

The packing up of the books was commenced, in *Quebec*, on the 28th of September last, and was completed on the 26th of October. The removal took place by means of barges, along the line of river and canal navigation, in order to avoid the delay and difficulties attending transshipments, or exchange of vessels, which would have been incurred by the adoption of any other mode of transport. Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, and the unfavorable weather incident thereto, the barges arrived at their destination without impediment.

Owing to the unprepared state of the new Parliament Buildings, it was found impossible to unpack the books until several months after their arrival in *Ottawa*. The intended Library not being yet finished, the Picture Gallery, together with certain rooms adjoining it, was fitted up for temporary use in the meantime. The proximity of these apartments to the respective Chambers of the Legislature will be the means of affording convenient access to the books by Members during the sitting of Parliament.

It was not until the beginning of February that the rooms aforesaid were in a condition to admit of being made use of for the reception of the books. But on the 5th day of February the unpacking commenced and was continued until the 15th of March, when all our available space being occupied, it became necessary to apply to the Board of Works for further accommodation. The wants of the several Departments rendered it a difficult matter to comply with our requisition; but at length it was decided to make over to us a room which had been originally intended to serve as a Smoking Room for the use of Members of the Legislative Council.

The completion and fitting up of this apartment occasioned further delay, and it was not until the 9th of May that we were able to resume unpacking the remainder of the books. Since then we have been busily engaged in the arrangement and classification of the books in this and other parts of the Library; but notwithstanding extra assistance, which we have been authorized to employ, the work is not yet entirely finished.

Nevertheless, at the present time, the whole of the books belonging to the Library, with the exception of the class of French Law, which still remains at *Quebec* in charge of the Commissioners for Codifying the Laws of *Lower Canada*, has been unpacked, and, for the most part, carefully arranged and classified, so far as the limited space at our command will permit.

Understanding that the labors of the Codification Commission are drawing to a close, Your Librarian has notified the Secretary that the French Law Books should be returned to the Library without loss of time, in order that they may, if possible, be available for the use of Members during the present Session.

In view of the speedy arrival of these books, Your Librarian would respectfully urge upon Your Honorable House the necessity for providing some additional apartment, contiguous to those we now occupy, for library purposes. The rooms already assigned to us are quite inadequate for the commodious accommodation of our books. In many instances we have been compelled, from want of space, to range the books in double rows upon the shelves, a plan which does not admit of their being readily seen or consulted. It is estimated that two years, at least, will elapse before the permanent Library will be ready for occupation. Meanwhile it is absolutely indispensable that some further space should be assigned to us, not merely for the reception of books, but also for the display of the valuable maps and charts belonging to the Library, which cannot be conveniently consulted under present circumstances.

Before the departure of the Government from *Quebec*, Your Librarian, pursuant to the instructions he received from the Joint Library Committee, addressed a letter to the Rector of the University *Laval*, expressing the grateful thanks of the governing body and officers of the Library for the use of the spacious apartments in the University Buildings, which had been generously placed at the disposal of the Legislature for the accommodation of a large portion of the Library, for which no room could be found in the Parliament House, during a period of six years, free of all charge to the Province. He availed himself of this opportunity to request the acceptance by the University of certain duplicate volumes and philosophical apparatus, belonging to the Library, which the Committee had directed him to present to the University, as a slight acknowledgment for the favors received from that Institution. A copy of the Correspondence upon the occasion is hereunto appended.

The additions to the Library since the close of last Session, have been necessarily few