

off the table are filed, and subsequently bound up for reference.

During the year there has been added to the Library 45 volumes of Books; and 26 volumes of the class of works above referred to have been bound up and placed on the shelves. Your Committee would also acknowledge donations from the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, of one volume of its Memoirs and two of its Proceedings; from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers Birmingham, the regular receipt of copies of its Proceedings; from Dr. W. Canniff, formerly of this city, a copy of his valuable work on Anatomy; and from the Publishers several valuable Exchanges named in the above list.

From personal communications with both the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, your Committee learn that the valuable set of British Patent Publications will soon be removed from the charge of this Board, to the Patent Department at Ottawa. No doubt another complete set could be obtained, on application to the British Commissioner of Patents, at the cost to the Board of the binding only; but as that item alone would amount to from \$1,200 to \$1,600, your Committee fear that the Board will have to sustain the loss the removal of these valuable works will involve, unless the Government render the pecuniary assistance necessary to obtain another set. It will be a matter for the serious consideration of their successors in office.

Section 246, sub-section 4, of the Consolidated New Municipal Act for U. C., provides that the Council of any Municipality may pass a By-Law granting money or land in aid of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada. The citizens of Toronto, and members of previous Councils of this city, have at various times advocated a grant of money for the purpose of establishing a public free Library. Your Committee respectfully represent, that, so far as valuable works of a really useful character are concerned, this Board has established just such a Library as is required; and that it is therefore worthy the support of, and entitled to a grant of money by, the Municipal Council of this city, in which—although a Provincial Library—it is localised.

#### **The Journal.**

The sixth annual volume of the Journal of the Board has now been completed; and it is gratifying to know that it is appreciated by a large number of subscribers. That the issue has not been more extended, is owing to the absence of any effort to increase its circulation above the usual 1,000 copies; as, at the price charged, the Board cannot afford to publish a larger number.

Although the Journal contains a large amount of valuable practical information, it might be much more useful were it made the medium of interchange of thoughts and ideas between the numerous Mechanics and Manufacturers of the Province; and the vehicle for communicating to the public new discoveries and inventions, and the establishment of new branches of manufacture or other industries throughout the Province.

#### **Annual Examinations.**

No candidates presented themselves for examination during the past year. The volunteer movement, no doubt, interfered much with the opportunities for study of many young men; still, there is reason to believe that some other inducements are necessary to hold out, other than the mere acquirement of knowledge. In the Society of Arts, London, where such examinations are carried on so successfully, and the Society's diplomas are accepted as evidences of proficiency by employers in every department of business, large rewards are given in money and medals, in addition to the diplomas, to successful candidates. A small annual subscription, on the part of a number of those interested in the educational progress of the industrial classes, would secure the carrying out of the suggestions here made.

The programme of Examinations for the ensuing season, and also statistics of previous Examinations, were published in the last number of the Journal.

#### **Patent Laws.**

The unwise restrictions in the Patent Laws, continue to be a subject of complaint. The Minister of Agriculture in his last annual report, says:—

“Amendments to the Patent Laws which have been frequently urged upon the attention of the Department, and favourably reported upon, by my predecessors in office and myself, are not again put forward this year, in view of the union of the Provinces. Should that union take place within a reasonable time, it would be obviously premature for Canada to lay down a basis of legislation in respect to Patents and Copyrights, which might be essentially changed by the Legislature of British North America. I have, therefore, although most anxious to introduce several changes in our Patent Law, postponed the subject, until the Confederation goes into operation.”

Your Committee draw attention to the desirability of having copies of all drawings and specifications of Canadian Patents made, and published, within a short specified time after the issue of each and every patent; and that copies thereof should be on file for public reference at the free libraries of this and the Lower Canada Board, as it is now the case with Trade Marks and Designs. A small advance in the fee charged patentees would be