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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

—OF—

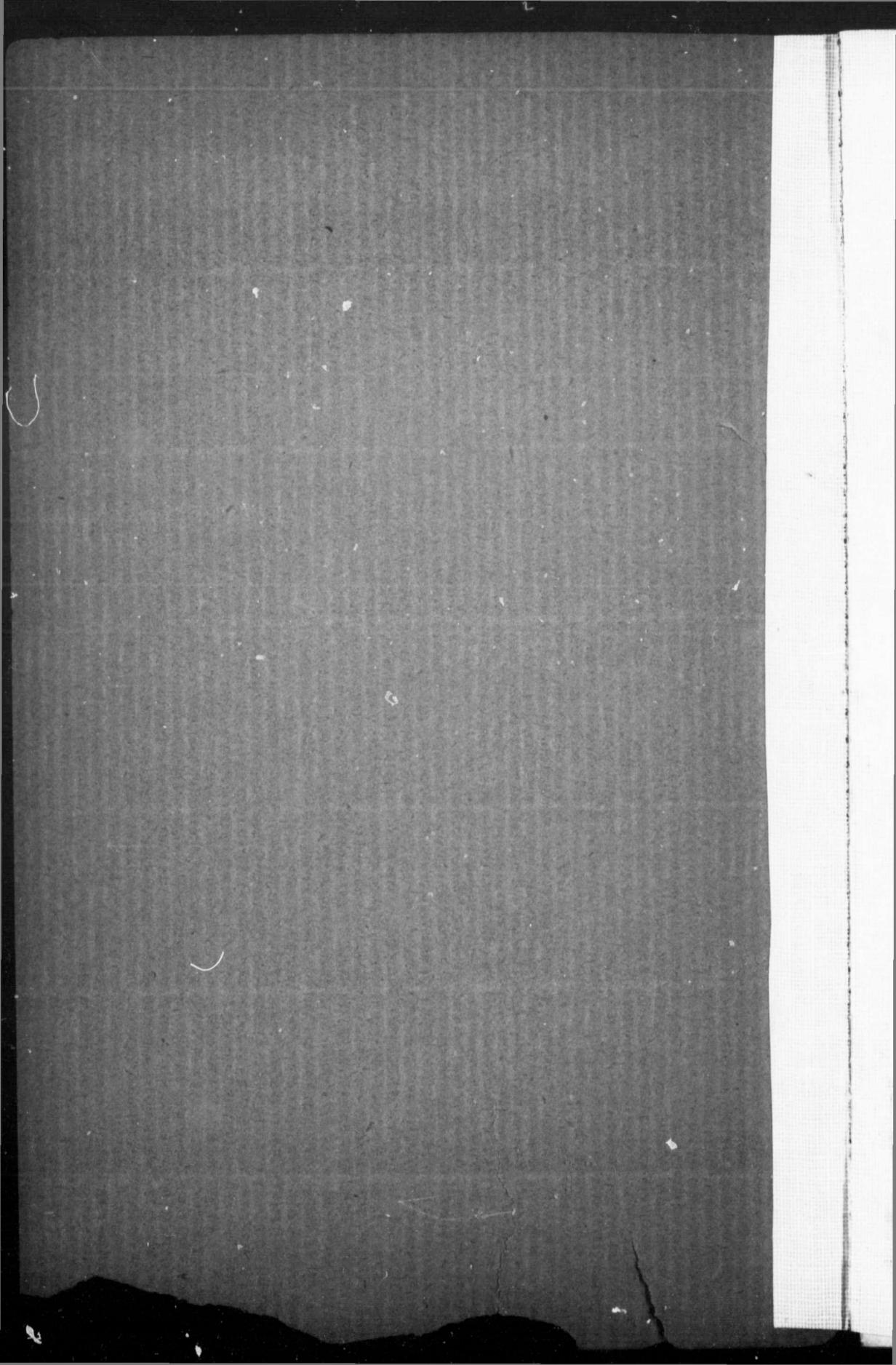


THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Containing the Annual Address of W. F. BURTON, the Chairman
of the Board of Management, and the Annual Report
of R. T. LANCEFIELD, the Librarian.

