

measures suggested would afford only temporary relief, it may be well for the Committee to grapple at once with the greater and still more serious problem which will present itself for solution in six years at the most: What is to be the future of the Library? If it is to remain in its present location, in what direction shall room for its expansion be sought?

A new catalogue of the contents of the Library is greatly needed, and some of the preliminary work of preparation therefor has been in progress for several months past. After much study of the question, the Librarian has been forced to the conclusion that, notwithstanding the advantages of the modern "card catalogue," a book catalogue is still a necessity in this Library. The preparation of such a book will involve much more than the mere revision and enlargement of the edition of 1886. The present catalogue must be entirely re-written and re-arranged, and the subject-index wholly re-constructed. As this work can be done only in spare moments, it will occupy a year at least. In view of this fact, and of the large expense which a new edition would involve, the Librarian is anxious, while continuing his preparations in this direction, to experiment with a new system, combining the best features of both the book and the card catalogue, which is now meeting with much favour in large libraries in the United States. For this purpose a sum has been placed in the estimates of Library expenditure for the current year, decreases in other items rendering it possible to do so without increasing the total estimate. Should the system in question prove satisfactory, the large expenditure necessary for a new printed catalogue may be avoided.

At the instance of the Hamilton Law Association the Dominion Government, it is said, is considering the advisability of removing the duty imposed upon law books imported into this country for the exclusive use of law libraries, and there is believed to be ground for the hope that at the approaching session of Parliament the tariff will be thus amended. The Librarian begs to suggest that Convocation be recommended to add the weight of the Law Society's influence to the movement towards this end. In 1892 the amount expended by the Society in duties upon imported books was \$338.30; last year the amount paid out on this account was \$372.50.