

It gives me much pleasure to greet you to this, the opening meeting of our winter course of lectures.

The history of our Society has been presented to you in former years, especially by our veteran ex-president, Dr. W. D. LeSueur—to whom the Society owes so much—that I will not dilate thereon now.

However, I may say that our membership is nearly 300 and that our finances are in so far satisfactory that we have no debts and have a substantial figure to our credit in the bank.

The past year in Ottawa has been marked by an event that cannot but be fraught with great good to the people of Ottawa and which will also, it is hoped, prove a benefit to the Literary and Scientific Society. I refer of course to the opening of the Carnegie Library. It is but a few months since this took place, and already some ten thousand have availed themselves of the privileges thus made available. This in itself is ample justification for the existence of the institution, the usefulness of which is, however, but in its infant stage; let us hope that as time passes there will not be a home in Ottawa which shall not be directly or indirectly benefited by its humanizing and elevating influences.

That the library may occupy the position it should as an educational factor in the community, it must receive adequate support from the City Treasury for the purchase of books and magazines, and ultimately for the technical instruction of our artisans, not to mention the maintenance of a staff commensurate with its requirements. The present supply of books falls visibly short of the immediate needs.

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