

PRAYERS.

The following Petitions were severally brought up, and laid on the Table:—

By the Honourable Mr. Coffey,—Of Thomas F. Johnson and others, of the City of London.

By the Honourable Mr. Mitchell,—Of the Orford Mountain Railway Company, and of Edward Eugene Gleason and others.

By the Honourable Mr. Mitchell, for the Honourable Mr. Frost,—Of the Dominion Central Railway Company.

By the Honourable Mr. Davis,—Of the Dominion Fire Insurance Company.

By the Honourable Mr. Shehyn,—Of the Quebec Bridge and Railway Company.

By the Honourable Mr. Watson,—Of the Brockville, Westport and Northwestern Railway Company; and

By the Honourable Mr. Kerr,—Of Mary E. Dignam and others, of the City of Toronto; and of the Canada Central Railway Company.

The Honourable Mr. Scott, Secretary of State, presented to the Senate,—The Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library of Parliament for the year 1906.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

To the Honourable Speaker of the Senate:

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to report as follows:—

The shortness of the recess necessarily prevented any accumulation of business.

The various departments of the Library have been supplied as far as possible with books and pamphlets issued since the close of the last session.

Efforts have been made to find convenient shelf-space for some overcrowded sections; and the need for the expected improvements has become more than ever obvious.

Considerable expenditure was called for to supply the Revised Statutes of the various States of the American Union. When the new edition of the Revised Statutes of Canada is issued, the Librarians will no doubt be in a position to exchange the volumes for similar publications. Application has been made to the Printing Committee for an order for a sufficient number of copies to supply the Library exchanges.

The catalogue of French works on politics, political economy, social science, having become obsolete with time, a new one was begun during the last session and completed during recess. It is now in the press. This part of the catalogue has been made, according to the most recent methods and in its numerous sections will be found works on political science, social economy, sociology, finance, social science and kindred subjects.

As Members of Parliament are well aware, people in foreign countries, especially in Europe, take more and more interest in the discussions raised years ago and kept up ever since, on the relations of capital and labour, on socialism, on the dangers of trusts, cartells, &c. The most recent remarkable works on those subjects have been secured and are to be found in the Library.

During September last, a very important congress, that of the *Américanistes*, was held in Quebec. Among their transactions, important papers were read on the manners, customs, and folklore of the aborigines of our continent. Arrangements have been made to add those valuable contributions to the Library.

Owing to the pressure of business and the preoccupation of Members, it has not been found convenient for several sessions to get more than one meeting of the Joint Committee; and the Sub-Committee of Audit have been for the same reasons irregular. As the duties of the Sub-Committee of Audit are minute and troublesome, and are in any case superfluous in view of constant supervision of the Auditor General, the Librarians will hereafter, unless otherwise ordered, report direct to the Committee, in detail, as to the expenditure for the purchase of books, in the form hitherto followed. In the meantime they submit herewith, for the information of the House, a tabulated and classified statement of the purchases made during the past three seasons.