



SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

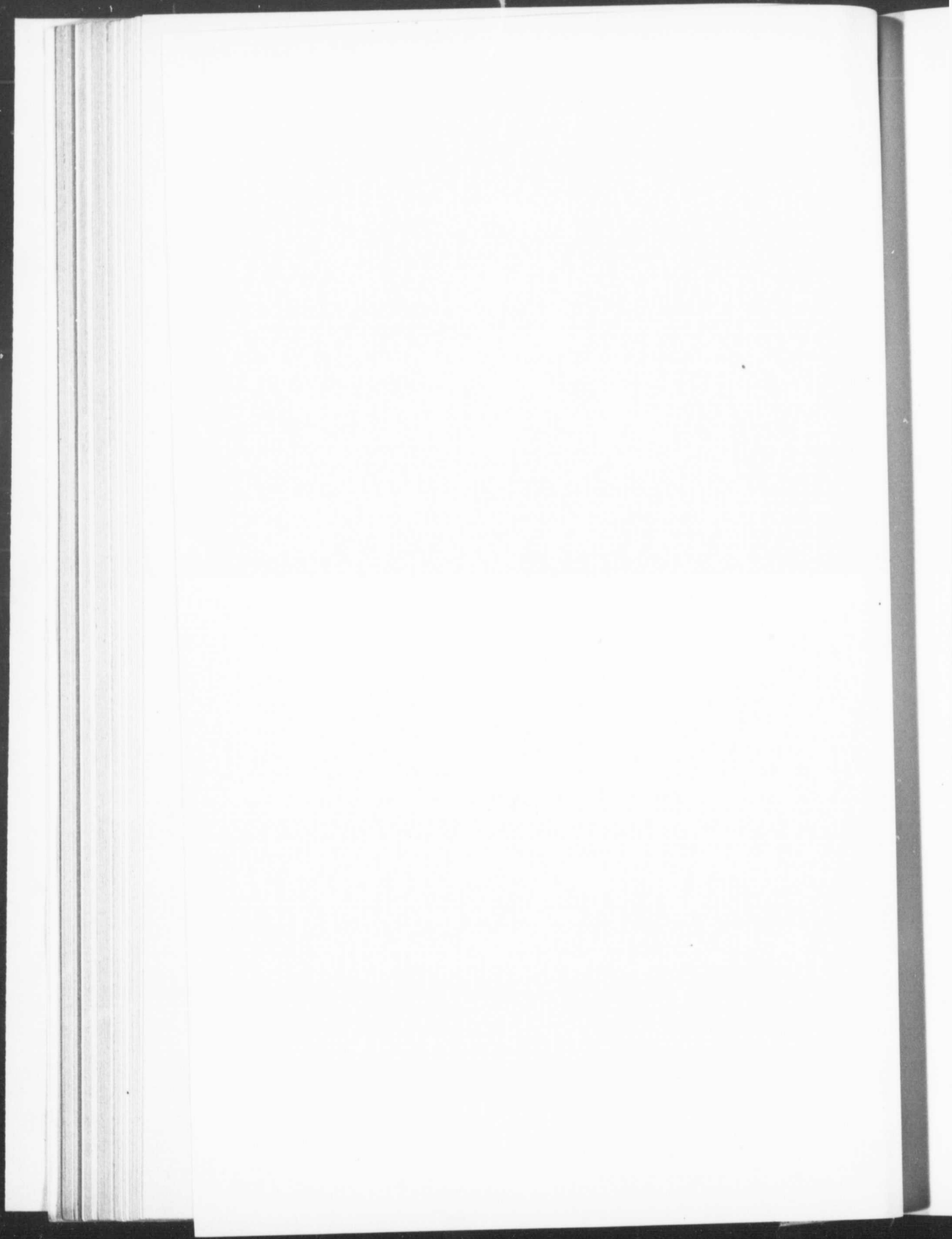
—OF—



THE HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1895

HAMILTON
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1896



Board of Management

1896

W. F. BURTON, *Chairman of the Board*

Appointed by City Council:

	Term expires Dec. 31.
WM. DORAN, - - - - -	1898
JOHN KENRICK, - - - - -	1897
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1896

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR GEO. E. TUCKETT, - 1896

Appointed by Public School Board:

W. F. BURTON, - - - - -	1898
F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1897
REV. SAMUEL LYLE, D. D., - - - - -	1896

Appointed by Separate School Board:

GEORGE LYNCH-STANTON, - - - - -	1897
JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1896

COMMITTEES FOR 1896

LIBRARY:

REV. DR. LYLE, *Chairman.* J. T. ROUTH.
F. WALTER. W. DORAN.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

JOHN KENRICK, *Chairman.* GEO. LYNCH-STANTON.
F. W. FEARMAN. MAYOR TUCKETT.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD, *Librarian and Secretary of the Board.*

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Memoranda for 1895:

Population of city, 50,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$12,500.00 for 1895.

