

On motion of the Honorable Sir Alexander Campbell, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Smith, it was

Ordered, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House, when and as often as they please.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House,—The Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library of Parliament.

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

*To the Honorable the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled :*

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honor to present their Report for the year 1885.

Since the last Session of Parliament the Act of 1885 creating a joint Librarianship has been put into force, the staff completed and some changes and promotions made.

Attention is called,—

1st. To a very complete collection of pamphlets which may be referred to under the head of Political Economy in the Supplementary Catalogue. These pamphlets range from the year 1827 to the end of 1885, and cover the history of the rise and progress of the Corn Law agitation, the establishment of Free Trade in England, and the rise and course of the Fair Trade movement of the present time.

2nd. To a collection of volumes of "Selected Essays," culled from duplicate copies of various magazines, arranged according to subjects and bound and numbered in due order. In these volumes all the principal articles that have appeared for several years past on such subjects as Political Economy, the Colonies, Biography, History, &c., will be found collected together; and care has been taken to indicate in as many cases as possible the public character of the essays, the school of thought to which they belong and the sources whence they have been drawn. Improvements in the classification will no doubt be made as experience is had, and as suggestions may be received from members of the two Houses.

This collection has been made on the suggestion of a distinguished member of the House of Commons and the Librarians have particular pleasure in presenting it to the notice of the House.

3rd. To a collection of scrap books in which all the speeches that have been reported in *The Times*, since September last; all the articles of consequence; all the letters on Colonial Affairs, Political Economy, Parliamentary Procedure, Political organization, History, Biography, &c., will be found entered and indexed. The Index will be found to refer to those parts of the speeches of public men in England in which the Colonies or Trade questions were discussed. A separate volume will contain the Proceedings in the Imperial Parliament during the current Session, so that reference may be had to it in advance of Hansard's Reports.

4th. To certain volumes in which have been collected all published articles, reports, speeches and pamphlets on the subject of Imperial Federation. These volumes contain all that has been published on this subject from the first meeting in July, 1884, to the last speech of the Premier in England in January, 1886, and particular attention will be given to the task of making the collection complete by adding from time to time everything that can be had upon the subject.

The Librarians desire to press strongly on the notice of the House the necessity for protecting the Library by limiting the number of persons having the privilege of taking books to their homes. Nearly a thousand persons have enjoyed this privilege in past years, most of them residing in the city of Ottawa. Experience has made it painfully clear that the privilege of obtaining books, which is precious, and ought to be respected, is lightly held in the great majority of cases. Books are returned to the Library deprived of valuable plates. Whole pages are torn out of some volumes,