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— FIRST —

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —



HAMILTON

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1889
✻ 1890. ✻

HAMILTON :
ROBT. RAW & Co., PRINTERS, 30 JOHN ST. NORTH.

1890.

◆◆◆ Board of Management. ◆◆◆

—◆◆◆—
◆1889.◆

HIS HONOR JUDGE MUIR, *Chairman.*

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR DORAN.	F. W. FEARMAN.
J. EDWIN O'REILLY, Q. C.	REV. S. LYLE, B. D.
F. WALTER	GEO. LYNCH-STAUTON.
A. RUTHERFORD.	CHARLES LEYDEN.

—◆◆◆—
◆1890.◆

J. EDWIN O'REILLY, Q. C., *Chairman.*

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR McLELLAN.	REV. S. LYLE, B. D.
A. RUTHERFORD.	W. F. BURTON.
F. WALTER.	GEO. LYNCH-STAUTON.
F. W. FEARMAN.	CHARLES LEYDEN.

COMMITTEES FOR 1890.

BUILDING.

F. W. FEARMAN, *Chairman.* A. RUTHERFORD. F. WALTER.

LIBRARY.

REV. S. LYLE, *Chairman.* G. LYNCH-STAUTON. J. E. O'REILLY

FINANCE.

W. F. BURTON, *Chairman.* MAYOR McLELLAN. C. LEYDEN.

—◆◆◆—
Librarian and Secretary.—RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD.

—◆◆◆—
ASSISTANTS.

MISS ANNIE STUART.	MISS JEANNIE DONALD.
MRS. JANET SUTHERLAND.	MISS MAY HAMILTON.

—◆◆◆—
Janitor.—GEORGE WHOLTON.

June 11/63 027.4713
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THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

—: OF THE:—

Chairman of the Hamilton Public Library

To the Members of the Board of Management :

GENTLEMEN,

It is a well understood maxim that nothing is more essential to the welfare and safety of a nation than the education of the individuals composing it, and no better index can be found of the degree of civilization to which any particular state has attained, than by a study of the provisions made by it for public education.

The slightest historical research will justify the assumption that the diffusion of knowledge and the encouragement of education are essential conditions to the stability and progress of the community. The establishment of free Public Schools, re-enforced by compulsory Education Acts, has been followed by legislation providing for the creation and maintenance of free Public Libraries as valuable aids, not only to students of maturer years, but also our skilled artificers and mechanics and our enterprising manufacturers.

The laudable desire of the people of Hamilton for the establishment of a Public Library culminated on the 7th day of January, 1889, in the passing of a by-law for that purpose by a large majority of the electors of the city. It was most gratifying to observe the great amount of public enthusiasm displayed by many of all classes of the community on the occasion in the efforts put forth to bring the matter to a successful issue in joining together for so praiseworthy an object.

In the course of the public discussions, prior to the polling day, it was freely stated by many of those engaged in promoting the object in view, that not more than a quarter of a mill in the \$ upon the assessment or about one half the statutory limit for yearly expenditure would be asked for or required for the purposes of the library. Having this in

view the Board of Management only asked for a capital sum of \$50,000, intending to expend about \$25,000 for a building and the necessary appointments and the remaining \$25,000 for the purchase of books.

Some difficulties were encountered, as might have been expected, in the selection of a site, but these were in time happily overcome, and a location secured which at once met with the sanction and warm approval of all. In settling upon the class of building to be erected, it very soon became apparent that public opinion, which we were of course constrained to follow, demanded a structure of a kind quite beyond the funds then at our disposal, and in consequence, and in view of the fact that we could not by law obtain any further sum, on capital account, we concluded to make the expenditure for such a building a first claim upon the whole sum of \$50,000, trusting to the City authorities for an additional amount. Having resolved upon such a course an application was made to the City Council for a grant of \$10,000, but that body, owing chiefly to the fact that there were in several departments large over drafts in excess of the appropriations for the year found themselves unable to accede to our request, but recommended that an application should be made at a later date. There is every prospect that in the near future a liberal grant for the purposes indicated will be made. In default of such assistance, it is manifest the Board of Management will be driven to call for very nearly the maximum statutory allowance for two or three years to come, in order that the necessary and proper additions to the library may be made as they shall be required. In other words, had the original sum asked for and placed at our disposal been \$60,000, instead of \$50,000, the necessary yearly expenditure might have, I think, been kept very nearly within the limits of a quarter mill or, at any rate, within the limit of $\frac{3}{8}$ of a mill. In any case, I think we have acted wisely in making our first object to procure a building suitable and adequate for years to come. It will be one of the finest, if not the finest Library edifices in the Dominion of Canada. Even now, in its incomplete state it commands the admiration and praise of all observers. A thing of beauty, it will when finished, have no peer in the city. Mr. Stewart, the Architect deserves, is entitled to, and no doubt will receive unbounded thanks for his very clever effort.

