

the Law Associations of the Province, as well as on the recent occasion of the reception in the court house at Hamilton, stated his hearty approval of the system; and the Dominion Government has so far recognized the importance of the institutions as to direct the free distribution to them of the statutes, notes on criminal law, the Supreme and Exchequer Reports, the *Canada Gazette*, and Orders in Council, which hitherto had been a charge upon the funds of the associations, and, to that extent, the supplying of these valuable publications is a saving of expense.

The Government has still under consideration the question of making a money grant for the purpose of assisting local associations, possibly by way of supplementing, from time to time, the works on Criminal and Election Law, all important and valuable additions to such libraries.

The question, also, of encouraging the importation of English and other law books, for the exclusive use of law libraries without the imposition of duty, was also forcibly brought to the attention of the Ministers; and that question is under consideration by the Government. Judging from the interest evinced by the Premier in the working of these organizations, and the weight given to the arguments advanced by the deputation, it is hoped that, at the approaching session of Parliament, the tariff will be so modified as to permit works of technical character, when imported for law libraries, to be put upon the free list.

The fact that the Law Society at Osgoode Hall paid last year in duty about \$340.00, and that other associations in proportion make annual disbursements for the same purpose, show the large annual saving that would be effected if the duty were removed. As the Government has already placed upon the free list all books imported for the use of Public Libraries, it is hoped that the principle will be adopted in the case of libraries organized for the convenience of and largely used in the administration of justice.

It may be useful and interesting to trace the growth of the Law Associations and the establishment of Law Libraries in in Ontario, the earliest of which was that of the County of Brant, organized in 1853. The remainder of the twenty organizations were formed as follows:—

County of Bruce Law Association, organized in 1879, with an initiatory grant of \$126.