

The number of volumes added to the Library during the year has been 125; number at date of last report, 2977—total 3102. Sold during the year, 1073; number of volumes now in the Library, 2029. The number of volumes issued during the year was 5929, or an average daily issue of over 19 volumes. The News Room is supplied with 105 Canadian and Foreign publications, of which 61 are furnished gratuitously, and 44 are purchased by the Institute.

The Directors report on the position of the Institute:—

“Ever since the erection of the Mechanics’ Hall building, the Institute has labored under the burden of a heavy debt due to the Canada Life Assurance Company. Some years ago an arrangement was entered into, by which it was agreed that \$800 per annum should be taken in liquidation of both principal and interest. At the time the arrangement was made the Institute was in receipt of an annual grant from the Great Western Railway Company, and the Hall was rented much more frequently than it has been for the last two or three years. Owing, however, to the withdrawal of the Great Western Railway grant, the falling off in the rent of the Hall, and the payment of a number of floating debts, the payments to the Canada Life Assurance Company became considerably in arrears, notwithstanding the efforts of former Boards of Directors to increase the revenue. And the permanent income became insufficient to meet the expenditure.

“The Directors on assuming office, resolved to make an appeal to the citizens of Hamilton for aid to enable them to pay off the arrears, and to take steps to make the revenue sufficient to cover the expenditure. An appeal to the people of Hamilton was accordingly made, which the Directors are happy to say was liberally responded to, and a sum was raised sufficient to pay off the arrears to the Canada Life Assurance Company. * * *. The permanent income is now amply sufficient to meet the expenditure, including the payment of \$900 to the Canada Life Assurance Company.

“The state of the Library has engaged the earnest attention of the Directors. A great many books of little value which filled the shelves, but were never taken out, had been sold, and a number of new popular and standard works have been purchased, which will be put in circulation as soon as a new catalogue can be made out.”

The Directors again bear testimony to the zeal and attention of the Superintendent, Mr. Rutherford, to his duties

The following gentlemen were elected Office-bearers for the year: *President*—Thomas McIlwraith, Esq. *Vice-President*—Judge Logie. *Directors*—Messrs. W. H. Glassco, J. W. Ferguson, Kenny Fitzpatrick, William Brown, William Turnbull, John W. Murton, Wm. Haskins, Geo. Rutherford, Wm. Young.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE TORONTO MECHANICS’ INSTITUTE.

The seventh Exhibition of this Institution is now being held. Its character is somewhat similar to those of previous years, varying only in detail. In looking over the various articles in the rooms, we notice but very few shewn at the previous Exhibitions, probably not more than one dozen articles in all. The display in the Fine Arts is very good, comprising some 90 oil paintings, amongst which we notice a contribution of eleven specimens from Mr. A. J. Pell, of Montreal. There are also 133 water colour paintings, 39 pencil drawings, 4 crayons, 12 architectural drawings, 30 photographs, 19 engravings, 6 pen-and-ink sketches, 50 chromo-lithographs, and 7 paintings on glass. Besides these the *ornamental* drawing class in connection with the Institute contributes some 44 specimens, and the mechanical and architectural class 18 specimens.

In Natural History there are three collections of fossils and minerals, 370 specimens of birds, quadrupeds and fishes, and 13 reptiles, (some 70 of them being sent by Mr. Poole, of Ingersoll)—the birds varying from the tiny warbler to the heron, swan and bald-eagle, the quadrupeds from the smallest squirrel to the Canadian bear. Besides these, there are 7 cases of insects, a collection of Canadian woods, and 58 specimens of seaweed, botanical specimens, &c. On the centre tables are some 69 statuettes in marble, bronze, parian, and plaster; 5 wood-carvings, 73 specimens of antique and modern pottery and glassware, 76 contributions of ladies’ work, 17 of scientific apparatus, 19 of foreign and home manufactures, (including two small steam engines in operation,) and 130 contributions of ancient and modern curiosities, coins, &c., &c., the whole comprising a most interesting and instructive collection. The Exhibition opened on Wednesday, the 20th of March, and is to be closed on Tuesday, the 2nd of April, instant. We trust the enterprise will be as successful, financially, as the former exhibitions in connection with this institution. We cannot close this notice more appropriately than by copying a sentence or two from an article in the *Toronto Leader*, in reference to the exhibition of 1866:—

“If regarded simply as a means for increasing the revenue of a useful public Institute, which is now carrying a debt of \$18,000, it is highly satisfactory and suggestive. Mechanics’ Institutes are never supported on a large scale by the mere subscriptions of their members, and have generally to appeal to the benevolence of the wealthy for pecuniary aids. But this system induces a spirit of dependance and patronage adverse and preju-