



ELEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF



THE HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1899

HAMILTON, CANADA
THE SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
(Limited)



Board of Management

1900

REV. S. LYLE, D. D., *Chairman of the Board*

Appointed by City Council :

| | Term expires Dec. 31. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| FRED. WALTER, - - - - - | 1902 |
| J. C. MCKEAND, - - - - - | 1901 |
| JOHN KENRICK, - - - - - | 1900 |

Ex-Officio :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, J. V. TEETZEL, Q. C.

Appointed by Public School Board :

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| REV. SAMUEL LYLE, D. D., - - - - - | 1902 |
| W. F. BURTON, - - - - - | 1901 |
| LYMAN LEE, B. A., - - - - - | 1900 |

Appointed by Separate School Board :

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| GEORGE LYNCH-STAUNTON, - - - - - | 1901 |
| M. J. O'REILLY, - - - - - | 1900 |

COMMITTEES FOR 1900

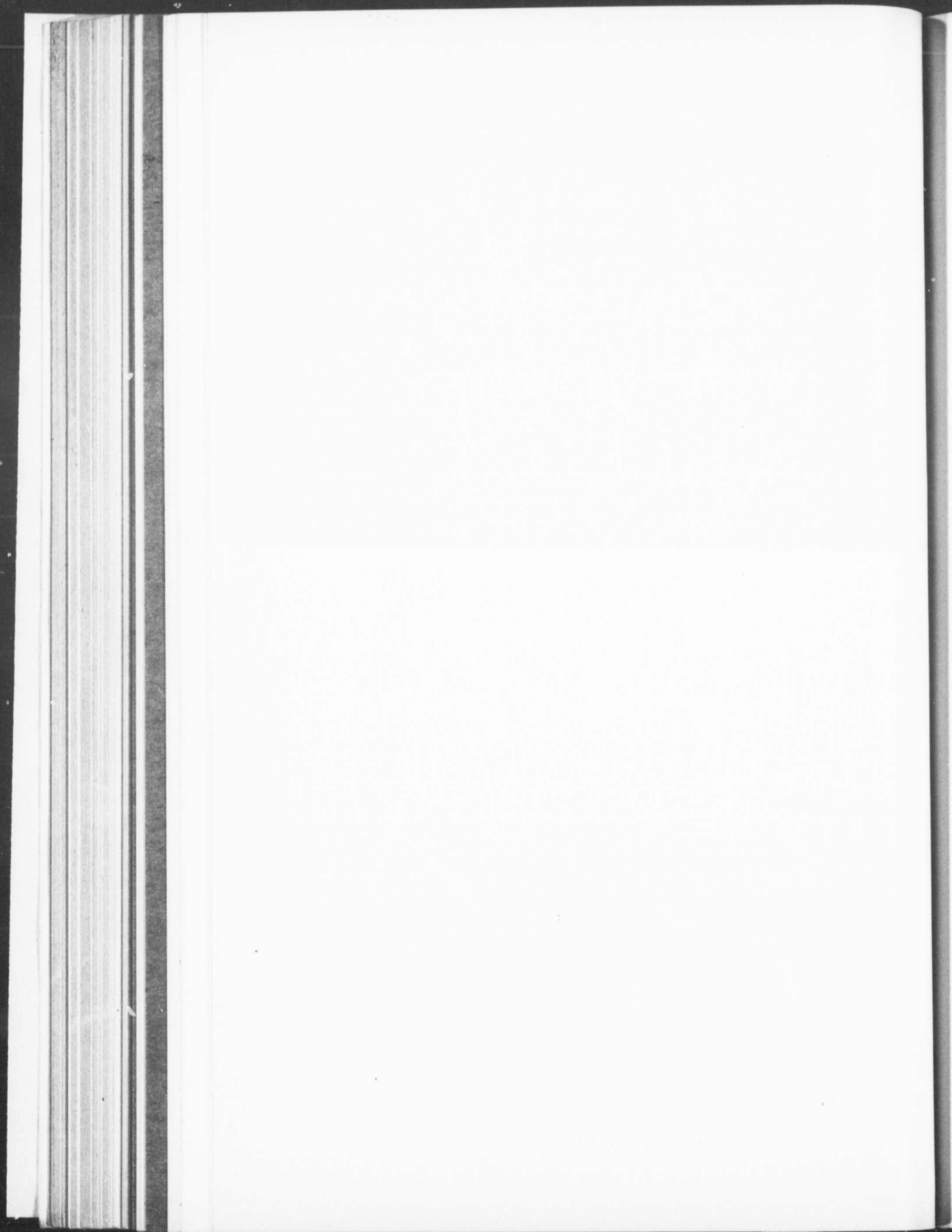
LIBRARY :