1896

HAMILTON
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1897



Board of Management

1897

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

MR. W. F. BURTON,

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

JOHN KENRICK,

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR E. A. COLQUHOUN, - 1897

Appointed by Public School Board :

REV. SAMUEL LYLE, D. D.	- - - -	1899
W. F. BURTON,	- - - -	1898
F. W. FEARMAN,	- - - -	1897

Appointed by Separate School Board :

JOHN T. ROUTH,	- - - -	1898
GEORGE LYNCH-STAUNTON,	- - - -	1897

COMMITTEES FOR 1897

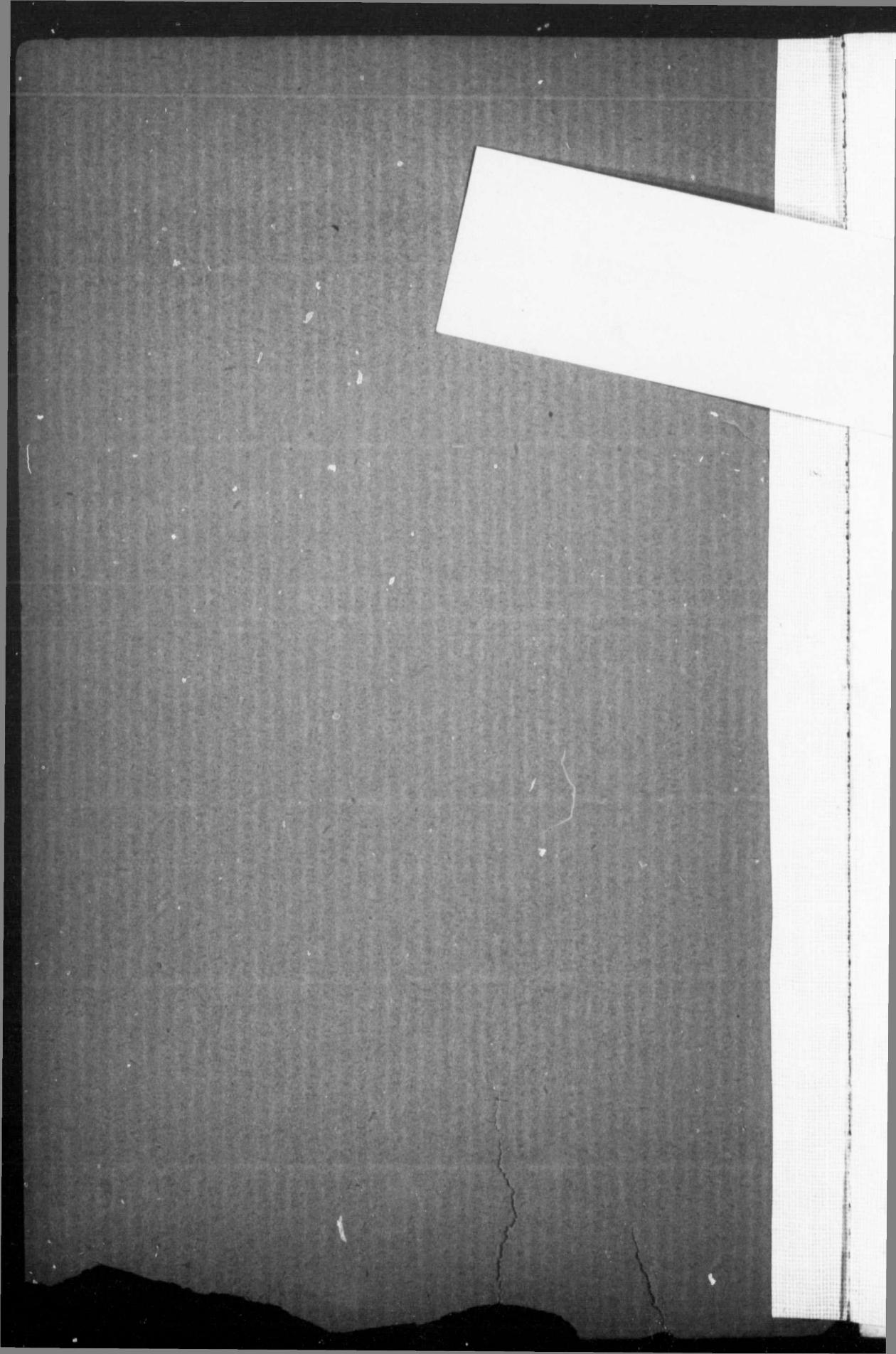
LIBRARY:

