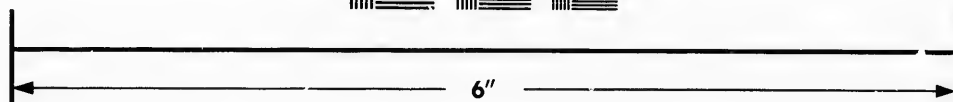
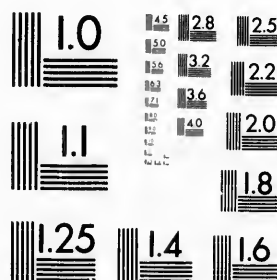
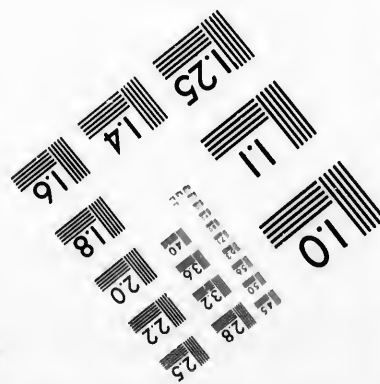


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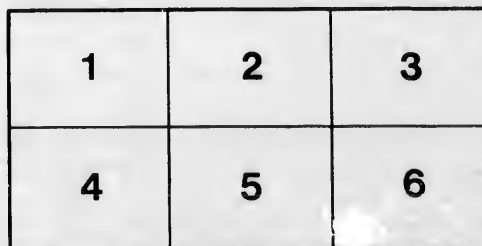
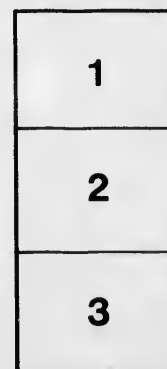
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## CANADIAN LIBRARIES.

BY JAMES BAIN, JR., *Librarian Toronto (Can.) Public Library.*

AT a meeting of the Association held at the Thousand Islands in 1887 I had the honor of reading a paper on the past history and present condition of the libraries of Canada. My task on this occasion will be to continue that paper, to report upon the progress made since that period, and upon the present condition of the libraries throughout the Dominion.

I trust that I will not be held presumptuous in pointing out to our American friends, that like the United States, Canada is a federation of self-governing provinces, to each of which has been assigned by the central government, certain specified subjects for local administration. Among these is that of education, which of course, is inclusive of libraries. These provinces, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, have been settled or partially settled, in different ways, and at more or less recent periods. That in which we this year meet, will soon celebrate its 400th anniversary, and still preserves the language and customs which it brought from the land of the "fleur de lis." It will be necessary, therefore, to take each in detail, and I propose to commence with the extreme east and pass them in review to the far west.

Nova Scotia is the oldest of the English-speaking provinces, and is largely maritime. The population is scattered along the coast, and in it there are to be found few large towns. Halifax, its capital, engrosses most of the libraries. The first and largest of these is the Legislative Library, with which has been united that of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, and numbers in books and pamphlets 32,500. It is specially rich in its early official mss., journals, records, and papers relating to the difficulties with the Acadians, and the troubles to which the early settlers were exposed. Of these a catalog was prepared in 1886. Dalhousie University, the largest university in the maritime provinces, has in its Arts Library 11,760 volumes, and in the Law Library 8000 volumes. The Nova Scotian

Institute of Science, which regularly publishes its valuable Transactions, has a collection of books, principally on science, amounting to 3700. Halifax is fortunate in possessing a public library, which is called the Citizens' Free Library, and which under the energetic management of Miss Warren is doing excellent work. It now contains 22,300 volumes, and has recently issued a subject catalog worthy of the city. There is also a circulating library which is not free, containing 15,000 volumes, known as the Garrison Library. In Antigonish the College of St. Francis Xavier has 2500 volumes, mainly theological, and in Windsor the venerable King's University, with its numerous gifts from England, has a library which, though not large in number, contains many treasures. The author subject catalog, prepared by Mr. Piers in 1893, catalogs 7500 volumes. In Wolfville, in the Evangeline country, Acadia College has 8500 volumes.

