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TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
PAMPHLET COLLECTION

THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF



THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1891

IIA
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1892

Board of Management.

1892.

ADAM RUTHERFORD, *Chairman of the Board.*

Appointed by City Council:

	Term expires.
J. EDWIN O'REILLY, - - - - -	1894
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1893
ADAM RUTHERFORD, - - - - -	1892

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR BLAICHER, - - 1892

Appointed by Public School Board:

F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1894
REV. SAMUEL LYLE, B.D., - - - - -	1893
WARREN F. BURTON, - - - - -	1892

Appointed by Separate School Board:

GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON, - - - - -	1893
JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1892

1891.

F. W. FEARMAN, *Chairman.*

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR MCLELLAN.	REV. S. LYLE, B. D.
ADAM RUTHERFORD.	WARREN F. BURTON.
FRED. WALTER.	GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON.
J. EDWIN O'REILLY.	J. T. ROUTH.

COMMITTEES FOR 1892.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

F. WALTER, <i>Chairman.</i>	MAYOR BLAICHER.
F. W. FEARMAN.	J. T. ROUTH.

LIBRARY:

REV. S. LYLE, <i>Chairman.</i>	G. LYNCH-STAUNTON.
J. E. O'REILLY.	W. F. BURTON.

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chairman of the Hamilton Public Library

To the Members of the Board of Management:

GENTLEMEN,—It is with pleasure that I meet you to-day and am able to make my short report of the working of this Institution for the past year. Nothing has occurred of public importance within the last twelve months, but the Library is steadily working its way into favor with all classes of the community, and many of those citizens who opposed it at first now appreciate its value and partake of its advantages. Time has demonstrated that the decision to select a site and to erect thereon a building specially designed for library purposes was a wise one. The interior working of the book, reading and reference rooms, under the efficient care and direction of Mr. Lancefield and his staff, has been satisfactory. There has not been the complaint here of loafing that is prevalent in some other places, and with a little more care in regard to loud conversation in the reading rooms, our Library would be all that can be desired. The expenses have been kept as low as possible, consistent with the importance of the work. The Secretary will report to you all the details, and as Librarian, with statements of the books, papers and circulating departments; all of which I am sure will be satisfactory to you and the citizens generally.

There is (although we have 16,000 volumes in use) plenty of room for many more, and at any time that any one may feel disposed to contribute to increase the number, they will be thankfully received and will be well taken care of.

I have to thank you for your kind appointment to the chair in my absence; also for your very efficient assistance during the past year.

F. W. FEARMAN,

Chairman.

HAMILTON, Jan. 30th, 1892.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Leading Points from Librarian's Yearly Report for 1891.

Total number of volumes in the Library, 16,515.

Total days open during the year, 306.

Books given for home use during the year, 136,904 volumes.

Percentage of fiction, 54 per cent. of this number.

Books given for reference use during the year, 61,200.

Total use of books for the year, 210,704 volumes.

Percentage of fiction, 38 per cent. of this total.

Average daily use, 686 volumes.

Volumes bound during the year, 1,016.*

Number of borrower's cards issued to date, 7,225.

Number of visitors to the building during the year (estimated)
260,000.

Number of papers and periodicals on file in Reading Rooms, 175.

THIRD 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 of the working and state of the Library for the year ending December 31st, 1891.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes reported one year ago was 14,577. The total accessions for the past year have been 1938 volumes, comprising (1) 1,813 obtained by purchase, and (2) 125, gifts from various sources, making a present total of 16,515.

THE YEAR'S GROWTH.

Many of the 1,813 volumes acquired by purchase, while expensive, are specially valuable for reference purposes, and therefore peculiarly suited for the shelves of a Public Library, where they may be consulted by thousands who would otherwise be deprived of access to these great standards in the various departments of science, art and literature. Of this class, received the past year, may be mentioned,—The Speaker's Bible Commentary; Rawlinson's Seven Great Monarchies; McIan and Logan's Costumes of the Clans; Symons' Renaissance in Italy; Bartholomew's Library Reference Atlas of the World; Holtzapffel's Turning and Mechanical Manipulation; Max Muller's Sacred Books of the East; Sowerby's English Botany; Ferguson's Tree and Serpent Worship; Pennell's Pen Drawing and Pen Draughtsmen; The Iconographic Encyclopedia; The Century War Books, and others.

DONATIONS.

By list appended hereto, it will be seen that many gifts have been made to the Library during the past year. Perhaps other public spirited citizens will remember the Library even more liberally during the coming year. It might be well to repeat that donations, whether in large or small lots, will be thankfully

received. When necessary, they will be sent for at the expense of the Library. Many citizens may have books, pamphlets and magazines of little or no use to them, and often stored in some out-of-the-way corner. Some of these may be of special value to the Library, perhaps completing a set of magazines, or filling a vacancy in some other section.

THE DEWEY CLASSIFICATION.

