

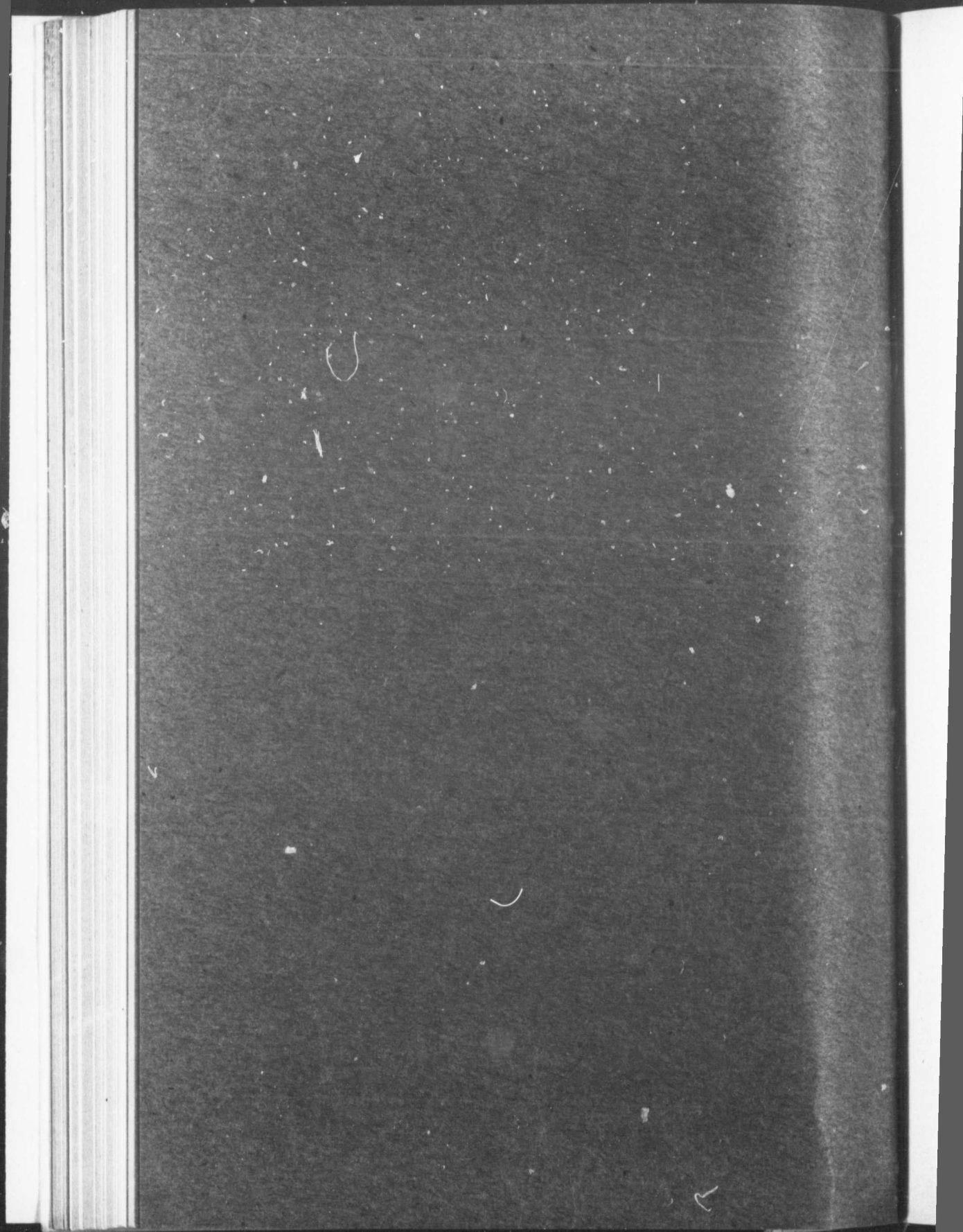


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Ninth Annual
Report of the
Hamilton
Public Library
For Year 1897





NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT

—OF—



THE HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1897

HAMILTON, CANADA
THE SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
(Limited.)

The engravings in this Report were made by R. Laidlaw, Photo Engraver, Hamilton, from photographs by C. S. Cochran, Photographer, Hamilton.

