

# REPORT OF THE JOINT LIBRARIANS OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT, 1896.

*To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate :*

*To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons :*

The shortness of the recess necessarily renders the catalogue of accessions small, and the questions the Librarians have to submit to the Committee few in number.

The Librarians recall with the greatest satisfaction, for the information of a new Parliament, the final decision of the Library Committee regarding "Exchanges."

In 1890, the Committee decided that "the grant for the Library is not large enough to justify the purchase of books for the purpose of encouraging native literature, and that the purchase of exchanges should be confined to books of a character similar to that of the exchanges received from other countries."

The above very proper regulation having been departed from in practice, the Committee, in 1895, resolved that "when the Joint Committee is disposed to encourage the circulation of any valuable native work, it shall recommend such work to the notice of the Government, in order that a sum might be placed in the Estimates for the purchase of a certain number of copies."

In 1896, the Committee recommended, as a final decision on the subject, that "a sum be placed in the Estimates to be at their disposal for the purpose of encouraging, by purchase for Library exchanges, such works of Canadian writers as might be deemed worthy of such recognition."

The Librarians desire to express their cordial agreement in the opinion of the Committee. The practice of providing "exchanges" out of funds voted for the purchase of books for the Library of Parliament was injurious to the interests of the Library; and the Librarians hope that it may not be resumed, even should the sum asked for from the Government be not granted. The amount voted annually for the Library is sufficient for its purpose, if the money is strictly devoted to its proper and usual object; but it is not sufficient to support an annual demand for the purchase of "Library exchanges," an expression which has been rather freely interpreted.

Among the additions to the "American Section" must be mentioned a valuable collection of the portraits of a number of the governors, intendants and noted men under the French regime. The collection, which comprises over 100 portraits, was bought in Paris, and will be made into albums for reference.

"The Military Operations in Canada under Sir John Colborne, illustrated by Lord Beauclerk," a volume of great rarity, has been added to the Canadian section, and some valuable and expensive works relating to the discovery of America have also been provided.

During the recess, the Librarians were enabled to procure for the first time the Journals of the Province of Nova Scotia for the years from 1802 to 1840, and it is expected that volumes of the records of other provinces, hitherto wanting, will be collected during the current year.

Among the additions during the recess is the first volume of a work prepared at Washington, containing the inaugural and annual messages of the Presidents of the United States, with biographical and historical notes. The work, when complete, will be found useful for reference.