No feature of the Library presents so much to be thankful for as does the choice of a Librarian. Although

fortunate in many respects, we have been most fortunate in this. Richard T. Lancefield has, I think I may safely say, exceeded our most sanguine expectations. His extensive knowledge of the technicalities of the book trade, and kindred matters, as well as his many other qualifications, have proved his worth on many occasions. That he will prove himself to be, in all respects, a most efficient officer is now beyond all doubt. Great care was taken in selecting Assistant Librarians and also a Janitor. They have been most assiduous in the performance of their duties in their respective spheres, and I have no doubt they will prove themselves worthy of the position they occupy.

We have received many valuable donations, and hope to receive more. It will be seen on examination, that in making the choice of books for the library the manifold wants of the numerous classes of readers have been carefully studied, and that the tastes of a wide range of individuals have been respected.

As the Librarian's report will contain the usual statistics in regard to the expenditure of money and the purchase of books, I need not here refer to those subjects.

This report would be imperfect, indeed, were I to close without a reference to the good feeling happily existing between our Board and the Toronto Board. To Mr. John Hallam, particularly, we are deeply indebted for a vast amount of valuable information. Inconvenience to himself was no obstacle in the way to bestowing upon us the benefit of his large experience. Indeed, not only he, but also Mr. Pearson, the Chairman, and the whole Toronto Board, with Mr. Bain, their Chief-Librarian, are entitled to our most sincere thanks. Long may these evidences of good will and all pleasant associations continue to exist between the two boards.

All of which I have the honor to submit.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN MUIR,

Hamilton, Feb. 4th, 1890.

Chairman Public Library Board.

First Annual Report of the Librarian and Secretary.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, Hamilton, Feb. 1, 1890.

To His Honor Judge Muir, Chairman, and members of the Public Library Board.

GENTLEMEN,—As required by the 17th section of the By-laws of your Board, I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the state of the Library on December 31st, 1889.

The Library not having, at that date been opened to the public, there are no statistics of circulation to present; but I may remark in passing, that the numbers of “seekers after knowledge”—of inquirers for information on various topics,—have already been so numerous, as to fully warrant the oft-expressed assertion that the Library will be, when in full operation, a great educational factor in the community and of inestimable value to citizens.

The present number of volumes in the Library is 8826, and 350 pamphlets.

The books in the circulating department have been collected into classes, and each class grouped under a letter of the alphabet, as follows:—

Class A	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	393	vols.
“ B	Biography.....	630	“
“ C	Theology.....	324	“
“ D	Mental, Moral and Social Sciences	307	“
“ E	Useful and Fine Arts....	339	“
“ F	Travels, Geography & Description	687	“
“ G	History.....	632	“
“ H	Language and Literature.....	738	“
“ I	Poetry and Dramatic Literature.	381	“
“ K	Periodicals, (bound).....	870	“
“ L	Prose Fiction.....	1245	“
“ M	Juveniles.....	263	“
Total.....		5809	vols.

These books are all entered, labelled, numbered, stamped, and on the shelves ready for circulation.

