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Ordnance Survey Maps.—The Departmental Committee on the sale of Ordnance Survey maps has published its report, together with minutes of the evidence given by thirteen witnesses, including Sir Clements Markham, Colonel Farquharson (Director-General of the Ordnance Survey), Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster, M.P., and a number of map-salesmen and officials. The decision arrived at by the Committee was that the principle of appointing sole agents for England, Scotland, and Ireland, through whom alone maps of the respective countries could be obtained, should be abandoned. The Committee recommends for the future that a single agent should be appointed for the sale of Ordnance Survey maps in London; that a separate agent be appointed for Edinburgh, Dublin, and each of the larger provincial towns, to keep a credit stock of maps, which will be supplied to him at a discount of 25 per cent. off the published price. In addition to this, any book or map seller may order maps direct from Southampton or Dublin, and will be supplied on the same terms as the appointed agents, except that prepayment for orders should be necessary. The Committee further makes the very important recommendation that the Postmaster-General be invited to sanction arrangements for the exhibition of index sheets and specimens of local maps at about a thousand post-offices in small towns and rural districts, so that maps may be ordered through the post-office. It is eminently satisfactory to find that at last there seems a likelihood of the splendid maps of the Ordnance Survey being made easily accessible to the public in all parts of the country.

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The Sale of Ordnance Maps.—A parliamentary paper has lately been issued relative to the sale of Ordnance maps, which shows that by recent arrangements the facilities given to the public for obtaining maps at various towns throughout the country have been greatly increased. Mr. E. Stanford still remains the sole agent for the sale of Ordnance maps within the county of London, while for the cities of Edinburgh and Dublin Messrs. J. Menzies & Co. and Messrs. Hodges, Figgis & Co. have been appointed agents respectively. Agencies have also been instituted from January 1, 1897, in a number of other towns throughout the United Kingdom, and arrangements have been made whereby orders can be given at the head post offices of many other towns at which there is no agent. The agents throughout the country are bound to keep at the respective depôts "such a stock of the Ordnance Survey maps, with the relative area books, and of the index maps and catalogues, as may be, in the opinion of the Board of Agriculture, sufficient to meet the ordinary calls made upon them;" and it is further specified, in the case of London and Edinburgh, that "the agent shall keep at least one copy of every Ordnance Survey map (of England and Wales and Scotland respectively), whether coloured or uncoloured, which shall not have been superseded by a later edition." The selling prices are fixed by the Board, and are not to be exceeded by the agents; facilities are also to be given for the exchange of any map purchased by mistake for another, provided it be returned promptly and in good condition, and another taken. As the agents appointed already number nearly 140, the advantages to the public of the new system are at once apparent.