

(17)

REPORT OF THE JOINT LIBRARIANS OF PARLIAMENT 1892.

To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to present the following report for the Session of 1892 :—

The shortness of the recess has prevented any accumulation of business affecting the Library.

During the recess, some rooms in the Library basement, occupied until then by the Department of the Secretary of State, have been placed at the disposal of the Librarians. Advantage has been taken of this increased space to store away collections of Parliamentary documents. Notwithstanding this, the fact remains patent that additional shelving will have to be provided for before long. In some sections different devices had to be resorted to in order to place their contents, by doubling the rows of books, great inconvenience resulting therefrom when works are to be found at a moment's notice.

The Chief Architect is of opinion that a third gallery could be added without spoiling the appearance of the room ; and, as the ceiling of the Library requires immediate attention, the Librarians respectfully suggest that the two improvements should be made at the same time.

Every effort has been made to obtain practical information concerning the questions of Tariff and Treaties, that have been so generally discussed during the year ; and to extend the exchange list of the Library with the separate States of the American Republic and with the West Indies.

Considerable additions have been made in the various sections ; the latest works on Political Economy and Social Science, which now attract so much attention in foreign countries, will be found in this Department.

The reports of Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in the United States and in Canada ; the reports of the American Bureaus of Statistics ; and the reports of Railways have been sought for, and in most cases obtained.

The reports of several of the Departments of Government have been collected and bound, apart from the Sessional Papers, and have been placed on the shelves for the convenience of Members ; and a like collection has been made of the reports of the Imperial Parliament on the Colonies, on Trade and Commerce, and Agriculture.

The Librarians have also had bound a number of copies of the reports and returns presented to Parliament by Committees and by the Government during the last Session.

The donation list shows a larger accession than usual from private persons and Foreign and Colonial Governments.

The Department of Public Works has enabled the Librarians to greatly improve the appearance of the Library in several particulars.

The Supplementary Catalogue of the Library will be distributed to Members in a few days.

Lists of Copyrights deposited in the Library, and of donations, are annexed to the present report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

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