In addition to this number, the titles of 3542 volumes of the Tauchnitz and Bohn Libraries (which are on order and may be expected in a few weeks), have been entered in the Accession Book ; so that when these 3542 volumes arrive, they can be rapidly checked and prepared for circulation, when there will be a total of 10,351 volumes in the circulating department.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

There are 2017 volumes in this department, whose titles have been entered in the Accession Book, but have not yet received the shelf-number. While not fully ready for the use of the public, every assistance will be gladly afforded inquirers after information on subjects contained in these books. In reserving books for the Reference Department, your Librarian has, with the sanction of the Library Committee, acted on the idea that the public should be given as free use as possible for home use, of all books in the Library ; and in pursuance of this idea, but a limited number have been reserved, while a plan has been devised for allowing certain of these reserved books to be taken for home use under certain restrictions.

DONATIONS.

The donations for the year were 463 volumes and 250 pamphlets. A list of donors is appended herewith, and special mention must be made of a donation from W. K. Muir, Esq., of Detroit, of a set of United States Census Reports, (1880) in 24 vols. with two Supplementary volumes of plates, and of Government Publications and Sessional Reports from the Dominion Government, Ottawa ; the Ontario Government, Toronto ; and the Public Library Toronto.

It is pleasing to record these evidences of good-will from friends of the Library, and there is every reason to believe that once the Library is in operation, other friends will send in such books and pamphlets as, in their opinion, will add to the value and usefulness of the Library.

Only a few years ago Walter Besant, in his novel, "All sorts and conditions of Men," sketched an outline of a great People's Palace for East London,—that awful blot on 19th century civilization—an outline so skillfully and powerfully drawn, as to attract the attention of the busy world of

London, with the result that subscriptions poured in for the erection of such a Palace. Besant, in that book causes his hero to moralise thus:—"How truly wonderful it is," said Harry, "to think how monotonous are the gifts and bequests of rich men. Schools, Churches, Almshouses, Hospitals—that is all, that is their monotonous round." A change has, however, been noticeable lately and while Schools, Churches and Hospitals are not forgotten, the great Creator and Newberry bequests of millions of dollars for the founding of great Public Libraries in the City of Chicago, and the numerous other bequests of from \$100 to \$100,000 which are now a matter of almost weekly record in Great Britain or the United States, are all indications of the growing belief in the efficacy of Free Libraries as great educational and moral factors in the community.

THE CARD CATALOGUE.

The Card Catalogue, now preparing, will contain the name of every book in the Library, both in Circulating and Reference Departments. Each book will be entered under author, title and subject, and an endeavor will be made to fully index every book, so as to show the full resources of the Library on any given subject; as well as all the books in the Library by or relating to any given author or writer.

A PRINTED CATALOGUE.

The copy for a printed catalogue is now being prepared, but it will of necessity be some months before the catalogue will be printed ready for the public. In the meantime the titles of the books will be placed on the walls of the Library Room on type-written sheets, for the use and convenience of readers, and the Library Assistants will also assist readers with all information possible.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

As Secretary of the Board, I submit herewith a statement of the expenditure for the year, as taken from my books, as follows—

SECRETARY'S STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE
TO DEC. 31ST, 1889.

Total value of orders given on Treasurer... \$30,163 35

Apportioned to Committees as follows:

Building Committee.....	\$18,047 97
Library	11,911 29
Finance	163 52
	\$30,122 78

Obtained from accounts in Ledger as follows:

Books.....	\$ 9,269 77
Express, Freight and Duty.....	1,525 77
Building.....	17,151 25
Furnishings and Fixtures.....	210 17
Stationery and Supplies.....	138 49
Advertising and Printing.....	111 15
Rent.....	187 50
Insurance.....	71 00
Salaries.....	985 76
Fuel.....	63 25
Sundries.....	398 67
	\$30,122 78

Statement of Petty Cash.

Received from Treasurer.....	\$ 150 00	
Refund on Duty.....	20	
	\$ 150 20	
Payment as per Vouchers.	109 63	
	\$ 40 57	40 57 \$30,163 35
<u>Petty Cash on hand.</u>		
Balance as above.....	\$ 40 57	
Refund from Water Works Dept.	70	
	\$ 41 27	



LIST OF DONATIONS DURING 1889.

