

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library for the year 1913.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate:

The joint Librarians of the Library of Parliament have the honour to report as follows for the year 1913.

The process of renovation and re-arrangement which was begun in 1912 has continued during the year.

The vaults, which had long been over-crowded, were cleared of useless material, and all the books re-arranged on the shelves in an accessible manner.

The catalogue and cards of the section devoted to Law and Economics were completed in accordance with the new arrangements of the books on the shelves.

The authorities, official and otherwise, on such subjects as seemed likely to come up in Parliament, have been, so far as could be foreseen, collected, classified and indexed.

Among the purchases made during the year, apropos of the memorable meeting of the American Bar Association, was a complete set of the proceedings of that association from the beginning. When the volumes are indexed they will form a valuable source of reference on public questions.

The need for more shelf space in the Library continues to be pressing. The Librarians have endeavoured to render it less obvious and less inconvenient to members by removing certain classes of books from the most crowded sections.

This removal has compelled certain alterations in the indexes. From year to year such removals and alterations will impose some extra labour on the Library staff, and subject members to some degree of delay and inconvenience. So far as they can the Librarians will endeavour to make the inconvenience to members as small as possible.

It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when some definite plan, of the many hitherto proposed, will be adopted, for the purpose of increasing the shelf space in the Library.

In the meantime the Librarians respectfully repeat the remarks made in their last report as follows:

The Librarians desire to point out, however, that the congestion which has, for so many years, prevailed in the Library is by no means removed. It is only made less obvious to members. Many sections on the ground floor are still congested, and the galleries are generally in an over-crowded state.

The Librarians entertain the hope that in the course of the construction of the new buildings on the land recently procured by the Government, room, at least in some duly fitted basements, may be provided for the storage, in an accessible form, of books not always in demand but which they are not disposed to destroy.

Among all the plans hitherto proposed, for the extension of the Library, the plan of 1904 is still considered by the Librarians as being the most satisfactory.

If this plan is not finally adopted, the suggestion made above as to space in the new buildings, would at least afford a large measure of relief from over-crowding.

The customary list of donations is attached hereto. Also the list of copyrights as usual.

The annual catalogue of accessions during the year has been sent early to the King's Printer, and will be ready for distribution at an earlier date than usual.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. D. DECELLES,
General Librarian.
MARTIN T. GRIFFIN,
Parliamentary Librarian.

Library of Parliament, December 15, 1913.

(For list of Donations to the Library, Vide Sessional Papers No. 23.)

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure. After a while,

His Royal Highness the Governor General having come and being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint the House that,—“It is His Royal Highness the Governor General’s pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.”

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Royal Highness the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by the following Gracious Speech to both Houses:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I take this public opportunity of expressing to you all, my deep sense of gratitude for the comfort and support that were afforded us at the time of the serious illness of the Duchess of Connaught, by the numerous messages of sympathy that were received from Canada, and by the knowledge, that the hearts of so many Canadians were with us during those dark days. I can only regret that my enforced absence, made it impossible for me to fully exercise the duties of my high office during a considerable portion of last year.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you upon the remarkable expansion of Canada’s trade with other countries in the past fiscal year, during which our total trade far exceeded that of any preceding year.

The bountiful crops with which the Dominion has fortunately been blessed during the past season have been harvested under unusually favourable conditions, which have enabled the transportation companies to make full use of all the facilities at their disposal. Thus the difficulties, which sometimes arose in former years have not been manifest, and an unusually large proportion of the crops have been conveyed to the sea-board before the close of the season of inland navigation.

Canada has been favoured by a long series of prosperous years, and, although at the present moment business is slightly restricted by the financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, I feel convinced that this condition will be merely temporary, and that the boundless resources of this Dominion, which are so fully and universally known and recognized, give us the fullest assurance of continued material prosperity and progress.

As a result of the recent decennial census the representation of the different Provinces must be readjusted, as required by the British North America Act, and a Bill will be introduced for that purpose.

A Bill consolidating The Railway Act and its various amendments, as well as Bills relating to the Civil Service and to Trust and Loan Companies, will be submitted for your consideration.

Several other Bills will be submitted, including measures providing for increased representation of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, in the Senate.

The volume of immigration during the present fiscal year promises to be greater than that of any preceding year. It has come in greatest measure from the British Isles and from the United States, but a large stream of desirable immigration has also reached our shores from other countries.

You will be pleased to learn that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the various Provinces under The Agricultural Instruction Act passed at the last session. My advisers are convinced that the co-operation between the Dominion and

the Provinces which is thus afforded, will accomplish excellent results, in assuring better agricultural instruction and needful improvement of existing methods of agriculture.

The work on the National Transcontinental Railway has been rapidly advanced during the past year; and, notwithstanding the difficulties attending the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, and the provision of terminals, every possible progress has been made, in bringing that important project nearer to completion.

In connection with the highly important subject of transportation of our products, the provision of adequate terminal facilities at our great national ports has received and is receiving the attention of my advisers.

You have doubtless learned with satisfaction that the new Government terminal elevator at Port Arthur is completed, and that it has been in operation since October last. In conjunction with this, a system of interior terminal elevators has been begun, which will provide largely increased facilities for the farmers of the great grain producing provinces.

The International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, which has been in session in London for several weeks, has had under consideration questions of the highest importance, and it is hoped that its deliberations may result in more effective measures for assuring the safety of the passengers and crews of ocean-going steamships. Representatives of Canada were appointed by Order in Council and have been in attendance at all sessions of the Conference.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you. You will be pleased to know that the revenue has been ample to cover both ordinary and capital expenditure.

The estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early date. They have been prepared with due regard to the necessary development of the resources of the Dominion, coupled with careful attention to economical administration.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In inviting your careful consideration of the subjects to which I have called your attention I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence may attend your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Mr. Lougheed presented to the Senate a Bill intituled:—An Act relating to Railways.

The said Bill was read a first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of His Royal Highness's Speech had been left in his hands.

The same was then read by His Honour the Speaker.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Lougheed, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Edwards, it was

Ordered, That the Speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Tuesday next.