

1884,	\$9,570.51	1889,	\$11,017.17
1885,	8,274.21	1890,	11,807.36
1886,	8,139.42	1891,	11,951.94
1887,	8,774.33	1892,	11,759.44
1888,	8,988.02	1893,	11,868.24

The increase in 1889 was caused by the establishment of two of the Branch Libraries at the close of 1888.

In this connection it is interesting to make comparisons with similar institutions in other cities on this continent, and I have extracted from the Los Angeles report for 1893 a comparative table, showing the relative position of this Library.

	Home Use.	No. of Vols.	Pop. 1890.	Salaries.
Chicago .....	988 601	189 350	1,099 850	\$73,787.27
Boston .....	726 052	576,237	448,477	92,684.79
Baltimore .....	442,654	122 773	434,439	19,744.13
Cleveland ...	349,190	79,610	261,353	13,355.12
Jersey City .....	345,096	32,110	163,003	11,290.31
Minneapolis .....	333 612	61,992	164 728	23,870.00
Detroit .....	315,888	115 661	205 876	16,138.52
Newark .....	272,347	35,937	181 830	14,586.67
Los Angeles .....	267,054	34,332	50,335	10,979.51
San Francisco .....	139,630	74,200	298 997	18,623.00
Toronto .....	421 000	84,987	181,222	11,868.24

Most of these libraries do not include the wages of janitor, engineer, pages, and extra assistance, while in the case of Toronto all are comprised under the one heading. It is very gratifying to know that our expense account for salaries is lower than that of any city of this continent in proportion to its population or its circulation and number of books on its shelves.

I think it is proper also to mention that this Board did not wait until January 1894 to economise. In March 1893, they prepared a scheme by which two of the Branch Libraries could be closed and a saving effected of \$4,000 per annum. I regret, however, that the action of the City Council in threatening to cut off part of our grant if this scheme were carried out, prevented its adoption. In my opinion it was an uncalled for interference with the rights and duties of the Board when endeavoring to conduct its affairs on business principles.

The completion and opening of the Reference Department marks

an era in the history of the Library. The Reference formed the nucleus of the department, and the citizens in 1893 have written or printed 39,808 volumes for the purpose. The card catalogue provided for the department already make up

During the year the Library Board has had the permission to have the Library in accordance with the chap., conferring

The Branch Library Building Committee and papered, furnished and make them bright

In July last the International Library Association met at Chicago. The most recent device exhibited. Such but keep our Library the continent.

During the year persons, glad to occupy the halls free and ready to meet this and to resolved to open the basement, for reading matter for hand the fitting-

Jan. 30th, 1894.