

PRAYERS.

The following Petitions were brought up, and laid on the Table:—

By the Honourable Mr. Domville,—Of Henriette Lamothe, widow of Raoul Saveuse de Beaujeu, and others, of the City of Montreal and elsewhere, in the Province of Quebec.

By the Honourable Mr. Lougheed,—Of the British Columbia Southern Railway Company.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament on the state of the Library of Parliament for the years 1903-4.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,

OTTAWA, March 10, 1904.

To the Honourable the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled:

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to report as follows for the year 1903-4:—

The recess having been so short, there is little to say as to the affairs of the Library since the last report was presented.

Personal relations having been established with the officials of the various organizations in England concerned in the political and fiscal discussion, the Library is possessed of a complete collection of the pamphlets and books produced on these questions during the last six months.

The relations established, after long correspondence, with the various outlying colonies continue in a satisfactory manner; and the exchanges of the Library are now very large.

The Library is indebted to the Honourable Clifford Sifton, the Minister of the Interior, and to Mr. Joseph Pope, C.M.G., for documents covering the whole of the Alaska Boundary Award. The Imperial papers and map on this subject, so far as published, have been provided by the Librarians. The American official papers will also be provided when they are printed.

In view of the interest taken in railway matters, the reports of the various railway companies in the United States now applied for and a large number here have been received.

The various annals relating to statistics and business have been received, so far as issued.

Mr. Flint, the Clerk of the House of Commons, has kindly donated to the Library a collection of Statutes and Blue-books from his office.

The Librarians desire to acknowledge the constant kindness and helpfulness of Hon. L. P. Brodeur, late Speaker of the House of Commons, and of Hon. L. G. Power, LL.D., the Speaker of the Senate, during the Parliamentary term.

The Librarians beg to again invite the attention of the Government and of both Houses of Parliament to the necessity which has arisen of providing additional space for the growing wants of the Library. As can be seen by all sorts of shelving placed on the floor of the Library and at every possible space, efforts are constantly being made to find new temporary accommodation for the books. This has been carried on for several years past, but the time is coming near when no new devices will be available. As it would take several years to provide an annex to the Library, the question of building it is one to be considered as soon as Parliament will find it convenient. The congested state of all the shelves in every section is a source of trouble and delay whenever a book is required to be found at a short notice, and the evil is growing worse every day.