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| W. F. BURTON, <i>Chairman.</i> | J. C. MCKEAND. |
| GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON. | MAYOR TEETZEL. |

BUILDING AND FINANCE :

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| M. J. O'REILLY, <i>Chairman.</i> | F. WALTER. |
| J. KENRICK. | LYMAN LEE. |

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD, *Secretary.*



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Board of Management :

The report of the Librarian, which is now in your hands, deals very fully with the internal working of the Library, and it only remains with me to make a few general remarks.

During the past year we have had to mourn the loss of one of our Board in the person of Mr. J. T. Routh, who was a member for many years, and who, by his genial manner and uniform courtesy, had endeared himself to us all. His place as the representative of the Separate School Board has been filled by Mr. M. J. O'Reilly. We have also missed the kindly face of Mr. John Kenrick, who from ill-health has been obliged to take a trip to Scotland, and we are glad to learn that this has been of much benefit to him, and that he may shortly be with us again. There has also occurred a vacancy in the Library staff by the resignation of Mrs. Sutherland, who has been one of the assistants since the opening of the institution, and who was a faithful and reliable employee of the Board. The vacancy thus created has been filled by the appointment of Miss Springer.

It has been my aim in co-operation with you to make the Library as comfortable as possible for those who frequent it, and improvements have been made with this end in view.

It will, I think, be necessary during this year to renew the front steps and do some painting to some parts of the outside of the building.

We have had some donations of books during the year, and will at all times be glad to send for any that may be given.

The meetings have been harmonious, and no question of great importance has been before the Board.

It was our pleasure to extend a welcome to Mr. Gilbert Parker, one of the foremost of our Canadian authors, and I am sure that the short address which he gave while here was thoroughly appreciated by all who heard him.

The estimates for the coming year have been prepared with a due regard to economy, and at the same time to keep the property and books in a satisfactory shape.

We have reduced our indebtedness to the Bank of Hamilton during the year by the sum of \$512.27, leaving a balance still due to that institution of \$3,566.86.

I appreciate very highly the honor of being your Chairman for the past year, and have to thank you for your cordial support and faithful attendance at the meetings of Committees, as well as the regular meetings of the Board.

Yours very truly,

J. C. McKEAND.

Hamilton, Canada, 31st Jan., 1900.

Eleventh 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, 1899.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 26,262. The total accessions for the year have been 1178 volumes, comprising—

- (a) 921 new books obtained by purchase.
 - (b) 140 volumes of magazines from reading rooms.
 - (c) 117 volumes as gifts from various sources,
- making a present total of 27,440 volumes.

The large majority of the new books received during the year were placed in the Circulating Department. Only a few books of a purely reference character, such as the new International Dictionary of the Bible, or books in sets, (odd volumes of which cannot be procured), such as the set of the Jesuit Relations, have been placed on the Reference shelves. Our Library, being essentially of a popular rather than a purely reference character, it is my endeavor, with the concurrence of this Board, to see that the citizens secure the freest use of the books consistent with ordinary rules of safety. To this end many of the books in the Reference Department are loaned for home use on special slips. This has proved of great convenience to many of our readers—professional men, mechanics and others.

In our Library, as in all circulating, as contrasted with reference libraries, Fiction continues to hold the first place. It would please many of our readers if a larger number of copies of the more popular novels were procured; but with

the large field of knowledge that has to be covered, and with the limited amount of money available for the purchase of new books, we can only supply a fair share of novels, as the other departments of the library must be maintained in a fair state of efficiency. On the whole it is certain that our efforts have given very general satisfaction.

Books of history, biography and travel are most widely read next to Fiction. Goldwin Smith's new Political History of the United Kingdom, The Life of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Lord Roberts' Forty-one Years in India, Walter Landor's In the Forbidden Land, are only a few of the books in these classes that are in as constant use as the most popular novel. The South African war has created a demand for books on South Africa, and hundreds have been able to study the question from books obtained from the Library. The war fever also caused an increased demand for books on military and naval affairs generally, and for military and naval biographies.

