

The following Petition was brought up, and laid on the Table :—

By the Honorable Mr. *Trudel*,—Of the *Stadacona* Fire and Life Insurance Company.

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

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows :—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian of Parliament respectfully sheweth :—

That further progress has been made during the past year in the preparation of new Catalogues of the entire contents of the Library, to which reference was made in the last Annual Report.

Careful consideration has been bestowed upon this matter, with a view to economy, while duly estimating the importance of placing useful and complete Catalogues at the disposal of Members and others having access to the Books.

Accordingly, the Librarian has decided,—subject to any future instructions he may receive from The Speakers—to limit the re-printing of the Classified Catalogue to the Sections of Law, and of Political and Social Science, the fullest particulars in regard to the contents of which sections being of indispensable utility in aid of legislation.

A Classified Law Catalogue was furnished to Members of both Houses in 1878. A Classified Catalogue of works on Politics and Political Economy has since been printed, and will shortly be distributed. It is proposed to append to this new Volume a revised Index, which shall include the titles of all Law Books now on our shelves, thereby bringing the contents of these several important sections down to the present time.

In regard to the remaining sections, comprising theology, history, biography, arts and sciences, and belles-lettres, the Index to the General Catalogue supplied to Members last Session will, it is hoped, suffice; without the need of incurring the expense of re-printing the Catalogue of these voluminous divisions.

At the same time, the Librarian has been seriously impressed with the necessity for re-producing in a more permanent shape these portions of the General Catalogue, inasmuch as through the wear and tear of twenty-two years (since 1858, when the whole Catalogue was re-printed) the pages of these volumes are, in many instances, nearly worn out and illegible.

Under these circumstances, he obtained permission from the Speaker of the Senate to avail himself of the services of a gentleman conversant with both languages, a skilful penman, and experienced in literary work, to copy out the titles of books in these classes, on strong paper, in bound volumes specially prepared for the purpose. By this means, at a comparatively trifling expense, a record will be preserved of the complete contents of the Library, to which ready reference will be afforded by the Index Volume which was presented to Members last Session; together with a Supplement to the same, now ready, which contains a Catalogue of the Books added up to the first day of the present month.

The steady and continuous growth of the Collection compels the Librarian to advert again to the observations on this subject which he had the honor to submit in his previous Report, and to urge upon Parliament the expediency of making speedy provision for enlarging the present accommodation, by restoring to the Library the rooms now occupied by the Supreme Court. Since last Session, the Librarian has been obliged to reclaim possession of two out of three apartments in the basement of the building which had been temporarily loaned to another Parliamentary Department