

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN OF NEW
JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR
1895**

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Annual Report of the State Librarian of New Jersey, for the year 1895 by New Jersey State Library

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NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

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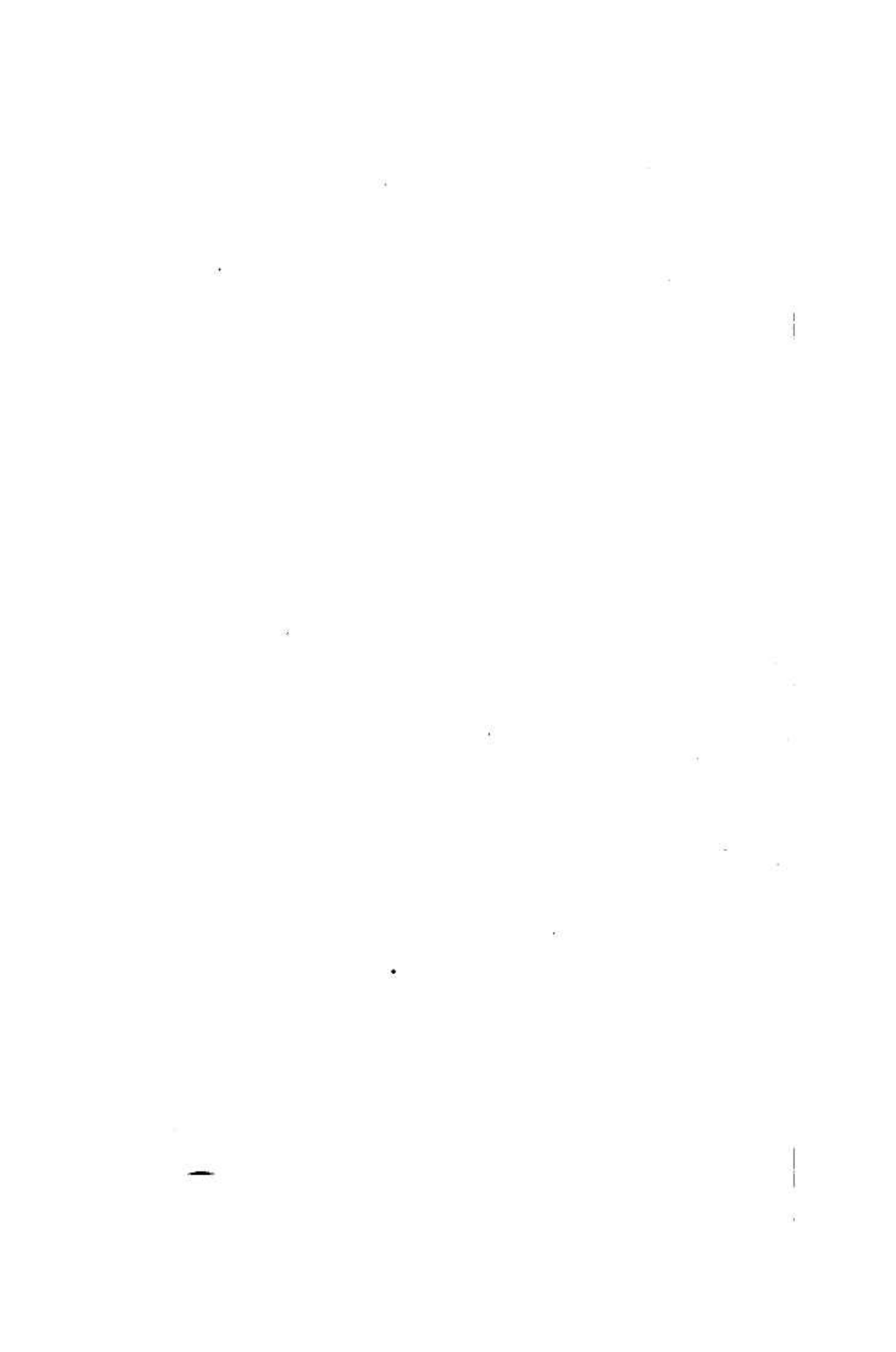


TRENTON, N. J.:
THE JOHN L. MURPHY PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS.
1896.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LIBRARY.

GOVERNOR, GEORGE T. WERTS.
CHANCELLOR, ALEXANDER T. MCGILL, JR.
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ATTORNEY-GENERAL, JOHN P. STOCKTON.

LIBRARIAN, MORRIS B. HAMILTON AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.



REPORT.

OFFICE OF THE
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN.
TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 1st, 1895.

*To His Excellency George T. Werts, 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, 1895.

