

Bruce, Carleton, Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Grey, Hamilton, Hastings, Huron, Leeds and Grenville, Lindsay, Middlesex, Norfolk, Ontario, Oxford, Perth, Peterborough, Simcoe, Waterloo, Welland, Wellington, York. All of these (except Huron and Waterloo) were thoroughly and carefully inspected by Mr. Eakins during the summer of 1896, and it is gratifying to know that with but few exceptions they are in a thoroughly satisfactory condition. A copy of Mr. Eakins' report is annexed; it shows the able manner in which he has done his work. A copy of the report has been sent to every Library, and no doubt the officers of the Libraries will carefully consider the points referred to in the report, and to take the necessary steps to remedy the defects pointed out, and avail themselves as far as practicable of the suggestions made for improvement. The Waterloo Library was established after the date of Mr. Eakins' report. A statement showing the expenditure on County Libraries for the year ending 31st Dec., 1895, is annexed.

2. Experience has shown that it is only where the members of a County Library make a substantial contribution to the funds, and take an active interest in its affairs, that success can be looked for. It is very difficult in the smaller towns or in counties where there are but few practitioners, to raise any considerable amount, or to provide satisfactory means for taking care of the books and preventing their being removed from the Library; and unless a good room is provided, a suitable caretaker or librarian employed, the annual subscriptions regularly paid, and the books neatly and safely kept, the Library becomes practically valueless to the members, and serves no useful purpose.

3. In accordance with the resolution of Convocation "that the County Libraries Committee be requested to consider whether any arrangements can be made for providing Law Libraries at Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, Rat Portage, Bracebridge, Parry Sound and North Bay, and other places which may be similarly situated," a notice, a copy of which is annexed, was sent to the places named, and also to all the county towns in Ontario, in which no libraries had been established.

4. A number of replies have been received which tend to show that owing to various causes, some purely local, and some owing to the small number of practitioners resident at the county town, not much interest is taken in the establishment of libraries, and but little aid can be expected in any case from local sources. Further inquiries, however, will be made, and reported upon at a later date.

5. Your Committee recommend that a copy of the rules relating to County Libraries and circular be sent to all the County Libraries, calling their attention to the necessity of furnishing copies of the reports of the annual meetings and all other information called for by the rules, and intimating that hereafter the requirements of the Law Society in this respect must be strictly complied with. A new form, for the financial year has been adopted after consultation with Mr. Eakins, and this form with the circular above referred to, will, it is felt, secure in proper form all necessary information.

#### COUNTY LIBRARIES AID.

##### *Expenditure for the year 1895.—Annual Grants.*

Bruce (for 3 years).....	\$ 82 00	York .....	\$800 00
Essex.....	146 17	Middlesex .....	458 34
Grey .....	89 34	Carleton .....	348 34
Frontenac.....	87 34	Norfolk .....	55 00
Lindsay .....	164 17	Simcoe .....	125 67
Hamilton .....	552 50	Brant .....	80 34
Elgin .....	55 00	Leeds.....	25 00
Peterborough .....	168 00	Perth.....	69 00
Wellington .....	170 00	Hastings (for 3 years) .....	270 00
Total .....			\$3,747 21