

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

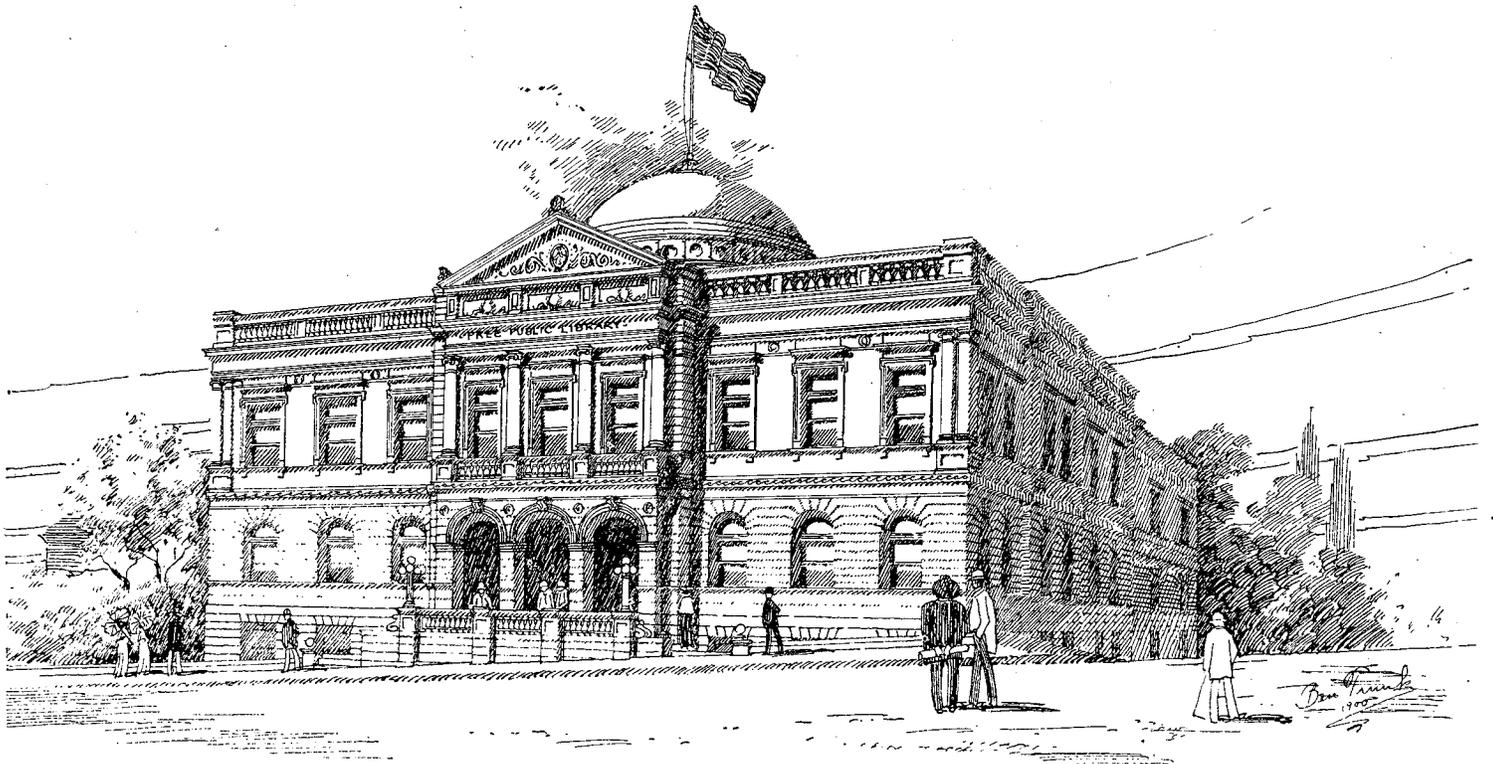
OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Fiscal Year Ending  
April 30, 1900.



PROPOSED FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

*E. J. Lusk, Archt.*

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

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OFFICERS.

President .....J. W. Atwill  
Vice-President ..... John M. Stewart  
Secretary and Treasurer .....Charles A. Pfeiffer

DIRECTORS.

Term Expiring 1900.	Term Expiring 1901.	Term Expiring 1902.
J. W. Atwill.	Dr. J. B. Riley.	H. K. White.
L. M. Smith,	John M. Stewart,	Charles A. Pfeiffer,
James A. McEvoy.	Charles P. Cargill.	James H. McCord.

COMMITTEES.

LIBRARY—White, Atwill, McEvoy.  
ADMINISTRATION—Stewart, Smith, Cargill.  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS—Riley, Pfeiffer, McCord.  
FINANCE—Pfeiffer, Smith, Cargill.  
BY-LAWS—McEvoy, White, Stewart.

LIBRARY EMPLOYES.

Purd B. Wright, Librarian.  
Lulu C. Senter, Assistant Librarian.  
General Assistants—Annie M. Perry, Cornelia L. Rathbun, Eudora  
Martin, Miranda Olds.  
Messenger—Roy Whitmore.  
Janitor—F. G. Burgderfer.

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JOHN DECLUE,

A member of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph since 1891, and President since 1896, departed this life on the 23d day of October, 1899.

The surviving members adopt this minute for preservation upon the records of the Board.

We recognize his faithful services while one of our number; he was punctual and regular in his attendance upon meetings of the Board; he was painstaking in ascertaining the needs of the library, and wise in his counsels. Clearness of his own convictions did not prevent him from being patient during discussions when differing views were presented and argued. As presiding officer, he was courteous and just in all of his rulings.

He was an earnest believer in the library, and was glad to plan for its enlargement and perpetuity, and he hoped much for its increasing value as an educational force in the community.

We have parted from him with sincere sorrow, knowing that we shall miss his presence from our councils; and we assure his family of our unfeigned sympathies.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors. November 9, 1899.

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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

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To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: In presenting this, the tenth, annual report of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, being for the year ending April 30, 1900, I cannot refrain from congratulating the people on their recognition of the urgent need of this institution for a permanent home, and expressing a feeling of gratification at the unanimity of opinion as shown at the polls on the proposition which carried \$100,000 in bonds for a library building containing the offices of the school board. The fact that the building to be erected was made possible by the action of the school authorities in submitting the question to the people, when the library is in no way officially connected with the schools, is a great compliment to the library, and is taken to mean that the work of this institution on educational lines meets with recognition and approval, while the large vote cast for it in the midst of a hardly contested political campaign, but two days after another special election, indicates the high regard in which it is held by the people.

While everyone who has been connected with the library from its inception is entitled to his or her full share of the credit for the happy result, it is perhaps not invidious to say that to the energy and strong personal interest shown by the present librarian, Mr. Wright, are present conditions largely due. To his many hours of careful planning, anxious work and zealous efforts to interest the people, I bear cheerful witness.

Results obtained show an increase in the usefulness of the library, as will be seen by a perusal of the reports herewith presented.

The librarian calls attention to one fact in his report which is worthy of careful consideration, and that is the lack of means to place library work in St. Joseph at least on a par with other cities of similar size—to make it more fully meet the wants of an intelligent and discriminating public. In calling attention to the large yearly circulation of the volumes comprising this library, it is said to be not necessarily complimentary to St. Joseph, as it does not also mean a large use of books by our people, while it does indicate unmistakably too few books to meet the demand, and that these few are kept in too active use. This is only to be remedied by asking for and securing a larger proportion of taxes paid into the general administration fund of the city. The field the library is attempting to occupy grows more rapidly than does the library, and this institution, instead of leading, as it should, is at times forced to its utmost in the endeavor to keep up.

I believe that many books now practically useless in the hands of many people in St. Joseph, through having been read and laid aside, or outgrown, or for other reasons are not used, would be of great assistance to the public through being given to the library, and think some effort should be made to make this fact generally known.

## REPORT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

All over the country libraries are being recognized almost daily as most worthy means through which to benefit the masses through endowments and bequests to be expended in their behalf, and it is to be hoped that the St. Joseph library will not be among the last to be used in furtherance of such a worthy purpose. To some of our citizens of means it should appear a pleasure to aid in the work of education and general progress attempted through the local library.