Board of Management

1898

JOHN KENRICK, *Chairman of the Board*

Appointed by City Council:

	Term Expires Dec. 31.
JOHN KENRICK, - - - - -	1900
FRED WALTER, - - - - -	1899
J. C. McKEAND, - - - - -	1898

Ex-Officio:

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR E. A. COLQUHOUN

Appointed by Public School Board:

F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1900
REV. SAMUEL LYLE, D. D. - - - - -	1899
W. F. BURTON, - - - - -	1898

Appointed by Separate School Board:

GEORGE LYNCH-STAUNTON, - - - - -	1899
JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1898

COMMITTEES FOR 1898

LIBRARY:

REV. DR. LYLE, *Chairman.* F. W. FEARMAN.
J. C. McKEAND. GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

W. F. BURTON, *Chairman.* J. T. ROUTH.
F. WALTER. MAYOR COLQUHOUN.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD, *Secretary.*

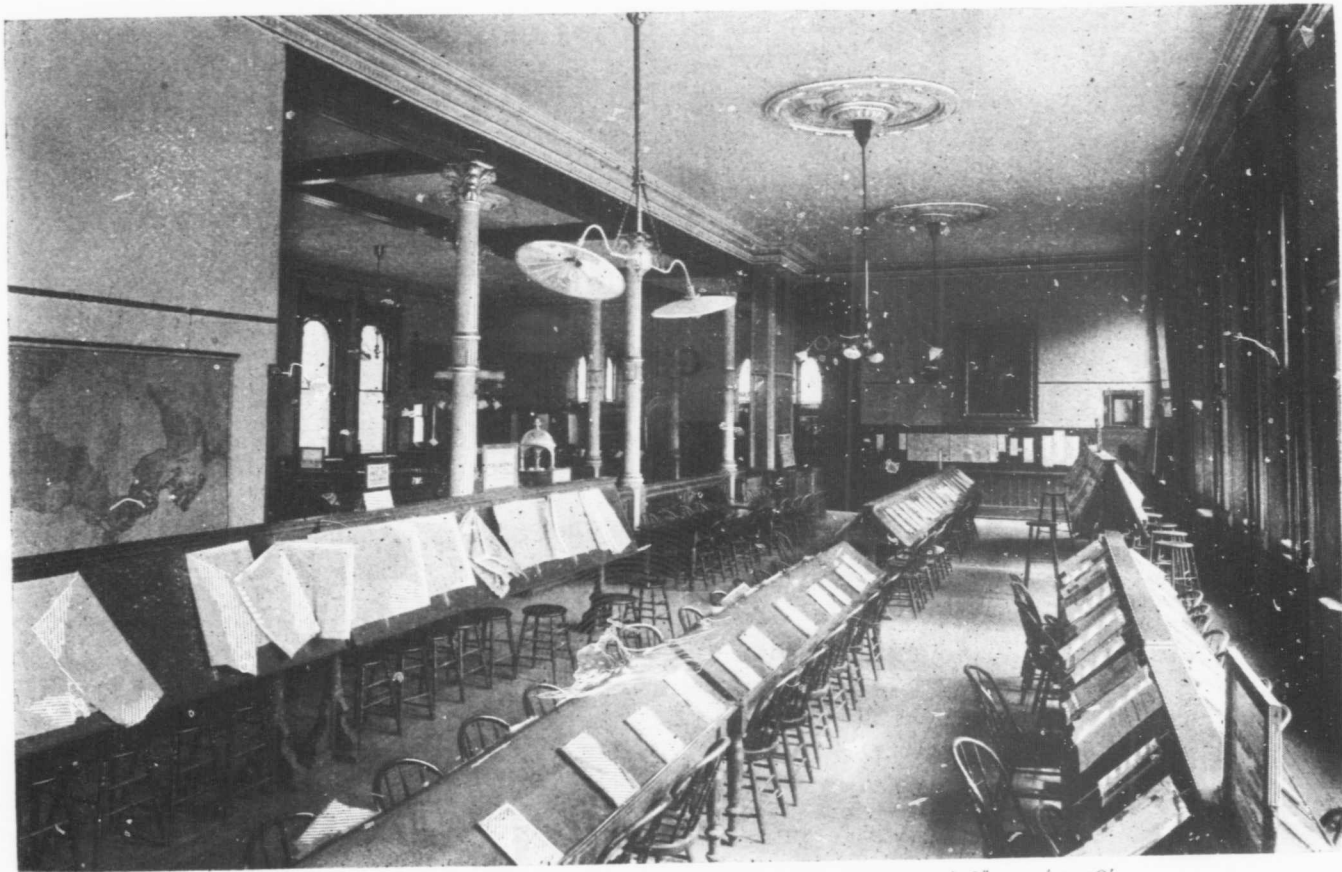


HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY—VIEW FROM ENTRANCE, LOOKING NORTH.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

