

(No. 51.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Presented by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 6,
1865.



THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to regulate the PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY during the present Session have agreed to the following

R E P O R T.

PRESENT STATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

THE Committee have much pleasure in stating that they believe the Library to be in good order, both with regard to classification and facility of reference. During the late Recess the books have been re-arranged, and a new Catalogue has been compiled; and although the Librarian informs them that the latter is far from being as perfect and complete as he could have wished, the Committee believe that the new arrangement is in every respect a very desirable one, and that a good foundation has been laid for the comparatively easy compilation in future of a thorough and comprehensive Catalogue.

The collection of books in the possession of Parliament, although very deficient in some respects, can hardly be regarded as other than a fair and satisfactory one, when both the somewhat limited amount of the vote of the Legislature, and the circumstances under which the books have been gathered together are taken into consideration. The Committee, however, are of opinion that the existing arrangements in this respect are capable of very considerable improvement. At the present time the choice of works for purchase has depended rather upon the literary proclivities, the chance observation, and the individual taste or knowledge of various Members of the Legislature, than upon any regular or recognised system of selection. The Committee believe that the defect can be easily remedied in the following manner:—The Library has been now carefully divided into separate and distinct sections. The Committee propose to appoint from amongst themselves Sub-committees to whom they would allot the task of examining and supervising a certain number of these sections. In the selection of these Sub-committees the Committee would, of course, be guided by considerations of such peculiar qualifications or special knowledge as the Members of the Committee might possess. Under such an arrangement, the Committee believe that the funds placed at their disposal would be expended to the best practical advantage, and that there would be but little probability of the more important sections being found wanting in any really useful or valuable standard works.

POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE RECESS.

The Committee desire to draw the attention of the Legislature to a very serious difficulty in connection with both their labours and their responsibilities. They are appointed simply under a Sessional Order, and, accordingly, such powers as are delegated to them by Parliament terminate with the expiration of the Session. During the Recess they can constitutionally exercise no control whatever over the Library. Yet it is precisely at this portion of the year that their labours ought to prove of the most practical advantage. While the two Houses are sitting, the time and the attention of the Members of the Committee are necessarily occupied by a variety of subjects, all of more or less consequence to the country and their constituents. During the many months, however, in which Parliament is not in Session, they would, unembarrassed by rival claims to their consideration, have abundance of time and leisure for the discharge of their duties. The Committee, consequently, suggest that each year, immediately on the prorogation of Parliament, it would be desirable that the Governor should proclaim, by an Order in Council, the Members of the Library Committee nominated by the two Chambers of the Legislature Commissioners to control and regulate the affairs of the Library until such time as the Parliament shall be again called together for the despatch of public business.

THE BLUE BOOKS LIBRARY.

The Committee are glad to be able to report that more than Two thousand volumes of the Blue Books in the possession of the Legislature have been arranged, classified, and catalogued since the last

meeting of Parliament. Hitherto these volumes, containing, as many of them do, the most valuable, and in some respects almost indispensable, information for the purposes of wise and practical Legislation, have been comparatively useless. They are now brought within easy access for consultation or quotation of every Member of the two Houses. This very arrangement, however, has brought to light some conspicuous defects in the manner in which the Legislature is at present supplied with Blue Books from England. Nothing apparently can be more arbitrary or more unsystematic than the existing arrangement. The Parliament never by any chance receive complete sets of the Blue Books published during any one Session of the Imperial Legislature: nor would the Committee object to this, were care or trouble taken to forward to them only such Books as might be regarded as really useful and serviceable; but no inconsiderable proportion of the Blue Books they do receive are altogether valueless, conferring no information of the slightest possible benefit, and consequently rendering no return for the money laid out on their purchase. And of others that ought to be regarded as indispensable portions of any Parliamentary Library we receive sometimes only isolated Volumes,—now, Reports without the whole of the evidence; and again, portions of the evidence without the conclusions that have been arrived at upon that evidence. The Committee believe that it will only require a little thought and care during the Recess to make such arrangements as shall both prevent anything like an unnecessary expenditure of the public money, and will, at the same time, secure the full and complete supply of all the more valuable of these works.

WORKS MISSING AND PURCHASED.

The Committee append to their Report a list of all works missing from the Library. Their numbers will be considered as singularly small, when the ready means of access to the shelves, and the period of years which the list comprises, are considered. The Committee were in part prepared to hear that very many more volumes would be reported as absent. Every means have been taken to recover these missing books; they have been advertised for in the public journals, and Members have been addressed on the subject individually.