Library opened in temporary premises, February 15, 1890.

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

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

Reading Room first opened, October 21, 1890.

Total number of volumes in the Library on December 31, 1895—22,255, divided as follows: 17,463 in Circulating Department, 4,792 in Reference Department.

Library open 306 days during the year—the Reference Department from 8.30 a. m. to 9.30 p. m., and the Circulating Department from 9 a. m. to 8.30 p. m.

Reading Rooms open from 8.30 a. m. to 9.30 p. m.

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

Volumes issued during the year, 219,618, an average daily use of 718 volumes (home use, 130,029.)

Borrowers' cards in force, 11,432.

Number of papers and periodicals for use in Reading Rooms, 219.

CHAIRMEN OF THE LIBRARY

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.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Gentlemen of the Board of Management:

We have arrived at another anniversary of this Public Library, it being now seven years since the Board of Management was formed. During that time this public institution has been steadily growing in efficiency and popularity, the papers, magazines, and books being read by all classes of the community, as I have noticed from personal observation and as is noted also in the detailed report of the Librarian.

It is particularly pleasing to me to see so many of the mechanics and laboring men of the city, who have often unavoidably, so much spare time in the winter months, making such good use of the facilities of our Library. Here they may store their minds with useful knowledge and pass their time in a pleasant and profitable manner. To these classes especially is this institution a great boon, which is evidently much appreciated.

During the last year we were honored by a visit from Mr. Hall Caine, a distinguished British author, upon his visit to this country in connection with a settlement of the copyright question. Mr. Caine was pleased to say some very nice things about our institution, and particularly our Librarian, which we who know more of his worth and ability are every ready to endorse.

Very much of the success of the Library is owing to the genial and obliging manner of our Librarian and his assistants.

That our method of distribution of books is good, is frequently attested by the many letters of inquiry and praise received from other cities and towns where new Libraries are being started, and where our method of classification and distribution have been or are being adopted in more or less detail.

A large number of the books which were purchased at the opening of the Library, are worn out through constant use. Most of these should be replaced as speedily as possible with the same kind of books, as their utility and popularity have been demonstrated by their continual use.

We have some very expensive sets of books which are rarely if ever taken from the shelves. This would seem to suggest that the money should not be spent on books for the few, but for the many, as too frequently these special classes of books are not used at all, but stand on the shelves as monuments of a mistaken idea.

I would also repeat here the suggestion of more than one of my predecessors in this office, that too much care cannot be taken to strictly exclude from the shelves of this institution books of a bad or even doubtful moral tone.

We have to thank Senator Sanford, Mr. Thomas Littlehales, and other friends of the Library at home and abroad, for donations of books and pamphlets during the year.

Again thanking you, gentlemen of the Board, for having placed me in this honorable position, and for the kindness and courtesy that you have always extended to me, and bespeaking the same for my successor,

I am yours sincerely,

FRED. WALTER,

Chairman.

FEBRUARY, 1896.

SEVENTH 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, 1895.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 21,659 volumes. The total accessions for the year have been 1,580 volumes, comprising

- (a) 762 new books obtained by purchase.
- (b) 574 books purchased to replace worn-out books.
- (c) 168 volumes of magazines from reading rooms.
- (d) 76 volumes as gifts from various sources.

making a present total of 22,665 volumes—less 410 volumes withdrawn or worn-out, and not yet replaced—leaving a net total of 22,255 volumes.

THE YEAR'S PURCHASES.

The books received during the year have been mostly of a popular character in the various classes of literature, very many of them being on popular questions of the day, and consequently in immediate demand. Some valuable reference books acquired serve to maintain the usefulness of the Library for reference purposes. Larned's "History for Ready Reference" is a set of books which are already used as much as any books in the Library, and which will be more used as they become more widely known. The Annual Literary Index, containing a list of articles in the Magazines for the year, and references to books of essays published during the year, is of great value, as shown by constant references thereto. The Scientific American Cyclope-

dia of Receipts has proved its value time and again as a mine of information. The Century Cyclopedia of Names is a fitting supplement to the monumental Century Dictionary.