In the death of President John DeClue, last fall, the Board of Directors of this library lost a most active and interested member, wise counselor, and just presiding officer. The resolutions adopted at the meeting following his death accompany these reports as a small tribute to his long service and known interest in the library's work.

With the new building, situated more centrally, there will unquestionably be an increase in the demands made upon the public library, and with this in view we ask that any efforts which may be made in the future looking to an increase in the amount to be set aside for library use, be accorded your hearty and undivided support.

The reports which follow give in detail all the operations of the library, including its use, cost of operating, and some earnest recommendations. Their careful perusal is respectfully requested. Very truly,

J. W. ATWILL,

President Board of Directors, Public Library.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: Herewith is submitted a detailed report of the financial transactions of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library during the fiscal year ending April 16th, 1900, embracing all receipts and expenditures from the 17th of April, 1899, to the 16th of April, 1900:

## DETAILS OF STATEMENT BY TREASURER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—SCHEDULE A.

The amount of money in the hands of the City Treasurer, collected and available for library purposes at the close of the fiscal year being insufficient to meet the April expenditures of the Library Board, it was decided by the Library Directors in session to take from its Special Revenue Fund the amount necessary to cover the deficiency, and pay same over to the City Treasurer. This was done April 15th, 1899,

The amount being .....	\$	154 69
The City Treasurer then paid outstanding vouchers dated April 13th, 1899, in favor of		
A. C. McClurg & Co., for books .....	\$	69 82
Chas. Scribner & Sons, for books .....		3 32
William Schroeder, for books .....		2 40
W. B. McNutt, for binding .....		41 55
Hyatt Coal Co., for coal .....		21 15
Library Bureau, for supplies .....		16 45
	\$	154 69
	\$	154 69

## EXPLANATION OF COMPTROLLER'S MONTHLY STATEMENT OF MAY 31, 1899.—SCHEDULE B.

Contains an unexpended appropriation from expired fiscal year of \$55.00, in hands of City Treasurer, belonging to the Free Public Library, and noted as "Transfers added" in Comptroller's statement of May 31, 1899 .....	\$	55 00
This sum was absorbed by outstanding vouchers in favor of		
April 13, 1899. Due Burnes estate for rent .....	\$	50 00
Due Granville Adkins for books....		2 00
Due Lon Hardman for printing....		3 00
	\$	55 00
	\$	55 00

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TREASURER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE STATEMENT SHOWN BY CITY COMPTROLLER ON MAY 31, 1899.—SCHEDULE C.

Comptroller shows amount apportioned for Library purposes, \$7,200.00, and of this sum collected .....	\$ 4,250 12
The above sum represents two items, viz.:	
A check dated April 15th, 1899, in favor of Rice D. Gilkey, City Treasurer, upon the National Bank of St. Joseph, issued by the Treasurer of the Free Public Library .....	\$ 154 69
And collections from taxes .....	4,095 43
	\$ 4,250 12    \$ 4,250 12

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.—RECEIPTS.—SCHEDULE D.

Receipts from tax collections, upon an apportionment made by the Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., of \$7,200.00, and placed to the credit of the Free Public Library as collected:

1899 May 31, In hands of City Treasurer, see Schedule A.....	\$ 154 69
May 31, Collections .....	4,095 43
June .....	371 30
July .....	317 44
August .....	550 80
September .....	376 56
October .....	373 75
November .....	410 49
December .....	162 79
1900 January .....	222 91
February .....	200 45
March and April .....	118 17
April 4th, deposited with City Treasurer amount received from Treasurer Free Public Library.....	475 00
	\$ 7,829 69

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.—DISBURSEMENTS.—SCHEDULE E.

Expenditures embracing salaries, rent, fuel, water and coal, the purchase of books, periodicals and magazines, cost of binding and for sundry supplies needed, all accounted for in detail on separate vouchers, endorsed by the Finance Committee of the Free Public Library, approved by its President, and on file with the Auditor of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.

Unpaid April vouchers, see Schedule A.....	\$ 154 69
1899 May vouchers .....	599 99
June vouchers .....	611 26
July vouchers .....	624 09
August vouchers .....	709 87
September vouchers .....	562 41
October vouchers .....	613 36
November vouchers .....	740 87
December vouchers .....	593 37
1900 January vouchers .....	601 22
February vouchers .....	673 56
March vouchers .....	641 28
April vouchers .....	703 68
	\$ 7,829 65

RECAPITULATION.

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.—SCHEDULE F.

April 12, 1900. Last year's balance to cover vouchers as per Schedule A.....	\$ 154 69
Received from Tax Collections, as per Schedule D .....	7,200 00
Deposited with City Treasurer check on Special Revenue Acct. ....	475 00
Paid outstanding vouchers from last fiscal year, as per Schedule .....	\$ 154 69
Paid vouchers as per Schedule....	7,674 96
Balance in City Treasury to the credit of the Free Public Library .....	04
	\$ 7,829 69    \$ 7,829 69

## SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.—SCHEDULE G.

Amount turned over to Treasurer Chas. A. Pfeiffer by Purd E. Wright, Librarian, from receipts accruing to Special Revenue Account.

1899	May	11.	Received from Librarian.....	\$ 15 00	
	June	8.	Received from Librarian.....	25 00	
	July	15.	Received from Librarian.....	32 00	
	Aug.	14.	Received from Librarian.....	25 00	
	Sept.	14.	Received from Librarian.....	35 00	
	Oct.	12.	Received from Librarian.....	25 00	
	Nov.	9.	Received from Librarian.....	33 00	
	Dec.	14.	Received from Librarian.....	30 00	
1900	Jan.	11.	Received from Librarian.....	25 00	
	Feb.	8.	Received from Librarian.....	30 00	
	Mar.	8.	Received from Librarian.....	30 00	
	Apl.	12.	Received from Librarian.....	38 00	
					\$ 343 00

## SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.—SCHEDULE H.

1899.	May 1.	Amount on hand, deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph .....	\$ 185 31
	May 1.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	15 00
	May 9.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	25 00
	July 18.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	32 00
	Aug. 14.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	25 00
	Sept. 15.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	35 00
	Oct. 17.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	25 00
	Nov. 13.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	33 00
	Dec. 15.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	30 00
1900.	Jan. 12.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	25 00
	Feb. 9.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	30 00
	Mar. 9.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	30 00
	Apl. 12.	Deposited in National Bank of St. Joseph.....	38 00
			\$ 343 00
			\$ 528 31
	Apl. 4, 1900,	gave check on National Bank of St. Joseph for City Treasurer .....	475 00
			\$ 53 31

## SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE I.

The revenue herein accounted for is collected by the Librarian and his assistants, and reported to the Board of Directors by the Librarian at each monthly meeting:

Received from	Fines	Supplements	Catalogues	Miscel.	Dup. Books	
1899						
May .....	\$25.72		\$*2.65	\$ 5.70		
June .....	33.92		*2.55	7.06		
July .....	37.70	\$ 1.35	3.75	6.18		
August .....	25.22	1.80	4.50	8.13		
September .....	38.72	1.00	3.15	10.63		
October .....	28.56	1.00	1.65	10.17		
November .....	30.00	1.45	3.30	12.40		
December .....	39.56	1.55	3.75	9.14		
1900						
January .....	36.64	1.15	2.70	2.35		
February .....	26.21	2.00	5.70	7.91	\$ 4.30	
March .....	33.08	1.85	4.35	4.39	5.90	
April .....	33.65	1.15	4.80	14.20	8.90	
		\$388.89	\$14.30	\$42.85	\$98.26	\$19.10

\* Catalogues and supplements.

## RECAPITULATION.

From Fines .....	\$388.89
From Supplements .....	14.30
From Catalogues .....	42.85
From Miscellaneous .....	98.26
Duplicate Books .....	19.10
	\$563.40

REPORT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—DISBURSEMENTS—  
SCHEDULE J.

