

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN OF NEW
JERSEY. FOR THE YEAR
1899**

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Annual Report of the State Librarian of New Jersey. For the year 1899 by New Jersey State Library

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NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

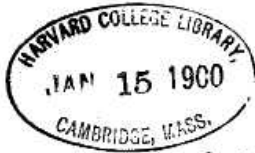
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OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN
OF
NEW JERSEY

For the Year 1899

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The State Library

Commissioners of the Library.

GOVERNOR, FOSTER M. VOORHEES.
CHANCELLOR, ALEXANDER T. MCGILL.
CHIEF JUSTICE, WILLIAM J. MAGIE.
SECRETARY OF STATE, GEORGE WURTS.
TREASURER, GEORGE B. SWAIN.
COMPTROLLER, WILLIAM S. HANCOCK.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL, SAMUEL H. GREY.

LIBRARIAN, HENRY C. BUCHANAN,
AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.

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Report of the State Librarian.

Hon. Foster M. Voorhees, Governor :

DEAR SIR—In accordance with the act of 1878, which requires a full and complete statement of the condition of the State Library to be made by the Librarian to the Legislature, the following report is submitted:

By the last annual report of the State Librarian it was shown that the number of books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers in the Library was 51,270. There have been added during the portion of the past fiscal year covered by this report, by purchase, exchange and donation, 1,688, as follows :

From other States, the Territories and Canada,	380
From the United States Government,	415
By donation, books and pamphlets,	162
By donation, newspapers (daily and weekly),	73
By purchase, for the General Library,	167
By purchase, for the Law Library,	263
By purchase, magazines and newspapers,	48
From the State,	180
	<hr/>
	1,688

This would make the total number of books, pamphlets and papers in the Library at the end of the year, 52,958; but in October, by direction of the Library Commissioners, there were returned to the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, 787 duplicate books and pamphlets that had accumulated, leaving the actual number 52,171. These duplicates were useless to the State Library, but were wanted at Washington to supply the needs of other libraries. In return the Superintendent of Documents will endeavor to supply volumes needed to complete the State's sets of Government publications.

The increase shown by this report is about 600 less than last year, due largely to the fact that the report for 1898 contained the accessions made up to January 1st, 1899, while this ends with October

31st. The Appendix will show in detail the additions made to the Library during the period named.

The number of books reported, 52,171, while approximately correct, is not really so, as there has been no inventory made for many years, and, under the system practiced of freely loaning books to be taken from the Library, many have been lost. During the last year the Library Commissioners adopted a rule forbidding the loaning of books from the Library to be taken from the Capitol. The necessity for this was because of complaints from lawyers from various parts of the State who visited Trenton to consult books known to be in the Library, only to find that their journeys were useless because the books had been borrowed.

The last printed catalogue of the books in the Library was made in 1853. In 1862 a new catalogue was prepared, but never printed. Since then the only sources of information concerning the books have been the written catalogues, kept in the Law and General Libraries, and the annual reports of the Librarians. The written catalogues soon become so defaced by corrections and interlineations as to be of little use excepting to the assistants who make the entries and changes. To make a new printed catalogue would cost several thousand dollars and consume years of time, and after it had been printed it would be inaccurate by reason of the additions made during the period of time required for the printing. The card catalogue system is being adopted by libraries generally as the best method of keeping a record of the contents of a library. It consists of a series of cards containing the titles of the books and the names of their authors, arranged alphabetically. There are several schemes in operation in connection with the system, all of which have champions, but the simplest seems to be that known as a "dictionary catalogue." To introduce the system would require the expenditure of \$4,000 or \$5,000, and a year or so of time, the length of time depending on the number of persons engaged in the work of classification and writing the cards.

The limited experience of the present Librarian makes him diffident about recommending the introduction of a new system, particularly as it will be much easier to work along under the crude system now in operation; but it appears to be a matter of duty for him to bring the subject to the attention of the Legislature. If the system is to be changed, the sooner it is done the better, as the yearly increase in the number of books will make the work more difficult, and there is apparently no escape from the change in the near future. Nearly all of the work in connection with the change could be

done by the present Library force, but for the reason that it would be prolonged beyond a reasonable time because of other demands upon them. After a better scheme of classification and cataloguing has been adopted the basis will be laid for indexing which will render available a wealth of historical interest contained in some of the old volumes.

Of the \$3,000 appropriated annually for the purchase and care of books, about \$1,800 was spent during the past year for the purchase of law books and law magazines, about \$875 for books, magazines and newspapers for the General Library, and the remainder for binding and repairing. About three-fourths of the amount paid for law books, or \$1,316, was for "continuations," to keep up the series of reports, digests and magazines already in the Law Library, and a little less than \$500 for law text books. Of the \$875 spent in the General Library, about \$250 went for "continuations" of books, magazines and newspapers to keep up the sets, and about \$625 for miscellaneous books having value as works of reference or dealing with New Jersey State or local history.

Some books and pamphlets having considerable historical value have been published at the expense of the State, copies of which have reached the State Library only by purchase, and some are still missing. There are also annual reports of State organizations which are valuable, copies of which are occasionally received. Papers read before various societies, conventions and public gatherings often contain facts and figures concerning local and State history that are of great value, but in few cases printed copies reach the State Library save by purchase or accident. An effort has been made to secure the co-operation of those concerned in order that the Library may be benefited, and reference is made to the fact here in order that the aid of others may be enlisted, and a copy of every printed book or pamphlet having historical reference to the affairs of the State or any of its municipalities or people, or having genealogical value, may find its way into the State Library. The interest in genealogy has been greatly increased in recent years by the formation of patriotic organizations, and many demands are made on the Library for books on the subject.

During the Summer considerable progress was made on the work of cataloguing the New Jersey books, pamphlets and newspapers in the General Library, which will soon be finished, and many of the pamphlets classified and bound into volumes. The work was discontinued by reason of the demands of the Traveling Library system about to be operated.