THE YEAR'S READING.

The total use of the books for the year increased but slightly over the previous year. Still the increase is sufficient to show that the Library continues to be as largely used as ever. The Library was open 306 days, with an average circulation of 718 volumes for each day open. Fiction, of course, continues to claim a great percentage of books drawn for home use, being 56 per cent. of books so drawn; but this is not a safe criterion to follow, as the percentage of fiction to the total use—reference and home use—is but 35 per cent. of the whole, all other classes aggregating 65 per cent. The real utility of the Library is most clearly demonstrated by the very great use made of the books on the shelves in the Reference Reading Room, as well as of the other books in the Reference Department and also of the books in the Circulating Department, for reference purposes.

ASSISTING READERS.

It has been my endeavor to continue the policy instituted in the early days of the Library, of assisting readers in search of facts or figures on special topics. That readers must have limited access to the books is an essential condition for the carrying out of this policy. The Fiction shelves are of course rigidly excluded from this privilege, but the catalogues and indicator compensate in some degree for this exclusion; and so far as fiction is concerned these aids enable the books to be given out much faster than if readers were allowed to crowd one another at the shelves. I believe, however, that limited access to the books on history, travels and classes other than Fiction, has proved a great convenience to readers. Moreover it is a pleasure to be able to bear testimony to the fact that though many hundreds of readers of all classes and conditions have been assisted in this way, the privilege has been so appreciated that not five books have been missed from the shelves in as many years. The advanced pupils in the Collegiate Institute, the principals and teachers in the city schools, and the members of various literary societies in the city

continue to make free use of the Library for study and reference purposes. To these and all other applicants assistance has been cheerfully rendered when desired. The question of assisting readers in special cases, naturally brings up the question of assisting readers in general cases, and especially to supervise the books drawn by young people. It is perhaps almost needless to say that this is already done so far as time will permit ; but when, as is the case at certain times, the crowd is so great that books are handed out at the rate of perhaps five a minute, it is manifestly impossible to do more than see that the card and book numbers are correct, without looking to see what the book is or who is getting it. However, I fancy there has been little complaint on this score, while two forces may operate to still further lessen complaints ; (1) let parents remember the responsibility resting on them and take some slight interest in seeing what their children are reading ; (2) let the Library Board continue its present policy of excluding books of Fiction of a distinct immoral tone. As, however, what is moral or immoral, or at just what degree of immorality the line ought to be drawn, will always be debatable questions, another plan, if it was thought desirable, might be tried, by the issue of a special card for those under 16 years of age. On these special cards books in the Fiction Class would not be given, and moreover, books given on these cards should not be changed for one week. This would serve the double purpose of keeping Fiction from young people, and of meeting the complaint quite frequently heard, that books from the Library interfere with the children's school studies.

THE READING ROOM.

Of almost equal importance to the Book Department are the Reading Rooms. Hundreds of people come to read the London Times and other papers, or some of the literary or technical journals, who seldom or never take books from the Library. The general reading room contains an excellent representation of the literary, art, and technical journals of the day, with a liberal supply of daily papers.

This room is occasionally over-crowded, and at once the "small-boy" problem suggests itself. When the room is crowded,

the aforesaid small-boy is often very much in evidence, sometimes to the annoyance of older readers. But so long as the "small-boy" is quiet (although it may be and often is a little trouble to keep him so), it is probably better to allow him to look at the papers here, surrounded as he is by influences that must tend to strengthen his moral nature, rather than drive him out and have him loafing round the street corners in the company of those who will do him more harm than good.

Many of the papers and most of the periodicals are filed for reference purposes, and references to same are becoming more and more frequent.

The financial statement of the year shows net receipts of \$13,588 77, to which add \$64.13 balance on hand on Dec. 31, 1894—total \$13,652.90. The net expenditure was \$12,993.26, with a cash balance of \$59.64 on Dec. 31, 1895—total \$13,052.90. The balance of \$600 was applied to reducing the overdraft at Bank, which on Jan. 1, 1895, was \$6,524 78, and on Jan. 1, 1896, is \$600 less, or \$5,914.78.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,
Librarian and Secretary.

HAMILTON, Feb. 6th, 1896.