

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The Estimates for the next financial year will also be submitted, and will, I trust, be found to be framed with a view to meet the existing circumstances of the country, while at the same time, providing for carrying on the administration of affairs with efficiency.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I place full reliance on your prudence and ability, and your devotion to the work of legislation, which, I trust, may be carried on and completed in such a way as to minister to the prosperity of the country, and the unity of the people.

On motion of Mr. *Mackenzie*, His Excellency's Speech was ordered to be taken into consideration, to-morrow.

*Resolved*, That the Votes and Proceedings of The House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

*Resolved*, That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Immigration and Colonization,—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by The House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Mr. *Mackenzie* laid before The House, by command of His Excellency the Governor General,—General Report of the Minister of Public Works, for the fiscal year, ending the 30th June, 1876.

Mr. Speaker laid before The House,—the Report of the Librarian of the House of Commons, on the state of the Library of Parliament, which is as follows:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLE

THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF PARLIAMENT, RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

It is with much satisfaction that your Librarian reports that the transfer of the Library of Parliament, to the beautiful building erected for its reception, has at length taken place. Owing to the time required for the completion of the interior fittings, it was not until the middle of the month of October that the removal commenced. The labour involved in re-arranging and classifying a collection of such magnitude, within such a short period, has been very considerable; and much still remains to be done before the work is properly completed.

At the outset, a formidable difficulty presented itself. It was found that the new Chamber was wholly inadequate, in its dimensions and apportionment, to contain the number of Volumes proposed to be placed therein. Up to the time when this was ascertained, it had been taken for granted that the new Building was capable of holding at least One hundred thousand Volumes: agreeably to the original intentions of the Government, in its construction, and in conformity with the directions given to the superintending Architect.

So far back as the 14th May, 1859, when the erection of Parliament Buildings in Ottawa was first determined upon, the undersigned submitted to the Board of Works a Memorandum, specifying the nature and extent of the accommodation required for the Library.

This Memorandum pointed out that the Library premises should include "one large apartment, with three tiers of light iron galleries," capable of containing 200,000 volumes. Likewise rooms, to be grouped around the central Chamber, for the exhibition of Maps and Pictures, for offices, for private study, and for necessary uses in the administration of a large and growing department. Full particulars as to the size and disposition of these rooms were embodied in this Memorandum; including the exact number of feet of shelving required for the number of volumes which, it was estimated that the Library would hereafter contain. By this calculation it was shewn that at least 25,000 feet of shelving would be needed to hold 200,000 volumes, of the average size.

This Memorandum was approved by the Board of Works; and printed copies of it were sent to all competing Architects, with instructions to prepare their plans in strict conformity thereto. The plan finally chosen corresponded, in general design, with your Librarian's suggestions, and he was notified by Mr. *Samuel Keefer*, the then Secretary of the Board, that his recommendations on behalf of the Library would be unreservedly carried out.

As the new building approached completion, and it became necessary to prepare for the transfer of the books, your Librarian caused measurements to be made, to ascertain the shelving at his disposal for the various classes and divisions of the Library, when to his surprise and disappointment it was discovered that only about 7,000 feet of shelving had been placed in the Central Room; which accordingly could not contain more than about 56,000 volumes.