

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

125 Mechanics' Institutes, containing 206,146 volumes, scattered throughout the Province. These were supported partly by Government grant and partly by private annual subscriptions, but, in 1895, the Legislature passed an Act converting them into public libraries. Permission was given to any municipal council to appoint a board of management, who were authorized to take over the Mechanics' Institute Library of the town or village, and to carry it on as a free public library, the funds being provided by the Government and the municipality. When the municipality did not take over the library, power of incorporation was given to not less than 10 persons to form a body for the purpose of providing a public library, financial assistance being given by the Government. Thus the policy of the Administration of Ontario has been steadily directed to the municipal ownership of libraries and the putting them on a more permanent basis than can exist under associations of private individuals. As a consequence of this policy, there are now in the Province 406 public libraries, 120 of which are free and 286 partially so, these latter being almost entirely in smaller towns and villages. The largest of these, Toronto, contains 110,000 volumes, and the smallest about 250. Their united incomes for 1899 amounted to \$193,421; their assets were valued at \$235,976. They contained 862,037 volumes, and their issue of books for the year was 2,547,131.

The library which is maintained by the Legislature for its own use has grown rapidly during the last few years under the management of Mr. Avern Pardoe, and now contains 70,000 volumes, and the educational library in the Department of the Minister of Education, which is freely opened to all students, has 19,690.

From the number of higher educational institutions in the Province, we might freely anticipate a proportionate number of libraries. The largest of these, the University of Toronto, numbers 60,000; Queen's University, Kingston, has 36,000, and Ottawa University, 35,000. The total number of books reported from these 16 universities and colleges is 230,300.

The Law Society of Ontario is a corporation composed of the legal profession of the Province, which, among other duties, provides for the training and examination of students at law, and has its library in Osgoode Hall, Toronto, numbering 29,894 volumes. It also aids in the formation and maintenance of local law libraries in each county town. These number 24, and these libraries contain from a few hundred to 4,000 volumes each. They are estimated to contain a total of 50,000, which gives, as

the number of law books in Ontario libraries, 79,894. There are also 11 scientific and other societies whose collections of books number 25,736.

Summarizing these, we find this Province contains 439 libraries, which are more or less open for public use, and which have on their shelves 1,287,667 volumes.

## MANITOBA AND TERRITORIES.

Proceeding west we have the Province of Manitoba on the great prairie land in the centre of the continent. Winnipeg almost entirely engrosses what libraries it has, and the largest of these is the Legislative, which inherited whatever small collection of books were in the Red River before the formation of the Province. It now contains 17,435 volumes, and is rich in papers and documents pertaining to the early days. The Literary and Historical Society have arranged with the city authorities to maintain a free library, and have thrown open for reference their own library which now numbers about 15,000. The University of Manitoba with its affiliated colleges has about 8,000, and the Law Society of the Law Society 6,000. These four libraries contain 46,435 volumes.

The Northwest Territories, whose chief town is Regina, has a library in connection with its Legislature which contains about 3,500 volumes.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Finally facing the Pacific, we have the Province of British Columbia, which, though limited in population, in library matters is one of the progressive Provinces of the Dominion. Two years ago finding that many mining camps and isolated agricultural districts were without means of instruction, they organized a series of traveling libraries. During the past year 24 of 100 volumes each were circulating through the Province, and it is believed were productive of much good. The Legislative Library, housed in their beautiful building at Victoria, contains nearly 6,000 volumes, and the law library, in the same place, about 2,000. In addition, Victoria contains a public library with 5,000 volumes. The towns of Westminster and Vancouver have also free public libraries the former containing 1,500 volumes, and the latter about 1,000. Efforts are being made by the Legislative Librarian, Mr. Scholfield, to organize a Provincial association which will do much to extend the library system within their borders. British Columbia has, therefore, five libraries, containing 14,500 volumes, and 2,400 in its traveling libraries.

## OTTAWA.

I have not included in my estimate the libraries under the control of the central Government at Ottawa. First among these is the principal library of the Dominion,

the library of Parliament, which now contains by estimate 200,000 volumes. Every one who has seen the beautiful building in which this collection is housed will regret that more space was not provided for accessions, and the problem of how to increase the available space without injury to the architectural effect is one which will soon have to be faced. The library of the geological and natural history survey is attached to the museum and contains 16,000 books and pamphlets. The library of the Supreme Court consists of 19,500 law books. The work of the Archivist of the Dominion, Dr. Douglas Brymner, is so well known that it is barely necessary to call attention to the remarkable collection of documents, original and copied, over which he exercises supervision. The library which is attached contains about 10,000 volumes, principally referring to Canadian history and topography. At the Meteorological Office at Toronto, the collection of books principally on meteorology and magnetism number 5,000 volumes. These five Government libraries contain a total of 250,000 volumes.

It is a matter of regret that the free library system has not yet made greater progress within the Dominion, and that the only Provinces which have adopted it are those of Ontario and British Columbia. The prospects are, however, encouraging. The fact that the cities of Halifax, St. John, Quebec and Winnipeg have established libraries as a part of their municipal organization and that in Montreal, the suburb of Westmount has made a commencement, shows that the necessity for them is being felt and that the next stage of extending them throughout their respective Provinces will follow in due course. In the meanwhile it will be seen from the figures given that the number of volumes within the Dominion has risen from 1,103,000 to 1,319,577, and that special libraries are abundant; the larger cities being fully up to the average of American cities. The large number of universities and colleges throughout the older parts of the Dominion are turning out a body of graduates who must ultimately mould the taste and guide their fellow-citizens into reading habits—and the meeting of the American Library Association in the principal commercial city of the Dominion will form no small factor in this educational work, emphasizing as it does the influence and extent of the work on this continent and the professional requirements of those to whom it is committed.

## SUMMARY.

	Libraries.	Volumes.
Nova Scotia	9	97,020
Prince Edward Island	2	7,500
New Brunswick	6	50,530
Quebec	40	670,025
Ontario	439	1,287,667
Manitoba	4	46,435
Northwest Territories	1	3,500
British Columbia	5	16,900
General Government	5	250,000
Total in 1900	511	2,422,577
In 1877		1,103,000
Increase		1,319,577