

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN

OF
NEW JERSEY

For the Year Ending October 31st,

1903.

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TRENTON, N. J.:
MACCRELLISH & QUIGLEY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1903.

Commissioners of the Library.

The Governor, HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY,.....NEWARK.
Chancellor, HON. WILLIAM J. MAGIE,.....ELIZABETH.
Chief Justice, HON. WILLIAM S. GUMMERE,.....NEWARK.
Secretary of State, HON. SAMUEL D. DICKINSON,.....JERSEY CITY.
Treasurer, HON. FRANK O. BRIGGS,.....TRENTON.
Comptroller, HON. J. WILLARD MORGAN,.....CAMDEN.
Attorney-General, HON. ROBERT H. McCARTER,.....NEWARK.

Librarian and Secretary, HENRY C. BUCHANAN,.....TRENTON.

Assistants.

JOHN D. FAUSSETT,.....Law Librarian.
JOHN M. ROGERS,.....Reference Librarian.
SHEFFIELD TUESDAY,.....Messenger.

Report of State Librarian.

Hon. Franklin Murphy, Governor of New Jersey:

DEAR SIR—The following report of the condition of the State Library is respectfully submitted for transmission to the Legislature, in compliance with the requirement of the act of March 29th, 1878.

As shown by the last annual report of the State Librarian, the number of volumes and pamphlets in the library on October 31st, 1902, was 61,909. There have been added during the past year 3,363, making the total at this date 65,272. The sources of the accessions were:

From the United States Government,	790
From other States and Territories, in exchange,	927
Books and pamphlets donated,	339
Bought for the Law Library,	475
Bought for the Reference Library,	530
Daily and weekly newspapers donated,	62
Received from the Custodian of the Capitol,	240
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	3,363

Of the 3,363 additions made during the year, nearly six hundred relate to New Jersey, including the laws, reports, journals, documents and other official publications, 153 books and pamphlets purchased and 143 given by individuals. The binding and repairs cost \$209.10, and the balance of the \$3,500 appropriation made for the repair, preservation and purchase of books was spent for books, magazines and pamphlets. Books added to the Law Library cost \$1,951.24.

It is apparent that the addition of more than three thousand books to an already crowded library has aggravated the condi-

tions to which attention was called last year. Not only are the shelves in the Law and Reference departments overcrowded, but the store-rooms in the loft over the Library have about reached the limits of their capacity. The Custodian of the Capitol has from time to time furnished revolving and wall book-cases to temporarily relieve the pressure, and no less than seventeen of these are now in use.

Since the State Library was transferred to its present quarters, in 1890, the number of books has nearly doubled. Seven years ago four new cases, to accommodate less than 5,000 volumes, were added, while the accessions have numbered more than 21,000. In January last the Commissioners of the State Library requested the Attorney-General to endeavor to secure legislation authorizing the State House Commission to enlarge the facilities of the library, at a cost not exceeding \$15,000, with the result that such authority was granted by Chapter 158 of the Session Laws of 1903, but a failure to make provision for the expense, in either the supplemental or regular appropriation bill, has prevented the State House Commission from proceeding with the work.

During the year it was suggested that the floors of the Library and the walls of the building were not strong enough to support the heavy weight of a two-story steel stack which it was proposed to impose upon them by the preliminary plans which had been made. To settle this point an investigation was made by direction of the State House Commission, and the engineer and architect engaged have reported that the floors of the Library are now carrying almost as great a weight as should be imposed upon them.

This report has, of course, led to an abandonment of the proposition to install a two-story steel stack in the Law Library in place of the massive oak cases. As an alternative the architects have suggested a rearrangement of the Library and the installation of modern steel or iron book-cases, a sufficient number of which can be so placed as to accommodate from ten to twelve thousand additional volumes. The adoption of this plan will relieve the pressure, and, at the present rate of growth, give all the shelf-room that will be needed for several years, though it

may interfere somewhat with the convenience of those who use the library.

The conditions disclosed by the architects make it apparent that before long it will be necessary for the State to provide a new building or wing specially constructed for library purposes. The rooms at present occupied are large enough to accommodate the collection of books for many years to come, but the safety of the building demands that the floors be not overloaded, and the limit of safety will soon be reached. In planning for enlarged accommodations for some of the other State departments it may be well to keep this fact in mind.

In the loft above the Library are now stored from eight to ten thousand volumes of government reports, documents received in exchange, and extra copies of New Jersey documents, session laws, reports and other State publications sent to the Library in compliance with the act of March 29th, 1878. Of each of these State publications twenty copies are received. The Legislative Documents each year make five large volumes, and it is apparent that twenty sets of these will occupy considerable shelf-room and add considerably to the weight on a part of the building that was probably intended to bear no great burden.

