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FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF



THE HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1893

HAMILTON
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1894

Board of Management.

1894.

GEO. LYNCH-STAUTON, *Chairman of the Board.*

Appointed by City Council:

	Term expires.
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1896
WM. DORAN, - - - - -	1895
J. EDWIN O'REILLY, - - - - -	1894

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR A. D. STEWART, - 1894

Appointed by Public School Board:

REV. SAMUEL LYLE, B.D., - - - - -	1896
WARREN F. BURTON, - - - - -	1895
F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1894

Appointed by Separate School Board:

GEO. LYNCH-STAUTON, - - - - -	1895
JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1894

COMMITTEES FOR 1894.

LIBRARY:

REV. S. LYLE, <i>Chairman.</i>	J. T. ROUTH.
J. E. O'REILLY.	WM. DORAN.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

W. F. BURTON, <i>Chairman.</i>	F. WALTER.
F. W. FEARMAN.	MAYOR STEWART.

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

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.

The Public Library,

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

MEMORANDA FOR 1893.

Population of city, 50,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$12,250.00 for 1893.

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, 1893—19,823, divided as follows: 15,509 in Circulating Department, and 4,314 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 10 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, 204,324, an average daily use of 668 volumes (home use, 128,692).

Borrowers' cards in force, 9,779.

Number of visitors to the Library during the year (estimated) 325,000.

Number of papers and periodicals for use in Reading Rooms, 210.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

Gentlemen of the Public Library Board:

Before retiring from the honorable position to which you were good enough to call me a year ago, permit me to thank you for the trust you placed in me, and for the uniform kindness you have shown me as Chairman of the Board. During the year 1893 there have been no startling developments; but the growth of the institution has been steady, and peace has marked all our deliberations. While keeping up the standard of the works required by the few, the Board has wisely made most provision for the many. By comparing the lists of the works asked for in 1893 with the lists of former years, we learn that a better class of works is in demand. Doubtless the University Extension Lectures, the Lectures in the Ladies' College, the many literary and scientific clubs, have done much to awaken interest in art, science, literature and philosophy. Still, had the students not had access to a well furnished Library the gain in literary and art taste would not have been what it happily is to-day. With a view still further to develop the desire for good literature, and thus aid in the work of education, the Board has placed on the shelves of the Library some of the best works in the different departments of science and art.

The Library has no desire, and makes no pretence, to provide for the wants of the specialist and of the professional reader. Because of this, there is scarcely a book on law, medicine, the ancient classics, or theology. For the general students of art, of literature, of history, of science and of philosophy, there is a fair, but by no means a too liberal supply. In the departments of Sociology, of Electricity, of Travel, of History, and of Fiction, a

more ample provision has been made, because demanded. Did the funds permit, more daily papers and more periodicals would be placed on the desks.

To Mr. J. H. Smith and Dr. Malloch, not to mention others, the Board is indebted for valuable donations of books, for all of which we are most thankful.

I cannot conclude my remarks without saying how much this Board is indebted to its employees for their thoughtful and efficient services. In the hope that 1894 may be a year of peace and prosperity, I would ask you to look out for a worthy successor that may take my position in the chair, and preside over you for the coming year.

SAMUEL LYLE.



FIFTH 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, 1893.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 18,192. The total accessions for the year have been 1631 volumes, comprising (a) 1,109 volumes obtained by purchase, including 214 volumes replacing worn out and condemned books.

(b) 189 volumes of magazines obtained from Reading Room.

(c) 324 volumes as gifts from various sources, making a present total of 19,823 volumes.

The 1,109 volumes cost \$1,511.45, an average cost of \$1.36 per volume.

THE YEAR'S READING.

During the past year I have endeavored to draw people to the Library, and to stimulate the reading of books in the higher departments of literature by issuing lists of books as special occasions offered. Thus, for the two courses of "Dante" lectures now about completed, a special list of Dante literature in the library was prepared. This list embraced not only the complete books on Dante, but also parts of books and articles in magazines. Similar lists were issued of "Columbus" literature, "The War of 1812," and other subjects. The demand for the books thus listed, following on the publication of the lists, showed that they were appreciated by readers generally, and similar lists may be looked for as occasion may arise in the future.

Special lists of books in the Natural Science department, embracing Geology, Physics, Zoology, etc., were prepared for the

meetings of the Hamilton Association. A lengthy list of books on machinery, applied electricity, and the various mechanical trades and occupations, was prepared and sent to the Trades and Labor Council for the use of the members of the various trades and organizations affiliated therewith. To these lists a note was appended, extending a cordial invitation to the members to freely avail themselves of the privileges of the Library and Reading Rooms.

