

HAD SURPLUS OVER \$1,100.

Annual Meeting of the Library
Board Held Yesterday.

Mr. R. C. Fearman Unanimous
Choice as Chairman.

Estimates For the Year Placed at
\$21,731.

At the annual meeting of the Public Library Board yesterday afternoon, Mr. Robert C. Fearman was elected chairman. The choice was an unanimous one, and Dr. Lyle, in a few words of congratulation, expressed the sentiments of the members. Mr. Fearman thanked his colleagues for the honor they had conferred upon him, and hoped that he would fill the duties of the office to their satisfaction.

Dr. Woolverton and Dr. Lyle both expressed the thanks of the Board to the retiring chairman, Mr. Harry M. Dallyn, for the courteous and efficient manner in which he fulfilled the duties of the chair.

The striking committee, composed of Messrs. Milne, Lovings, and Brown, retired to draw up the standing committees for the year, which they did, as follows:

Building and Finance Committee—Messrs. J. M. Brown, chairman; A. Hayes, J. Milne and H. M. Dallyn. Library Committee—Dr. Woolverton, chairman; Dr. Lyle, W. H. Lovings and Mayor McLaren.

The librarian, Mr. Hunter, presented his monthly statement, showing that 14,250 books had been in circulation during the month of December, an increase of 2,691 over the corresponding month of 1907. Books were purchased during the month to the value of \$390.49, and the amount of the accounts passed was \$1,428.49. Extracts from the annual report of the chairman are as follows:

During the year the Board opened a branch in the rapidly growing east end. While it was thought the branch would relieve the strain on the main library, it has not, as the circulation of books has increased by 24,443 over the previous year.

During the year the Board was put to the expense of having a new roof on the library and also of having the brickwork repointed and alterations made to the basement. This, with the installation of the branch, has been quite a drain on the finances of the Board, but I am pleased to report a surplus of \$1,129.64, which will help to tide the Board over the beginning of the year. The last payment on the outstanding debentures falls due this year and will have to be provided for by the Board.

The librarian, in his annual report, said:

The number of volumes in the main library 31st December, 1908, was 34,978. The total accessions for the year have been 2,519 volumes, 2,382 by purchase and 131 by donation. 131 volumes have been withdrawn from the library, being worn out. The number of new borrowers' cards issued, 1,652. The number of cards issued was 19,104.

The circulation from the main library has increased in all departments, as may be seen by the following: The total use of volumes for the year 1908 was 339,320. This is an increase of 24,443 over the circulation for 1907. The home circulation was 166,725 and 33,614 for reference. The combined circulation of the main library and the Barton street branch for home use was 174,389.

The reference room has been tried to its utmost capacity, many times the readers could not get seats. 10,817 persons made use of the reference books, an increase of 311 over the previous year. The number of volumes consulted was 33,614, an increase of 3,096. The number of visitors to the reading room, as ascertained by occasional daily counts is estimated at 120,062. 69,554 visitors patronized the general reading room and the number of visitors to the ladies' reading room was 50,108.

The receipts of the year amounted to \$21,741.77, and the expenditure \$20,644.53.

The estimates for 1909 were passed as follows:

Receipts.	
Balance in bank Dec. 31st.	\$1,129.64
Rents	500.00
Government grant	250.00
Cards and fines	600.00
Municipal grant of 1/4 mill on the assessment of \$38,505,955	19,252.00
	\$21,731.64

Expenditure.	
Debentures	\$3,520.00
Interest	420.00
Salaries	7,350.00
Books	4,150.00
Periodicals	1,000.00
Binding	550.00
Lighting	750.00
Heating	600.00
Printing and supplies	350.00
Repairs and improvements	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	615.00
Insurance	425.00
Rent and water rates	500.00
	\$21,731.64

IN TROUBLE.

A Toronto Man Arrested on Fraud Charge.

Toronto, Jan. 29.—Bernard F. Gregory, familiarly known about the city as "Count Bertie" Gregory, is in trouble. Gregory was arrested on Yonge street by Detective Kennedy last night in a warrant charging fraud, the complainant being T. E. Mullett, of 382 College street, a druggist. Detective Kennedy took his prisoner to Court Street Police Station, where he spent the night.

Gregory, whose real name is said to be Greenbaum, is alleged to have obtained \$2 worth of drugs and \$8 in money from Mullett, recently, by means of a worthless cheque. In addition to the specific charge on which he was arrested, the police say they have several other charges to lay against Gregory.