FOR EACH YEAR FROM ITS ORGANIZATION

1889,	.	-	-	-	-	His Honor Judge Muir.
1890,	-	-	-	-	-	J. Edwin O'Reilly.
1891,	-	-	-	-	-	F. W. Fearman.
1892,	-	-	-	-	-	Adam Rutherford.
1893,	-	-	-	-	-	Rev. Samuel Lyle, D. D.
1894,	-	-	-	-	-	Geo. Lynch-Staunton.
1895,	-	-	-	-	-	Fred. Walter.
1896,	-	-	-	-	-	W. F. Burton.
1897,	-	-	-	-	-	J. T. Routh.
1898,	-	-	-	-	-	John Kenrick.



HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY—GENERAL READING ROOM—72' 6" X 24' X 18'

LIBRARY STAFF

Appointed.	-----	Paid during 1897.	Monthly Salary.
Mar. 8, 1889.	Richard T. Lancefield, <i>librarian</i>	\$1,500 00	\$125 00

Oct. 22, 1889.	Annie S. Stuart, <i>assistant</i>	364 00	Weekly Wages 7 00
Oct. 22, 1889.	Janet Sutherland, <i>assistant</i>	364 00	7 00
Oct. 22, 1889.	May Hamilton, <i>assistant</i>	364 00	7 00
Oct. 2, 1890.	Caroline Wilson, <i>assistant</i>	364 00	7 00
Feb. 5, 1891.	Amy B. McNair, <i>assistant</i>	364 00	7 00
Nov. 7, 1895.	Kate V. Oaten, <i>assistant</i>	286 00	6 00

Apr. 2, 1891.	Fred. Tribe, <i>janitor</i>	540 00	10 39

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Memoranda for 1897 :

Population of city, 50,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$12,648.82 for 1897.

Library opened in temporary premises, Feb. 15, 1890.

Corner stone of new Library building laid Oct. 23, 1889.

Library opened in new Library building. Sept. 19, 1890.

Reading Room first opened, Oct. 21, 1890.

Total number of volumes in the Library on December 31, 1897—25,110. Divided as follows: 20,122 in Circulation Department, 4,988 in Reference Department.

Library Building open 305 days during the year—the Reading Rooms and the Reference Department from 8.30 a. m. to 9.30 p. m., and the Circulating Department of the Library from 9 a. m. to 8.30 p. m.

All departments closed on Sundays, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and any day appointed by Government or Civic proclamation as a public holiday.

Volumes issued during the year, 215,462, an average daily use of 716 volumes (home use, 154,008).

Borrowers' Cards in force, 12,138.

Number of papers and periodicals for use in Reading Rooms, 235.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Chairman of the Board

Gentlemen of the Board of Management:

Before retiring from the position which you did me the honor to confer on me, I have to thank you for the uniform courtesy you have accorded me during my term of office.

The management of the Library has been so excellent that there remains very little for me to say. A few improvements have been made during the year. The lowering of the reading desks in the Reading Room has proved to be of great advantage, and the reading public seem to appreciate the change.

I think it would be advisable for you to consider the desirability of having ground-glass partitions on each side of the passage-way after entering the Library. Such partitions would make the reading rooms of a more private nature, and they would be ornamental as well as useful.

The Board have to thank those who so kindly donated books, papers and serial publications for the use of the Library, and trust that others will see their way to follow such a good example.

The Board ought, and no doubt does, feel a great pride at seeing the high standing of this Library at this the end of its eighth year of existence.

To the Librarian, Mr. Lancefield, is due great credit for his able and successful management, and to the ladies forming his staff for their courtesy to all, and their efficiency in performing their several duties.