Disbursements by Librarian from Special Revenue Fund and reported to the Board of Directors by him at each monthly meeting:

1899.	
May 11.	Incidental Expenses .....\$ 17.59
June 8.	Incidental Expenses ..... 16.56
July 15.	Incidental Expenses ..... 16.45
Aug. 10.	Incidental Expenses ..... 15.71
Sept. 14.	Incidental Expenses ..... 13.31
Oct. 12.	Incidental Expenses ..... 17.12
Nov. 12.	Incidental Expenses ..... 14.96
Dec. 14.	Incidental Expenses ..... 21.16
1900.	
Jan. 11.	Incidental Expenses ..... 21.47
Feb. 8.	Incidental Expenses ..... 16.10
Mar. 8.	Incidental Expenses ..... 17.23
Apr. 12.	Incidental Expenses ..... 24.86
	\$ 212.52

RECAPITULATION—SCHEDULE K.  
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

May 1, 1899.	Balance on hand with Librarian .....	\$ 2.49	
	Receipts as per Schedule I.....	563.40	
	Incidental Expenses, as per Schedule J..		\$ 212.52
	Deposited with Treasurer Chas. A. Pfeiffer		343.60
	Balance on hand with Librarian.....		10.37
		\$ 565.89	\$ 565.89

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,  
Treasurer.

State of Missouri, }  
County of Buchanan, } ss.

Before me, J. C. Hedenberg, a Notary Public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Charles A. Pfeiffer, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures above set forth are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 8th day of May, 1900.

(Seal.)

J. C. HEDENBERG,  
Notary Public.

My commission expires November 13th, 1901.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: As required by your by-laws, I herewith present the annual report of the Librarian, covering the work of the Free Public Library for the tenth year of its existence, closing April 30, 1900. It is the fourth report which I have presented.

In a general way, the work has been satisfactory. It is believed that the results obtained will compare not unfavorably with other libraries laboring under similar restrictions. A great deal has been attempted in various directions, and this report will endeavor to show, briefly, what has been accomplished.

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.—CIRCULATION.

The library contains 18,382 volumes, representing a growth for the year of 1,124. Number of volumes issued for home use, 109,939, as against 104,146 the previous year, being an increase of 5,739. In the number of volumes issued from the circulating department for use in the library, an increase of 31.1 per cent is noted. The growth in circulation was not unexpected, as during the previous year the library was closed two weeks on account of the epidemic of diphtheria. It has developed that that closing resulted in a harm which it will take time to correct. The order closing the library called the attention of many people to the fact that the board of health thought there was danger in circulating books during even a mild form of epidemic, and now at every report of several cases of a contagious disease in any portion of the city, a marked falling off in the use of the library from that neighborhood is at once noted. The library has just experienced such a scare, more general in nature than usual, several cases of smallpox having been reported, and as a result the circulation for the month of April showed a decided falling off. It is the first month since September failing to show an increase when compared with the corresponding period of the year previous. The library force explains the plan of receiving daily reports from the health department, and the handling of suspected books, but it seems to have little effect.

The apparent increase in the percentage of fiction, while small, will be understood when it is known that heretofore the total circulation of books in the German language, on account of not being classified, have been entered under the separate heading, "German books." This circulation is now, as has been heretofore, almost entirely from the fiction department. This year the record of the circulation of these books is included in the regular classes.

## CARD HOLDERS.

The number of actual card holders is 4,611, an increase of 327 for the year. This increase may be reasonably accounted for by extra efforts through the schools, and the extension of the city limits.

## SCHOOL WORK.

Work with the schools has progressed favorably, and better results have been obtained than heretofore. The lack of a sufficient number of books to place special collections in the different schools, or to permit the teachers to have books for school use on special cards, necessitated other means being tried. The experiment of last year, that of preparing (with the aid of committees of teachers) a graded list of books, was extended, to include books suitable for pupils in grades four to eight. The expense of printing this list, purchasing the machine slugs for future use, and placing a copy thereof in the hands of each pupil in the grades designated, with other copies for special use, was borne by the school board. This is notable as the first contribution from this source to library work in St. Joseph. Results were highly pleasing, the increase in the number of patrons being largely from the schools, while the use of books in the history classes increased 44.77 per cent, with proportionate gains in the use of books in literature, travel, natural science, etc. The offer of a number of prizes by myself, with the full approval of the school authorities, was possibly partly responsible for this showing. Final results will not be known for some weeks.

## BULLETIN LISTS.

The usual number of bulletins, compiled from newspaper machine slugs (after publication in the St. Joseph Daily Herald and St. Joseph Daily Gazette), have been issued, and a second supplement to the finding list will be ready within a few weeks. The lists of most importance issued during the year comprised one on South Africa, first having been published in all the daily newspapers of the city, and a special list of books for business men, compiled originally for the economic league, and published in the St. Joseph Daily News. The slugs were in each instance loaned to the library without charge.

## REVISION OF CARD CATALOGUE.

The most important strictly library work is that now nearing completion on the card catalogue. No attempt was made to keep track of the actual number of cards written in making it a complete author, title and class catalogue of the contents of the library, but the fact that 3,453 guide cards and 21,000 regular cards were used (which takes no account of many cards corrected and old cards written on reverse side), some idea of its magnitude may be had. This work has

been under the direct supervision of Miss Lulu C. Senter, assistant librarian, and to her energy may be attributed the large amount of work done. The cards were written on the machine by Misses Olds and Martin. Of course it is understood that this work was in connection with regular library duties, none of which were neglected.

## REFERENCE ROOM.

The volumes in the reference room have been catalogued, and a new shelf list is nearly completed. This room is still absolutely open to the public, without the slightest safeguard or surveillance, and this fact has again been taken advantage of by dishonest persons, who have stolen five volumes. Those missing are Electrical Dictionary, Italian-English Dictionary, Laws of Mines and Mining, Dictionary of United States History, and Handbook of European History. The steady increase in the use of this department is noted, both by pupils in the schools and the general public.

## SPECIAL DUPLICATES.

The inability of the library to supply a sufficient number of copies of late popular books led to a trial of the plan inaugurated in the St. Louis Public Library by Mr. F. M. Crunden a number of years ago, and still in successful operation, that of purchasing extra copies which are issued only on the payment of a small sum. An extra card was devised, and these are sold to regular patrons at ten cents each, upon which one book from the special duplicate collection may be secured and retained two weeks, thus leaving the regular card free for any purpose wished. The first purchase embraced copies of "David Harum" (Westcott), "Richard Carvel" (Churchill), "Janice Merideth" (Ford), "When Knighthood was in Flower" (Major), followed later by "In Connection with the DeWilloughby Claim" (Burnett), "To Have and to Hold" (Johnston), "Red Pottage" (Cholmondeley), "Gentleman from Indiana" (Tarkington), and one or two others, at a total cost of \$42.06, with a return of \$24.30, the books still in active demand and in good condition. The experiment has been very successful, and will be extended as occasion warrants. It is destined to bring relief to the fiction department, and at little or no expense to the library. It has met with the hearty approval of library patrons, except that a sufficient number of copies have in no instance been supplied to meet the demand.

## DELIVERY STATIONS.

There is steady growth in the use of the delivery stations and a constant call for more of them. The increase in number of volumes issued through these was 1,227, or 22 per cent. Station No. 1, located in North St. Joseph, has been removed to a more populous neighborhood, while still serving the same section. It is now located in the store of John Moeck, 1828 St. Joseph avenue. Mr. Moeck takes a warm personal interest in library work. Stations 2 (Wyatt Park) and 3 (South Park) are unchanged, being

still in charge of Mr. Koch and Dr. Feltenstein, respectively. These gentlemen have conducted these stations without charge for nearly three years, and continue as active in the good work as ever. Station 4, recently established in the store of Mr. J. J. Field, 2615 Frederick avenue, is becoming popular, and supplies the wants of an extensive territory. Station 5, just established in the stock yards district, promises to become the most extensively used station operated by the library. An interesting experiment is being watched in connection with this station, being the establishment of a reading room. The station and reading room is operated at the expense of the members of Gooding Chapel, of which Rev. Charles F. Wimberly is pastor, assisted by the business men of that section. The idea is Rev. Wimberly's, and to his progressiveness the success so far attained is due. The reading rooms are very pleasantly arranged, and are open Tuesday and Friday mornings for the receipt of books to be forwarded to the library, and each afternoon and evening from 2 to 10 o'clock. The library is doing all it can to make the station and reading room attractive, having placed a number of periodicals at the disposal of those conducting it, and loaned a carefully selected lot of books. 50 volumes. These are to be changed from time to time, and the number increased as the demand warrants. Rev. Wimberly is satisfied with the results so far, and expresses the hope that the library will soon be in position to establish a regular branch library there, his congregation standing ready to erect an additional room, which will be provided free when the library is in condition to furnish books and a trained attendant. That section of the city is growing rapidly, and this is a question which will needs be met.