During the year the whole of the books in the Library (except Fiction and Juveniles) were re-arranged on the shelves according to the Dewey system of classification. By this system, all the books on a given subject are found together on the shelves, followed by all books the Library possesses on the various subdivisions of the same subject. Great care was needed in the re-arrangement, as the work had to be done without interfering with the regular circulation of the books. Although only completed a short time, it has already been demonstrated that the new classification is of great practical utility.

THE CIRCULATION.

It has often been remarked that the statistics of circulation are frequently but a poor criterion of the actual benefit of the Library to the community. This Library is an excellent illustration in point. From the circulating department of this Library 139,904 volumes were delivered for home use during the past year. The circulation by classes is given in the appendix attached hereto. The circulation of Fiction is there shown to be 54 per cent. of the whole; but the figures given are only for the Circulating department, and this percentage would be materially reduced if the use of the Reference books could be included. So many of these Reference books are, however, available on shelves in the Reference Reading Room, without the formality of readers applying for them, that no actual record of their use is available. Two hundred references a day for the Reference books would, I believe, be a low estimate. This would give 61,200 references for the year, raising the total figures to 201,104, and reducing the percentage of Fiction to but 38 per cent. of the total. Again, while the circulation of books in other classes is, apparently, not so large as in Fiction, it should be noted that books in other classes, such as books on the sciences or the arts,

requiring as they do, careful reading and study, are not rushed back at the earliest opportunity, (as is done with so many novels) but are kept generally the full two weeks, frequently renewed for other two weeks, and even then a special request is often made for a further renewal.

PRACTICAL RESULTS.

As a proof that the Library is of value to the community, from a practical as well as a theoretical point of view, I am able to offer the following instance, which has come under my notice: Mr. J. H. Anderson, a practical geologist and essayist, has been at work for the past two years experimenting with minerals and metals. He has been a frequent visitor to the Library, consulting and studying every book on the shelves that would be likely to assist him in his researches. The outcome of his studies has taken very practical shape in the enlistment of Hamilton capital and the formation of companies for the manufacture of Mineral Paint and Mineral Wool, from minerals found in the city or vicinity. Many other instances of practical results following the study of the books in the Arts Department of the Library could be cited, if space permitted.

BINDING.

One thousand and sixteen volumes were received from the binders last year. Of this number 820 were books re-bound or re-sewn, and 196 were new books bound. The cost for the whole was \$471.02, an average of 46 cents a volume.

THE LIBRARY AND THE SCHOOLS.

It is but repeating what has passed into a proverb to say that the boys and girls of to day will be the men and women of tomorrow; and while it is gratifying to find the Library frequented by the older people, it is especially gratifying to see the young people in the building, where the surroundings are so well calculated to strengthen the character and improve the mind. It is a pleasure, therefore, to record the fact that no class uses the Library in all departments—reading rooms as well as books—more than the teachers and students of the various schools, embracing the Collegiate Institute, the Business Colleges and the Art School. It has been said that the Library is but the

complement of the school, for in the Library the teacher finds in the philosophical, scientific and literary books and periodicals, information that will tend to broaden his views and still further develop his mind, while the student has the use of the dictionaries, encyclopedias and other valuable aids in preparing essays or following up special lines of study.

In one of the classes the of Collegiate Institute, the subject recently for the weekly essay was "The Public Library." I select at random extracts from two of the essays written. The following extract from the first essay shows that the writer, young though she is, had an excellent idea of what she was writing about: "The building is of modern architecture. The interior is beautifully finished and is divided into four great sections. 1st. Circulating Department; 2nd. General Reading Room; 3rd. Reference Room; 4th. Ladies' Reading Room. The Library is a source of great attraction, and every member derives great benefit from it. The Library stands in a good financial position, is popular and progressive, and takes a leading place among the Library organisations of Canada." The extract from the second essay is a gem in its way: "The Library is a great benefit both to the city and the people. It gives good amusement to many who would otherwise be passing their time in wicked ways." Miss LeRow would think this almost worthy of being immortalised in her examples of "English as she is taught," nevertheless the young writer had a good idea of what she wanted to say, if she did not know the best way to express herself.

THE READERS

The number of Borrower's Cards issued to date is 7225. As the guarantees signed in 1890 were only for two years a new registration of borrower's will be made this year, and every holder of a card issued in 1890 will require to have his guarantee form renewed. During the year a few improvements were made, with the object of facilitating the receiving and delivery of books at the Library counter. An Inquiry desk has also recently been established where the Librarian or an Assistant will always be found ready to answer inquiries and assist readers as much as possible.

Readers studying up a special subject are also allowed access

to the shelves, so that they may readily see what books are in on the special subject in which they are interested.

HUMORS OF THE LIBRARY.

An occasional humorous incident serves to relieve the uniform seriousness of Library routine. One reader handed in a slip calling for a book which was shown by the Indicator to be out. On being told the book was out, she rather astonished the Assistant by affirming "Well, it's in by the Delineator!" But this is hardly as good as a case of the same kind a few days later, when a young lad was positive the book was shown to be in by the Incubator. Another seeker after knowledge decidedly puzzled the Assistant by asking for End-of-my-own by Israel, until after inquiry it was found that the party wanted Disraeli's Endymion. An inquiry for Dent's Inferior, developed the fact that Dante's Inferno was the book wanted. A lady who had inquired for something nice to read, was asked "In what class, Fiction?" "Oh, no—just a good novel," was the reply.

