

Attention having been drawn last session to the fact that the Library received no Canadian newspapers, arrangements were made for a regular supply of two leading Canadian journals, the *Toronto Globe* and the *Vancouver Daily Province*. The *London Daily Chronicle* has been substituted for the *London Daily News*, and the *Law Times*, *Country Life*, and the *Japan Magazine* have also been added to the periodical lists. Several interesting war-maps have been purchased and mounted on calico and hung in the Library.

THE STAFF AND ITS WORK.

In May last Mr. A. B. Thomson, for over seventeen years a valued member of the Library staff, retired from the Government service on superannuation, and has since left for the Old Country. Mr. Thomson was always a capable, industrious, and obliging officer, and he will be much missed by members and all who use the Library. Mr. Thomson has been succeeded by Mr. J. C. Andersen, for many years an officer of the Lands and Survey Department in Christchurch.

The various members of the staff have worked well during the year. A large number of books have been repaired and rebound by the Library binder.

STOCK-TAKING.

The stock-taking has been continued on the system outlined by me in my report of 1913, under which stock-taking proceeds each recess, two different classes being dealt with each year. This year the two classes overhauled have been 000, Bibliography and Periodicals, and 100, Philosophy. The result is as follows: Class 000—Books missing, none; class 100—books missing, 6. In 1913, the previous time these classes were dealt with, the losses were—Class 000, nine volumes; class 100, thirteen volumes.

It will be seen by the above that six works from the Philosophy section have gone astray since 1913, but it is quite possible that most of these will be returned to the Library in some roundabout way. Nothing is missing in 000 class since 1913. The result of the stock-taking is, in my opinion, to be considered satisfactory, in view of the fact that these works are housed in a stack-room where a complete check on the persons passing through cannot be kept. The twenty-two books set out on the 1913 list as missing from these sections are, I am afraid, to be accounted permanently lost.

It is a somewhat curious fact that the majority of the works on the missing list in class 100 (Philosophy, &c.) are books dealing with spiritualism, psychic phenomena, and cognate subjects. These books must have been removed from the Library without being entered in the ledgers provided for registration purposes. Whether clairvoyance or some other psychic process could be usefully employed in discovering the whereabouts of these volumes, and, what is of equal importance, the identity of the careless or dishonest persons who have raided this particular section, I am not, unfortunately, prepared to say.

THE SPACE PROBLEM.

In my last year's report I directed the attention of the Committee to the overcrowding of certain rooms, and as a result of my recommendations a sub-committee was set up which reported in favour of some alterations and additions. The matter was brought under the notice of the Government, but nothing has been done. Owing to the war and the necessity for economy being exercised in the State Departments I have not pressed the matter. Certain sets of books, not in common use, have been removed to the stack-rooms and to the basement, and space has thus been made for additions. Although for the present it may be desirable to make shift with the existing accommodation, I should not like to see the necessary alterations and additions indefinitely postponed, and when once the war has come to its much-desired end I trust the Committee will make new representations to the Government on this subject.

BOOKS FOR THE TROOPSHIPS.

In accordance with permission granted me by the Joint Library Committee last year the fiction class was liberally weeded out, some 1,300 volumes of more or less old novels being removed from the shelves and placed on the troopships in the proportion of 100 volumes to each ship. It being represented to me that the Trentham Camp Library was requiring books, 150 volumes were sent there on the authorization of the Hon. Sir William Hall-Jones, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of the Recess Library Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In accordance with the rule laid down by the Committee in 1913, copies of the Library rules, with lists of the persons entitled to full and limited sessional privileges, were placed in members' boxes within four days from the opening of Parliament.

I hope to be able to send out monthly Accession Lists of new books. These will serve as supplements to the usual annual List of Accessions, and will, I think, prove very useful to members.

The necessity for new furniture in the sociology and smoking rooms is self-apparent. I hope that by next session this matter will be attended to.

I have to tender my thanks to the Chairman of the Joint Library Committee, G. J. Anderson, Esq., M.P., and to the Chairman of the Recess Library Committee, the Hon. Sir William Hall-Jones, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., each of whom has devoted much attention to the control of Library matters during the year; also to the High Commissioner and his staff.

The Library orders for books and periodicals purchased in London have received every attention from Messrs. Sotheran and Co. and Messrs. Street and Co.

LIBRARY ACCOUNTS.

In an appendix will be found the Library balance-sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1915, with a copy of the Auditor's certificate.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES WILSON,
Chief Librarian.