

cinthe, Sainte Anne de la Pocatiere and Three Rivers, respectively 25,000, 13,000, and 7000.

The province has therefore 40 libraries containing 670,025 volumes.

The wealthier and more homogeneous province of Ontario has had for the past 18 years a free library act among its statutes. Under this act six cities and towns with 65,367 volumes had, when I reported in 1887 availed themselves of its permissive powers, which number has now increased to 120. There were also at that time 125 Mechanics' Institutes, containing 206,146 volumes, scattered throughout the province. These were supported partly by Government grant and partly by private annual subscriptions, but in 1895 the legislature passed an act converting them into public libraries. Permission was given to any municipal council to appoint a board of management, which was authorized to take over the Mechanics' Institute Library of the town or village and to carry it on as a free public library -- the funds being provided by the Government and the municipality. When the municipality did not take over the library, power of incorporation was given to not less than 10 persons to form a body for the purpose of providing a public library, financial assistance being given by the Government. Thus the policy of the administration of Ontario has been steadily directed to the municipal ownership of libraries and the putting them on a more permanent basis than can exist under associations of private individuals. As a consequence of this policy there are now in the province 406 public libraries, 120 of which are free and 286 partially so, these latter being almost entirely in the smaller towns and villages. The largest of these libraries, Toronto, contains 110,000 volumes and the smallest about 250. The united incomes for 1899 amounted to \$193,421, their assets were valued at \$935,976, they contained 862,047 volumes, and their issue of books for the year was 2,547,131.

The library which is maintained by the Legislature for its own use has grown rapidly during the past few years, under the management of Mr. Avern Pardoe, and now contains 70,000 volumes, and the Educational Library in the department of the Minister of Education, which is freely opened to all students, has 19,690 v.

From the number of higher educational institutions in the province we might freely an-

ticipate a proportionate number of libraries. The largest of these, the University of Toronto, numbers 60,000; Queen's University, Kingston, has 36,000; Ottawa University 35,000. The total number of books reported from the 18 universities and colleges is 230,300.

The Law Society of Ontario is a corporation composed of the legal profession of the province, which among other duties provides for the training and examination of students-at-law, and has its library in Osgoode Hall, Toronto, numbering 29,894 volumes. It also aids in the formation and maintenance of local law libraries in each county town. These number 24, and their libraries contain from a few hundred to 4000 volumes each. They are estimated to contain a total of 50,000 volumes which gives the number of law books in Ontario libraries as 79,894. There are also 11 scientific and other societies whose collections of books number 25,736.

Summarizing these we find this province contains 439 libraries which are more or less open for public use and which have on their shelves 1,287,667 volumes.

Proceeding west, we have the province of Manitoba on the great prairie land in the center of the continent. Winnipeg almost entirely engrosses what libraries it has, and the largest of these is the Legislative Library, which inherited whatever small collection of books were in the Red River before the formation of the province. It now contains 17,435 volumes, and is rich in papers and documents pertaining to the early days. The Literary and Historical Society have arranged with the city authorities to maintain a free library and have thrown open for reference their own library, which now numbers about 15,000 volumes. The University of Manitoba with its affiliated colleges has about 8000 and the Law Library of the Law Society 6000 volumes. These four libraries contain 46,435 volumes.

The Northwest Territories have a library in connection with its Legislature, at Regina, which contains about 3500 volumes.

Finally, facing the Pacific we have the province of British Columbia, which, though limited in population, in library matters is one of the progressive provinces of the Dominion. Two years ago, finding that many mining camps and isolated agricultural districts were without means of instruction, they organized a