Married on Wednesday, knowing he was on his death bed, to Miss Mary Weatherpoon, Pascal Finn, a native of Ireland, was alleged to have died yesterday in the Brockville hospital.



Ready for the Lumber Camps

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The Day Was a Great One in Great Britain.

Incidents Connected With First Payments Under New Law.

The British Old Age Pension scheme became operative the first of the year and from morning till evening the post offices were busy paying out the various sums due to the individuals presenting the official books of forms, and so carefully had arrangements been made that the whole thing was done with scarcely a hitch and with no additions to the ordinary office staffs. The following approximate figures represent the day's work:

Applicants paid over..... 500,000
Amount paid out..... £110,000
The number of claimants in London was 41,000, of whom 31,488 were recommended.

Many incidents, pathetic and amusing, took place in the post offices in connection with the payments. It is a curious fact that nearly a dozen deaths, possibly due to excitement acting on an enfeebled heart, occurred to persons entitled to pensions.

In Ireland £30,000 was paid out yesterday to 150,000 old age pensioners. The successful claimants in Dublin numbered 4,500, most of whom received the maximum of 5s.

SCOTLAND'S PENSION DAY.

In Glasgow there were 5,230 pensioners. At the General Post-Office one of the recipients was so delighted that he invited the whole staff of the money order department to celebrate the event by adjourning to the nearest hotel. Scarcely had the civil servants explained that they could not forsake the post of duty. A lady of 104 and her daughter, aged 73, were on the list.

At Edinburgh, where there were 2,790 claims, the first to be paid was a Crickey veteran, one of the "Thin Red Line" heroes, who was entitled also to his army pension.

PENSION REQUIREMENTS.

These old age pensions, it is conservatively estimated, will cost the country over \$35,000,000 annually. Seven hundred thousand applications have been received. Of these 200,000 were disallowed, chiefly because the applicants had received poor relief.

The act embodying the expenditure of this enormous sum for the pensioning of poor men and women is the dearest serving poor within and beyond the seventy-year age limit, contains the following clauses:

"Any person who satisfies the pension authority that he, first, is a British subject, second, is seventy years of age, third, has not within the past twenty years been convicted of an offence and sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment without the imposition of a fine; fourth, has not received relief other than medical aid, unless under circumstances of an exceptional character, during twenty years prior to the application for a pension; fifth, is a resident within the pension authority; sixth, has not an income from any source of more than ten shillings per week, and, seventh, has endeavored to the best of his ability by his industry and by the exercise of reasonable providence, to make provision for himself and those immediately dependent on him, shall receive a certificate to that effect and be entitled to a pension."

The highest pension is five shillings weekly, which is now being paid to persons having an income below \$105 per year. If a man's income exceeds \$105, but is below \$155, small amounts will be paid.

PRIVATE PENSIONS STOPPED.

The action of private people, and in one case at least, a public body, in continuing pensions to old folk on the ground that they can take advantage of the Government Act, is causing a great deal of hardship.

The Duke of Bedford has announced his intention of deducting from his pensions on his Woburn estate an amount of money equal to the old age pension which they could draw from the Government. Several men who received larger pensions, from 10s upwards, have not applied for the old age pension. Now, however, their pension has been reduced, and the estate officials have ordered them to apply for their Government pensions.

The Duke of Bedford, who is fifty years old, is one of the wealthiest men in England. He owns Covent Garden and other valuable property in London, including the squares and boarding houses of Bloomsbury, and his several country seats include Woburn Abbey, where there is a superb collection of pictures.

Many widows have lost part or whole of their allowances from the royal patriotic fund. A circular note was early in December addressed by the royal corporation to the widows over seventy years, directing them to apply for pensions under the old age pension act. No intimation whatever was given that it intended to stop or reduce the allowance, which, as a rule, has been due to the shopkeepers before being received for the necessities of life.

That this was only too true became apparent, however, on New Year's day, at Queenstown, when widows who were entitled to Government pensions found that their allowance had been lessened by the amount, as in most cases, which they would receive from the State. Most of these pensioners of the patriotic fund were paid quarterly, in advance, £3 18s; but, to their dismay, the paying order for the quarter was only 18s.

At Wood Green a septuagenarian has



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Mother's Bread

is subjected to the closest inspection and we are sure it will give entire satisfaction to all users.

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A.M. EWING, HAMILTON.

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