As to the class of books circulated, no books in the Library are more constantly read, and certainly none more carefully studied than those on Applied Electricity. There is also an increased demand for books on Geology, which may be accounted for largely, no doubt, by the recent discussions (through the instrumentality of the magnificent display of Canadian minerals at the World's Fair) on the mining resources of the Dominion. Poetry continues in steady demand, the death of Tennyson during the year and the recent lectures on Browning and Dante having increased the call for this class. Travels, biography and history continue prime favorites with many readers, while the bound volumes of Harper's, Scribner's, Century, and other periodicals are in constant demand. In fiction, the most popular of modern authors (as evidenced by the demand here) are Rosa Carey, Clark Russell, Annie Swan, Emma Worboise, Conan Doyle, Amanda Douglas, Ralph Boldrewood, Edna Lyall, the Balzac series, and Mrs. Wister's translations from the German. "The Prince of India" has been the most popular novel of the year. Blackmore's "Lorna Doone" and Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" continue great favorites. The works of Scott, Dickens, Bulwer, Lever and Marryat, still continue to be largely called for. Among the books for young people, Henty's historical stories easily hold first place. Indeed, although the preface of each book is addressed most religiously to "My dear lads," many an "old boy" reads them with as much pleasure as the younger ones—at least so we gather from remarks made when returning them.

ASSISTING READERS.

The policy instituted early in the history of this Library of assisting readers when searching for information on any special

subject, continues to be very acceptable, as evidenced by the large numbers of inquiries made and answered daily. This is as it should be, and I am sure I am only echoing the sentiment of every member of the Board, when I repeat that the Library, belonging as it does to the citizens, it is our wish that every citizen, young and old, should use it freely and unreservedly when searching for facts or figures on any topic.

It has been stated, and from experience I know it to be a fact, that some citizens do not come to the Library because they do not know just what books they want, and they do not wish to give trouble and annoyance to the Library staff. To all such I would take this opportunity of saying, throw aside this feeling at once and forever. The books belong to you, we want you to use them, and we shall be only too glad to assist you, if you will come and make your wants known. Instead of being a trouble it is a pleasure to us to know that the books are serving a useful purpose in the hands of readers instead of lying on the shelves gathering dust. Any time, day or evening, that you have half an hour or more to spare, come to the Library and let us show you the treasures in the Reference department, or direct you to some book in one or other of the numerous subdivisions of the Circulating department which would interest you for home reading or study.

This is hardly the place to moralise or give advice, and yet I cannot refrain from urging on parents the necessity of assisting and guiding the reading of the young people committed to their charge. Let me urge upon them to take a personal interest in the books selected by the young people. Come with them to the Library occasionally and help them make a selection. A few parents do this now, and it is quite certain that the children are the better for the little time and attention thus bestowed upon them. We have had instances where a parent, finding his boy is reading too much, comes to the Library and tells us to destroy the card saying that the boy shall not have another book from the Library. But we argue with such a parent in this way: "Don't cut your boy off entirely, or he will get worse reading elsewhere; but reason with him, keep his card in your own pocket, come to the Library once a week with him and let him take home an interest-

ing story, and he will be the better for it." In this way many a little soreness has been healed, and many a young heart made happy.

THE CIRCULATION.

The circulation and use of books for the year was 204,324 volumes, of which 128,694 were given for home use. This is a falling off in the number of books given for home use, but the large increase in the number of books consulted in the Library, keeps the total number of books handled as the highest yet recorded.

READERS BY WARDS.

A total of 9,779 cards have been issued to date. During the past year 1,864 cards were issued, divided by wards as follows: Ward No. 1, 134; No. 2, 225; No. 3, 443; No. 4, 274; No. 5, 206; No. 6, 184; No. 7, 398.

THE READING ROOMS.

The Reading Rooms continue to be for many the main attraction of the institution. Rarely, if ever, while the rooms are open are they entirely deserted; while in the afternoons and evenings they are frequently taxed to their utmost capacity. The monthly magazines are now kept at the desk, in the interest of those who really desire to read same; and for convenience of reference the contents pages of the magazines are displayed on the bulletin board in the Library. The records show that these magazines are called for by an increasingly large number of readers. Thus, during December, Harper's Monthly was called for 103 times; Scribner's, 92; Century, 90; Review of Reviews, 65; Cosmopolitan, 63; Arena, 49; Canadian Magazine, 38; Popular Science Monthly, 29; while the total issue of the magazines and papers at the desk for the month was 1,470, which would give about 12,500 as the figures for the year for this line alone. The demand for back issues of papers or magazines continues to steadily increase. Not a day goes by without some reader seeking information to be gained only by a reference to a paper or a magazine, often a recent number, but quite as often one, five or ten years old. It might be well to repeat here that the back numbers of the periodicals are given for home reading as soon as the new issues of same are received.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Our warmest thanks are due the daily papers of the city for the interest taken in the Library in publishing lists of books from time to time, and in other ways keeping the Library well before the citizens.

