

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

Gentlemen of the Public Library Board:

We have been associated together as members of this Board for the past four years. We have been trustees to the people of this city in acquiring for them a Free Library and Reading Rooms. We had many difficulties to encounter in selecting the site or location, in the erection of a suitable building, in choosing the books, papers, magazines, etc, and in the appointment of a librarian and lady assistants. It is not necessary here to enter into details as to those difficulties, the discussions on some of which waxed very warm, and are, no doubt, yet fresh in the memories of most of the members of this Board. Suffice it to say that in nearly all these important questions the decision arrived at was for the best interests of the Library and the people whom the Library is intended to serve and accommodate. The result of our labors are that we have a Public Library and Reading Rooms second to none in our Dominion, a Public Library that is in every way an honor to our city, a Public Library that we can with feelings of pride show to our friends, and strangers visiting our city.

I feel that we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. William Stewart as our architect. He has given us a building that is handsome, imposing, commodious, well lighted, well ventilated, convenient and in every way most suited for the purpose for which it was built.

I believe that we are all agreed that we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. R. T. Lancefield, as our Librarian. He has proved himself to be the right man in the right place; and the successful working of the Library and its great popularity is largely due to his exertions, with the able assistance of his very efficient lady assistants.