Nova Scotia has thus nine libraries with a total of 90,020 volumes.

The little island of Prince Edward, lying in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has only one town of any size, Charlottetown. It contains two libraries—that of the Legislature, which has 4800 books and pamphlets, and that belonging to the Bar, consisting of 2700 law books—making a total of 7500 volumes.

To the west of Nova Scotia lies the province of New Brunswick, peopled principally by the descendants of the Loyalists. St. John, the chief commercial city, has an active public library, containing 12,000 volumes, which is doing good work under Miss Martin's management. In the north end of the city a free library has been in operation for some years, containing 3000 volumes, and the Church of England Institute has thrown open its 2000 volumes to all subscribers of one dollar per annum. The legal profession has accumulated 3500 volumes. But the principal libraries of the province are to be found at the capital, Fredericton, the largest of which is the Legislative Library,

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amounting to 15,000 volumes, and the next, that of the University of New Brunswick, 8500. The Barristers' Society has also 3030. In the town of Sackville, Mount Allison College has now 8500 volumes. The total for the province is eight libraries containing 55,530 volumes.

Passing further west, we have the large province in which we now meet: Quebec—containing within its borders the wealthy and beautiful commercial capital of the Dominion, Montreal, and the picturesque and historic capital of the province, Quebec. Of the library of the richly endowed institution under whose auspices we are gathered and the results of the labors of Mr. Gould it is not necessary for me to speak further than to refer you to the figures which follow—"Si monumentum requiris circumspecte." The libraries of the city number 31 and contain 413,025 volumes, as follows:

#### Free public libraries.

Fraser Institute, estab. 1870, opened 1885; 35,000 vol. and pamph.  
Has acquired the Mercantile Library and that of the Institut Canadien.

Chateau de Ramezay—estab. 1890, about 6000 vol. and pamph.  
Does not lend books and has no catalog.

Montreal Free Library (under Jesuits' Church.) Estab. 1889—circulating only. English section, 8,000 vol.; French section, 12,000 vol.—20,000 vol.

Managed as to English part by committee of three ladies; small printed catalog of English section only.

Westmount Free Public Library, opened 1899, 2500 vol.

Supported by town of Westmount, free to all as a reference library, circulating only to citizens of Westmount; dictionary card catalog.

#### Subscription, Institutes, etc.

Bibliothèque paroissiale de Notre-Dame, et du cercle Ville Marie. Belongs to Seminary of St. Sulpice, 16,000 vol.

Subscription soc. for six mos., which entitles to borrow one book at a time, on a deposit of 50c.

Mechanics' Institute, estab. 1840; 14,162 and pamph.

Now re-classifying on Cutter's expansive system; printed catalog.

Grand Trunk Literary and Scientific Inst., 7150 vol.

Printed catalog.

Bibliothèque de l'Immaculée Conception (Jesuits' Parochial Library), 3000 vol.

Bishops' College (medical), 579 vol.

Ecole Normale Jacques Cartier, 12,500 vol. and pamph.

Laval University (branch of Laval at Quebec), Law, 8000; Medical, 4000—12,000.

Has only law and medical books.

McGill University, estab. 1856, 58,042 vol.

Author and subject card catalog incomplete; class E. C.

McGill Medical Library, 21,000.

One of the most complete medical libraries on the continent.

#### McGill University Affiliated Colleges.

Presbyterian College of Montreal, 16,000 vol. Manuscript catalog.

Congregational College of Montreal, 3500 vol. No catalog, book class E. C.

Montreal Diocesan College (now includes Synod Library), 4700 vol.

Dictionary card catalog; class E. C.

Wesleyan College, 3000 vol.

Montreal College, estab. 1800, 45,000 vol.

Property of the Seminaire de Notre Dame.

St. Mary's College (Jesuit), general library, 20,000 vol.; ref., 5000 vol.; St. Mary's Archives, students, 7000—32,000 vol.

Seminary of St. Sulpice, 50,000 vol.

With valuable archives.

Library of the Seminary of Philosophy, 20,000 vol.

#### Scientific and Special.

Architectural Association of the Province of Quebec, 250 vol.

Card dictionary catalog; class E. C.

