

all these rooms is what is known as the imported Bentwood chair—very light, and very strong.

It would have been very desirable if provision could have been made, in wiring the building, for stand lamps on each reading table. experience in many public libraries having shown that these provide the most satisfactory light. This was not done, however, the plans providing only for drop and wall lights.

What may be called the technical furniture of the Public Library, was procured from the Office Specialty Company and the Library Bureau of Canada. This includes special cases and cabinets for periodicals, maps, atlases, art works, etc., wall-racks for large maps, newspaper racks, book truck, bulletin-board, and many other minor accessories.

#### CARD CATALOGUE.

The key to any Library, public or private, is its catalogue, and it has long been recognized that any expense is justifiable that tends to increase the efficiency of this vital accessory. In purchasing the furniture and fittings, therefore, the Sub-Committee selected catalogue cabinets of the best quality. It is now equally important that the cards to be placed in these cabinets should be of the best procurable quality, perfectly cut, of uniform size, and of sufficient weight to stand constant use in the library.

The Librarian has availed himself of the opportunity to procure from the Library of Congress, at Washington, printed catalogue cards for a number of the books already purchased for the Public Library. These cards are supplied at a purely nominal price—about a cent apiece—and are being obtained by most of the public libraries in the United States, as well as by several Canadian libraries. By procuring them we shall be in a position to open the Library to the public at a considerably earlier date than would otherwise have been possible.

The moment we can get into the building, the work of preparing the books for the shelves will be pushed with the utmost possible despatch. It will, however, even with the relief afforded by the printed cards from Washington, take a considerable time to get the books and the catalogue in shape for the use of the public. The books now being purchased will probably run to nearly ten thousand volumes. The most expert cataloguers can only catalogue twenty or thirty books a day, if the work is done properly.

The effectiveness of the card catalogue of course depends absolutely upon its accuracy. In no other department of Library work is more care required. A mistake in cataloguing one important