

SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

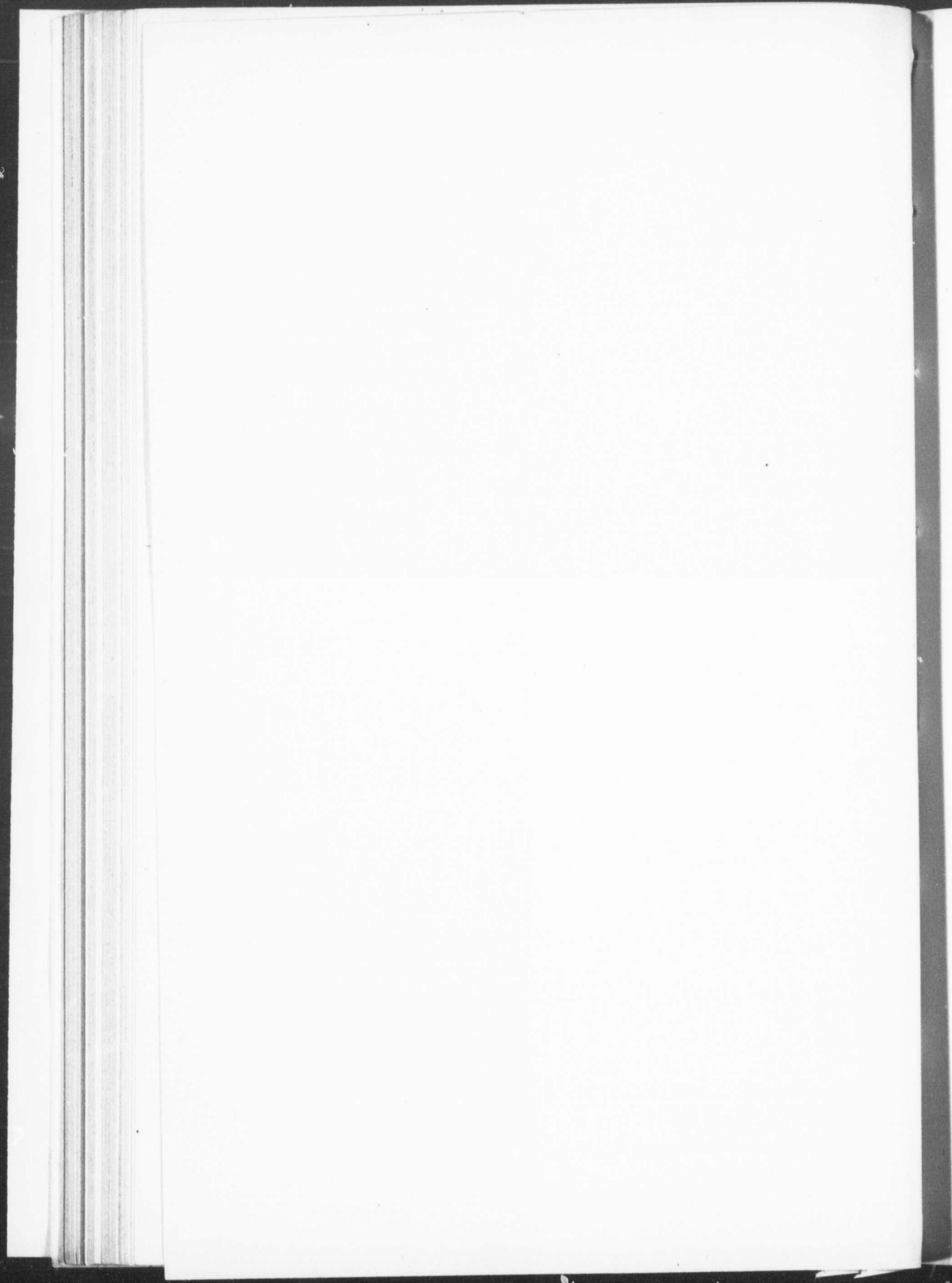
OF



THE HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1894

HAMILTON
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1895



Board of Management.

1895.

