

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN OF NEW
JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR
1896**

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Annual Report of the State Librarian of New Jersey, for the year 1896 by Various

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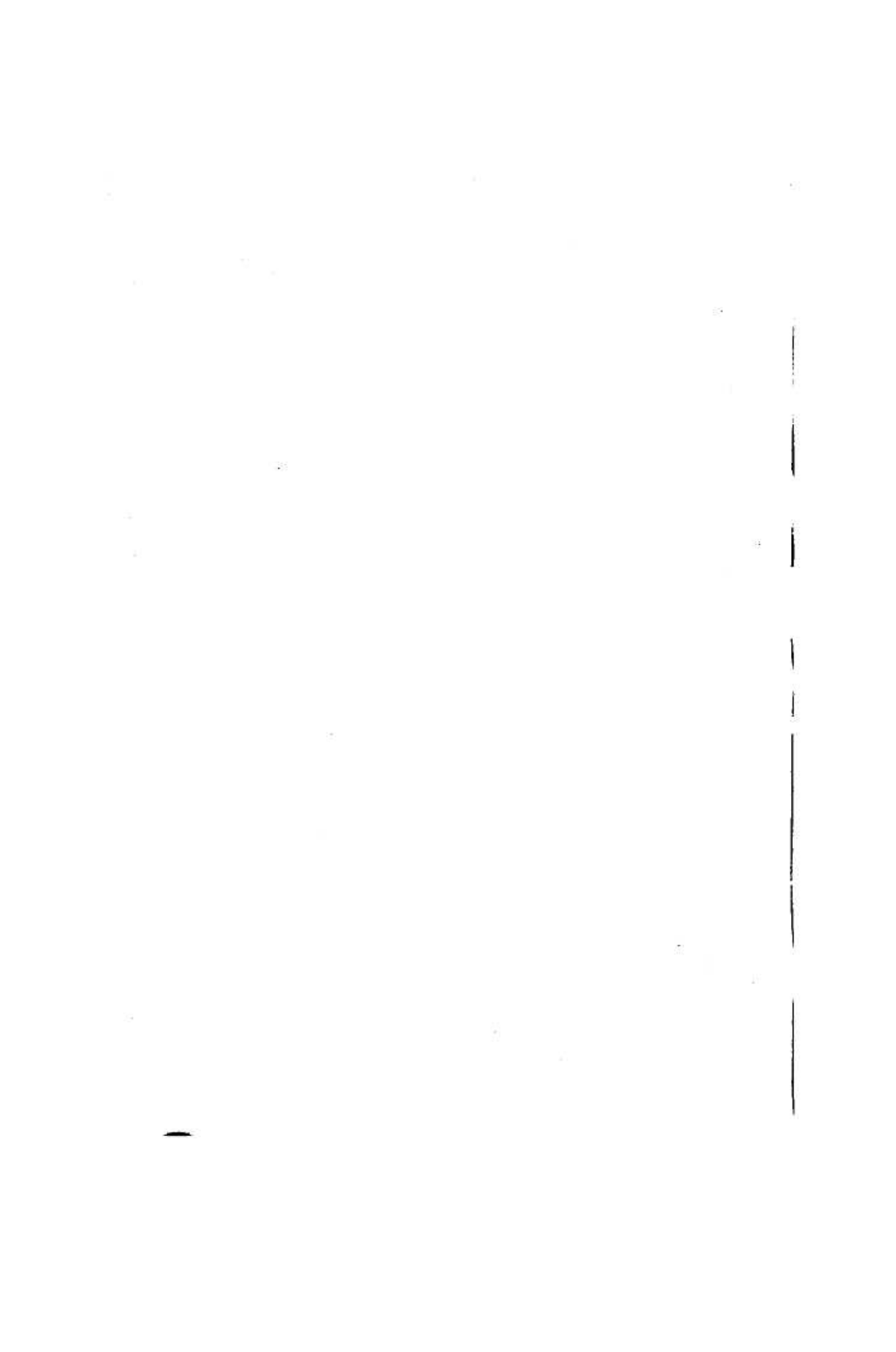


The State Library

Commissioners of the Library.

GOVERNOR, JOHN W. GRIGGS.
CHANCELLOR, ALEXANDER T. MCGILL, JR.
CHIEF JUSTICE, MERCER BEASLEY.
SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY C. KELSEY.
TREASURER, GEORGE B. SWAIN.
COMPTROLLER, WILLIAM S. HANCOCK.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL, JOHN P. STOCKTON.

LIBRARIAN, MORRIS R. HAMILTON,
AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.



REPORT.

OFFICE OF THE
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN,
TRENTON, N. J., NOV. 1ST, 1896. }

To His Excellency John W. Griggs, Governor, and ex-officio President of the Board of Commissioners of the State Library of New Jersey :

SIR—Permit me to submit the following report of the condition of the State Library for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1896.

