

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to lay before you the Tenth Annual Report of the Toronto Public Library. The termination of the tenth year seems an appropriate occasion on which to review the progress made since the opening of the institution.

In 1883 the Library and Reading-rooms were commenced in what at that time seemed large and commodious quarters, but the continuously increasing number of readers has forced us, step by step to add to our accomodation and to part with all our tenants, until the Circulating and Reference Libraries and Reading-rooms now occupy the entire building.

The issue of books has kept pace with the general improvement as will be seen by the following comparison :

1884,	179,506	1889,	310,904
1885,	277,931	1890,	387,480
1886,	270,095	1891,	427,337
1887,	275,066	1892,	431,256
1888,	279,160	1893,	442,470

The number for 1893 is composed of 268,896 volumes taken out for home reading and 21,470 read in the rooms.

The alterations which were being carried on during the past winter prevented free access to the books in the Reference Library, and it was not until the completion of this portion of the building in May last that any considerable number of readers could be accomodated, and further in order to extend the scope and usefulness of the Library, the experiment has been tried of placing within reach of the reader all the principal encyclopædias, dictionaries, etc., the use of which no record could be kept. Consequently the number of volumes read show a decrease in this department. The success, however, of the experiment, fully warrants any departure we have made in this direction.

The long hours during which the Library requires to be kept open necessitates the service of a double staff, and therefore the expense for salaries forms the largest item in the annual expenditure. This has been for the past ten years :