#### COUNTY USE OF LIBRARY.

As to some outside work attempted, the effort to extend the use of the library to the entire county, for a small consideration, under the provisions of the law heretofore mentioned, was progressing favorably, when plans for securing a new building developed, and this interfered with further progress. A sufficient number of signatures to the petition to meet the requirements of the law have been secured, but it was deemed advisable to secure more than was required by law, and it has not been presented to the county court. It is hoped to have this matter definitely settled before September, so that if a contract is made with the court, time may be had for developing plans to start the work before schools in the country districts open.

#### BINDERY EXPENSE.

Books and periodicals sent to the bindery for binding and rebinding numbered 1,344, and the aggregate cost was \$673.26. This includes a number of volumes which were bound in a style which increased the cost, on account of the value and the large use of the volumes. The bindery bill for the ensuing year is expected to show a further increase, as the number of class books requiring attention grows larger each year. The time is looked forward to when the library will be prepared to operate its own bindery.

#### A WORD IN GENERAL.

The St. Joseph library is possibly among the smallest in point of volumes owned in a city of the size of St. Joseph in the country, and the money at its command accounts for this fact—not being sufficient to permit of its more rapid growth. The large circulation of its few books entails a heavy expense in rebinding and replacing worn-out volumes. This will necessarily continue in an increasing ratio until a larger number of volumes are secured. With the new building, arranged on modern lines, with an eye to economy of administration, it will be possible to handle a much larger circulation than at present without a proportionate increase in the number of employes; but in order to obtain the highest results it will be necessary to have more books.

The library has had an extensive use since its opening early in 1891, the volumes in the circulating department being in especial demand, the average issue being over eight times a year. This does not indicate anything further than a most active circulation of a comparatively few books, and rare patience on the part of its patrons.

During the last four years nearly 3,000 volumes have been withdrawn, mostly worn out, being 21 per cent of the number at present in the circulating department; for the year just closed withdrawals were 7 per cent.

A lack of means prevents the development of the work of the library in any direction to its fullest extent. While it has done, and is doing, much with the money used, it can hardly be said to more than touch upon the opportunities open to it. In no way has it been possible to occupy any field completely without neglecting some other work, possibly as important. In school work better results have been obtained than in any other direction, because special efforts have been made to this end. Even here real workers are not satisfied, and cannot be, for they see what great results are obtained with so little effort and the use of a comparatively small amount of money. Outside of work on educational lines, practically all effort to increase circulation (merely as circulation) have been abandoned, it being deemed unwise and a waste of time to urge the use of the library by general readers when it is all but impossible to meet their wants.

St. Joseph presents a wide field for library work, in that there are no educational institutions in the city outside the public schools and schools of like nature (parochial, Christian Brothers' College, Sacred Heart Convent), and every effort should be made to fill it.

Conservative estimates of the population of the city place it at from 75,000 to 85,000 inhabitants. The present library revenue, therefore, indicates a cost for conducting it of less than 10 cents per inhabitant. The new library law, the evident interest of the people in the library, point to the only solution of the problem.

In closing, I wish to again express my thanks to the members of the board for their kindly consideration at all times, and to acknowledge the great help of those connected with me in all library work.

Following will be found (1) the financial statement of the librarian, (2) accessions, (3) circulation statistics, (4) list of donors, (5) list of bound magazines in reference room, and, after the committee reports, a brief sketch of the work of the library during its ten years' existence, with a list of library publications, etc. Respectfully submitted,

PURD B. WRIGHT, Librarian.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

State of Missouri, }  
County of Buchanan, } ss.

Before me, Edward S. Douglas, a notary public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Purd B. Wright, librarian of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures herein relating to receipts and expenditures, contents of library, books added and withdrawn, are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

EDWARD S. DOUGLAS,

Notary Public.

(Seal.)

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of May, 1900. Commission expires Nov. 16, 1900.

(1)—FINANCIAL.

DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES.

Salaries library employes .....	\$ 3,949 00
Books .....	1,421 40
Periodicals .....	343 62
Binding .....	673 26
Rent .....	450 00
Heat .....	144 47
Janitor Service .....	229 00
Printing and Stationery .....	85 70
Postage .....	20 00
Furniture .....	84 75
Repairs .....	58 10
Insurance .....	75 00
Miscellaneous .....	144 66

\$ 7,674 96

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS.

RECEIPTS.

Brought forward .....	\$ 2 49
Received from fines .....	388 89
Catalogues and supplements .....	57 15
Special books .....	19 10
Miscellaneous sources .....	98 26

\$ 565 89

DISBURSEMENTS.

Deposited with Treasurer .....	\$ 343 00
*Incidental expenses .....	212 52
Forward .....	10 37

\$ 565 89

\*The incidental expense account includes all postage of the library other than printed postal cards, freight, cartage and express on books, delivery station expenses, the purchase of ink, pens, pencils and like small supplies.

(2)—ACCESSIONS.

Number volumes reported April 30, 1899.....	17,256
Volumes reported missing, since found .....	2 17,258
Accessions year ending April 30, 1900:	
Purchased .....	1,429
Periodicals bound .....	214
Donations classified .....	135
Deposited by government .....	269 2,047
Less withdrawals:	
Worn out .....	887
Lost and paid for .....	15
Exchanged .....	7
Missing .....	14 923
Net increase for the year .....	1,124
Total volumes now in library .....	18,382

ACCESSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS CLASSIFIED FOR YEAR  
ENDING APRIL 30, 1900.

	Accessions.	Withdrawals.	Net Gain.
General .....	20	0	20
Philosophy .....	28	1	27
Theology .....	29	3	26
Sociology .....	64	0	64
Philology .....	6	0	6
Natural Science .....	68	2	66
Useful Arts .....	25	3	22
Fine Arts .....	29	3	26
Literature .....	53	17	36
Poetry and Drama .....	23	1	22
Travel .....	98	11	87
Biography .....	76	10	66
History .....	160	13	147
Bound Periodicals, reference .....	197	15	182
Other Reference Volumes .....	26	0	26
Fiction .....	876	826	50
Government Deposit .....	269	0	269
	<u>2,047</u>	<u>905</u>	<u>1,142</u>

(3)—CLASSIFIED TABLE OF CIRCULATION.

CLASS	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total	Per Cent
General .....	61	59	59	45	59	63	38	60	61	82	94	56	752	04.82
Philosophy .....	54	45	45	40	39	51	35	39	54	33	59	53	571	
Religion .....	28	47	47	66	52	91	64	56	65	75	81	63	742	
Sociology .....	57	64	61	60	56	52	60	37	64	60	85	59	714	
Philology .....	7	6	3	8	6	5	6	7	6	3	5	6	63	
Natural Science .....	75	73	67	96	53	79	111	88	103	109	133	90	1077	
Useful Arts .....	43	43	35	47	30	45	43	56	56	36	57	48	553	
Fine Arts .....	65	76	57	77	65	61	69	66	80	66	76	62	810	
Travel .....	372	297	297	276	238	336	496	427	504	353	455	353	4332	
Literature .....	193	177	182	186	158	337	353	296	334	266	310	218	2983	
Poetry and Drama .....	180	105	105	88	73	160	233	197	224	189	209	187	1901	
Biography .....	195	191	191	188	160	608	630	511	486	401	482	283	4399	
History .....	334	290	305	124	228	329	323	289	340	303	341	316	3727	
Periodicals .....	334	290	305	273	253	329	323	289	340	303	341	316	3727	
Fiction .....	6751	7123	7388	8183	6695	6371	6190	6426	7918	7517	8766	6970	87250	
Total .....	8276	8605	9325	9648	8035	8808	8882	8555	10295	9493	11153	8764	109339	100.00
Use in Library from Ref. Department .....	271	200	36	36	91	135	224	210	259	189	204	105	2070	
Grand Total .....	8647	8805	9361	9734	8126	8943	9106	8775	10554	9682	11357	8869	112009	
No. Days Open .....	96	26	23	27	25	36	25	25	26	25	27	25	307	
Average Daily use Circulating Department .....	322	331	373	357	321	333	336	342	336	412	413	350	364	

## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: Additions to the library during the year aggregate 2,047, as follows: 1,429 purchased, 214 periodicals bound, 135 donations classified, and 269 deposited by the United States Government. Withdrawals were 923, of which 887 were worn out, 7 partial set withdrawn and replaced by complete set, 15 lost and paid for, 14 missing. The library now contains 18,382 volumes.

