

On motion of Mr. St. Laurent, it was ordered,—That a Special Committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of Members to compose the Standing Committees of this House under Standing Order 63, said Committee to be composed of Messrs. Harris, Lapointe, Casselman, Shaw and Weir.

Mr. St. Laurent delivered a Message from His Excellency the Governor General, which was read by Mr. Speaker, as follows:

VINCENT MASSEY:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Hugues Lapointe, Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Honourable Walter Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of Chapter 143 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intituled "An Act respecting the House of Commons".

Ottawa, November 12, 1953.

Mr. Speaker presented the Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament, which is as follows:

*To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons:*

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to submit their report for the year 1953.

Our last report told of the disastrous fire in August, 1952, and the steps taken to preserve the valuable collection of books in the library. When Parliament opened the building had dried out sufficiently to allow the staff to return there with enough reference material to provide a reasonably good service to Members of Parliament. At the close of the session the work of removing the books in an orderly manner was begun. Nearly two months were required to place over 700,000 volumes in the various buildings which Public Works had found for us. The Library's books are now stacked in the space made available to us in the following buildings: the Supreme Court of Canada, the Canadian Bank Note Company, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and Public Archives, as well as in various rooms in the Parliament Building itself.

By far the largest and most valuable collection is in the Supreme Court Building, and there the greater part of the staff is engaged in arranging our books and re-cataloging them along Library of Congress lines. This work, which is necessary if the Library is to have a modern and efficient system will require many years to complete.

In the Dominion Bureau of Statistics building have been placed books considered not necessary to a Parliamentary library, and these will go to the National Library when it is erected. Many of our bound newspapers have been put into dead storage in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics building; but those that we considered likely to be used were sent to the Public Archives where they may be consulted upon request.