

LIBRARIES IN CANADA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

The following statistics are gleaned from the report of Dr. S. P. May, Superintendent of Mechanics' Institutes and Art Schools. to the Minister of Education for Ontario. The report is for the year ending May 30, 1888.

No. of mechanics' institutes in operation.....	178	
(96 of these have reading rooms attached.)		
No. of free libraries in operation.....	8	
159 institutes reported. They had a total of.....	230,517	volumes.
8 free libraries had a total of.....	80,531	"
Total.....		311,048
The institutes issued.....	336,895	volumes.
The free libraries issued.....	407,571	"
Total.....		744,466
The institutes reported.....	18,176	members.
The free libraries reported.....	13,840	readers.
Total.....		32,016
The institutes spent \$20,660 on books, including book-binding (an average of \$130 each).		
The free libraries spent \$8,853 " " " "		
\$1107 each. Total.....		\$29,513
The institutes' receipts for the year were.....	\$62,473	38
The free libraries' " " " " " "	41,370	30
Total.....		\$103,843 68
The institutes' expenditures for the year were.....	\$58,313	86
The free libraries' " " " " " "	38,051	23
Total.....		\$96,364 09
The institutes have assets of.....	\$276,000	
The free libraries have assets of.....	127,573	
Total.....		\$403,573 00

We find the following to have been about the percentage of circulation in the various classes of literature :

	Institutes. Per cent.	Free Libraries. Per cent.
Voyages and Travels.....	.09 $\frac{3}{5}$	.04
History.....	.05 $\frac{1}{5}$	.02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biography.....	.04	.02
Science and Art.....	.03 $\frac{3}{4}$	.04 $\frac{1}{5}$
Fiction.....	.54	.70
Reference Department.....	.00 $\frac{1}{2}$	.04 $\frac{1}{5}$
Poetry and Drama.....	.01 $\frac{1}{2}$	.01
Religious Literature.....	.02	.01 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscellaneous.....	.19 $\frac{7}{10}$	.10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	100	100

These statistics present some curious facts for consideration. The 8 free libraries had only one-third the number of volumes in the institutes, and yet their issue was greater than the combined 159 institutes. Fiction was read more largely in free libraries than in the institutes, while the books in the reference department were consulted very much more in the free libraries than in the institutes.