Art Association of Montreal, 650 vol.

Printed catalog only.

Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, 1750 vol.

No catalog nor classification.

Natural History Society—incorporated 1827, abt. 6000 vol.

No catalog nor classification.

Provincial Board of Health, 1500 vol.

Printed catalog.

Y. M. C. Association—founded 1854, 3800 vol.

Printed subject and author catalog.

Y. M. C. Association—reorganized 1899, 632 vol.

Dictionary card catalog; class E. C.

#### Law.

Advocates' Library—estab. Mar. 27, 1828, incorporated 1849, 17,010 vol.

New York Life Law Library—estab. 1889 for use of Tenants only, 6500 vol.

Printed catalog.

The largest university library in the Dominion is that of Laval at Quebec, unrivalled for its collection of early Canadian historical material. Vicar-General Hamel has charge of its 110,000 volumes. The Legislative Library for the Province, which is in the Parliament Buildings, Quebec, has about 50,000 volumes; the Department of Public Instruction 11,000; the Legal Library of the members of the bar 13,000, and the Literary and Historical Society 19,000 volumes. In 1890 a free Workman's Library was opened at St. Roch's, one of the divisions of Quebec, which receives a subvention from the city and now contains 4000 volumes. In addition to these libraries in the city of Quebec, are to be found a town library in Sherbrooke containing 5000 volumes, and college libraries in St. Hyacinthe.

cinthe, Sainte Anne de la Pocatiere and Three Rivers, respectively 25,000, 13,000, and 7000.

The province has therefore 40 libraries containing 670,025 volumes.

The wealthier and more homogeneous province of Ontario has had for the past 18 years a free library act among its statutes. Under this act six cities and towns with 65,367 volumes had, when I reported in 1887 availed themselves of its permissive powers, which number has now increased to 120. There were also at that time 125 Mechanics' Institutes, containing 206,146 volumes, scattered throughout the province. These were supported partly by Government grant and partly by private annual subscriptions, but in 1895 the legislature passed an act converting them into public libraries. Permission was given to any municipal council to appoint a board of management, which was authorized to take over the Mechanics' Institute Library of the town or village and to carry it on as a free public library -- the funds being provided by the Government and the municipality. When the municipality did not take over the library, power of incorporation was given to not less than 10 persons to form a body for the purpose of providing a public library, financial assistance being given by the Government. Thus the policy of the administration of Ontario has been steadily directed to the municipal ownership of libraries and the putting them on a more permanent basis than can exist under associations of private individuals. As a consequence of this policy there are now in the province 406 public libraries, 120 of which are free and 286 partially so, these latter being almost entirely in the smaller towns and villages. The largest of these libraries, Toronto, contains 110,000 volumes and the smallest about 250. The united incomes for 1899 amounted to \$193,421, their assets were valued at \$935,976, they contained 862,047 volumes, and their issue of books for the year was 2,547,131.

The library which is maintained by the Legislature for its own use has grown rapidly during the past few years, under the management of Mr. Avern Pardoe, and now contains 70,000 volumes, and the Educational Library in the department of the Minister of Education, which is freely opened to all students, has 19,690 v.

From the number of higher educational institutions in the province we might freely an-

ticipate a proportionate number of libraries. The largest of these, the University of Toronto, numbers 60,000; Queen's University, Kingston, has 36,000; Ottawa University 35,000. The total number of books reported from the 18 universities and colleges is 230,300.

The Law Society of Ontario is a corporation composed of the legal profession of the province, which among other duties provides for the training and examination of students-at-law, and has its library in Osgoode Hall, Toronto, numbering 29,894 volumes. It also aids in the formation and maintenance of local law libraries in each county town. These number 24, and their libraries contain from a few hundred to 4000 volumes each. They are estimated to contain a total of 50,000 volumes which gives the number of law books in Ontario libraries as 79,894. There are also 11 scientific and other societies whose collections of books number 25,736.

Summarizing these we find this province contains 439 libraries which are more or less open for public use and which have on their shelves 1,287,667 volumes.