Five sets of these Legislative Documents will probably be sufficient to answer the uses of the State, and not more than double that number of Assembly Minutes and Senate Journals will be needed. There are large reference libraries in which sets of these publications would be valuable, and their distribution is suggested as a precaution against the danger of their destruction by fire or other accident.

During the year between two and three hundred of the New Jersey pamphlets have been bound in board covers to preserve them. There are many others to be cared for.

The work of preparing a card catalogue of the books in the Reference Library is as nearly completed as it can be until additional room is gained for the proper shelving and classification.

Among the books which have been added to the State's collection during the year, or which have been ordered, are these: A full reprint of all the English Reports, to consist of 150 volumes, of which thirty have been delivered; American and

English Decisions in Equity, seven volumes; Monaghan's Pennsylvania Digest, four volumes; a duplicate set of New Jersey Laws from 1812 to 1850; Reed's Modern Eloquence, fifteen volumes; Brewer's The World's Best Orators, ten volumes; Jesse's Historical Memoirs, fifteen volumes; The New International Encyclopædia, seventeen volumes, of which eleven have been delivered; Woodrow Wilson's History of the American People, five volumes; New York Historical Collections, nine volumes; The Writings of James Monroe, six volumes; Davis' New England States, four volumes; Sturgis' Dictionary of Architecture, three volumes; Meelian's Monthly, nine volumes, completing the State Library's set; The World's Work, six volumes; Singleton's Furniture of Our Forefathers, two volumes, besides many important single volumes.

Among those who have contributed valuable material relating to New Jersey history have been: Governor Murphy, Hon. F. O. Briggs, Hon. J. Willard Morgan, Princeton University, Rutgers College, the New Jersey Medical Society; Richard F. Stevens, South Orange; Rev. Dr. Walter A. Brooks, Col. Washington A. Roebling, F. W. Gnichtel, Harry B. Salter, M. R. Margerum, William S. Yard, Edward B. Sterling, Francis B. Lee, Nelson L. Petty, James Kerney, Harry A. Donnelly, A. L. Clark, H. B. Kummel, Frank Thompson, Howard B. Tindell, B. B. McAvoy, and Charles J. Baxter, of Trenton; Dr. Henry C. Cameron, Princeton; A. M. Heston, Atlantic City; William Nelson, Paterson; Col. E. L. Price, Newark; H. E. Deats, Flemington; James B. Dill, William W. Morris, Newark; Dr. R. S. Dana, Morrisville, Pa.; Elias D. Smith, Elizabeth; Irwin W. Schultze, Phillipsburg; Isaac R. Pierson, Morristown; Edward O'Byrne, Paterson; Howard Deacon, Philadelphia; Joseph McDermott, Freehold; Charles E. Stickney, Deckertown; Lewis Parker and T. H. R. Redway, Trenton; John P. Wall, New Brunswick; Dr. William H. Allen, Jersey City; Hon. Henry M. Doremus, Newark; Rev. James T. Edwards, Randolph, N. Y.; Francis E. Woodruff, Morristown; R. S. Brown, Newark; The State Schools Signal, Trenton; the Department of New Jersey Grand Army of the Republic, and the publishers of sixty-two New Jersey newspapers.

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TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

At the date of this report but fifteen of the sixty-two Traveling Libraries provided by the Commissioners of the State Library under authority of the act of April 20th, 1898, are in use. On November 1st, 1902, there were twenty-three in use. During the year seventeen towns have had them, and the fees received, amounting to \$85, have been paid over to the State Treasurer. Since the creation of the Traveling Libraries they have been sent to sixty-seven towns. During the first year, ending October 1st, 1900, forty-one were sent out. Thirty-six of these towns have discontinued their use. Since the date of the last report but two new applications have been received—from South River and Clayton.

The cost of maintaining the libraries during the past twelve months was \$255.20, of which \$103.96 went for new books, \$52.80 for repairing those worn by nearly four years' use, \$78.54 in express and freight charges, and the balance for printing.

Traveling libraries are now in use at Shiloh and Roadstown, Cumberland county; Branchville and Beemerville, Sussex county; Pemberton, Burlington county; Millburn, Essex county; North Branch and Liberty Corner, Somerset county; Metuchen and New Market, Middlesex county; High Bridge, Mount Pleasant and Raritan township, Hunterdon county; Westwood, Bergen county, and Clayton, Gloucester county.

But few inquiries are now received by the Librarian for information concerning these libraries, and the number that are now in use probably indicates the normal demand for them. This demand could doubtless be largely increased by reducing the fee, by additional advertising of the fact that the libraries may be had, or by transferring them to the custody of the Public Library Commission for use as an aid in securing the establishment of public libraries in the towns that are now without library facilities. It is understood that the Legislature will be asked to authorize this transfer.

The books have been well cared for, and those damaged are the

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more popular ones, which are considerably worn. The demand is almost entirely for fiction or light reading.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY C. BUCHANAN,
State Librarian.

November 1st, 1903.