

Whereupon the said Honorable Messieurs *Dickson*, *Lacoste*, and *Wark*, made and signed their declaration of qualification, as prescribed by law, before *John Fenning's Taylor* (the elder), Esquire.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House the Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament.

The same was then read by the Clerk and is as follows :

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA IN
PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN ON THE STATE OF THE LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT
RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :—

That the inadequate accommodation for the Library in the temporary apartments wherein it is now placed, to which your Librarian adverted in his last Report, has not been remedied, and occasions serious and increasing inconvenience. The valuable collection of works on French Law, hitherto in use by the Commissioners for codifying the Laws of *Lower Canada*, and which remained at *Quebec*, in the hands of the Commissioners, on the removal of the Seat of Government to *Ottawa*, is now ready to be returned to the Library; but there is no space available for its reception. The want of a suitable apartment for the custody and display of Maps and Charts is also continually felt; the more so as the Library possesses a good collection of Maps, that only require to be properly exhibited to be of great service.

Aware of the impossibility of obtaining additional apartments for the Library contiguous to the rooms now occupied, your Librarian would respectfully urge upon your Honorable House the necessity of completing the spacious building designed for the reception of the books, with as little delay as possible.

And he would venture to add, as a further reason for speedy action in this behalf, that day by day the classification of the books upon the shelves is deranged, and the system intended to insure immediate reference to any volume required materially disturbed, by visitors helping themselves to books and then putting them upon a wrong shelf. This objectionable practice cannot be prevented until, by a railing or otherwise, the general public are debarred from direct access to the books, and an attendant of the Library, or other privileged person, alone permitted to resort to the shelves. Some such a plan is adopted in all similar institutions of any considerable extent, and should, it is submitted, be introduced into this Library whenever it is transferred to the building intended for its permanent occupation.

A complete index to all the books in the Library has been prepared, and is now in the printer's hands. Your Librarian had hoped to have had this volume ready for distribution to Members before the opening of Parliament, but in the uncertainty which prevailed up to a very recent period, as to whether or not any portion of the Library would be transferred to the Local Legislatures of *Quebec* and *Ontario*, it was deemed imprudent to incur the expense of printing a new Catalogue.

The defective arrangements under which the Library is now suffering, together with the crowded state of the shelves in the various apartments wherein it is distributed, have prevented an exact enumeration of the number of volumes of which it now consists, but they may be estimated at about 60,000.

Appended to this Report will be found lists of the books received by way of donations since last session, and of those deposited under the Copyright Act.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. AGAR ADAMSON,
LIBRARIAN.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,
6th November, 1867.