

missing from our collection, have been added to the shelves, making the collection of American Congressional Documents almost complete.

Special attention has been paid to the literature dealing with the great questions of the day; and Members will find on the shelves all works that could be obtained or that were considered valuable concerning the relations of Capital and Labor, the operation of the Commissions of Industrial Statistics in the United States, and the working the system of Railway Commissioners in England.

Since last year a number of works of the first rank in German literature have been added to the Library, at the suggestion of an Honorable Member of the Senate accepted by the Library Committee. Translations also of the principal German classics have been provided for the use of Members.

The Librarians desire to call the attention of Parliament to the need for providing a good general Index to the reports of Parliamentary Proceedings in both Houses. The volumes of Hansard since 1875 now make a formidable array, and a general index to the series would be gladly welcomed by Members.

In order that such a work may be complete the Librarians venture to suggest the reprinting of the debates from 1867 to 1875, at which date the present series of Hansard Debates begin. The debates from 1867 to 1871 are contained in scrap-books seldom available for the use of Members generally. The debates for 1870-71-72 are now out of print and not obtainable. There are no reports for 1873-74. If these debates were reprinted and revised under the charge of an impartial and capable man a very valuable work would be done in preserving a continuous record of the political history of the Dominion.

Several valuable additions have been made to the American and Canadian section during the past year. Among them are four of the Relations des Jésuites; Boucher Histoire de la Nouvelle France, 1664,—all original editions; and a journal of Chas. Carrol's visit to Canada as one of the Commissioners from Congress in 1776. It may be here remarked that, owing to the increase in the numbers and activity of American and English collectors, the price of rare works is steadily going up, and that special efforts should be made to secure, as occasion offers, those that are still required to complete the Library collection.

Enough progress has been made in this section of the Library to warrant the reprinting the American and Canadian Catalogue. It was first published long before the union of the British North American Provinces, and contains reference more particularly to works relating to the then Province of Canada. Since the date of its issue, 1857, the additions to that section of the Library have been so large that the Catalogue has become practically useless. Moreover this Catalogue, as it stands in the Library with the additions, does not contain the titles of the numerous pamphlets that have been published during the interval, in the classes where they should be found; it having been decided at the outset to keep in the Library a list, only, of these publications. Time, and the large number of pamphlets, have shown that it would be preferable to classify them along with larger works.

The publication of a new edition of the American Catalogue, or of the Canadian section only, would be very useful to Members of Parliament, besides supplying to writers of biography and history valuable data on Canadian bibliography.

It is much to be desired that Members of Parliament would not seek to extend the number of persons privileged to obtain books from the Library, a number already much too large; and that in returning books during the Session, messengers and pages should be instructed to see that the books are duly credited to the Member returning them. The neglect of this necessary precaution causes frequent misunderstanding.

The Catalogue of the accessions to the Library during the past year will be found to be an improved subject and author Catalogue. It will be distributed immediately to Members, bound, according to the order of the Printing Committee (obtained by the Librarians last Session) in such a manner as will enable Members to readily distinguish it from the blue books. Particular attention is directed to the list of donations and of pamphlet volumes, &c.