

entered into by the Department of Public Works, with various Companies, for the purchase of steel rails; to examine the certificates, accounts, bills of lading and insurances, and, in some cases, to enter into shipping contracts, and to effect original insurances. This has involved a large amount of labour and heavy correspondence, which took up a large portion of the services of Mr. Brodie, who has most efficiently discharged the duties in connection with that department, he also undertaking as well the charge of the department of Emigration, when Mr. Jourdain's illness made it necessary to find a substitute. This alone has saved the Government in commissions more than \$3,000.

As regards the library, I am happy to report that its establishment has proved to be in every way a success. During the year 435 Canadians have inscribed their names on the books. A large number have used it, not only as a reading-room, but for their correspondence, and have found the convenience of having their letters directed there. Mr. Jourdain, finding himself, through ill health, incapable of continuing to discharge the onerous duties of the Emigration Office, has been placed in charge of the library, with a reduced salary, and fills the office of librarian with intelligence and efficiency. The number of volumes already received is 737, and I append a list of the newspapers and periodicals which are kept on file. English Government Departments, officials, authors, lawyers, &c., frequently send to the library for information; and I can bear satisfactory testimony to its utility. It will be seen by the accounts that its cost amounts to £500 per annum (\$2,500.)

During the year the sub-agents for Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces, have entered upon their duties, and now occupy the whole of the second floor of the Government building. A clerk was appointed specially to assist them; but when not engaged on Provincial work, was employed upon the business of the Agency. The rooms occupied by these gentlemen have been properly furnished, and they have testified their satisfaction with the arrangements that have been made for them. I have been informed officially that Mr. Sydney Robjohns is to be replaced on the 1st January by Mr. Byrne, lately the Ontario Agent in Scotland. It is my duty to acknowledge the courtesy and attention with which Messrs. Annand, O'Neill, and Robjohns have carried out the work belonging to their several provincial departments. All matters relating to their several Provinces have been invariably referred to them; and I have