I am pleased to again record the efficient aid rendered by the lady assistants in attending to the hundred and odd details requisite for the harmonious and efficient working of the institution. Nor must I omit mention of the janitor, who has given faithful and efficient service during the year.

The appendices attached hereto give details of circulation, etc.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,
Librarian and Secretary.



CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.

	Circulating Dept.	Reference Dept.	Total.	Per Cent of Total.
Cyclopedias and Periodicals....	1285	732	2017	10
Philosophy	294	33	327	2
Religion	565	152	717	4
Sociology	531	1367	1898	10
Natural Science.....	727	391	1118	5
Useful and Fine Arts.....	1117	422	1539	8
General Literature.....	2208	355	2563	13
History, Travels and Biography	3422	862	4284	21
Books for Young People	781	....	781	4
English Prose Fiction.....	4579	....	4579	23
	15509	4314	19823	

CIRCULATION BY CLASSES.

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

	Per Centage of Total.	Total Vols. Circulated.	Vols. given for Home use.
Religion and Philosophy	2.	3986	2865
Sociology	2.5	4632	3278
Useful and Fine Arts	6.	12160	8111
Natural Science	5.5	11328	4987
General Literature	28.5	58947	18906
History, Travels and Biography	14.5	29473	11360
English Prose Fiction	37.5	75936	72864
Books for Young People	3.5	7862	6321
Total for 1893.....	100	204324	128692
" " 1892 .....	....	198210	132720
" " 1891.....	....	198104	136903
" " 1890.....	....	100249	

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GIFTS,

INCLUDING REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS FROM LIBRARIES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.

FROM CANADA.

- Hamilton, Ont.... Beasley, Mrs. T.—6 v.
 ——— Bonny, H. P.—8 v.
 ——— Brown, Adam—23 v.
 ——— Friends—18 v.
 ——— Gallagher, R. E.—1 v.
 ——— Gibson, Hon. J. M.—6 v.
 ——— Hamilton Association.
 ——— Jones, Chas.—3 v.
 ——— McPherson, Alex.—1 v.
 ——— Raymond, M.—1 v.
 ——— St. George's Society.
 ——— Sanford, Hon. W. E.—30 v.
 ——— Smith, J. H., County School Inspector—68 v.
 ——— Wotton, S.—2 v.
- Ottawa, Ont..... Dominion Government—72 v.
 ——— “ “ Archives Branch—2 v.
 ——— “ “ Geological Survey—4 v.
 ——— “ “ Statistical Branch—1 v.
 ——— Royal Society of Canada—1 v.
- Quebec, Que..... Education Department.
- Toronto, Ont Provincial Government—54 v.
 ——— “ “ Education Department—4 v.
 ——— Astronomical and Physical Society.
 ——— Canadian Military Institute.
 ——— Human Society.
 ——— Ontario Chartered Stenographers' Association.
 ——— Public Library.
 ——— University College Library.
 ——— Kingsmill, Nicol.
- Welland, Ont Cruikshank, E.—1 v.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

- Albany, N. Y..... State Library.
 ——— University of the State of New York.
- Baltimore, Md.... Enoch Pratt Free Library.
- Boston, Mass Public Library.
- Brooklyn, N. Y.... Brooklyn Library.
 ——— Pratt Institute.
- Buffalo, N. Y Buffalo Library.
- Burlington, Vt.... Fletcher Free Library.
- Chicago, Ill..... Open Court Publishing Co.—1 v.
- Columbus, Ohio... Public Library.

Detroit, Mich. . . . Public Library.
 Grand Rapids. . . . Public Library.
 Indianapolis, Ind. . . Public Library.
 Lawrence, Mass. . . . Public Library.
 Lowell, Mass. City Library.
 New Haven, Conn. Free Public Library.
 Milwaukee, Wis. . . . Public Library.
 Newton, Mass. Free Library.
 New York, N. Y. . . Apprentices' Library.
 — Free Circulating Library.
 — Parsons, Albert R.—1 v.
 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—5 v.
 — " Bureau of Education—1 v.
 — " Smithsonian Institute—3 v.
 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 Ehrenfechter, C. A.—1 v.
 — Fitzpatrick, Mrs. P. F.—2 v.
 — Handsworth Public Library.
 Manchester. Public (Free) Libraries.
 Oxford University. Bodleian Library.
 Sheffield. Free Public Libraries.
 Tynemouth. Public Free Library.

FROM SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen Public Library.
 Dundee. Free Library.
 Glasgow. Baillie's Inst. Free Library.
 — The Mitchell Library.

FROM INDIA.

Bombay. Roy, Protapa Chandra—4 v.

Total. 324 volumes.
 82 pamphlets.