The Committee also append a list of the Books purchased since the last Session of Parliament; among these are the new edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, and a complete edition of the Delphin Classics. The former is a library of reference in itself; the latter is exceedingly rare, and was purchased for almost an absurdly low price:—its publishing cost was more than £180; it was secured for the Library for £14 7s.

W. NAIRN, *Chairman.*

BOOKS purchased in the Year 1864–1865.

Manual of Civil Engineering, Rankine.
 Vacation Tours at the Antipodes.
 Tarver's Royal Phraseological French and English Dictionary.
 On Wrongs and their Remedies, by G. C. Addison.
 The Queen's English, by Henry Alford, Dean of Canterbury.
 The Dean's English, by Moon.
 Mill's Principles of Political Economy.
 Virgil's Opera.
 Corpus Poetarum Latinorum.
 Doering's Horace.
 Merivale's History of Rome, 7 vols.
 A French Eton, by Arnold.
 Hamilton and his Contemporaries.
 Lewis's Decline of the Roman Empire.
 Guizot's Ministers of State.
 Torrens' Life of Sir James Graham.
 Cust's Annals of the Wars, 9 vols.
 Forster's Life of Sir John Elliot.
 Russell's History of Salmon.
 Lewis's Annals of Great Britain.
 Vacation Tourists, 1862–1863.
 Statesman's Year Book, 1864.
 Ten Years in the United States.
 Thom's Irish Almanack, 1865.
 Hart's Army List, 1865.
 The British Almanack, 1865.
 The Colonial Office List, 1865.
 Statesman's Year Book, 1865.
 Bancroft's Life of Livingston.
 Napoleon's Life of Julius Cæsar, 1st vol.
 Atlas to accompany Life of Julius Cæsar.
 Tudor and White's Leading Cases in Equity.
 Smith's Leading Cases, (last edition).

Patterson's Fishery Laws.
 Familiar Words by Rimmell.
 Russell's Canada and its Defences.
 Wood's History of Exploration in Australia.
 Victorian Bradshaw for 1865.
 Victorian Gazetteer.
 Memoirs of Mallet du Pau.
 History of Java by Sir Stamford Raffles.
 Hooker's Botany.
 Lyell's Geology.
 Chalmers' Political Economy.
 Palgrave's Normandy.
 Locke's Works.
 Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works.
 Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy.
 Grant's Walk across Africa.
 The Wedding at Windsor.
 Dr. Johnson's Works.
 Newman's Hebrew Monarchy.
 Godwin's Political Justice.
 The Delphin Classics, Prince Regent's edition, 141 volumes.
 The Encyclopædia Britannica, last edition, 21 quarto vols., and Index vol. half bound in Russia.
 The Quarterly, Edinburgh, and Westminster Reviews, for 1864 and 1865.
 The Revue des deux Mondes, for 1864 and 1865.
 Hansard, volumes 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 163, 165, 166, 167, 168, 175, 176.
 The Annual Register, vol. 105, 106.

WORKS missing from the Parliamentary Library, 15th July, 1865.

<i>Section 3.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.</i>	
Arnott's Survey of Human Progress.....	No. 54
Chevreuil on Colours	60
<i>Section 5.—BIOGRAPHY AND CORRESPONDENCE.</i>	
Bell's Life of Canning.....	203
Macauley's Biographies.....	286
Life and Correspondence of Washington, by Curtis.....	334
<i>Section 6.—CLASSICS.</i>	
Aristonetus.....	384
Johannes Secundus, Kisses of.....	558
Petronius	568
Propertius	574
<i>Section 7.—COLONIES.</i>	
Over the Straits	679
<i>Section 11.—ENGINEERING, MILITARY, AND MECHANICS.</i>	
Mines, by Ewbank	837
<i>Section 13.—HISTORY.</i>	
House of Bourbon, 2 vols.....	897
Netherlands, Revolt of, by Schiller.....	1046
History of, by Grattan	1047
Poland, History of, by Dunham	1060
<i>Section 19.—POLITICAL ECONOMY.</i>	
Chorley's Political Economy.....	1537
Potter on Taxation	1550
Sargeant's Economy of the Labouring Classes.....	1555
<i>Section 23.—MISCELLANEOUS.</i>	
Goethe's Wilhelm Meister	2065
Harrison's Federalist.....	2072
Wharton's Queens of Society	2131
Wharton's Belles and Beaux of Society.....	2132
WORKS OF REFERENCE.	
Encyclopædia Britannica, 19th volume.	