FRED. WALTER, *Chairman of the Board.*

Appointed by City Council:

	Term expires Dec. 31.
J. EDWIN O'REILLY, - - - - -	1897
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1896
WM. DORAN, - - - - -	1895

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR A. D. STEWART, - 1895

Appointed by Public School Board:

F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1897
REV. SAMUEL LYLE, B. D., - - - - -	1896
WARREN F. BURTON, - - - - -	1895

Appointed by Separate School Board:

JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1896
GEORGE LYNCH-STAUNTON, - - - - -	1895

COMMITTEES FOR 1895.

LIBRARY:

W. F. BURTON, <i>Chairman.</i>	F. W. FEARMAN.
REV. S. LYLE.	G. LYNCH-STAUNTON.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

J. T. ROUTH, <i>Chairman.</i>	WM. DORAN.
J. E. O'REILLY.	MAYOR STEWART.

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

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

MEMORANDA FOR 1894.

Population of city, 50,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$12,342.79 for 1894.

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, 1894—21,639, divided as follows: 16,931 in Circulating Department, 4,708 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, 213,628, an average daily use of 698 volumes (home use, 130,029.)

Borrowers' cards in force, 10,762.

Number of visitors to the Library during the year (estimated) 345,000.

Number of papers and periodicals for use in Reading Rooms, 214.

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, B. D.
1894,	-	-	-	-	Geo. Lynch-Staunton.
1895,	-	-	-	-	Fred. Walter.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

Gentlemen of the Public Library Board :

You have before you the annual report of the Librarian, which demonstrates that the Library is not only always increasing in popularity but improving also in general utility. A glance at the list of works added during the year will show that we have increased the number of books and added to the value of the Library in so far as our limited means at our command would allow.

The electric light is shortly to be introduced into the building, and I trust that it will result in rendering it more comfortable and the ventilation of the reading room better than heretofore.

Although in his report for the last year the Librarian invited all those who had so far not made use of the advantages the Library offered to do so, there are I believe a few persons in Hamilton who have never yet taken a book from its shelves. Some of these have refrained from fear that diseases might be introduced through the medium of the books into their families. I consider this a most foolish and senseless objection, for, though Circulating Libraries are now in every country and nearly every city, it has not been found that they have been a medium through which diseases spread. It is said that if we understood how fearfully and wonderfully we are made that any human being would be afraid of moving for fear he would break something inside, and if people have no other reason than the fear of disease which they may contract in the Public Library, let them remember that most dangers are imaginary, and that no persons employed in this Institution have ever contracted any disease by handling the books.

As Mr. Lancefield points out, Fiction continues to hold the first place in public favor. Some people deprecate the reading

of Fiction, but for myself I believe that as much cultivation, education and improvement in taste is drawn from good novels as from any other branch of literature.

He who objects to the reading of novels should also, to be consistent, condemn the reading of poetry, the study of astronomy and the investigation of all abstract problems, for, from the point of view of "the practical man," they are all equally useless. We cannot be too careful however in the selection of our books, for it is our duty and has been our constant aim to exclude from the Library all books of atheistical teachings, and all works of an immoral or prurient nature. It is a rule of the Library that no polemical works upon religion shall be purchased out of the funds of the Library, and if we are so particular in a Christian city to exclude such books as these, we certainly would not be justified in spending the people's money on works from which nothing but harm can be derived. Among the cardholders are a great number of the youth of the city, and we owe it to them and to their parents that no mental or moral injury shall be done to them by this institution.

It is very gratifying to say that no complaint has ever been made by any citizen of Hamilton against the Librarian or his assistants, and no servants of the public have in my opinion performed their duties more faithfully and cheerfully than they.

I thank you, gentlemen, for having appointed me your Chairman for the year 1894, and I now retire hoping that I have given you no reason to regret your action.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON.

February 7th, 1895.

SIXTH 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, 1894.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 19,823. The total accessions for the year have been 1816 volumes, comprising

- (a) 1213 volumes obtained by purchase,
- (b) 274 volumes of magazines obtained from reading rooms,
- (c) 329 volumes as gifts from various sources,

making a present total of 21,639 volumes.

