

is without, while many of those which it does possess are either odd volumes or duplicates, utterly worthless and serving only to fill valuable space.

This state of things calls for immediate attention, and is due, in the judgment of your committee, to the inadequate nature of previous annual appropriations and the impracticable mode by which, under existing laws, the fund is expended and the regulations for the government of the Library made. At present the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates are empowered to frame all rules and regulations. These gentlemen have their time and attention fully occupied with official duties, and cannot be expected to bestow upon this matter the care it requires.

The disbursement of the augmentation fund is now made by a joint committee of three from each House. The efficiency of these joint committees may be judged of from the simple fact that of the fund voted last year not a cent has as yet been drawn from the State Treasury, and that notwithstanding the necessitous condition of the Library.

Under these circumstances, your committee would recommend a change in the system regulating the State Library. It appears to them that as the Judges of the Court of Appeals are, from the nature of their professional duties, constant frequenters of the Library, and must therefore be supposed cognizant of its deficiency and requirements, to them should be committed the preparation of rules for its government and the expenditure of the augmentation fund. This change, with an appropriation to the augmentation fund for this year of not less than one thousand dollars, is most respectfully urged by the committee.

No Library can be efficient without a thorough catalogue of its books, and such a catalogue the State Library does not possess. Your committee would therefore suggest that they may be empowered to make arrangements for the preparation of a thorough descriptive catalogue, to be completed within a reasonable time, and submitted to the examination and approval of the Joint Committee on the Library of the Senate and House of Delegates. They believe that the cost of such a catalogue as the State Library should have will not exceed the sum of ten or twelve hundred dollars. For the purpose of carrying their views on these points they have prepared a resolution, which the Chairman is herewith instructed to present.

N. BREWER,

*Chairman of Senate Committee.*

And a resolution in regard to making a catalogue of the books in Library.