

diminished to \$55.56. This shows clearly that the organization of new county law associations (which means the creating of others entitled to share in the Government bounty) has had the result anticipated, of making a material difference in the amount available for each library.

It may, of course, be fairly argued that this scheme of distributing the annual grant is more advantageous to the smaller associations, weak financially by reason of their paying power being limited to the number of members, who, in small centres, are necessarily fewer than in the larger towns and cities. On the other hand, it can be with equal force contended that the larger centres represent the greater proportion of the public to be served, who might claim to be entitled to a larger proportion of the grant made under the head of "Administration of Justice."

Upon the principle that "the gods help those who help themselves," the members of the law association contributing their own money for the establishment and equipment of law libraries might with some reason expect the grant to be distributed upon a maximum or minimum scheme, the grant being based on the numbers of each association in good standing, the maximum not exceeding, say, \$100, and the minimum grant, say, \$20 or \$25 per year. In that way, the weaker association would not lose by reason of its weakness, and the stronger association would be stimulated to even greater efficiency if the grant was a per capita grant, and that without, to any appreciable extent, increasing the sum annually voted by the Legislature.

The object in calling attention at this time to the steady falling off of this most acceptable grant is that law associations at their annual meetings might profitably deal with the matter, and perhaps, by united action, make such representation to the Government as would bring about some new arrangement for distributing the grant upon some such basis as has been outlined above, or on some lines which would prevent the continual reduction in the income of all associations, which must be the result if the present system continues to govern the division of the money.

W. F. BURTON.

Hamilton, 31st December, 1895.