THE READING ROOMS.

To those who have seen the number of people constantly frequenting the Reading Rooms, it is hardly necessary to say that this is one of the most important of the three great departments of the Library. The General Reading Room, which is open to readers of both sexes, now has 156 papers and periodicals on file. These may be roughly classified as follows:—Daily papers, 17; Country Weeklies, 11; Illustrated Weeklies, 12; Philosophical and Religious, 13; Sociological, 11; Scientific, 7; Useful Arts, 27; Fine Arts, 14; Literary, 40; Historical, 2; French, 2; German, 1. An alphabetical list, showing the location of each paper and periodical, is posted in the Library. With a few exceptions, the whole list may be found on stands and tables open to all readers without any formality, so that no record of the number of readers is available.

The Ladies' Reading Room continues to be largely used, and is evidently fully appreciated. Additional seating accommodation has recently been provided to prevent overcrowding.

While no attempt has been made to keep a record of the number of people entering the Library during the year, it may

be interesting to gather some idea of the number. This may be had by estimating from a careful count made on three different days. On a Monday, 1,090 people entered; on Wednesday, 1,066; and on Saturday, 1,781. Allowing for the summer season, an average of 850 a day would be a fair estimate, and the building being open 306 days, would give some 260,000 people as entering the Library during the year.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the rooms at certain hours, good order has generally been observed; but it will readily be seen that the rules must be strictly enforced in dealing with such large numbers of visitors, if quietness is to be maintained—and of course quietness is an essential requisite in a Reading Room.

Thanks are due to those of our citizens and also to various publishers, who are supplying papers and periodicals gratis to the Reading Rooms.

Attention is directed to the various appendices which follow, giving details of classification, circulation, etc.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,

Librarian.

APPENDIX 1.

CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.

	Circulating Dept.	Reference Dept.	TOTAL.
Religion.....	652	155	807
Sociology.....	687	202	889
Natural Science.....	626	238	864
Useful and Fine Arts.....	799	340	1139
General Literature, embracing Po- etry, General Periodicals, Essays, Bibliography, Language.....	2570	920	3490
English Prose Fiction.....	3999		3999
Books for Young People.....	616		616
French.....	267		267
German.....	95		95
General History, embracing Travels, Biography, History.....	2715	794	3509
Government Reports.....		870	870
	12996	3519	16515

APPENDIX 2.

CIRCULATION.

Note.—The following figures are only for books given for home use. As explained elsewhere, no accurate record of reference books used is available.

MONTH.	DAYS OPEN.	TOTAL.	DAILY AVERAGE.
January	26	13813	531
February	24	13346	556
March	26	15485	596
April	26	13060	503
May	25	12674	507
June	25	10515	420
July	26	9535	367
August	25	9252	370
September	26	9815	377
October	27	10046	372
November	24	10688	445
December	26	11675	449

APPENDIX 3.

CIRCULATION BY CLASSES.

CIRCULATING DEPARTMENT ONLY.

	TOTAL.	PER CENT.
Religion	2,629	1.87
Sociology	3,106	2.22
Natural Science	3,805	2.71
Useful and Fine Arts	5,224	3.73
General Literature	18,926	13.52
English Prose Fiction	76,424	54.62
Books for Young People	15,634	11.1
Books in German	343	.24
Books in French	245	.17
History	13,768	9.84
	139,904	100

APPENDIX 4.

DONATIONS.

	Pamp.	Vol.
A friend		2
Astronomical Society of Toronto	1	
Ballard, W. H.		5
Brown, Adam.	1	
Chittenden, Miss.		3
Christian Scientists		1
Fawcett, Wm., Jamaica	1	
Gunn, R. L.		31
Given, Wm.		1
Hallam, John, Toronto	2	
Harris Orchestral Club		40
Keefer, T.	6	
Kilvert, F. E.	75	
Laval University	1	
Lovell, John	1	
Mail, The, Toronto		1
Royal Society of Canada		1
Rutherford, Adam.	5	19
Simpson, Mrs. Francis		1
Stark, Dr. W. G.		17
Studdart, Col.	7	
Tucker, A. E.		1
Walter, Fred.		1
Wardens of Christ Church		1

Reports and Catalogues from the following Libraries:

Apprentices, New York,	Providence, R. I.,
Astor Library, New York,	St. Joseph, Mo.,
Brookline, Mass.,	St. Louis, Mo.,
Brooklyn, New York,	Southbridge, Mass.,
Buffalo, New York,	Barrow-in-Furness, England,
Burlington, Vt.,	Birmingham, "
Cincinnati, Ohio,	Brighton, "
Denver, Col.,	Kidderminster, "
Grand Rapids, Mich.,	Manchester, "
Hartford, Conn.,	Sheffield, "
Mercantile Library, San Fran-	Toronto, Ontario,
cisco, Cal.,	Brantford, "
Newberyport, Conn.,	Guelph, "
New Haven, Conn.,	