W. F. BURTON, <i>Chairman.</i>	REV. DR. LYLE.
F. WALTER.	MAYOR COLQUHOUN.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

JOHN KENRICK, <i>Chairman.</i>	GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON.
F. W. FEARMAN.	J. C. McKEAND.

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



Board of Management

1897

JOHN T. ROUTH, *Chairman of the Board.*

pointed by City Council :

	Term expires Dec. 31.
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1899
J. C. McKEAND, - - - - -	1898
JOHN KENRICK, - - - - -	1897

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR E. A. COLQUHOUN, - 1897

Appointed by Public School Board :

REV. SAMUEL LYLE, D. D. - - - - -	1899
W. F. BURTON, - - - - -	1898
F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1897

Appointed by Separate School Board :

JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1898
GEORGE LYNCH-STANTON, - - - - -	1897

COMMITTEES FOR 1897

LIBRARY:

W. F. BURTON, *Chairman.* REV. DR. LYLE.
F. WALTER. MAYOR COLQUHOUN.

BUILDING AND FINANCE:

JOHN KENRICK, *Chairman.* GEO. LYNCH-STANTON.
F. W. FEARMAN. J. C. McKEAND.

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

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Memoranda for 1896:

Population of city, 50,000.

Free Libraries Act adopted, 1889.

Library rate, one-half mill on assessment, giving \$12,600.00 for 1896.

Library opened 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, 1896—24,059, divided as follows: 19,083 in Circulation Department, 4,976 in Reference Department.

Library open 305 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, 221,672, an average daily use 726 volumes (home use, 142,376).

Borrowers' cards in force, 12,114.

Number of papers and periodicals for use in Reading Rooms, 224.

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, D. D.
1894,	-	-	-	-	Geo. Lynch-Staunton.
1895,	-	-	-	-	Fred. Walter.
1896,	-	-	-	-	W. F. Burton
1897,	-	-	-	-	J. T. Routh.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY W. F. BURTON, ESQ.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

“VITA HOMINIS SINE LITERIS MORS EST.”

Gentlemen of the Public Library Board:

In accordance with the practice which has heretofore prevailed and which cannot but be productive of good as preserving for future use a record of the development of this institution, and the growth of public sentiment in its favor, it falls to me on the occasion of my retirement from the honorable position to which you were good enough to elect me a year ago to supplement the annual report about to be presented to you by the Librarian.

The admirable and systematic manner in which the duties of all those connected with the Library have been discharged has rendered those falling upon the Board during the year 1896 comparatively light, and while the growth of the institution has been steady and its great usefulness more appreciated by the public, there have been no unusual developments to which I could profitably refer. While endeavoring to keep abreast of the times by keeping up the standard of the works required by the few the Board has not been unmindful of the wants of the many, and from the Librarian's report it is gratifying to observe that in comparison with the early history of the Library a better class of literature has been put in circulation, and the Reference Department continues to be largely patronized, owing no doubt to the enlarged scope of the material available. A glance at the figures shows that fiction has still a great attraction for