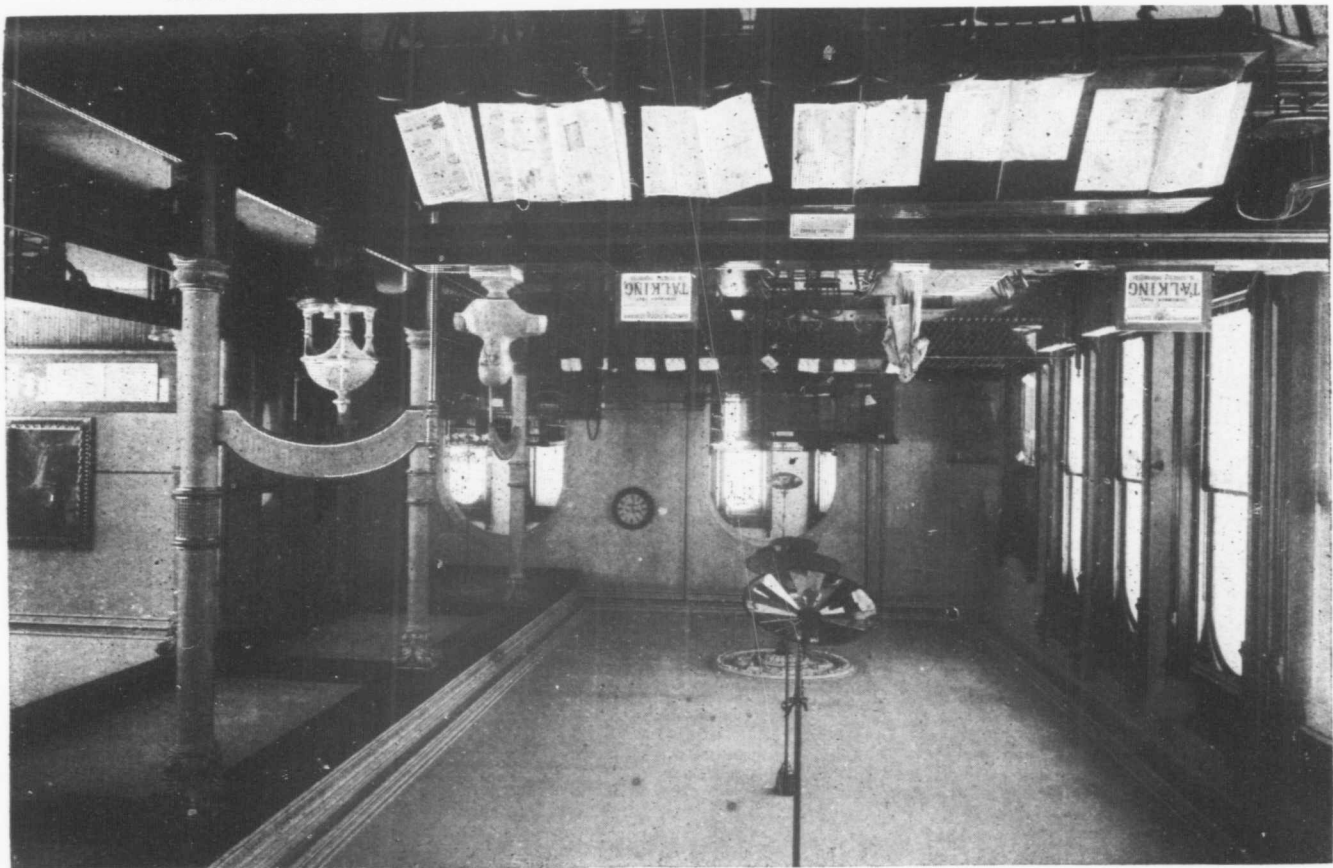
I am, yours sincerely,

J. T. ROUTH,

Chairman.

December 31st, 1897.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY—LADIES' READING ROOM AND REFERENCE READING ROOM



NINTH ANNUAL

Report of the Librarian

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Management :

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present herewith my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 24,059 volumes. The total accessions for the year have been 1,051 volumes, comprising

