

so very generally, and every book asked for has received the careful consideration of the committee. The circulation during the year was 14,448, being an increase of 152 over the previous year. Nor is the improvement in numbers only ; while it is true that novels have been largely circulated, as heretofore, it is a pleasure to notice the growing demand for a higher class of fiction, for the latest and best works in history, biography and travel, and for all works relating to our Dominion. Of the 243 books added during the year there were of Fiction 62 ; History, 30 ; Magazines bound, 37 ; Biography, 33 ; Science and Philosophy, 17 ; Travels, 6 ; Mechanical works, 9 ; Law, 4 ; General Literature, 11 ; Blue Books and Pamphlets, 34.

In purchasing these volumes particular care has been taken to provide works of reference for the general student and the practical mechanic, and books which shall instruct the boys who now form such an important element in our reading membership.

The Government at Ottawa has been asked to place at the disposal of the committee the latest maps and plans of the Dominion, especially of the North West.

The Reading Room has been well patronized during this year. In order to lessen the expenditure as much as possible tenders were asked for the supply of papers and periodicals for the coming year, and resulted in a very material reduction in the cost.

In yielding up this work the committee regret they have been able to do so little, but they trust their successors may have more means at their disposal, and may carry forward more successfully what is now confessedly the great work of the Institute. Thanks of the Institute are due the publishers of papers and magazines kindly supplied gratuitously ; to the Provincial and Federal governments ; the Boston Public Library ; the city of Montreal ; the Harbor Commissioners for statutes and reports ; the Mott Iron Works ; the Union Brass Works ; Reed & Barton for illustrated catalogue ; to Messrs. Cheesman, Whitney and Olmstead for books and pamphlets.

#### FINANCE.

In accordance with the order of the committee the Financial Statement was mailed to each member of the Institute at the appointed time.

A supplementary statement, including all bills due to Oct. 31st, is herewith. Our receipts show an improvement over last year. It