a large proportion of readers, and while some members of this Board may not consider this satisfactory, I think it right to correct a very wrong impression which appears to have gone abroad as to the relative proportion of works of this character in the Library, and as to their circulation as compared with other branches of literature. The percentage of fiction is not quite 24 per cent. of the total number of volumes in the Library—there being but 5,612 volumes out of a total of 24,059. The percentage of fiction out of the total use for the past year was only 35 per cent., showing that other books of a more solid and technical character were also largely in demand, and this compares most favorably with other similar institutions. In a leading article in a Scotch paper my attention was recently drawn to the percentage of works of fiction distributed by the Edinburgh Public Library, which appears to have been 48 per cent. By reference to the report of the Library in Detroit, which has long been established, the percentage of similar works was 38 per cent. during the past year, while in some of the great Public Libraries of England the percentage of fiction circulated for home use has been known to be as high as 75 per cent., as compared with our percentage of 55 per cent. It is fair to assume that the standard works of such writers as Scott, Thackeray and Elliott have already been read by large numbers of those now making demand on the works of modern authors many of which, such as Hall Caine, Barrie, Robert Louis Stevenson, Stanley Weyman and Conan Doyle, are of the very highest order. Notwithstanding the recent statement of a distinguished scholar that the high percentage of the issue of fiction is a great stumbling block to many sincere friends of Libraries, our experience shows that a very large proportion of the intelligent, thoughtful reading class of the community demand good, sound, clean works of fiction which are invaluable agencies in the building up of character, broadening the views, and in furnishing recreation of a profitable kind. It is our duty, and it has been I think the aim of the Board, while endeavoring to keep up

to date in their selection, to exclude all books whether under the heading of fiction or otherwise, of an immoral, impure or trashy nature. The Library, as has been stated before, makes but small pretence to provide for the wants of the specialist and the professional reader, but the Board endeavors to provide reading for all sorts and conditions of the people, and for that purpose gladly invites suggestions for books, thus seeking the co-operation of readers in making the shelves as comprehensive and useful as possible. There is only one matter to which I venture to call the attention of the new Board, and which will no doubt engage their attention during the coming year, and that is to the necessity of a new and improved catalogue, such a one as will enable an inquirer without loss of time, and without taking a wrong turn, to wander at ease through the complicated labyrinths of whatever subject may occupy his or her attention. During the year we have extended invitations to and have received visits from two distinguished literary characters, both, in their particular lines of thought, world renowned, and we have had the pleasure of meeting Rev. John Watson, more generally known as Ian MacLaren, and Mr. Harry Furniss, who upon their visit to this building like many others before them had nothing but praise for the Library and its up-to-date equipment.

In conclusion, gentlemen, it affords me much gratification, and I deem it a privilege to be able to add mine, to the testimony of my predecessors, to the indefatigable and zealous manner in which Mr. Lancefield has discharged his duties, and it would be ungenerous on an occasion of this sort to overlook the lady assistants, who by their courtesy to the public at all times have done much towards the successful working of the Library during the past year.

I thank you again for the honor which you conferred upon me in electing me as the Chairman of the Board of a Library in which, as you are all aware, I have taken a very deep interest from the very inception of the movement which led to the submission of a by-law once rejected by the people but finally passed by a large majority in 1889, and

which has grown, and which I hope will continue to grow, in the estimation of the public, and I bespeak for my successor the same kindly consideration and assistance which has marked our relations during the past year.

W. F. BURTON,

Chairman Hamilton Public Library Board.

HAMILTON, Feb. 4th, 1897.

EIGHTH 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, 1896.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 22,665 volumes. The total accessions for the year have been 1,394 volumes, comprising

- (a) 987 new books obtained by purchase.
- (b) 214 volumes of magazines from reading rooms.
- (c) 193 volumes as gifts from various sources.

making a present total of 24,059 volumes.

In addition to the new accessions there were 688 volumes purchased to replace books worn out and condemned. The total number of volumes purchased was 1,675, costing \$1,533.93, an average of 92 cents per volume. The purchases for the year include a new and revised edition of Johnson's Encyclopedia and several other valuable works of reference, as well as a fair assortment of popular books in the various departments of literature.

The Library was open 305 days during the year, being closed on 52 Sundays and 8 holidays. The total recorded use of the books was 221,672 volumes, an average daily use of 726 volumes. Year by year the Library continues to be more largely used by the citizens. The total use of the books in the Library during the seven years it has been open has been 1,290,198 volumes.