Continued care is exercised in the purchase of books for the use of the public. The constant endeavor is to make the growth of the different library departments as uniform as possible, while at the same time meeting the wants and real needs of its patrons.

This committee has done its utmost to improve the taste of the general reader by endeavoring to supply them with the best books published, within its means, while dropping from the library shelves volumes of less merit. Every effort is made to supply the student in any department with the volumes absolutely necessary for a correct understanding of the subject under his consideration. Especial attention has been paid to completing some important sets of periodicals indexed in Poole, with fairly satisfactory results, while other sets have been added. The most important of this latter class is the Magazine of American History, Chautauquan, Author (donated), Hours at Home (donated). The report of the librarian shows the magazines now in the reference room, the complete sets being indicated.

The hope is again expressed that, in consideration of the work it is attempting, the library will be considered worthy of endowment in some of its departments by citizens of St. Joseph.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. McEVOY,  
J. W. ATWILL,  
H. K. WHITE,  
Library Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: The report of the Treasurer of the Board and of the Librarian have been examined and found to be correct, setting forth in detail the receipts and expenditures for the year, together with all the financial transactions.

The apportionment of funds for library purposes for the year just begun has been made by the finance committee of the city council, and amounts to \$7,500, an increase of \$300 apportioned last year. This was the sum asked for, the many demands upon the city for money being the reason this committee did not attempt to secure a greater sum.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,  
C. F. CARGILL,  
LEWIS M. SMITH,  
Finance Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

## REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library.

Gentlemen: An examination, made at the usual time, shows the general condition of the library to be as good as circumstances will permit. The rooms and shelves are over-crowded, but in view of the hope that the new building will be ready for occupancy within a year, little expense will be incurred to remedy this condition at this time.

The year's statistics show that the number of volumes worn out is again quite large, and from this time will probably gradually increase until the number of volumes in the library is largely added to. The system of repairs, etc., inaugurated under the present administration, and which resulted last year in a large saving in the matter of longer service from the books, has reached the limit, and the old rate of withdrawals will again begin.

The library force has continued unchanged throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN M. STEWART,  
CHAS. P. CARGILL,  
L. M. SMITH,  
Administration Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

## REPORT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: Your committee on building and grounds submits herewith a report of the expenditures in the department under its charge during the year ending April 30, 1900, as required by the by-laws:

Rent .....	\$	50	00
Janitor service .....		229	00
Insurance .....		75	00
Fuel .....		144	47
Furniture .....		84	75
Repairs .....		58	10
Water .....		28	80
Ice .....	5	65	\$ 1,075 77

The increased expenditure for furniture was necessitated by the purchase of a new card-catalogue case. All expenditures were made on approval of the board of directors.

The resignation of David McKinney as janitor was accepted in October, the vacancy being filled by the appointment of F. G. Burgderfer.

As heretofore, the Park Commissioners and Park Superintendent Rau have agreed to furnish plants and flowers for the beautifying of the grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,  
J. B. RILEY,  
Building and Grounds Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1900.

### (4)—DONATIONS.

Vols.	Nos.	Pamp.	NAME.
...	...	1	Aguilar Free Library, N. Y.
...	1	...	Amick, W. K., St. Joseph, Mo.
1	...	...	Atkinson, Edward, Brookline, Mass.
16	...	...	Bender, John C., St. Joseph, Mo.
1	...	...	Benjamin Franklin Statue Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
533	144	100	Bittinger, Maj. J. L., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	4	Board of Trustees, American Printing House for the Blind.
...	...	4	Boston Book Company, Boston, Mass.
...	...	3	Bronson Library, Waterbury, Conn.
...	...	1	Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, Mass.
...	...	3	Buffalo Public Library, Buffalo, N. Y.
12	...	...	Bullard, Rev. Henry, St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	8	Canada Department of Agriculture.
...	...	1	Carnegie Free Library, Alleghany, Pa.

...	...	4	Carnegie Library, Homestead, Pa.
...	...	1	Chicago (Ill.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Cleveland (O.) Public Library.
...	...	2	Dayton (O.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Depew, Chauncey M., New York.
70	...	...	Doniphan, Col. John, St. Joseph, Mo.
75	...	...	Eckel, E. J., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	1	Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.
...	...	2	Erie (Pa.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Evanston (Ill.) Free Public Library.
...	...	1	Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.
...	...	1	Gloversville (N. Y.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Guthrie, Dr. K. S., Oaklyn, N. J.
...	...	6	Hartford (Conn.) Public Library.
...	...	2	Helena (Mont.) Public Library.
10	...	...	Henry, Mrs., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	2	Holman, Glenn O., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	1	1	Houghton, Mifflin and Co., New York.
...	...	7	Indian Rights Association, Philadelphia, Pa.
...	...	1	James Prendergast Free Library, Jamestown, N. Y.
...	...	5	Jersey City (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	...	1	Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library.
...	...	5	Lawrence (Mass.) Public Library.
...	...	2	Library Company of Philadelphia, Pa.
...	...	2	Los Angeles (Cal.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Lynn (Mass.) Public Library.
...	...	5	Madison (Wis.) Public Library.
...	...	3	Melville, Commodore, Geo. W., Washington, D. C.
...	...	1	Mercantile Library, New York.
...	...	5	Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library.
...	...	1	National Education Association.
...	...	8	Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	...	1	Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
...	...	8	New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library.
...	...	2	Newton (Mass.) Free Public Library.
...	...	9	New York Public Library.
...	...	1	New York State College of Forestry.
...	...	1	Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
...	...	6	Omaha (Neb.) Public Library.
...	...	...	Packard, Rev. W. F., St. Joseph, Mo., subscription to the Illustrated American Methodist Monthly.
...	1	4	Park College, Parkville, Mo.
...	...	1	Paterson (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	...	1	Peabody Institute, Danvers, Mass.
...	...	8	Peoria (Ill.) Public Library.
...	...	6	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.
...	...	11	Providence (R. I.) Public Library.

...	...	5	Quincy (Ill.) Public Library.
...	...	...	Rees, George, St. Joseph, Mo.
1	...	...	Rutt, Chris L., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	1	Salem (Mass.) Public Library.
...	...	6	San Francisco (Cal.) Public Library.
...	...	1	Scranton (Pa.) Public Library.
...	...	2	St. Louis (Mo.) Mercantile Library Association.
...	...	3	St. Louis, (Mo.) Public Library.
1	...	...	Taylor, C. F., Philadelphia, Pa.
2	600	...	Taylor, E. M., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	2	Toronto (Canada) Public Library.
...	...	2	Tufts Library, Weymouth, Mass.
2	...	...	Turner, Mrs. Thos., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	7	...	University of Missouri News Letter.
7	...	...	Warren, Mrs., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	...	3	Warren County (Ill.) Library and Reading Room Association.
...	6	...	White, H. K., St. Joseph, Mo.
2	...	...	Wild, E. O., St. Joseph, Mo. (and photos).
...	...	1	William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.
...	...	3	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
...	...	2	Wisconsin Free Library Commission.
2	2	2	Wiziardi, Robert, St. Joseph, Mo.
2	...	...	Wood, Henry.

