

brooke, and have agreed to report the same without amendment.

Ninth Report
of Committee
on Railroad
and Telegraph
Line Bills.

Sir Allan N. MacNab, from the Standing Committee on Railroad and Telegraph Line Bills, presented to the House the Ninth Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth:—

Your Committee have taken into their consideration the Bill to amend the *Toronto and Lake Huron Railroad Act*, referred to them, and beg leave to report the same for the consideration of Your Honorable House, without amendment.

Toronto and
Lake Huron
Railroad Act
Amendment
Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill to amend the *Toronto and Lake Huron Railroad Act* be committed to a Committee of the whole House, for Monday next.

Final Report of
Committee on
Library.

Sir Allan N. MacNab, from the Standing Committee appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in the direction of the Library, presented to the House the final Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth:—

It is with feelings of profound regret that Your Committee have to record the total destruction of the Library, at the burning of the Houses of Parliament, on the 25th of April last; the entire collection having been consumed, with the exception of about 200 volumes, which were with difficulty rescued from the flames. The minutes of the proceedings of Your Committee at its several meetings during the present Session, together with the original Reports, three in number, which had been presented to the House, having also perished, the following Memorandum has been prepared of the contents of the Reports and Proceedings aforesaid, as well for the information of Your Honorable House, as for the purpose of preserving a succinct record of the past deliberations of Your Committee.

The First Report was on the subject of Rules. It proposed the rescinding of the old Rules of the House respecting the Library, and the adoption of others more suited to its actual condition. This Report was printed, and the new Rules, as agreed to by the House, recorded upon the Journals.

The Second Report recommended the sanctioning of various small purchases of Books made from time to time, for the Library, up to the date of the Report, and submitted lists of French and English works which the Committee suggested should be purchased during the ensuing recess, to be added to the Library. It further recommended that a Messenger, who had been nominally styled Library Messenger ever since his appointment to the service of the House some years ago, but who had not been exclusively employed in that capacity, should thenceforth be set apart for attendance upon the Library, daily, throughout the year, except at such times as he might not be required for that purpose, when he should continue, as formerly, to act as a general House Messenger.

The Third Report was relative to copies of *Bouchette's Map of British North America*, and of *Doucet's Work on the Laws of Lower Canada*, which had been purchased by the House in the Session of 1847, in aid of those undertakings, and which still remained undisposed of, with the exception of ten copies of the Map loaned, by order of the Speaker, to Mr. Bouchette, (to be replaced this summer,) and a few copies of the Map which had been presented, by a similar authority, to public bodies in the Province, or sent to France. The Report recommended that such of the remaining copies of the Map and Book as could be spared by the House, should be distributed among various educational and other institutions in either Province. It further stated that, in view of the liberality hitherto extended by the House to literary enterprize in Canada, it had determined upon recommending that pecuniary assis-

tance should be afforded to the following literary undertakings, which they deemed, upon due deliberation, to be deserving of encouragement:—

1st. That 150 copies of Mr. Christie's "*History of Canada*" should be purchased by the House.

2nd. That 50 copies, when published, of a manuscript work, by Mr. Gorrie, on the "*Civil Laws of Lower Canada*," should be taken. (The original of this work, which had appeared to Your Committee to be very commendable, was unfortunately destroyed at the fire.)

3rd. That a collection of papers upon various questions of "Parliamentary and Election Law," by Mr. *Alpheus Todd*, should be published at the expense of the House, and £100 granted to Mr. Todd for the preparation thereof. (This work was also destroyed at the fire.)

4th. That 200 copies of a small work on "Agricultural Chemistry," by Mr. *Aubin*, should be subscribed for.

5th. That 50 copies of a compilation, entitled, "*Petit Guide du Jeune Notaire*," by M. *Eugène L'Ecuyer*, should also be purchased by the House.

6th. That a grant of £150 should be made to enable the House to procure copies of some valuable manuscript papers relative to the early History of Canada, in the possession of the State of Massachusetts, and at present deposited in Harvard University, near Boston, the authorities of that State having kindly intimated that they would give every facility to a person to be sent by any public body in Canada for that purpose.

The Third Report concluded with recommending that the surplus copies of the above-mentioned works should be hereafter distributed, under Mr. Speaker's direction, to various learned bodies and institutions in either Province. This Report was presented to the House on the very day of the conflagration, and it embodied the sole remaining proceedings of the Committee up to that date.

Your Committee, in adverting to the melancholy catastrophe which has deprived Your Honorable House, and the Province at large, of its valuable Library, a loss which it must be the labour of years to replace, feel the necessity of re-considering their former recommendations, and of making such modifications therein as may suit the altered circumstances which have since arisen. While they sincerely trust that efforts will be hereafter made to replace, as far as possible, the collection which has been destroyed, they are not prepared, at this late period of the Session, to recommend any large appropriation for this purpose; but would confine themselves for the present, to the suggestion, that in lieu of the purchases recommended in their Second Report, Mr. Speaker be authorized during the ensuing recess, to procure such Books of Reference merely, as may be deemed indispensably necessary for the use of Members in the business of legislation. And as they doubt not, much sympathy will be felt abroad for the heavy loss which the Legislature and the People of this Province have sustained by the destruction of the only Libraries therein, of any magnitude, to which the public at large could obtain access; and as they think it highly probable that wealthy individuals and Literary Institutions in England might be found, who would come forward with donations of books in aid of the re-construction of the Library, were the circumstances of the case properly brought under their notice, they would recommend that Mr. Speaker be instructed to write or to cause to be written, official letters to the Speakers and Librarians of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, the Speakers of the several Colonial Legislatures in North America and the West Indies, &c., and to the Custodians of Public Libraries in England, or otherwise to bring under the notice of parties in the Mother Country, and in our