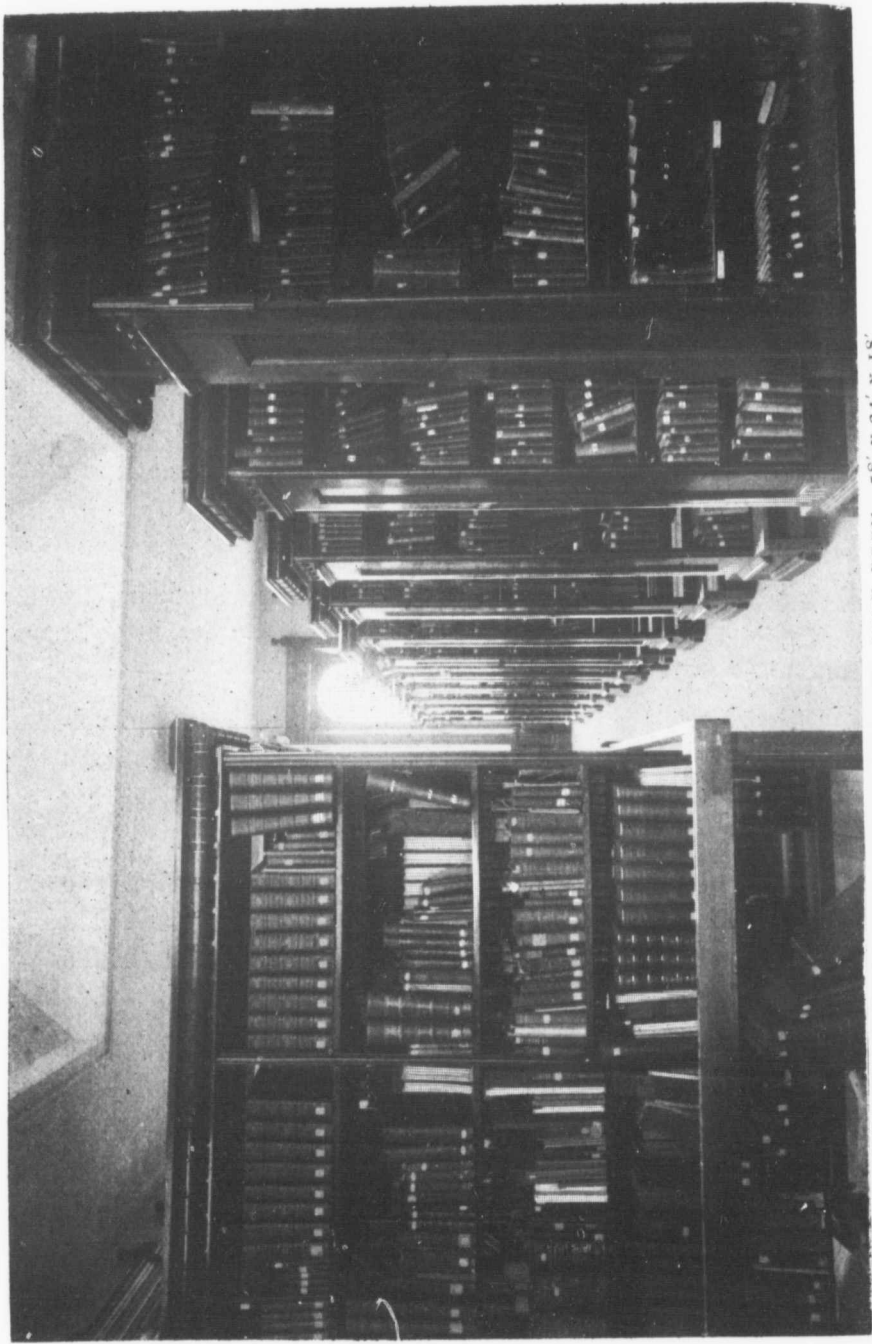
(a) 742 new books obtained by purchase,
(b) 211 volumes of magazines from reading rooms,
(c) 98 volumes as gifts from various sources,
making a present total of 25,110 volumes.

In addition to the new accessions there were 646 volumes purchased to replace books worn out and condemned. The total number of volumes purchased was 1,388, costing \$1,492.51, an average of \$1.07 per volume.

The high price of many of the new books, such as the *Life of Lord Tennyson*, *Lord Roberts' Forty-one Years in India*, etc., tends to increase the average cost of the books purchased.

The Library was open 305 days during the year. The building was closed on 52 Sundays and 8 holidays. The total use of the books was 218,462 volumes, an average daily use of 716 volumes. These figures show that each of the 25,110 volumes in the Library was handled on an average eight times during the year.

The volumes purchased to replace worn out and condemned books were largely works of fiction, with a liberal sprinkling of books on travel, education, useful arts and general literature.



HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY—BOOK ROOM—5S' X 34' X 18'

It is matter of regret that too many people, both old and young, are prone to be somewhat careless in the handling of Library books. The Librarian of the Cleveland Public Library last year instituted a "Book Preservation Guild" among the children of the public schools in that city. A great public meeting, attended by thousands of children, was held; each child was given a badge, the acceptance of which bound the wearer to handle all books with care. I have too much fear of the consequences at the hands of our Board of Education, to suggest the formation of a similar Guild here, as it understood that there are almost enough Guilds and Clubs already in existence. I would respectfully suggest, however, that if it is not already the rule, the school teachers might occasionally impress on the scholars the necessity of handling *all* books with care, whether the books belong to the Library or are private property. I might also take advantage of this occasion to urge upon all users of the Library to handle the Library books with care. The observance of this rule will save them possible annoyance and expense. But while there is some ground for complaint as to careless handling, I am pleased to state that the great mass of readers take good care of the books drawn for home use. The trashy paper, and more often the poor binding of many of the books, are largely responsible for the loss to the Library in this respect. The binding of some books begins to break after the book has been used two or three times; other books, more strongly bound, are given out forty to sixty times before the binding breaks. The policy of your Book Committee has been to buy well-bound books when possible; but as the days of non-copyrighted editions for new books are now past, we are necessarily restricted in our choice of editions. In fact we must content ourselves with the authorized editions, whether they be well bound or merely cased.

As to the class of books most read—for home use, fiction, of course, maintains the first place. But the home use of the Library books is only one feature of the Library. Many hundreds of citizens consult the encyclopedias, the

dictionaries, and the other works of reference in the Library. The various societies in connection with the schools and other institutions in the city, are also constantly sending a large number of young men and young women to the Library in search of information on ethical, historical or scientific subjects. These factors are undoubtedly the true test of the value of the Library as a great educational centre in the community.

The plan of allowing limited access to the shelves other than fiction, continues to work with satisfaction both to the Library staff and to the readers. By this plan it is believed that many books of travel, history and general literature, which might never be selected from the catalogue, are taken out. Every care is taken by the Library staff to see that this privilege is not abused.

The policy of inviting readers to make their wants known, instead of searching through the catalogue, is still in operation. Readers looking for special books, or searching for facts and figures on special topics are cordially invited to consult the Librarian or the assistant at the magazine desk.

Improvements in the Reading Rooms, as mentioned by the Chairman, have been much appreciated by the citizens.

The frequent references to back numbers of the papers and magazines kept for reference purposes will soon call for increased shelf-room for storage.

Suggestions as to this and a few other minor improvements will be submitted at an early meeting of the new Board.

I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Board of Management for the advice and assistance received from them, and to bear testimony to the uniform faithfulness with which the Library assistants have performed their duties during the year.

The usual statistical tables are appended.

R. T. LANCEFIELD.

Librarian.

CIRCULATION BY CLASSES

	Total Use Volumes	Home Use Volumes
Religion and Philosophy	2246	2039
Sociology	4871	3746
Useful and Fine Arts	13261	9174
Natural Science.....	7312	5218
General Literature	73776	31462
History, Travel and Biography	29431	15943
English Prose Fiction	79622	78754
Books for Young People	7943	7672
	218,462	154,008

CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS

	Vols. Added in 1897	Previous Stock	Total Vols.
Cyclopedias, Periodicals, etc.	130	2735	2865
Philosophy and Religion.....	43	1244	1287
Sociology	78	2380	2458
Natural Science.....	29	1242	1271
Useful and Fine Arts	114	2017	2131
General Literature	129	3035	3164
History, Travels and Biography ...	107	4800	4907
Books for Young People	29	994	1023
English Prose Fiction	392	5612	6004
	1,051	24,059	25,110

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1897

RECEIPTS.

From the Ontario Government.....	\$	225 00
“ “ City Corporation		12648 82
“ Rents		578 00
“ Fees, Fines, etc.....		351 88
Balance Dec. 31, 1896.....		46 70
		\$13,850 40

EXPENDITURES.

For Books.....	\$	1492 51
“ Periodicals.....		699 53
“ Binding		697 24
“ Interest on overdraft and debentures		2155 15
“ Lighting		371 24
“ Heating		455 75
“ Miscellaneous		305 72
“ Catalogues.....		303 16
“ Insurance.....		78 35
“ Printing Supplies		150 00
“ Salaries		4146 00
“ Unforseen and Repairs.....		198 16
“ Debenture paid.....		2170 00
Bank of Hamilton to reduce overdraft		528 93
Balance Dec. 31, 1897		98 66
		\$13,850 40

Audited and found correct,

A. H. WHYTE, }
WALTER ANDERSON, } *Auditors.*