## (5)—Bound Magazines in Reference Room.

American Electrician.	Journal of Education.
*American Historical Review.	*Land of Sunshine.
*American Illustrated Methodist Magazine.	Library Journal.
*American Journal of Politics. (Magazine of Civics.)	Lippincott.
American Teacher, 1891-date.	*Littell's Living Age.
*Arena.	*McClure's Magazine.
Art Amateur.	Macmillan's.
Art Interchange.	Magazine of Art.
Athenaeum (London).	*Magazine of American History.
*Atlantic Monthly.	Magazine of Western History.
*Author.	*Missionary Review of the World.
*Birds (And All Nature).	*Munsey's Magazine. (Monthly).
Blackwoods.	Nation.
*Bookman.	New England Magazine. (2d series complete).
*Bulletin of Bibliography.	New England Geneological and Historical Register.
*Century.	Nineteenth Century.
Chambers' Journal.	North American Review.
*Chautauquan.	Outing.
Contemporary Review.	Outlook.
*Cosmopolitan.	Overland

Critic.	*Popular Science.
*Current History.	Postal Record.
*Current Literature.	*Public Libraries.
Dial.	Public Opinion.
Eclectic Magazine. (2d series complete).	*Putnam's Magazine.
*Educational Review.	*Review of Reviews.
Fortnightly Review.	School Journal.
*Forum.	Scientific American. 1856-date.
*Galaxy.	Scientific American Supplement.
Godcy's Lady's Book.	*Scribner's Monthly.
*Harper's Magazine.	*Scribner's Magazine.
Harper's Weekly.	Southern Magazine.
Harper's Young People.	St. Nicholas.
*Hours at Home.	Universal Review.
Illustrated American.	Western Electrician.
Illustrated London News.	Westminster Review.
Illustrated News of the World.	Wide Awake.
Inland Printer.	William and Mary College Quarterly.
	*Complete sets.

## List of Members of Library Board, 1890-1900.

## Alphabetically Arranged.

Atwill J. W. ....	1895-1898-1899-1900. (Unexpired term of J. DeClue.)
Bittinger, J. L. ....	1890-1892.
Bullard Rev. Henry ....	1895-1896. (Unexpired term of Rev. Foote).
Cargill, C. P. ....	1899-date.
DeClue, John ....	1891-1899. (Died October 23, 1899).
Foote, H. L. ....	1890-1895. (Resigned).
Getchell, H. G. ....	1890-1893.
Gordon, W. H. ....	1894-1897.
Hall, Willard P. ....	1890-1891.
Hendley, G. W. ....	1890-1896.
Hull, Mrs. G. C. ....	1890. (Resigned).
Hull, G. C. ....	1890-1895. ....
Johnson, J. T. ....	1890-1892.
Lawless, Rev. J. L. ....	1896-1900. (Resigned).
Lemon, Mrs. J. S. ....	1890. (Resigned).
McCord, S. H. ....	1899-date. ....
McEvoy, Jas. A. ....	1897-date.
Morlock, W. H. ....	1895-1898.
Neeley, E. B. ....	1890-1896.
Newburger, B. ....	1890-1897.
Pfeiffer, C. A. ....	1896-date.
Pitts, Dr. Barton ....	1892-1898. ....
Riley, Dr. J. B. ....	1898-date.
Schultz, C. L. ....	1892-1895.
Smith, Dr. J. F. ....	1890. (Resigned).
Smith, L. M. ....	1897-date.
Stewart, J. M. ....	1898-date.
White, H. K. ....	1896-date.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

By vote of the people at the regular city election in April, 1890, the Free Public Library was ordered established. In the month of January preceding, a legal petition was presented to the Common Council, asking that the question of levying a tax of three-tenths of a mill for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a free public library be submitted to the voters. The ordinance submitting the question was passed by a unanimous vote, and, at the ensuing election, the proposition carried by a majority of 5,722.

### FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Following the election, the first Board of Directors was appointed, consisting of Rev. H. L. Foote, E. B. Neeley, Willard P. Hall, H. G. Getchell, J. Francis Smith, B. Newburger, George W. Hendley, Mrs. J. S. Lemon and Mrs. George C. Hull. Rev. Foote was elected president, serving in that capacity until 1895, when he resigned on account of removing from the city; E. B. Neeley, vice-president; H. G. Getchell, secretary. After serving on the board but a short time, Mrs. Lemon, Mrs. Hull and Mr. Smith resigned, being succeeded by J. T. Johnson, George C. Hull and J. L. Bittinger. Rev. Henry Bullard succeeded to the presidency on the resignation of Rev. Foote, serving until the following June, when John DeClue was elected and filled the position until his death, October 23, 1899. He was succeeded by J. W. Atwill.

### SUCCEEDS TO PROPERTY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The St. Joseph Public Library Association, organized in 1887, had through the efforts of Mrs. T. F. VanNatta, Mrs. George C. Hull, Mrs. John S. Lemon and others, accumulated 3,276 volumes, with some furniture. Upon the successful termination of the Free Public Library movement and the appointment of a Board of Directors, these were turned over to the Free Public Library, and still heads the list of donations in point of value. It is but just to say that it was the efforts of the ladies named above and their associates to establish and maintain a subscription library, the hard work they were doing, and the good resulting from the very limited means at command, which brought out the necessity for a library as a public charge.

### LIBRARIANS.

Henry J. Carr of Grand Rapids, Mich., was appointed the first librarian and assumed charge Oct. 16, 1890, remaining until August, 1891, when he accepted a similar position in the Scranton (Pa.) Public Library. The late George T. Wright, then a resident of California, was named to fill the vacancy, but declined, and Wm. H. Culver received the appointment. He resigned the following May, and Miss L. C. Senter was installed as acting librarian until July 10, 1892, when Henry L. Elmendorf was appointed librarian, serving until Sept. 30, 1896, when he, too, resigned, being succeeded by the present incumbent.

## ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE LIBRARY REVENUES.

In 1895 an effort was made to increase the proportion of taxes for library purposes to one mill. The proposition, submitted at a regular election, was defeated, securing 3,179 votes, which was not a majority of the voters voting at the election. There were but 542 votes cast against it. In 1897 another attempt was made to increase the library tax, the amount asked for being six-tenths of a mill. Failing again to receive the required majority (3,583 for to 891 against), it was realized that under the existing library and election laws it would be all but impossible to again secure the necessary votes, and in 1898 a bill amending the library law was drafted and submitted to the state legislature. After several months of anxious work it became a law in June, 1899. Under the law as it now stands it is necessary to secure only a majority of those voting on the library proposition to establish a free public library or to increase a tax already ordered, instead of a majority of voters voting at the election on all propositions. The proposition may be submitted at a special election, if it is deemed advisable to remove it entirely from political entanglements. The law also provides for extending the use of a library to the citizens of the county in which it may be located by authorizing the county court to contract therefor, paying for the privilege from the regular county revenues. The county court of this county would have been asked to pass upon this question some time since, but that the movement which was inaugurated to this end was permitted to lapse on account of the new building proposition.

## GROWTH, EXPENSE AND USE OF LIBRARY.

The following table shows the growth, expenses and use of the library, by years, since its establishment:

Year ending	No. vols. in Library	Expenses	Circulation	Card Holders	Vols. Withdrawn
April 30 1891	5,510	\$5,550 04	*7,876	1,546	....
1892	6,774	7,365 13	**92,342	3,882	9
1893	***9,713	7,029 08	92,714	3,840	110
1894	11,512	7,581 19	100,924	3,866	339
1895	12,859	7,146 15	108,892	4,103	204
1896	13,579	6,609 16	109,073	4,167	375
1897	14,839	8,238 12	120,853	4,347	729
1898	15,777	7,629 43	117,483	4,352	868
1899	17,226	7,261 10	x104,146	4,284	352
1900	18,382	7,674 96	109,939	4,608	909

\*Circulating department opened March 16.

\*\*Closed one week on account of removal.

