

THE LIBRARIES OF CANADA.

Valuable Paper by Mr. James Bain, Jr., at the Montreal Meeting.

At the meeting of the American Library Association, Mr. James Bain, jr., chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library, read the following interesting and valuable paper on Canadian libraries.

At the meeting of the association held at the Thousand Islands in 1887, I had the honor of reading a paper on past history and present condition of the libraries of Canada. My task, on this occasion, will be to continue that paper, to report upon the progress made since that period and upon the present condition of the libraries throughout the Dominion. I trust that I will not be held presumptuous in pointing out to our American friends that, like the United States, Canada is a federation of self-governing Provinces, to each of whom has been assigned by the central Government certain specified subjects for local administration. Among these is that of education, which, of course, is inclusive of libraries. These Provinces extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been settled or partially settled, in different ways and at more or less recent periods. That in which we this year meet, will soon celebrate its 400th anniversary and still preserves the language and customs which it brought from the land of the Fleur de Lis. It will be necessary, therefore, to take each in detail and I propose to commence with the extreme east and pass them in review to the far west.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Nova Scotia is the oldest of the English speaking, and is largely a maritime Province. The population is scattered along the coast and there are to be found few large towns. Halifax, its capital, engrosses most of the libraries. The first and largest of these is the Legislative Library, with which has been united that of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, and numbers in books and pamphlets 32,500. It is specially rich in its early official MS. journals, records and papers relating to the difficulties with the Acadians and the troubles to which the early settlers were exposed. Of these a catalogue was prepared in 1886. Dalhousie University, the largest in the Maritime Provinces, has in its Arts library 11,760, and in the Law 8,000 volumes. The Nova Scotian Institute of Science, which regularly publishes its valuable transactions, has a collection of books, principally on science, amounting to 3,700. Halifax is fortunate in possessing a public library, which is called the Citizens' Free Library,

and which, under the energetic management of Miss Warren, is doing excellent work. It now contains 22,300 volumes, and has recently issued a subject catalogue worthy of the city. There is also a circulating library, which is not free, containing 15,000 volumes, and which is known as the Garrison Library. In Antigonish, the college of St. Francis Xavier has 2,500 volumes, mainly theological, and in Windsor, the venerable King's University, with its numerous gifts from England, has a library, which, though not large in number, contains many treasures. The author subject catalogue, prepared by Mr. Piers in 1893, catalogues 7,500 volumes. In Wolfville, in the Evangeline country, Acadia College has 8,500. Nova Scotia has thus nine libraries with a total of 90,020 volumes.

P. E. ISLAND.

The little island of Prince Edward, lying in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has only one town of any size—Charlottetown. It contains two libraries, that of the Legislature, which has 4,800 books and pamphlets, and that belonging to the Bar, consisting of 2,700 law books, making a total of 7,500 volumes.

NEW BRUNSWICK

To the west of Nova Scotia lies the Province of New Brunswick, peopled principally by the descendants of the Loyalists. St. John, the chief commercial city, has an active public library containing 12,000 volumes, which is doing good work under Miss Martin's management. The legal profession have accumulated 3,500 volumes. But the principal libraries of the Province are to be found at the capital, Fredericton, the largest of which is the Legislative, amounting to 15,000 volumes, and the next that of the University of New Brunswick, 8,500. The Barristers' Society has also 3,030. In the town of Sackville, Mount Allison College has now 8,500 volumes. The total for the Province is six libraries, containing 50,530 volumes.

QUEBEC

Passing further west, we have the large Province in which we now meet, Quebec, containing within its borders the wealthy and beautiful commercial capital of the Dominion, Montreal, and the picturesque and historic capital of the Province, Quebec. On the library of the richly endowed institution under whose auspices we are gathered and the results of the labors of Mr. Gould, it is not necessary for me to speak—"Si

monumentum requiris circumspecte." A very complete and perfect list of the libraries of the city has been prepared for me by Mr. Gould, which will give one an idea of the facilities for reading enjoyed by the citizens of Montreal. They number 30, and contain 413,025 volumes.

MONTREAL.

Fraser Institute (free public) Established 1870, opened 1885. Has acquired the mercantile library and that of the Institut Canadien, 35,000 volumes and pamphlets.

Chateau de Ramzay does not lend books and has no catalogues; about 600 volumes and pamphlets.

Montreal Free Library (under Jesuit Church). Established 1899, circulating only. Managed as to English part by a committee of their ladies. Small English section, 8,000 volumes; catalogue of English section only; French section, 12,000 volumes, total, 20,000 volumes.

Westmount Free Public Library. Opened 1880. Supported by town of Westmount. Free to all as a reference library, circulating only to citizens of Westmount. Dictionary card catalogue: 2,500 volumes.

Bibliothèque paroissiale de Notre Dame et du cercle Ville Marie. Belongs to Seminary of St. Sulpice. Subscription, 50c. for six months, which entitles to borrow one book at a time on a deposit of 50c. 16,000 volumes.

Mechanics' Institute. Established 1840. Now reclassifying on Cutter's expansion system. Printed catalogue: 14,162 volumes and pamphlets.

Grand Trunk Literary and Scientific Institute, printed catalogue, 7,150 volumes.

Bibliothèque de l'immaculée (Jesuits paroissiale library), 3,000 volumes.

Bishop's College, Medical, 579 volumes.

Ecole Normale Jacques Cartier, 12,500 volumes and pamphlets.

Laval University (branch of Laval at Quebec), established. Has only law and medical books, law, 8,000 volumes, medical, 4,000 volumes.

McGill University, established 1856, author and subject card catalogue, incomplete, class, E.C., 70,042 volumes.

McGill University Affiliated Colleges.—Presbyterian College, MS. catalogue, 16,000 volumes. Congregational College, no catalogue, book class I. C., 3,500 volumes. Montreal Diocesan College (now includes Synod library.) Dictionary card catalogue, class E.C., 4,700 volumes. Wesleyan College, 3,000 volumes.

Montreal College, established 1800, proprietor of the Seminaire de Notre Dame, 45,000 volumes.

St. Mary's College (Jesuits), general library, 20,000 volumes, reference library, 5,000. Students' library, 7,000 volumes.

Seminary of St. Sulpice, with valuable archives, 50,000 volumes.

Seminary St. Sulpice, Library of the Seminary of Philosophy, 20,000 volumes.

Architectural Association of the Province of Quebec (card dictionary catalogue, class E.C.), 250 volumes.

Art Association, of Montreal, 650 volumes.

Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, no catalogue nor classification; 1,750 volumes.

Natural History Society, incorporated 1827, no catalogue nor classification, about 6,000 volumes.

Provincial Board of Health, printed catalogue, 1,500 volumes.

Y. M. C. Association, founded 1854, printed subject and author catalogue, 3,800 volumes.

Y. M. C. Association, reorganized 1899, dictionary card catalogue, class E.C., 632 volumes.

Advocates' Library, established March 27, 1828, incorporated, 1849, 17,010 volumes.

New York Life Law Library, established 1839, for use of tenants only, 6,500 volumes.

The largest university library in the Dominion is that of Laval at Quebec, unrivaled for its collection of early Canadian material. Vicar General Hamel has charge of its 110,000 volumes. The Legislative Library for the Province, which is in the