The question of issuing a new complete catalogue should receive immediate attention from the Board. It is three years since the one now in use was printed. As to the form and style of the new catalogue, that is largely a question of cost. Cataloguing is always found to be one of the most expensive items of library service. The most satisfactory catalogue is probably such as is issued by many libraries, viz.: one having an alphabetical author list, followed by a subject list. But such a catalogue is expensive. This may be illustrated by the latest partial catalogue issued by the Toronto Public Library, which cost \$1,001 for printing. A catalogue of our library produced in the same style would cost about the same amount. As the expenditure of such an amount by your Board would not probably be entertained, the next question to consider is whether the new catalogue shall be an author or a subject catalogue. From our every day experience in the Library I am inclined to think that the new catalogue should be on the plan of our last one with some slight improvements. Such a catalogue could be produced at a probable net cost of \$200.

This cheaper style of catalogue could be made to answer our purpose for two other reasons, viz.: (1) On account of the plan adopted by us of allowing limited access to the shelves, and (2) of inviting readers looking for special books or searching for facts and figures on special topics to make their wants known to the Librarian or the Assistant at the magazine desk. Both these plans seem to work well. Discretion is necessarily exercised in allowing admission to the shelves—no loitering is permitted, those admitted being asked to make their selection promptly. I can safely say that the privilege is very greatly appreciated, and I may add that every care will be exercised to see that it is not abused. Inquiries from readers for special books and for information on general topics are answered daily. This policy of inviting readers to make their wants known instead of themselves searching through the catalogues and wall lists will be continued with we trust increasingly satisfactory results.

The Reading Rooms continue to be frequented by citizens of all classes, old and young, rich and poor. In fact the present tables and stands are frequently uncomfortably crowded with readers. The necessity for another table to fill up the vacant space in the room has already received the attention of the proper committee. The frequently crowded state of the Reading Rooms and the Receiving and Delivery Departments of the Library is a gratifying evidence of the real usefulness of the Library to the citizens. It might be well to repeat that many of the papers and most of the magazines are filed for reference purposes. With the growth of the Library, the references to these by those following special courses of study or reading are becoming more and more frequent.

With the sanction of the Board, my policy in the future, as in the past, will be to make this institution really useful to the citizens generally. In conclusion I have to bear testimony to the faithfulness with which my Assistants perform their duties, and to express the hope that the friendly relations between the Library staff and the Board may long continue.

The usual statistical tables are attached.

Classification of Books

	VOLS. ADDED IN 1896.	PREVIOUS STOCK.	TOTAL VOLS.
Cyclopedias, Periodicals, etc.	270	2465	2735
Philosophy and Religion.....	41	1203	1244
Sociology	62	2318	2380
Natural Science.....	33	1209	1242
Useful and Fine Arts	108	1909	2017
General Literature.....	185	2850	3035
History, Travels, and Biography.	214	4586	4800
Books for Young People	32	962	994
English Prose Fiction	449	5163	5612
	<hr/> 1,394	<hr/> 22,665	<hr/> 24,059

Circulation by Classes

	TOTAL USE VOLUMES.	HOME USE VOLUMES.
Religion and Philosophy,	2431	2176
Sociology,.....	5086	4194
Useful and Fine Arts,.....	15764	10215
Natural Science,.....	8975	4174
General Literature,	69984	20116
History, Travel and Biography.	32768	16142
English Prose Fiction,	78554	77313
Books for Young People,	8110	8046
	<hr/> 221,672	<hr/> 142,376

Hamilton Public Library.

1896.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditures.

RECEIPTS.

Municipal Appropriation.....	\$12,646 70	
Rents	479 75	
Ontario Government Grant.....	250 00	
Fines, Fees and Catalogues	292 30	
Balance Dec. 31, 1895	66 34	
		<hr/>
		\$13,735 09

EXPENDITURES.

Periodicals	\$ 658 60	
Books	1,533 93	
Binding.....	715 75	
Interest on Overdraft.....	551 00	
Debenture and Interest	3,844 02	
Miscellaneous	329 99	
Lighting	370 79	
Heating	541 78	
Insurance	388 78	
Printing Supplies	154 25	
Salaries.....	4,095 35	
Unforeseen and Repairs	199 87	
Repaid Bank of Hamilton.....	304 28	
Balance Dec. 31, 1886	46 70	
		<hr/>
		\$13,735 09

