

Agent to John McHenry & Co. regarding an error in the company's account with the State, Nov. 27, 1786. I double sheet. April 25, 1945.

### LIBRARY

Growth of our Library continued during the past year at the average of the last five years. Some 204 items were added. This total includes not only printed books, but also pamphlets, mimeographed and typewritten materials. It has not always been easy to determine whether certain works belong in our library or in our archival collection but in general everything which cannot easily be included with official records or historical manuscripts is accessioned and catalogued in the library.

An examination of the items listed below will give a fair estimate of the nature of our entire library. It is composed almost wholly of works of general reference, archival administration, and Marylandiana supplemented by certain indispensable historical works. The total annual appropriation for the purchase of books is only \$100, but exchanges and gifts are more important in the acquisition of new titles than purchases.

It has always been the policy of the Archivist to restrict the size of the library to the barest minimum and to supplement our own collection with that of the State Library. However, in respect to time this is an uneconomical procedure and it seems that we shall inevitably have to duplicate some part of the holdings of the Library. In some States where the library and the archival establishment are housed in the same building, this waste of money and duplication of effort can be avoided and the research value of each institution is enhanced by the collection of the other.

Our primary purpose in building a library at the Hall of Records has always been the instruction of the staff in archival procedures and the acquirement of background necessary to the better understanding of the records of Maryland. While we never denied to the public the use of this library neither did we encourage them to use it. However, we now believe that the time of the staff and wear and tear on the records are both saved by encouraging the use of printed books. We have, there-