

The charge of the department of Canadian history had been appropriately assigned to Mr. *Lajoie*; and it is in this direction that, since his increasing infirmity obliged him to relax his efforts, and finally to relinquish his work,—the deficiencies of this Library have been most apparent. The selection, however, as Mr. *Lajoie's* successor in office, of Mr. *Alfred De Celles*, gives promise that this loss will be amply made good, for Mr. *De Celles* past reputation as a student and public writer is a pledge of his competency to discharge with increasing zeal and efficiency the duties which will devolve upon him in the future. I have, therefore, requested him to assume the special charge of Canadian and American books, and to spare no endeavor to make this portion of the Library as perfect and complete as possible.

Since 1890 (when Mr. *De Celles* was appointed) the Library has been suffering from diminished pecuniary resources, owing to an excessive expenditure in former years for the purchase of Law Books, principally for the use of the Supreme Court. This excess was met and covered by reducing current expenditure, as well on behalf of the Law Library as for miscellaneous books, and no extra grant was solicited from Parliament. But the time has now arrived when I would respectfully suggest that a considerable augmentation of the Library, in all its departments, is imperatively called for, in order to maintain its credit and to increase its usefulness as a public institution.

The past year has been memorable in our annals for events of much import in relation to the mental growth and advancement of this Dominion. The attention of learned societies, both at home and abroad, has been awakened to the present condition and future prospects of *Canada*, to an extent hitherto unprecedented. Eminent scientific associations have met for the first time, or have announced their intention of soon assembling, on Canadian soil, to prosecute their philosophical enquiries. Moreover, through the energy and foresight of His Excellency the Governor General, a Canadian Royal Society of Literature and Science has been instituted. In the deliberations of this new association, which includes representative men from the several Provinces of *British North America*, each of whom had achieved distinction in some field of labor for the public benefit, we have proof that the mental activity of our people has kept pace with the rapid and extraordinary increase of the country in population and material wealth. To meet the intellectual wants of such a class, and to aid their literary labors, by making due provision for the requirements of those who devote themselves to study and research, strenuous efforts should be made to enlarge and perfect this, the only public Library in *Canada*. The Government have spared no pains and grudged no outlay which they considered needful to develop the physical resources of this vast Dominion; it is not, therefore, unreasonable to anticipate that they will be equally prepared to recommend to Parliament whatever may be needful to promote its intellectual progress, and to supply the higher wants of Canadians, in their mental and scientific cultivation. I therefore confidently rely upon the willingness of Government to recommend, and of Parliament to grant, whatever sums of money may be required, in the future, to place and to maintain this Library in an adequate degree of completeness and efficiency.

Perhaps I should add, that no difficulty would occur in accommodating a very considerable increase of books, in the existing apartments. Pursuant to the directions of the Library Committee last Session, several thousand volumes of English and American Law Reports have been removed to the Supreme Court Building; for the greater convenience of the Court. This affords space for other works; besides which, the shelving elsewhere available would readily suffice for the deposit of many thousand additional volumes.

The charge of the Library Accounts has been recently assigned to Mr. *James Fletcher*, of this Department, whose previous experience in the Bank of *British North America*, enables him readily to undertake this duty. Heretofore, and until the Library of Parliament was constituted a distinct Department, the Clerk of the Senate was the official custodian of moneys voted by Parliament for the purchase of books. He deputed this service to Mr. *R. W. Stephen*, Assistant Accountant to the Senate; who, for several years after he ceased to be officially responsible for the