

Mr. CHARLTON. I am sure the House and the country will find no fault with the appropriation for making our Library more complete. We have the most magnificent building for a Library in the country, and we ought not to hesitate over a slight expenditure that will make our Library a subject of just pride to Canadians. I would be willing to make the appropriation double what it is. I hope that the Government and members of the House will comply with the recommendations of the Library Committee fully and give everything they ask, and that in the way they ask it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am afraid that if that were done we would have to take an additional vote for building a new Library. That is the real difficulty. We have not sufficient room, nor any means, without disfiguring this building, of increasing the room for stowing away books, and we shall have some day or other to take up the whole question as to the formation of a National Library, quite distinct from the Parliamentary one, and place it in a separate building. But the vote is a liberal one, and no doubt the Finance Minister will be able to find another thousand dollars.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have a suggestion to make with respect to the want of room. If we were to take this dark chamber and build out a wing where we could have open windows, and be able to breathe the fresh air, and were to turn this Chamber into a Library, we would have plenty of room for books, and even if we were to banish a lot of the old rubbish to make space for works of some value there would be no loss.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Pictures.

Mr. BLAKE. The removal of the books to the Supreme Court, which has already taken place, and the removal of text-books which has yet to take place, will leave room for several thousands of volumes without appropriating the space in the reading room. There is no present pressure, without resorting to the somewhat radical step which the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) proposes, or the removal of any of the books now in the Library, some of which we would be able to do without, and not feel the loss.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I wish to call the attention of the Chairman of the Library Committee to the matter to which my hon. friend has referred. The Sessional Papers should be placed somewhere else than where they are now. I would also suggest, not only their removal at an early day, but that they should be re-lettered. It is a gilt label on a black ground, and it becomes difficult and exceedingly painful to ascertain their titles. In the office of Routine and Records there is a new system of labelling the Sessional Papers, which might be considered by the proper officer having charge of the Sessional Papers. If the hon. Minister of Public Works will have the Sessional Papers placed in the reading room, he will add to the convenience of hon. members.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I do not know why the spaces in the reading room have not been used for the purpose indicated. I do not know whether there is some objection on the part of the Librarian to use it, but we could have relieved the Library of several thousand volumes by placing them in the reading room. Of course if the Library officials are afraid that these books might disappear during the recess, or at any other time, it is always easy to place some one to look after them or to put them under lock and key or wire. But certainly that space in the reading room could be used, and by relieving the Library of the books sent to the Supreme Court, a larger space would be provided for new books. I must say, as the First Minister has said, we shall have to look very soon to some other plan to increase the Library, or to have the Library elsewhere.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK.

Mr. CASEY. In regard to the question of removal, it is astonishing how much space is occupied by old, worn-out novels, and books of that class, which have afforded, no doubt, abundant amusement to the people of the Capital for many years, but which are not to-day in a condition to appear with credit on the shelves of the Library. If they are worth binding there should be an appropriation to rebind them, but I think the greater portion of them might be stowed away in some dark corner with benefit to the collection. If they could be disposed of for any considerable sum, it should be done, and the funds devoted to works of practical use. There is a question to some which I desire to allude, and it is the publication of many old and valuable maps and manuscripts which I understand exist and are stowed away somewhere about the Library. These documents will be soon, if they are not now, of the greatest value and of the most vital importance in deciding questions of history, boundary and matters of that kind. I think it is too bad that they should only exist in the form of one copy of each, liable to destruction from natural causes or accidents. It would be very well for the Library Committee, between this and next year, to look into the question of publishing a certain number of these documents. A small number might be published each year, sufficient to make their representation certain by having copies distributed among several libraries.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would suggest that this House should unite with the Committee now formed with a view to the publication of the antiquities of America. The Governments of the United States, Brazil, and Mexico, are all interested in the publication of these antiquities, and it will be even a matter of speculation to have all these old books relative to America printed, and I think they would sell well not only in Canada but also in the United States, printed in the cheap form in which publications are printed to-day. I throw out this suggestion because the project is matured and it is easy to carry it to a conclusion. This is the more important from the fact that these old books are rapidly disappearing. By the destruction of the Parliament Building at Quebec the greater part of the Library was burned and some books have been lost forever.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. In reply to the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Casey) I may say that the matters mentioned by him have been under consideration by the Library Committee, and it has been determined to place all the rare and valuable works to which he has referred, together with the maps, under special care and keeping, none of them to be allowed to be taken out of the Library, and the greatest possible care to be observed against their loss or mutilation. With respect to the Parliamentary and Sessional Papers, there is to be a complete set made up from the earliest period of the history of Canada and the various Provinces, and these are to be kept as a collection.

Mr. CASEY. I have no doubt that the precautions are very valuable to save the originals for the present, but I think—of course, I cannot speak from personal knowledge—no doubt there must be a great many, of which more than one copy should be in existence. They would be very interesting; and, as my hon. friend has just said, they would even be bought eagerly by the public. I might refer, by way of illustration, to the publication of the extremely interesting and valuable work, the only work indeed furnishing materials for the early history of Canada, *Les Relations des Jésuites*, which was published in 1858 by order of Parliament; and which has been scattered pretty widely throughout the country, and which is now a work very much sought after by collectors. It is one on which great value is put, and it is extremely interesting, in all that concerns the early history of Canada. I do not suppose that any more such treasures as that exist, because that work is unique of its kind, but there must be a great many works