear a bullet like a wild boar, but in that land of fidelity bribery is unknown. To fancy an Italian republic of the fourteenth century one need not get pale over old chronicles, but spend a month in picturesque Porto Vecchio at election time.—*New York Times*.

Economy in Space.

"Hold on," said the doorkeeper at the opera-house, as the twain pushed past him; "you can't both go in on that; this ticket calls for only one seat."

"That's all right, mister; one cheer's man big enough to hold both of us many a time; han't it, Lize?" And in a cloud of Lize's best blushes they were gone before he could sound the recall.—*Burdette*.

No Safety Anywhere.

First Anarchist—Now we have got into the suburbs away from the police; let's unfurl our red flag.

Second Anarchist—No, no, don't. We'll be killed.

"Eh! What's the matter?"

"There's a bull in that lot."—*Omaha World*.

FOR INEXPENSIVE BANDS FOR CURTAINS TAKE STRIPS OF COTTON WITH PRETTY VINES OR FIGURES AND OUTLINE THEM WITH TINSEL; IT HAS THE EFFECT OF OLD TAPESTRY WORK.

Remarkable Surgery.

The science of surgery has made such wonderful progress in modern times that the most intricate and delicate operations are now undertaken and carried to a successful issue. There are now several well authenticated cases of what is known as pneumotomy—that is to say, the removal of diseased portions of the lungs in cases of consumption. While, however, this delicate operation has sometimes been successfully performed, the risks attending it are so great and the chances of recovery so slight that it is seldom resorted to. The safest plan in consumptive cases is to use Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This will always cure the disease in its earlier stages, thoroughly arresting the ravages of the terrible malady by removing its cause, and healing the lungs.

NINE theaters in London are managed by women. It is safe to say that there are no flies on them.

The New Prize Story

is eagerly sought for, read with pleasure or disappointment, and then tossed aside for forgotten. But ladies who read of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription read it again, for they discover in it something to prize—a messenger of joy to those suffering from functional derangements or any of the painful disorders or weaknesses peculiar to their sex. Periodical pains, internal inflammation, and ulceration readily yield to its wonderful curative and healing powers. It is the only medicine for women sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wraper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

TWO trouble with the big girl is that every pair of scales she steps on gives her a weight.—*Texas Siftings*.

"YES; I shall break the engagement," she said, folding her arms and looking defiant; "it is really too much trouble to converse with him; he's as deaf as a post and talk like he had a mouthful of mush. Besides, the way he talks and spits is disgusting." "Don't break the engagement for that; tell him to take Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It will cure him completely." "Well, I'll tell him. I do hate to break it off, for in all other respects he's quite too charming." Of course it cured his catarrh.

THE indiscretion of our first parents was a mighty good thing for tailors and dressmakers.

DELICATE CHILDREN, NURSING

MOTHERS, Overworked Men, and for all diseases where the tissues are wasting away from the inability to digest ordinary food, or from overwork of the brain or body, all such should take Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites. "I used the Emulsion on a lady who was delicate and threatened with Bronchitis. It put her in such good health and flesh that I must say it is the best Emulsion I ever used."—L. P. WADDELL, M. D., Hugh's Mills, S. C.

IT is not a difficult task to discover rare talents in young ladies whose parents are wealthy.—*Texas Siftings*.

COUGHS AND HOARSENESS.—The irritation which induces coughing immediately relieved by use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." Sold only in boxes.

THE ring of true patriotism must not be confounded with any of the New York political rings.—*Siftings*.

A Michigan Central Railroad Employee Wins His Case After a Seven Years' Contest.

ALBION, Mich., Dec. 20, 1887. While employed as agent of the Michigan Central Railroad Company at Augusta, Mich., about seven years ago, my kidneys became diseased, and I have been a great sufferer ever since. Have consulted the leading physicians of this city and Ann Arbor, and all pronounced my case Bright's disease. After taking every highly recommended remedy that I had knowledge of, to no purpose, and while suffering under a very severe attack in October last, began taking Hibbard's Rheumatic Syrup, and am to-day a well man. It affords me pleasure to render suffering humanity any good that I can, and in speaking of the remedy, allow me to say that I think it is the greatest medicine in the world. E. LABZILEE, Agent M. C. R. R.

A WOMAN'S RITES are usually dedicated to a male god.—*New Haven News*.

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless invalids have been entirely cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. address. Respectfully,

T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 181 Pearl St., N. Y.

A PRETTY photograph holder is made the shape of a cabinet photograph and is simply a plush bag, satin-lined and open at one end and a little down one side, to allow a corner to be turned back and caught with a bow.

STEKETEE'S DRY BITTERS!

Make your own Bitters

Why pay a dollar for a bottle of Stomach Bitters, containing more poor whiskey than medicine, when the undersigned will send you by mail one 4 oz. package of ROOTS, HERBS and BERRIES, which will make ONE GALLON of the best TONIC anyone ever used. The use of this Tonic has cured INFLUENZA, NEURITIS, PERITONITIS, AGUE, & ASTHMA, and is a powerful medicine, a laxative, aperient, diuretic, and gives relief to the kidneys and general debility, and gives tone to the Stomach; in fact I challenge all other Tonics. It is far the cheapest Tonic known. One package will equal one dozen bottles of ordinary Bitters sold at One Dollar per bottle. Full directions on every package. Ask your druggist for STEKETEE'S DRY BITTERS. If your druggist does not keep them on sale, then send to the undersigned. I will send one package to any address within the U. S. on receipt of 25¢. U. S. postage stamp. When you receive your package send 50¢ and a trial bottle of STEKETEE'S NEURALGIA DROPS included. Address, GEO. G. STEKETEE, Grand Rapids, Mich. Use STEKETEE'S PIN WORM DESTROYER, sure cure. Price 25 cents.

WIZARD OIL FOR PAIN

CURES Neuralgia, Toothache, Headache, Catarrh, Croup, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Lambe Back, Stiff Joints, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Wounds, Old Sores and All Aches and Pains.

The many testimonials received by us more than all we claim for this valuable remedy. It not only relieves the most severe pains, but

IT CURES YOU. That's the Idea!

Sold by druggists, 50¢ etc. SONG BOOK mailed free. Address WIZARD OIL COMPANY CHICAGO.