

Chaudiere Falls toward the Laurentide hills, forming one of the most picturesque scenes on the continent. In the eyes of the librarian the library has only one serious defect—it is complete—no arrangement has been made for extension.

On the confederation, in 1867, of the provinces which now form the Dominion, the union which existed between the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was dissolved, and, as we have seen, the library passed into the hands of the Federal Government. Each of these provinces, now known as Ontario and Quebec, established new libraries in Toronto and Quebec city.

The sixty-two colleges and universities of the Dominion are provided with libraries containing 627,626 volumes and 24,894 pamphlets, an average of 10,123 volumes and 402 pamphlets. It is scarcely fair, however, to depend on an average of the whole number, as some half dozen universities possess at least half of the total number.

The senior of these, Laval University, Quebec, is famous as being, after Harvard, the oldest on the continent, being founded by Bishop Laval in 1663. During the dark days which witnessed the long struggle, first with the Iroquois and afterwards with the English and Americans, little progress was made in the collection of books, and it was not until it was converted into a university, in 1852, that its library commenced to increase rapidly. On the suppression of the Jesuit Order and seminary these books were transferred to it. It numbers considerably over 100,000 volumes, and is unrivalled for the extent and character of its French collection and its many scarce books in early French-Canadian literature and history. Their collection of the relations of the early Jesuit missionaries is only surpassed by the Lenox library, New York.

Our own Province of Ontario was for long the only one which attempted to grapple with the question of public libraries.

Miss Carnochan, of Niagara, has given an interesting account in the Transactions of this Institute for 1895, of the formation and history of the first circulating library in Upper Canada (1800-1820), established by some enterprising citizens of the Town of Niagara, for the supply of their own immediate wants and of those who could pay the small annual fee. It was successful until the destruction of the town by the American troops in 1813 wasted its volumes and impoverished its subscribers, so that it shortly after quietly passed out of existence.

In 1848 the late Dr. Ryerson drafted a School Bill which contained provisions for school and township libraries, and succeeded in awakening a deep interest in the subject. Ever anxious to impress on his hearers the importance of libraries as the keystone to a free educational system, he urged it on every opportunity. Lord Elgin, at that time Governor-General, was so strongly impressed with the importance of the movement that he styled it the "Crown and glory of the institutions of the province." In 1854 Parliament passed the requisite Act, and granted him the necessary funds to carry out his views in the matter. The regulations of the Department authorized each county council to establish four classes of libraries:

An ordinary common school library in each schoolhouse for the use of the children and ratepayers.

A general public lending library, available to all the ratepayers in the municipality.

A professional library of books on teaching, school organization, language and kindred subjects, available for teachers only.

A library in any public institution under the control of the municipality for the use of the inmates, or in any county gaol, for the use of the prisoners.

To aid this work a book depository was established in the Education Office to enable the smaller libraries to obtain readily good literature. The books were supplied at cost, and a grant of 100 per cent. on the amount remitted was added in books by the Department. During the thirty years of its existence 1,407,140 volumes were so supplied.