The 1213 volumes cost \$1259.43, an average cost of \$1.04 per volume.

CONTINUED POPULARITY.

It will no doubt be gratifying to the members of the Board of Management to know that the Library seems to become more popular with the citizens as time passes. That this is a fact is shown in many ways,—by the increased number of books handled by the Library staff ; by the greatly increased number of inquiries for information on a great variety of topics ; by the number of new applicants for borrowers' cards ; and by the number of visitors to the reading rooms, both the ladies' and the general reading room, being often crowded to an inconvenient degree.

THE YEAR'S READING.

While fiction continues, naturally, to hold first place in books drawn for home use, other classes are in great demand, more

especially for reference use in the Library. Books of history, travel, biography, and the useful and fine arts, are constantly in demand, while the many hundreds of inquires for the cyclopedias, annuals and other books in the reference department, are refreshing evidences that our citizens are alive to the fact that the Library contains a grand store of information on almost every conceivable subject.

ASSISTING READERS.

Remembering that the most elaborate, the most carefully compiled, and the most expensive of catalogues, while exceedingly useful to many, are a fruitful source of trouble and vexation to others, it has ever been my endeavor to assure visitors to the Library that we are only too glad to assist those in search of facts or figures on any special topic. This invitation still stands good. Many hundreds have availed themselves of the offer in the past, and it is hoped that even a larger number, proportionately, will do so in the future. It may be repeating something we have heard before, yet notwithstanding I venture to say once more that the Library is the People's University, and we desire the citizens generally to come and avail themselves of the culture and education to be obtained within its walls.

THE READING ROOMS.

The Reading Rooms continue to be largely used; indeed, as I have already stated, they are frequently crowded to an inconvenient degree. It will probably be advisable soon to consider the purchase of another table for the general reading room. There is room for the same, and when provided it will relieve in some degree the crowding at the reading stands.

References to back numbers of the papers and periodicals continue to largely increase. As the files of the city papers are frequently called for, and we have not complete files of the same, I would suggest that the Board of Management of the Library ascertain if the city papers would not place their complete bound files of papers in the Library. We have an excellent room in the basement which could be used for a newspaper filing room. The volumes could here be kept in proper order, ready for immedi-

ate reference, while I fancy the danger from fire would be even less than where some of them are now kept.

The appendices attached hereto give details of circulation, etc.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,
Librarian and Secretary.

Hamilton, Feb. 1st, 1895.



CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.

	Circulation.	Reference.	Total.	Per cent- age of total.
Cyclopedias and Periodicals ...	1559	732	2291	10.5
Philosophy	350	33	383	1.5
Religion	626	158	784	4.
Sociology	640	1637	2277	10.5
Natural Science	775	412	1187	6.
Useful and Fine Arts	1331	509	1840	9.
General Literature	2388	363	2751	12.
History, Travels and Biography	3596	864	4460	20.5
Books for Young People	890	....	890	4.
English Prose Fiction	4776	....	4776	22.
			21639	100

CIRCULATION BY CLASSES.

The "Total Column" includes both books for home use and also the use of the circulating and reference books within the building.

	Per cent- age of Total.	Total Vols. Circulated.	Vols. given for Home use.
Religion and Philosophy	1.5	3847	2932
Sociology	2.	4502	3187
Useful and Fine Arts	6.5	13994	9432
Natural Science	6.	11029	5142
General Literature	30.5	65206	15750
History, Travels and Biography	14.	30486	13332
English Prose Fiction	36.5	76332	73142
Books for Young People	3.	7732	7112
Total for 1894	100	213628	130029
" " 1893 .....	....	204324	128692
" " 1892 .....	....	198210	132720

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GIFTS

INCLUDING REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS FROM LIBRARIES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.

FROM CANADA.

