

quently the additions made to the General Library during that period were comparatively few. In those classes, however, which are chiefly consulted by Members during the sittings of Parliament, the Librarian has endeavored to render the Library as complete as possible.

The collection and binding of the principal newspapers published in the several Provinces of this vast Dominion,—although a work of unquestionable necessity, and of increasing value for future reference,—is nevertheless a heavy item of expense. But, in view of the exceptional nature of such expenditure, application has been made to the Treasury for an addition to the Vote for Library Contingencies, to defray the cost of binding executed in Canada.

The purchase of Canadian Law Reports, for distribution to Exchange Libraries, has likewise borne heavily upon our funds, hitherto. However, at the request of the Joint Library Committee, the Government have agreed to charge the cost of such Reports to the fund out of which it is customary to provide for the purchase of Canadian works, selected or approved by Government for similar distribution.

By these arrangements it is hoped that the Parliamentary grant for the augmentation of the Library will henceforth be relieved of charges which, however indispensable to be incurred, do nevertheless materially reduce the means available for the purchase of books in Europe, and in the United States.

The rapid strides now making by Canada in population, and in the various elements of material prosperity, are naturally imparting an impetus to intellectual activity and literary research amongst our people. To keep pace with this progress, and to foster the development of learning, and of mental improvement, generally, in our midst, it is indispensable that this, the sole public Library in the Dominion, should not fall into arrears. To avoid such an evil, the liberality of Parliament in this direction is earnestly besought. Already the Library is largely resorted to by literary men, and seekers after knowledge, in all parts of the country. Great public advantage has ensued from the opportunities thus afforded to students; but the benefits will be proportionably augmented as the collection attains a greater degree of completeness, in the different branches of science, literature, and art.

The Librarian has observed, with regret and disappointment, that upon the removal of the Supreme Court to more commodious quarters, it was not deemed expedient to restore the rooms thereby vacated to their original destination, and former occupancy, for Library purposes. In the anticipation of this event, he had repeatedly urged, in previous Reports to Parliament, the benefits that would accrue from restoring these apartments to the use of the Library. He is well aware that the exigencies of the House of Commons, at the present time, have appeared to demand the employment of these rooms for other purposes, more immediately urgent. But he would crave permission respectfully to place on record his belief that, in the near future, when the question of additional space for the Library shall have become imperative, such further provision can in no other way be so suitably supplied as by incorporating the rooms vacated by the Supreme Court with the Library premises; whilst, by adding a small wing to the main Parliament Building, superior accommodation might be obtained for the House of Commons requirements, in close proximity to the House itself.

The donations received, and the works deposited under the Copyright law, during the past year, have been exceptionally numerous, as will appear from the lists hereunto appended.

The number of volumes in the Library last year was estimated at 98,196. Since then, the total number has increased to about 100,800 volumes.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ALPHEUS TODD,

*Librarian of Parliament.*