

office, thus making them available for general distribution. Had the latter been done during the last three Congresses probably not less than 200,000 volumes would have been saved for public use."

*From Mr. Ames' report upon his work—Congress of 1887-1889.*

"By the Act of August 7, 1882, authorizing the publication of the Tenth Census, provision is made that the entire edition of the same, excepting the 'usual number' of 1,900 copies of each volume, shall be distributed by this office, and that in such distribution special attention shall be given to the prevention of duplication. The distribution by a single agency of nearly the entire number printed afforded an excellent opportunity of testing the question of the amount of duplication attending the distribution of documents by several agencies as ordinarily conducted. The results show that such duplication assumes large proportions and involves no small waste of public money. Such a system of registration was devised as would enable this office to determine almost instantly whether any individual or party had been supplied with any volume of the series, so that any duplication or orders on the part of members of Congress, or of requests from other parties, could at once be detected.

"About four-fifths of the entire edition have now been distributed. The ledgers of the office show, with the exception of the monographs in paper, to whom and upon whose order or request every volume has been sent, the date of its dispatch, and also the date of its receipt, excepting in cases where the recipient disregarded the official request to make acknowledgment, thus affording a complete record of each individual transaction. A notification of the mailing of every volume in separate envelope has accompanied its transmission, every precaution being thus taken to secure its possession by the person for whom it was intended by the donor. The system adopted is a simple one, but in all respects complete and satisfactory, and might be advantageously adopted in the distribution of all valuable publications of the Government.

"There have to date been received requests or orders that if complied with would have involved the duplication of not less than 42,000 volumes of the Tenth Census; that is, had these documents been distributed in the ordinary way, at least 42,000 volumes would have been sent in duplicate, which means that this number has been saved for distribution to parties who would probably not otherwise have received them, or that the same purpose is accomplished under the new system by 42,000 volumes less than would be required under the old. By the time the entire distribution is completed it is estimated that at least 50,000 duplications will have been detected and prevented, which alone is sufficient to justify whatever additional expense has attended this careful, systematic, registered distribution of these publications.

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act of August 7, 1882, requiring the Secretary of the Interior to report to Congress the names and locations of the libraries and other public institutions designated to receive these reports, the following list is submitted, comprising such as have been supplied each with a complete set additional to the 408 depositories of public documents, which have been supplied from the leather-bound 'reserved' edition:"

The list follows, and is thus summed up:—

"It appears, therefore, that complete sets of the Tenth Census, comprising twenty-six volumes each, have been distributed to not less than 2,654 libraries and other public institutions, 2,547 of which are located in the United States. It is doubtful whether a more general distribution of any series of Government publications has ever been made. They have at least been brought, with few exceptions, within easy reach of the citizens of the several States and Congressional districts of the United States, even if no regard be had to the additional distribution made to individuals. While they have thus been secured to a very large number of our public libraries, the system of distribution adopted has prevented the accumulation of duplicate and triplicate sets in the hands of any of said libraries, which must inevitably have been the result under the old methods of distribution.