

In the last Annual Report, and from time to time previously, allusion has been made to the congested state of the Library and the necessity of providing ample and safe accommodation for the thousands of volumes which now overload the shelves of the Library proper, and fill the lower storerooms and vaults. The necessity still exists, and the undersigned feel that neither the complete security of the Library nor its convenient arrangement in respect to the needs of users can be assured under present conditions.

Meanwhile, the Librarians desire to express their appreciation of the fact that two rooms at the north end of the ground floor of the new building have been assigned to the Library. One of these rooms has already been excellently fitted out by the Department of Public Works with steel shelving, and temporary relief will thus be afforded by this opportunity of conveniently placing many thousands of volumes.

A list of donations to the Library, and of Copyright Works will be submitted.

The Supplementary Catalogue embracing the books purchased since the last report is now in the hands of the printer and will shortly be submitted.

Amongst Governmental reports of special interest are the recent Official Despatches, with Maps, issued by the Government of Great Britain relating to the Jutland Battle. Several copies of these have been secured.

Amongst the items in the list of donations which may be specially noted are the papers received from the "League of Nations" comprising:

1. The Official Journal.
2. Verbatim Record of the Proceedings of the Assembly.
3. Verbatim Record of the Proceedings of Committees.
4. Documentary Correspondence submitted for consideration by the Assembly.
5. Treaty Series,—being Treaties and International engagements registered with the League.

Also a set of the Hansard of the British House of Commons owned by the Late Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, and covering the period of his Parliamentary career. These books were kindly given to the Canadian Government by the Right Honourable Austin Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Both in Great Britain and on this continent, the increase in the price of raw material and in costs of labour compared to pre-war days have made a very marked increase in the price of books and periodicals, and added heavily to the cost of binding; and it naturally follows that with a vote barely larger than that of 1914, the range of Library purchases in 1920 was somewhat restricted.

It has been the aim of the Librarians, however, to secure and make available the works of the leading authorities on Constitutional subjects, on Sociology, Economics, History and the various questions which are specially related to the work of Parliament.

In respect to the borrowing and returning of Library books the rules laid down by Parliament are adequate and clear, but not infrequently they are more honoured in the breach than the observance. It is hardly necessary to point out that compliance with the rules is a matter of obvious justice to the many users of the Library and is to the best interests of the Library itself.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. de L. TACHE,
General Librarian.

MARTIN BURRELL,
Parliamentary Librarian.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,
Ottawa, February 14, 1921.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

(For list of donations to the Library of Parliament Vide Sessional Papers 1921, No. 41)