Students of history and many general readers will be glad to have their attention called to a valuable historical work now being received at the Library. I refer to "The Jesuit Relations," being the travels and explorations of the Jesuit missionaries in New France from 1610 to 1791. This monumental work is to be completed in about 60 volumes, of which 57 have already been published.

During the year the Bible for the Blind, complete in eleven volumes, was procured. The regulations as to borrowing books from the Provincial Institute for the Blind are now, however, so liberal that it will probably be unnecessary for the Library to procure more books in this special line.

Rudyard Kipling continues to be the writer beloved of the people. He is the one author in this Library whose books of poems are in as constant demand as his novels.

Books in the Useful and Fine Arts sections of the Library are largely used. The electrical, engineering and

mining books and periodicals are especially in constant use. This of course is only as it should be in a manufacturing city such as ours.

Students of Sociology have found much food for thought in a set of four volumes on Good City Government, published by the National Municipal League of Philadelphia.

INSURANCE MEMORANDA.

The Library building cost \$35,037.66 (exclusive of the land, which cost \$6,000); the furniture and fittings cost \$3,814.47—a total cost for building and fixtures of \$38,852.18; the estimated value of the books is \$22,702.48—a grand total for building, fixtures and books of \$61,554.26. There is an insurance of \$37,000 carried on this property—divided, \$24,000 on building and \$13,000 on the books. The necessity for carrying this insurance is emphasised by the fire records of the year, which show that six libraries in Europe and America were damaged or destroyed by fire.

ASSISTING READERS.

The policy of assisting readers is continued actively in force. Knowing just what books are in the Library on any subject, the Librarian or his Assistants may often be able to save readers much time. To those who have occasion to come to the Library we say again: "Don't mind looking through the catalogue (except for novels), but make your wants known to the Librarian or the Assistant at the Magazine Desk and prompt attention will be given to inquiries." I am tempted also to repeat one more "don't," and that is "Don't be afraid of giving trouble." Every effort will be cheerfully made, consistent with the performance of regular duties, to answer inquiries.

The Library was open 305 days during the year, being closed on 52 Sundays and 8 holidays. The use of the books continues remarkably steady. Last year it was a little more than the year before, this year it was a little less than last year, but so little as to be hardly noticeable.

The number of borrower's cards in force is 11,021. A study of these cards is interesting as showing the new arrivals, removals, deaths, etc. Since the opening of the Library, 20,050 names have been entered on the Library register. During the past year 870 new names have been entered; 463 changes of address have been noted; 140 cards of those who have died were handed in; 85 books were collected by the Health Officers of the City and destroyed; 212 cards were handed in by parties leaving the city; 420 notices of lost cards were received; 4270 post cards were mailed to card holders who kept books overtime. It occasionally happens that card holders, when asked to fill up cards and slips carefully and fully, mildly protest against what they are inclined to call a little too much red tapeism; but we are able to convince them that such is not the case, as it can be readily seen that in view of the thousands of people drawing books, the utmost accuracy of details must be observed in order to easily trace the books borrowed and thus prevent loss to the city. As it is, with the safeguards we have, out of a home circulation of 159,137 books the past year only five books are missing, and these may yet be secured.

THE READING ROOMS.

The reading rooms continue to be largely used; being frequently crowded to their utmost capacity. It is noticed that many visit the reading rooms who never draw a book from the library. The electrical, mechanical and trade papers and periodicals are among those most constantly in use, a sure sign that the room is of real, practical use to many. Constant supervision is necessary to preserve order among readers of so many varied types as visit the reading rooms, as many as 190 men, women and young people being counted in the reading rooms at 5 o'clock one afternoon.

There are now 252 papers, periodicals and serial publications available for readers. Many of these are fyled for reference purposes, and the continual demand from readers for articles in back numbers of periodicals, necessitates great attention being paid to this branch.