- Hamilton, Ont....Dr. A. Woolverton—19 vols. and 131 pamphlets.
 “ Dr. Malloch—165 vols.
 “ Hon. W. E. Sanford, Senator—18 vols. and 3 large maps.
 “ Hon. J. M. Gibson—3 vols. and 1 large map.
 “ Hamilton Association.
 “ Rev. Commander Roberts—3 vols.
 Ottawa, Ont.....Dominion Government—60 vols.
 “ “ “ Archives Branch—1 vol.
 “ “ “ Geological Survey—2 vols.
 “ “ “ Statistical Branch—1 vol.
 “ Royal Society of Canada—1 vol.
 Quebec, Que.....Education Department.
 Toronto, Ont.....Provincial Government—52 vols.
 “ Astronomical and Physical Society.
 “ Canadian Military Institute.
 “ Public Library.
 “ International Printing Pressman's Association.
 “ Canadian Entertainment Bureau.
 “ Upper Canada College.
 Kingston, Ont....Prof. Shortt, Queen's University.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

- Albany, N. Y.....State Library.
 “ University of the State of New York.
 Baltimore, Md...Enoch Pratt Library.
 Boston, Mass....Public Library.
 Brooklyn, N. Y...Brooklyn Library.
 “ Pratt Institute.
 Buffalo, N. Y....Buffalo Library.
 Burlington, Vt... Fletcher Free Library.
 Columbus, Ohio..Public Library.
 Detroit, Mich...Public Library.
 Grand Rapids....Public Library.
 Indianapolis, Ind.Public Library.
 Lawrence, Mass..Public Library.
 Lowell, Mass....City Library.
 Maimonaides....Library.
 New Haven, Conn.Free

Milwaukee, Wis...Public Library.
 Newton Mass....Free Library.
 New York, N. Y..Apprentices' Library.
 " Lenox Library.
 " Free Circulating Library.
 Portland, Oregon..Library Association.
 Providence, R. I..Public Library.
 St. Louis, Mo.....Mercantile Library.
 " Public Library.
 Scranton, Pa.....Public Library.
 Southbridge, Mass.Public Library.
 Springfield, Mass..City Library Association.
 Taunton, Mass...Public Library.
 Toledo, Ohio.....Public Library.
 Washington, D.C..U. S. Government, Department of Agriculture—4 v.
 " " " Bureau of Education—1 vol.
 " " " Smithsonian Institute—1 vol.
 Madison, Wis.....Wisconsin State Historical Society.

FROM ENGLAND.

Birmingham.....Free Libraries.
 Kidderminster...Free Libraries.
 Leeds.....Philosophical and Literary Society.
 " Free Public Library.
 Liverpool.....Free Public Library.
 London.....Clerkenwall Public Library.
 " Handsworth Public Library.
 Manchester.....Public (Free) Libraries.
 Oxford University.Bodleian Library.
 Sheffield.....Free Public Libraries.
 Swansea.....Public Library.
 Tynemouth.....Public Free Library.

FROM SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen.....Public Library.
 Dundee.....Free Library.
 Glasgow.....Baillie's Inst. Free Library.

FROM INDIA.

Bombay.....Roy, Protapa Chandra—5 vols.

Total.....329 volumes.
 189 pamphlets.
 4 maps.

Abstract of Treasurer's Statement.

RECEIPTS.

Municipal appropriation for 1894.....	\$12,342 79
“ “ balance for 1893.....	700 00
Rents	575 00
Ontario Government Grant.....	200 00
Fees and Catalogues	224 80
Balance December 31st, 1893	60 30
	<hr/> \$14,102 89

EXPENDITURES.

Periodicals	\$ 648 52
Books	1,259 43
Binding	577 77
Printing supplies.....	172 73
Furniture.....	36 00
Repairs.....	91 45
Interest on Bank overdraft	577 05
Debenture account and interest on same.....	3,844 96
Fuel supply for 1893.....	394 65
“ “ for 1894	454 08
Lighting.....	454 35
Salaries.....	3,372 00
Janitor	500 00
Extra help.....	48 51
Miscellaneous	270 72
Repaid Bank on account of overdraft.....	1,336 54
Balance December 31st, 1894.....	64 13
	<hr/> \$14,102 89