Proceeding west, we have the province of Manitoba on the great prairie land in the center of the continent. Winnipeg almost entirely engrosses what libraries it has, and the largest of these is the Legislative Library, which inherited whatever small collection of books were in the Red River before the formation of the province. It now contains 17,435 volumes, and is rich in papers and documents pertaining to the early days. The Literary and Historical Society have arranged with the city authorities to maintain a free library and have thrown open for reference their own library, which now numbers about 15,000 volumes. The University of Manitoba with its affiliated colleges has about 8000 and the Law Library of the Law Society 6000 volumes. These four libraries contain 46,435 volumes.

The Northwest Territories have a library in connection with its Legislature, at Regina, which contains about 3500 volumes.

Finally, facing the Pacific we have the province of British Columbia, which, though limited in population, in library matters is one of the progressive provinces of the Dominion. Two years ago, finding that many mining camps and isolated agricultural districts were without means of instruction, they organized a

series of travelling libraries. During the past year 24 such libraries of 100 volumes each were circulating through the province, and it is believed were productive of much good. The Legislative Library, housed in the beautiful building at Victoria, contains nearly 6000 volumes, and the Law Library in the same place about 2000. In addition, Victoria contains a Public Library with 5000 volumes. The towns of Westminster and Vancouver have also free public libraries, the former containing 1500 volumes and the latter about 1000. Efforts are being made by the Legislative Librarian, Mr. Scholfield, to organize a Provincial Association which will do much to extend the library system within their borders.

British Columbia has therefore five libraries containing 14,500 volumes and 2400 in its travelling libraries.

I have not included in my estimate the libraries under the control of the Central Government at Ottawa. First among these is the principal library of the Dominion—the Library of Parliament—which now contains by estimate 200,000 volumes. Every one who has seen the beautiful building in which this collection is housed will regret that more space was not provided for accessions, and the problem of how to increase the available space without injury to the architectural effect is one which will soon have to be faced. The Library of the Geological and Natural History Survey is attached to the museum and contains 16,000 books and pamphlets. The Library of the Supreme Court consists of 19,500 law books. The work of the Archivist of the Dominion, Dr. Douglas Brymner, is so well known that it is barely necessary to call attention to the remarkable collection of documents, original and copied, over which he exercises supervision. The library which is attached contains about 10,000 volumes, principally referring to Canadian history and topography.

At the Meteorological Office at Toronto, the collection of books principally on meteorology and magnetism numbers 5000 volumes.

These five Government libraries contain a total of 250,000 volumes.

It is a matter of regret that the free library system has not yet made greater progress within the Dominion, and that the only provinces which have adopted it are those of Ontario and British Columbia. The prospects are, however, encouraging. The fact that the cities of Halifax, St. John, Quebec, and Winnipeg have established libraries as part of their municipal organization, and that in Montreal the suburb of Westmount has made a commencement, shows that the necessity for them is being felt, and that the next stage of extending them throughout their respective provinces will follow in due course. In the meantime it will be seen from the figures given that the number of volumes within the Dominion has risen from 1,103,000 to 2,420,577; that special libraries are abundant, the larger cities being fully up to the average of American cities. The large number of universities and colleges throughout the older parts of the Dominion are turning out a body of graduates who must ultimately mould public taste and guide their fellow citizens into reading habits; and the meeting of the American Library Association in the principal commercial city of the Dominion will form no small factor in this educational work, emphasizing, as it does, the influence and extent of the work on this continent and the professional requirements of those to whom it is committed.

#### SUMMARY.

|                               | Libs. | Vols.     |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Nova Scotia.....              | 9     | 90,020    |
| Prince Edward Island.....     | 2     | 7,500     |
| New Brunswick.....            | 6     | 50,530    |
| Quebec.....                   | 41    | 670,025   |
| Ontario.....                  | 439   | 1,237,667 |
| Manitoba.....                 | 4     | 46,435    |
| Northwest Territories.....    | 1     | 3,500     |
| British Columbia.....         | 5     | 16,900    |
| General Government libraries. | 5     | 250,000   |
| Total in 1900.....            | 512   | 2,420,577 |
| In 1887.....                  |       | 1,103,000 |
| Increase.....                 |       | 1,317,577 |