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

I have also attached hereto a comparative table of Receipts and Expenses of seven libraries where the population or receipts approximates closely to ours. The table is interesting, as showing that in the seven libraries the percentage of the various items of expenses to receipts is fairly even; while it is also shows that not one of the libraries is managed more economically than this Library.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,
Librarian.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF SEVEN LIBRARIES.

| POPULATION. | PLACE. | Receipts | Books. Binding and Periodicals. | Percent of Receipts | Lighting and Heating. | | Miscellaneous. | | Improvements and Repairs. | | Salaries and Janitor service. | |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------|----------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 56,000 | Lawrence, Mass. | \$13,000 | \$2,900 | 23% | \$1,280 | 9% | \$312 | 2½% | \$440 | 3½% | \$4,847 | 37% |
| 66,000 | Bridgeport, Con. | 15,900 | 4,800 | 30% | 2,240 | 10½% | 352 | 2½% | 1,053 | 6½% | 6,282 | 39% |
| 69,000 | Peoria, Ill. | 16,000 | 6,000 | 38% | 1,000 | 6% | 396 | 2½% | 485 | 3% | 6,844 | 43% |
| 31,000 | Salem, Mass. | 14,350 | 4,100 | 21% | 1,000 | 7% | 666 | 4½% | 409 | 2½% | 5,566 | 38% |
| 29,000 | Newton, Mass. | 13,500 | 3,700 | 27% | 1,000 | 7% | 464 | 3½% | 356 | 2½% | 5,556 | 41% |
| 110,000 | Scranton, Penn. | 12,600 | 3,800 | 29% | 900 | 7% | 388 | 3% | 330 | 2½% | 5,403 | 43% |
| 52,000 | Hamilton, Ont. | 14,400 | 3,300 | 23% | 900 | 6% | 321 | 2½% | 359 | 2½% | 4,273 | 30% |

APPENDIX No. 2.

CIRCULATION BY CLASSES.

| | Total Use Volumes | Home Use Volumes |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Religion and Philosophy, | 2839 | 2062 |
| Sociology, | 4685 | 3821 |
| Useful and Fine Arts, | 13866 | 10986 |
| Natural Science, | 6574 | 5898 |
| General Literature, | 68123 | 33308 |
| History, Travel and Biography, | 30279 | 20446 |
| English Prose Fiction, | 74982 | 74914 |
| Books for Young People, | 7764 | 7692 |
| | <hr/> 209,112 | <hr/> 159,127 |

APPENDIX No. 3.

CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.

| | Vols. Added. in 1898, | Total Vols. |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| Cyclopedias, Periodicals, etc., | 169 | 3212 |
| Philosophy and Religion, | 42 | 1368 |
| Sociology, | 84 | 2624 |
| Natural Science, | 31 | 1335 |
| Useful and Fine Arts, | 128 | 2391 |
| General Literature, | 140 | 3427 |
| History, Travel and Biography, | 135 | 5171 |
| Books for Young People, | 36 | 1091 |
| English Prose Fiction, | 413 | 6821 |
| | <hr/> 1,178 | <hr/> 27,440 |

APPENDIX No. 4.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| From the City Corporation, | \$13,183 27 |
| From the Ontario Government, | 200 00 |
| From Rents, | 520 00 |
| From Fees, Fines, etc., | 411 24 |
| Balance Dec. 31, 1899, | 89 65 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$14,404 16 |

EXPENDITURE.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| For Debentures and Interest on same, | \$ 3,843 26 |
| “ Miscellaneous Expenses, | 321 57 |
| “ Salaries and Wages, | 4,273 00 |
| “ Books, | 1,896 61 |
| “ Interest on Overdraft, | 388 25 |
| “ Insurance Premiums, | 204 78 |
| “ Heating, | 528 57 |
| “ Lighting, | 379 87 |
| “ Printing Supplies, | 147 25 |
| “ Binding, | 763 42 |
| “ Papers and Periodicals, | 739 32 |
| “ Improvements, Repairs, etc., | 359 86 |
| Repaid Bank to reduce Overdraft, | 512 27 |
| Balance Dec. 31, 1899, | 46 13 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$14,404 16 |

Audited and found correct,

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

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Memoranda for 1899 :

Population of city 52,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$13,183.27 for 1899.

Library open 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, 1899—27,440. Divided as follows: 23,152 in Circulating Department, 4,288 in reference Department.

Library Building opened as follows: 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.; closing half an hour earlier in July and August.

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, 209,112, an average daily use of 702 volumes (home use, 159,127).

Borrowers' Cards in force, 11,021.

Number of papers, periodicals and serial publications for use in Reading Rooms, 252.