The number of books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers on file in the State Library at the time of my last annual report, was 45,265, not including the 405 books deposited in the Library for safe keeping by Mrs. W. A. Roebing and Mrs. M. T. Yardley, Commissioners of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and which have been safely located in a revolving case, the keys of which are in the possession of the ladies named ; nor does it include several hundred volumes of the State Medical Society, which have been assigned to fourteen shelves of Case No. 1, of the Miscellaneous Department.

During the past year the following additions have been made by exchange with the General Government, the States and Territories and Canada, donations and purchase, as more particularly specified in the Appendix :

By exchange from other States, Territories and Canada,	445
By exchange from the United States,	432
By individual donations, books, pamphlets, &c.,	153
By individual donations, newspapers,	88
By subscription, papers and magazines,	38
By purchase, miscellaneous books,	219
By purchase, law books,	244
From the State, bound volumes,	230
<hr/>	
Total additions,	1 849

Making the whole number of books, &c., now in the Library 47,114.

Among the most important law books added to the Library are the following : "The French Civil Code," "Winthrop's Military Law," Reno's "Employers' Liabilities Acts," Reid's "Corporation Finance,"

Walker's "Law of Patents," Van Fleet's "Former Adjudications," "English Ruling Cases," "American Electrical Cases," "The American Annual Digest" and Chitty's "Index to English Statutes."

To the Miscellaneous Department have been added "The American Historical Review," Ruskin's "Stones of Venice" and "Modern Painters," Grosvenor's "Constantinople," General Longstreet's "History of the War," "The American Anthropologist," "The Huguenots and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes," Nicholson's Dictionary of Gardening," Depew's "One Hundred Years of American Commerce," Harper's Book of Facts," "The Smiths of Burlington County," Shoppell's "Model Houses," Meteyard's "Life and Works of Wedgewood," "Memoirs of Barras of France," "Great Men and Famous Women," Dupuy's "Cyclopædia of Literature," Chanler's "Eastern Africa," Wright's History of Ireland," Lecky's "Democracy and Liberty," "Ganot's Physics," "Standford's "Asia, Africa and Australasia."

Despite the so-called hard times, the number of visitors registering in the Library during the last year was 2,580, being only 480 less than the previous year. However, the register gives but a faint idea of the real number of persons attending the Library, as the registration is only made by transient visitors, generally strangers, on a tour of sight-seeing. The fact is, the twenty-six alcoves of the Library are well filled daily by members of the bar, State School pupils and male and female workers of all kinds, delving into the books of reference with which the Library is fully supplied.

The attendance of pupils of the State and public schools has so much increased during the year that we have been compelled to double the number of tables and chairs for their accommodation. Of course, the opening of the valuable reference works of the Library to the young scholars of the State is an experiment fraught with much perplexity. As a rule, the majority deeply appreciate the advantage thus enjoyed, and make the most of it by careful study of the works supplied, but, it must be admitted, there are always a few "tramp" pupils, who think it smart to mutilate books, damage furniture and steal stationery. Their idea may be understood by a remark of one of them, when rebuked—that "he thought this was a free Library, and he had a right to do as he pleased with the people's property." He was quickly made to understand that unless he deported himself properly he would be excluded from the Library. Since then he seems to interpret his condition of freedom differently, and comports himself respectably. It is a curious fact that the female pupils give us no trouble, but work zealously and industri-

ously, as if gratified with the advantages presented by the free use of the Library books and stationery.

Mrs. W. A. Roebling, of Trenton, and Mrs. M. T. Yardley, of Orange, a committee of the New Jersey Commissioners to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, in addition to the 405 Jersey books deposited with us last year, have placed in our possession, for safe keeping, a large framed diploma and a bronze medal in a silver case, awarded by the Association. The diploma has been hung upon the wall back of the revolving case containing the books, and the medal has been deposited in a fireproof closet in our office.

As a matter of particular interest to the Library Commissioners, as well as to the many patrons of the library, it may be stated that during the next summer the library will need four more cases, like those already in use, to meet the demand of its regular increase—and two more stands for bound newspapers, as the eight we have are almost filled. These additions would prove sufficient for the needs of the library for about ten years—but they are needed now, to relieve the overflow from the other cases and stands.

It is a great satisfaction to us to know that the "Traveling Library" question has been referred to a special commission of the Legislature, as the State Library is thereby relieved from any complication with the speculative issue, and can maintain its referential status without the danger of being made a medium of general circulation to which its books are not adapted. It will be remembered that the library once contained over 3,000 volumes of light literature, which, upon the appointment of the Library Commission, were distributed to the Soldiers' Home and the State Prison, and such works have ever since been excluded from the library as being only appropriate to a circulating library.

Our thanks are again due to the 88 editors of county weekly papers, who have supplied us regularly with their issues, to the great delight of scholars of the State Schools and business colleges, as well as many visitors from all parts of the State.

During the last year 122 books (including 55 volumes of the State Census for 1895), and 8 newspaper files have been bound, and 229 books and 21 atlases have been repaired, while a large number is still in the hands of the binder.

The accompanying appendix presents an itemized statement of the additions to the library since my last report.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS R. HAMILTON,
State Librarian.