\*\*\*Government collection added from St. Joseph Mechanical Library Association.

xClosed two weeks by order board of health on account diphtheria epidemic.

## LOCATION OF LIBRARY.

Until Nov. 10, 1890, the library occupied the second floor of the Samuels building, which had also been used by the Library Association, at Sixth and Charles streets. On the date named it was removed to Tenth and Sylvania, its present location. The property selected as the site of the new library building, Tenth and Felix streets, is three blocks nearer the business portion of the city, convenient to street car lines, with no hill to climb.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE LIBRARY,

1899-1900.

Compiled by Miss Lulu C. Senter.

## REPORTS.

- Annual report for the year ending April 30, 1891, pp. 16.  
 Annual report for the year ending April, 1892. (In St. Joseph municipal report, 1892).  
 Annual report, 1893, pp. 14.  
 Annual report, 1894, pp. 12.  
 Annual report, 1895, pp. 11.  
 Annual report, 1896, pp. 12.  
 Annual report, 1897, pp. 18.  
 Annual report, 1898, pp. 24.  
 Annual report, 1899, pp. 19.

## BY-LAWS.

- By-Laws of the Free Public Library, 1890, pp. 11.  
 By-Laws of the Free Public Library, 1892, pp. 18.  
 By-Laws of the Free Public Library, 1897, pp. 23.  
 Rules and Regulations of the Free Public Library, 1891.  
 Rules and Regulations of the Free Public Library, 1897. (Revised.)

## CATALOGS.

\*Classified list, 1891.  
 Publisher's Note.—This present work is put forth by the publisher, not as an official issue of the Library, but as a personal enterprise; and mainly on the strength of the advertising liberally given by those firms and individuals who have thus assisted the venture. The list of books, and like information, has been supplied by the Library for the purpose; and such portions of the publication have received careful revision with a view to obtaining reasonable certainty.

- \*Note.—Compiled by Mr. H. J. Carr.  
 Supplement; October, 1892-1893, pp. 21.  
 Classified list of the circulating department, July, 1896, pp. 139.  
 Note.—Compiled by Mr. H. U. Elmendorf.  
 Supplement; July, 1896-April, 1898, pp. 27.  
 Note.—Compiled by present staff.

## BULLETINS.

- Bulletin No. 1, Aug. 10, 1894, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin No. 2, Oct. 20, 1894, pp. 3.  
 Bulletin No. 3, Jan. 2, 1895, pp. 3.  
 Bulletin, new series, No. 1, Jan. 1, 1897, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, No. 2, Mar. 1, 1897, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, No. 3, May 1, 1897, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, No. 4, July 1, 1897, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, No. 5, Nov. 15, 1897, pp. 6.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 2, No. 1, Mar. 31, 1898, pp. 8.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 2, No. 2, July 15, 1898, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 2, No. 3, Oct. 31, 1898, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 2, No. 4, Feb. 1, 1899, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 3, No. 1, May, 1899, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 3, No. 2, Aug., 1899, pp. 4.  
 Bulletin, new series, Vol. 3, No. 3, Nov. 1899, pp. 4.

## SPECIAL READING LISTS.

- One hundred good novels.  
 Special reading list—Electricity, No. 1.  
 Special reading list—Electricity, No. 2.  
 Books on Spain and Cuba.  
 Books on naval warfare.  
 Special reading list—Books about heroes, including famous boys, girls, men and women.  
 Special reading list for pupils of the first, second and third grades, St. Joseph public schools; 1898.  
 Reading list for school and home for pupils of the St. Joseph public schools, grades four to eight; 1899.  
 Books for business men.  
 Books for mechanics—general.  
 Mechanical works—for shop men.

### Alphabetical List of Employees—1890-1900.

Name.	Office	Appointed	Resigned
*Bushnell, Stella M.	Assistant	Feb. 11, 1896	Feb. 24, 1899
Carr, H. J.	Librarian	Oct. 16, 1890	July 8, 1899
Culver, W. H.	Librarian	July 18, 1891	May 1, 1899
Douglas, Susie	Assistant	May 7, 1892	Dec. 1, 1899
Elmendorf, H. L.	Librarian	July 1, 1892	Oct. 1, 1899
Hendley, Mattie	Assistant	Sept. 1891	Feb. 22, 1899
Irwin, Grace	Sub-Assistant	July, 1891	Aug., 1899
*Martin, Eudora	Assistant	July 20, 1896	
Merriman, Erle	Stenographer	Nov. 23, 1893	
Merriman, Erle	Assistant	Feb. 22, 1894	July 20, 1899
Norton, John	Messenger	Aug. 12, 1897	Feb. 1, 1899
*Olds, Miranda M.	Assistant	Feb. 24, 1898	
Perry, Annie M.	Assistant	Feb. 13, 1891	
Rathbun, Cornelia L.	Assistant	Dec. 18, 1890	
Ritner, Kalliope	Assistant	Feb. 22, 1894	March 1, 1899
Russell, Mrs. A. J.	Assistant	June 28, 1890	Died March, 1899
Van Valkenburg, Agnes	Assistant	Jan. 27, 1891	May, 1899
Senter, Lulu C.	Assistant Lib.	Feb. 13, 1891	
Whitmore, Roy	Messenger	Feb. 1, 1899	
Wright, Purd B.	Librarian	October 1, 1896	

\*From Library Training Class.

#### JANITORS.

Ball, Howard, colored	Janitor	Dec. 18, 1890	Sept., 1899
Burgderfer, Frank G.	Janitor	Nov. 1, 1899	
McKinney, David, colored	Janitor	Sept., 1891	Nov. 1, 1899

#### PRESENT TRAINING CLASS, 1900.

Elam, Magnolia. Peterman, Minnie P.

## THE NEW BUILDING.

### REPORT OF THE SPECIAL LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.

Gentlemen: Your committee appointed to act with a similar committee of the School Board in reference to the Public Library Building, respectfully submits the following detailed report:

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, January 11, 1900, the following resolution, offered by Charles A. Pfeiffer, was adopted by a unanimous vote:

"Whereas, The work of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph is seriously hampered through its location, lack of proper rooms and facilities for economical administration; and,

"Whereas, The greater portion of the work of said library is, and by right should be, with the teachers and pupils of the schools of said city; and,

"Whereas, The value of the library as an educational medium and its great helpfulness to the schools aforesaid is now being fully recognized by those in charge thereof and the public generally; therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, That a committee consisting of three members of this body be appointed by the president to confer with the Board of Education of said city, looking to the securing of a library and school office building commensurate with the importance of the work sought to be accomplished, and a credit to the city, by the issue of bonds by said Board of Education (as permitted by the law under which it is operating), to the amount of \$100,000; and, further, that the said Board of Education be and is hereby requested to submit to the voters of this district, at as early a date as possible, the question of issuing said bonds for the purpose designated.

"Resolved, further, That said committee is authorized and empowered to conduct all negotiations with said Board of Education in relation to securing the issue of said bonds, plans for building, location of same, expense of maintaining, etc., reports of progress to be made to this body from time to time for approval.

"The fact that no rented building, conveniently located and suitable for library purposes, within the means of the Library Board, is likely to be secured, is deemed sufficient ground for prompt action on this matter."

The president appointed as such committee, Charles A. Pfeiffer, H. K. White and John M. Stewart.

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Education, Feb. 8, the committee presented the above resolution. After its consideration, that body adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, The Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph has petitioned this body, by resolution, asking that the question of issuing \$100,000 in bonds, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be used in the purchase of grounds and the erection thereon of a library and school office building, be submitted to the voters of this school district at an early day; and

"Whereas, The members of the Board of Education are cognizant of the educational work being done by the Free Public Library, its close association with all school matters, the difficulties under which it is laboring, and the powerless condition of the directors thereof in so far as providing money for a suitable building is concerned, and believing that it is not only to the best interests of the schools, but to all of the people of the city that a creditable home for the library and school offices be provided, are in hearty accord with the plan; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of St. Joseph favors the submission of the question of issuing bonds for a library and school office building in the sum of \$100,000 at an election to be held in said district hereafter.

