

LAW SOCIETY.

increase of grants to County Libraries in outer counties, and to permit advances to be made in special cases repayable out of future annual grants.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY LIBRARIES AID COMMITTEE.

Adopted by Convocation on 5th June, 1886.

OSGOODE HALL, 5TH JUNE, 1886.

To the Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada :

The County Libraries Aid Committee beg to report as follows :

1. The annexed statement shows the amounts paid to the County Libraries therein named in respect of initiatory and annual grant respectively, during the year ending 31st December, 1885, and also all payments made on annual grants up to 17th May, 1886. Nothing has been paid on initiatory during the current year.

No reports have been received for the year 1885 from the Ontario or Essex Associations. Reports were received from Bruce, Welland and Peterboro' which were incomplete in certain particulars, but these defects will, it is expected, be supplied shortly. The libraries had been established and received aid from the Law Society up to 31st December, 1885. In every case in which the annual grants have been paid, as shown by the statement referred to, the returns were sent in within the period required by the rules, and all requirements complied with.

2. Steps are being taken to form Library Associations at Guelph and Stratford, but no formal applications for aid have yet been received.

3. The value of county libraries is being more highly appreciated year by year, and applications for aid to new associations will no doubt continue to be made from time to time.

4. On the 18th May, 1886, an application for aid was received from the County of York Law Association, which was incorporated on the 31st December, 1885. The Association has furnished the proper proofs of its incorporation, and also copies of its by-laws, declaration, and a statement of its funds. This application has now to be dealt with by Convocation, but as the position of the Association is in some important points very different from that of a library association formed in an outer county, the committee have thought it desirable to report fully on the facts requiring consideration.

5. County libraries were established in 1879 upon the report of a special committee, a copy of the report will be found in the *Law Journal* for 1879, pages 179 and 181.

It appears from the report that the idea was to establish libraries in the county towns of outer counties for the convenience of the courts and profession who from necessity could not derive the same advantage from the Osgoode Hall Library as the Toronto Bar. Toronto and York, as having full use of the Osgoode Hall Library, were excluded from the calculation of those likely to avail themselves of the scheme; and Ottawa, as having the

use of the Parliamentary Library, was for that reason also excluded.

It will be seen therefore, that the terms of clause six of Rule 142, regulating the aid to be granted to libraries in outer counties, ought not to be applied to this association without very considerable modifications.

6. No action towards the formation of a county library for York and Toronto was taken till quite recently, but the advantage of having a library suitable for reference at *Nisi Prius* in the Court House at Toronto having been felt, Mr. Osler, pursuant to notice, moved in Convocation on 17th November, 1885: "That it is expedient to form a branch library at the Court House in the City of Toronto, to consist of a complete set of the statutes, a complete set of the Upper Canada and Ontario Reports, and the English Reports, beginning with the Law Reports series, with a selection of text books in common use at *Nisi Prius*, and that the City Council be requested to provide accommodation in the new Court House for such library." Upon which it was

Ordered, that the matter be referred to the County Libraries Aid Committee for consideration and report, and that Mr. Osler be added to the said committee in respect of the matter of this notice.

A discussion took place on the consideration of Mr. Osler's motion, during which it was pointed out that there were objections to the establishment of a branch library at the expense of the Society for a purely local purpose; and that the City Council could not be compelled to furnish the accommodation asked for, but if a County Library Association were formed, the right to suitable accommodation in the Court House existed under the Amended Municipal Act of 48 Vict. c. 5, ss. 11 and 12; and the question as to the amount of aid would be considered when the Association made its application. This view apparently commended itself to those interested, as the matter was never brought before the special committee, and steps were immediately taken to incorporate the County of York Library Association.

7. Your Committee believe that a library containing such books as are in common use at *Nisi Prius* (including Chancery Sittings) is all that is required for the County of York as a county library, and although the establishment of a county library in York seems not to have been originally contemplated, yet your Committee think a sufficient reason has been established to warrant them in recommending that an initiatory grant should be made, based on this principle, because for all other than *Nisi Prius* purposes the profession have ready access to the general library at Osgoode Hall. And the close proximity of the site of the new court to Osgoode Hall renders the one place as convenient as the other for the profession, and for this reason many of the works required in other county libraries would not be needed.

8. It appears from the statement furnished by the York Association that \$1,623 has been contributed in cash, and \$260 in books. Your Committee think that in addition to this sum a grant from the Law Society of \$1,500 would be quite sufficient to purchase a suitable library of the class above indicated, and recommend that in lieu of the grant ordinarily made under section 6 of Rule 142, a special grant of \$1,500 be made as the full initiatory grant to this Association.