

On motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable *Mr. Aikins*, it was

Ordered, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House, when and as often as they please.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House the Report of the Librarian, on the state of the Library of Parliament.

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

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament respectfully sheweth :—

That much of the past recess has been devoted to the work of examining into the condition of the Library, with a view to improve the system of classification and arrangement, to verify the entries in the Catalogues with the books upon the shelves, and to ascertain, by this means, what losses may have been incurred since the previous occasion of "taking stock." This undertaking has occupied considerable time. It would, however, have been completed before the meeting of Parliament, but for the unexpected summoning of Parliament two months before the ordinary period of its assembling. The work will necessarily be suspended during Session, but it is hoped will be finished by an early date.

In compliance with a wish very generally expressed by Members and others who make extensive use of the English division of the Law Library, the books in this section have been re-arranged in alphabetical order.

The Classified Catalogue of the works on Law, Politics, and Political Economy, has been reprinted and is now ready for distribution to Members. A new index of Authors on these subjects, which has been brought down to the latest possible date, —so as to include works added to the Library after the Classified Catalogue had gone through the press—has been appended to this Volume.

It is not proposed to incur the expense of reprinting any further portions of the Classified Catalogue at present. Meanwhile steady progress has been made in the plan referred to in the Report of last Session, of compiling a new Manuscript Catalogue on the basis of the last printed volume, re-writing therein all the manuscript additions to the General Catalogue, since the issue of that volume now, 23 years ago, in a permanent, uniform and convenient method. This laborious task is being executed by a gentleman whose appointment for the purpose was specially approved by the Joint Library Committee last Session. A casual inspection of the manner in which he is performing this duty will suffice to show that it is being done with remarkable skill and precision, and that this method of perpetuating the record of the contents of the Library is decidedly preferable to the costly plan of reprinting the entire Catalogue.

Owing to the extraordinary outlay in previous years, for the purchase of books— an outlay which was chiefly incurred in order to place the Law division of the Library upon a proper footing, to meet the requirements of the Supreme Court,—the expenditure had fallen considerably into arrears. To provide for the payment of all accounts then due, without increasing the average annual amount of the Parliamentary grant on behalf of the Library, it was agreed, upon the advice of the Joint Library Committee, last Session, to appropriate the whole of the grant for 1880-81 to liquidate unpaid Booksellers' bills, and to anticipate a moiety of the ordinary grant, for the ensuing fiscal year, to defray current and unavoidable expenses. This arrangement, while it has sufficed to clear off all arrears of debt, left only the small sum of \$3,500 available for expenditure during the current year. Out of this we have had to pay our Binding account ;