"Resolved, further, That a committee consisting of three members of this Board is hereby directed to be appointed by the president, whose duty it shall be to consult with the committee appointed by the Library Board in relation to the election and means for getting the question properly before the people, and in connection with said committee, to arrange for the plans for said building, the location thereof, the terms upon which it shall be jointly occupied and any other matters of like nature. Reports shall be made from time to time to this body for consideration and approval. The attorney of this Board is directed to aid such joint committee in the preparation of necessary resolutions for the proper submission of the question to the people."

J. C. Wyatt, K. M. Mitchell and I. T. Hosea were appointed the school committee under the resolution.

On the 20th day of February, at a meeting of the Board of Education a special election was called for March 31 to vote upon the proposition of issuing bonds. At the election but 3,073 votes were cast, 2,512 being for the proposition, and 561 against.

Immediately after the favorable vote upon the question of the issuance of bonds, the joint committee called for propositions for a site, and the School Board invited proposals for bonds. Offerings for the bonds were numerous, and the issue in which we are interested has sold at a premium of Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$4,850.00) Dollars, being upon the basis of interest at the rate of 3.43 per cent.

We found that a large majority of the people interested in the selection of the site, seemed to be in favor of erecting the Library Building on Smith Park, especially as it was thought by nearly all of these persons that in this way a site could be obtained without cost.

The joint committee appointed a sub-committee, consisting of one member of the Board of Education, and two members of your committee to investigate the questions involved, and as it was suggested that there

might be legal difficulties in the way of using a portion of Smith's Park for this purpose, this sub-committee considered this question with considerable care, and made a report to the joint committee, substantially as follows:

"We find that on March 20th, 1855, F. W. Smith filed in the office of the recorder of deeds of Buchanan County, Missouri, a plat in which the park now known as Smith's Park, was called 'Smith's Park.' In the dedication attached to this plat, Mr. Smith declared that the lots and blocks as bounded on the within plat are intended for sale, 'that the public square, streets and alleys as they appear and are bounded as they are set forth on the plat, are intended for public uses, and the same I do hereby give, grant, allot, transfer and dedicate to the public for public uses forever.'

"It is plain that different public uses were intended for different parts of the ground, thus dedicated. No one could contend that the streets and alleys could be used for a park, and it is similarly plain that the park could not be used for a street. In the case of Prince against Thompson, 48 Missouri, 361, the City of Brookfield was enjoined from running a street through a park which had been dedicated in terms similar to those used by Mr. Smith. It remains, therefore, to consider whether or not the use of the Park for the Library Building is one consistent with the dedication of the aforesaid park.

"In the case of the M. E. Church vs. Hoboken, 33 N. J. Law 131, it is said that a 'square' or 'park,' as a term of dedication, imparts unrestricted abandonment to public uses of grounds for amusement and recreation or health. This definition has been accepted and used, in both editions of the American and English Encyclopedia of Law.

"In the case of the Village of Princeville vs. Auten, 77 Illinois 325, it is said that where there is no express grant to a county, it cannot erect public buildings on a public square unless authorized by a custom of the country, or usage, to which all citizens are willing to assent as to a positive enactment, and that the County had no more right than an individual to disturb the right of the enjoyment of the public, by erecting a building thereon. The square spoken of in this case was not specifically dedicated as a square or park, the purpose not being indicated on the plat, but the purposes of the dedication were made clear by oral testimony. A town school had been proposed thereon, but the measure was defeated, and in this case the court enjoined the erection of a town hall thereon.

"The act which provided for the platting of the City of Detroit provided that certain places left at the intersection of streets where eight or twelve would intersect each other, were to be left for certain public purposes, such as fire houses, parks, schools, such as the City Council might at any time designate. Streets were not mentioned in the act as one of the public uses. The City Council designated one of these places as a park, and it had been so used for several years when the Council proposed to erect a library building thereon. An injunction was asked, but the Supreme Court held that the park site might be used as a library site. Afterward the City of Detroit attempted to open a street through one of these places which had been given previously for school purposes, but the

court held that the first case merely permitted the change of use from one public purpose to another of those designated by the act, and that the council could not extend a street through ground used for educational purposes, because, it was not one of the public uses named in the act. *Board of Education vs. Detroit* 30, Michigan 510.

"A later case from Mississippi decides that where ground was dedicated for a park it could not be used for the erection of a school house and the donors were allowed to bring an injunction suit to prevent such use. *Rowzee vs. Pierce* 23, Southern 207.

"The Missouri case affecting the Brookfield Park, indicates that the Missouri Supreme Court is inclined to construe dedications of this character strictly. In a later case in 1890 the Supreme Court of this state held that a deed given by the City of Girardeau to the Board of Regents of the State Normal School, purporting to convey to them a piece of ground in that city, which had been dedicated for the establishment of a public school, was invalid, although the Normal School is very largely supported by public grants of money, and was a part of the public school system. In that opinion the court says, (citing to the Brookfield case, and other Missouri cases) the City of Cape Girardeau may control and regulate the use of the property, but it has no right to devote the same to private uses, or to public uses different from those specified in the deed. Where land has been dedicated to specified, limited and defined purposes the subject of the grant cannot be used for another and a different purpose: *Board of Regents vs. Painter*, 102 Missouri loc. cit. 470.

"The New Jersey case above referred to which gives the definition of a park, is cited approvingly as to diversion of property from uses for which it was dedicated. No opinion was expressed as to the term park, as the court does not call for such expression.

"In a very early case, *Post vs. Pearsall*, 22 Wend. 473, it was said that when a dedication is made, individuals are invited to build, improve, and make their arrangements of life and business in reference to such public right, and the Court held that adjoining property holders could restrain the diversion of a public use. This ruling has been followed in numerous cases since.

"The use of the Park for our proposed Library Building would be for educational purposes, not for purposes of amusement and recreation, and therefore, in our view would be a diversion from the original purpose.

"There are numerous other cases which we have not stated, where private buildings have been held to be nuisances when erected on ground dedicated for public purposes. The above are practically all the cases which indicate that the same rule applies to public buildings, but in view of the declaration of the Illinois Court above noted, that the public has more right to put its buildings in a park than it has to permit private individuals to do so, it would appear that there is an undoubted right in the property holders adjacent to the Park, and of the heirs of Mr. Smith to prevent such erection by injunction. The property would not revert

the Smith heirs as in the case of abandonment, but the only remedy would be by injunction, and if they should see fit to bring such suit, it is our opinion that the injunction would be granted."

Signed:

"K. M. MITCHELL.

"H. K. WHITE.

"JOHN M. STEWART."

Upon reading this report from the sub-committee, the joint committee voted that inasmuch as it was not advised that the heirs of Mr. Smith, and the adjacent property holders would give their consent to the use of the park for the location of the library building site, it was not advisable to consider the question further.

In answer to the request for offerings, about thirty sites were submitted in different parts of the city, from Messanie street on the south to a point above Robidoux on the north, and from Fifth street on the west to Eleventh on the east. Two of the offers were out and out gifts, but in each case the committee felt unanimously that the sites offered were not sufficiently central. Three of the sites would in most respects seem very desirable, but after a discussion of the needs of the Board as to size of the building, we came to the conclusion that these three sites were not sufficiently large. The committee felt that the site not only should be central now, but chosen with reference to future growth of the city, and that while close to the business portions of the town, it should not be on a noisy street. So much complaint has been made in the past of the exertion required to reach the present library site, that the committee felt that the place chosen should be one where accessibility should be considered, rather than one where the building could be observed at a distance.

As a result of visiting all the sites, and several full consultations, the committee unanimously selected the property offered by the heirs of James C. Roberts, situated at the northwest corner of Tenth and Felix streets. These lots front 120 feet on Tenth street, with a side frontage of 140 feet on Felix street. The Directors of the Public Schools have bought this property at the price of Eleven Thousand Dollars, and will at once invite proposals for plans for a building which it is hoped will be commensurate with the present and future wants and prosperity of our city.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. PFEIFFER,

J. M. STEWART,

H. K. WHITE,

Committee.