At the time of my last annual report, the number of books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers in the State Library was 43,388. Last October, however, at the request of the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, D. C., I returned to him 445 duplicate United States Documents, thus diminishing the total number of books in the Library by that amount, leaving the real number 42,943. During the past year the following additions have been made by exchange with the General Government, the States and Territories and Canada, donation and purchase, as more particularly specified in the Appendix :

By exchange from other States, Territories and Canada..	498
By exchange from the United States.....	898
By individual donations, books, pamphlets, &c.....	195
By individual donations, newspapers.....	84
By subscription, papers and magazines.....	34
By purchase, miscellaneous books.....	257
By purchase, law books.....	656
From the State, bound volumes.....	200
Total additions.....	2,322

Making the whole number of books, &c., now in the Library, 45,265.

This extraordinary increase, which has been accomplished without exceeding the annual appropriation, places the Library beyond the 45,000 mark, and maintains its reputation of being first class both in Law and Miscellany. Among the most important law books added to

the Library, are the following: "American Decisions," "American Reports" and "American State Reports," "The New York Supplement," "The Reports" (London, England), "English Ruling Cases" and "Chitty's English Statutes," all of which are highly appreciated by the bar. In the Miscellaneous Department may be mentioned: "The Egyptian Book of the Dead," "Freeman's Norman Conquest," "Beacon Lights of History," "Larned's History of Ready Reference," "Ridpath's Great Races of the World," "Hakluyt's Early Voyages to America," "Spofford's Library of Historical Characters," "Von Holtz's History of the French Revolution," "Hunter's Encyclopædic Dictionary," "Foester's Medical Dictionary," "Farrow's Military Encyclopædia," "Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary," "Johnson's Cyclopædia," "Say's Entomology and Conchology of the United States."

These books of reference, in connection with our full list of encyclopædias, were found to be absolutely necessary to the needs of the hosts of pupils of the State and public schools that constantly crowd the Library, to solve the curious problems propounded by their teachers. It is quite interesting to see forty or fifty scholars, in profound silence, busily engaged in making their notes and extracts from these books, as they do every afternoon from four to six o'clock. In fact, as intimated in my last report, teachers and scholars seem to appreciate the difference between a circulating library, of light literature, and a purely reference library, where all the leading works of science, art, history, philosophy, religion, travels and biography, may be consulted under favorable auspices.

In this connection, I may be excused for alluding to an incipient attempt to establish a "State Traveling Library," similar to that in New York, especially as I understand that my opposition to such a scheme has caused some opprobrious criticism on the part of certain leading literateurs. When addressed upon the subject, I stated, in effect, that Traveling Libraries were only intended for the benefit of persons devoted to novel and magazine reading, by whom our books would be repudiated as heavy and uninteresting. Besides, we could not run the risk of letting our expensive reference-works leave the library—in addition to the fact that they are constantly needed on the shelves for daily work of students and other workers.

Under the title of "University Regents," with an unlimited fund, the State of New York last year controlled "102 Traveling Libraries

of about 100 volumes each, sent to 78 places, on the application of 34 Public Libraries, 27 groups of taxpayers, 15 university extension centers and 2 individual borrowers." All very nice, but at the same time we are told by the report of the Regents of 1894 that "The State Library at Albany welcomes all to its spacious reading-rooms, but lends books only to members of the State Government, to those in the various State departments, to institutions of the university and to a limited class holding special cards," which is very similar to the regulations of the "State Library of New Jersey." If we had an "unlimited fund" (instead of the \$3,000 a year appropriation for books), we might be willing to buy 20 or 30 copies of all the issues of current literature with which to supply a "Traveling Library," but under existing circumstances, we are compelled to content ourselves with expending our finances for the purchase of books of reference and law, for the exclusive benefit of our visitors.

Shortly after the closing of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, Mrs. W. A. Roebling, of Trenton, and Mrs. M. T. Yardley, of Orange, a committee of the New Jersey Commissioners, deposited with the Library, for safe keeping, a large number of books edited and published by New Jersey residents, which had been a part of the State exhibition. We devoted a revolving book case to their use, Mrs. Roebling furnishing locks and keys for their protection, and a catalogue of the books, alphabetically arranged according to authors, will be found in Appendix, No. 2. These works, like those of the State Medical Society, in another case, are not intended for the use of the public, except through permission of the Commissioners. The exhibit, as will be seen by the catalogue, is quite unique, and probably in the near future will be rated as a remarkable curiosity. It certainly is worth protection, as a rare collection of the products of the literary genius of the State.

We are grateful to the 84 editors of county weekly papers who supply us regularly with their issues, and we know they would be equally gratified if they could witness the interest taken in them by pupils of the State schools and business colleges, as well as by transient visitors from all parts of the State.

During the year 115 books and 10 newspaper files have been bound, and 215 books and 3 newspaper files have been repaired.

Of course there is a large number of persons who daily visit the Library on "sight-seeing" expeditions, some of whom register and

others do not. Of those that registered last year, there were 3,060—being 450 more than the previous year—showing that the Library still retains its interest, even among those who do not use its treasures.

The accompanying Appendix presents an itemized statement of the additions to the Library since my last report.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS R. HAMILTON,

State Librarian.