	VOLS.	PAMPH.
John Hallam..... <i>Toronto.</i>	6	I
E. B. Biggar..... <i>Montreal.</i>	1	
Mrs. P. Mackenzie..... <i>London.</i>	1	
Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C. M. G..... <i>Ottawa.</i>	3	
W. K. Muir..... <i>Detroit.</i>	26	
J. L. Le Moine..... <i>Quebec.</i>	2	
W. Bishop & Co..... <i>Port Arthur,</i>	1	
Hon. Mackenzie Bowell..... <i>Ottawa.</i>	6	
Dominion Government.....“	99	
Lt. Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson.... <i>Hamilton.</i>	78	
Douglas Brymner..... <i>Ottawa.</i>	8	
Richard Fuller..... <i>Hamilton.</i>	3	
Adam Brown, M. P.....“	9	
S. D. Biggar.....“	1	
William Stewart.....“	1	
Mrs. Joseph Plastow.....“	6	
Justus A Griffin.....“	23	6
I. A. Studdart.....“		22
A Lady Friend.....“	5	
A Friend.....“	1	
H. B. Witton.....“		79
A. Rutherford.....“	8	
E. Rosenstadt.....“	4	
F. W. Fearman.....“	4	
Thomas Beasley.....“	6	
T. Bewicke.....“	1	
W. Lynn Stuart.....“	4	
T. G. Peat.....“	3	
Walter Ambrose.....“	1	
The Librarian.....“	1	12
H. Sotheran & Co..... <i>London, Eng.</i>	1	
E. A. Petherick.....“	2	
Manchester, England..... <i>Free Libraries.</i>	3	
Sheffield, “..... <i>Free Public</i> “	1	I
Brighton, “..... <i>Free Library.</i>		II
Birmingham, “..... <i>Free Libraries.</i>		2
Bodleian Library..... <i>Oxford.</i>		I

Aberdeen, Scotland.....	<i>Public Library.</i>	I	3
Dundee, "	<i>Free</i> " "		7
Glasgow, "	<i>Mitchell</i> " "		7
Belfast, Ireland.....	<i>Public</i> " "	I	
Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.....	<i>Lowell, Mass.</i>	I	
Southbridge, Mass.....	<i>Public Library.</i>	I	4
Worcester, "	" " "		1
Winchester, "	<i>Town</i> " "		2
Boston, "	<i>Public</i> " "		32
Newton, "	<i>Free</i> " "	I	4
Lowell, "	<i>City</i> " "		1
Baltimore, Md.....	<i>Enoch Pratt Free Library.</i>	I	3
Providence, R. I.....	<i>Public</i> " "		6
Detroit, Mich.....	" " "		2
Burlington, Iowa.....	<i>Fletcher Free</i> " "	I	15
Buffalo, N. Y.....	<i>Library.</i>		3
Brooklyn, N. Y.....	" "		4
New York Free Circulating Library.....			2
Harvard University.....			12
Chicago Public Library.....			1
Newburyport Public Library.....			3
Toronto, Ontario.....	<i>Public Library</i>	135	
St. Thomas, Ontario.....	" " "		1
Guelph, "	" " "		1
St. Catharines, "	" " "		1
TOTAL.....		451	250

Rev. Mr. Francis, Waterdown, 5 rubbings of Old Monumental Brasses.

Spectator Printing Co., 1 Lithograph.

J. G. Weir, 1 scarce old Hamilton Paper.

Thomas Beasley, 1 scarce old Hamilton Paper.

All of which is respectfully Submitted,

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,

Librarian and Secretary.

SYNOPSIS OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Municipal Grant.....	\$ 2,500 00
Debentures sold by Council.....	50,000 00
Premium on above Debentures.....	860 00
Accured Interest on "	134 13
Interest on Deposits.....	449 75
Sale of Old Buildings.....	42 00

	\$53,985 88

EXPENDITURE.

Secretary's Orders Paid.....	\$30,092 65	
Interest Paid Bank.....	55 80	
Bank Balance, Dec. 31st, 1889.....	23,836 23	
Cash on Hand.....	1 20	
		\$53,985 88

ALEX. STUART,
Treasurer.

