51st Congress, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Ex. Doc. No. 128.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A report regarding the receipt, distribution, and sale of public documents on behalf of the Government by the Department of the Interior, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890.

DECEMBER 30, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 27, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, in compliance with the requirements of section 445 of the Revised Statutes, the report of the superintendent of documents, showing the number of public documents received by this Department for distribution on behalf of the Government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, and the disposition made of them.

This report includes a statement of documents sold under the provisions of joint resolution approved March 3, 1887. There are also added certain suggestions relative to a comprehensive index of public documents.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 27, 1890.

SIR: I submit herewith for transmission to Congress the annual report of this office relative to the receipt, distribution, and sale of public documents for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890.

This report includes a list of the libraries which have been designated by Senators and Representatives to receive the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey. There are also added a few sample pages of a suggested comprehensive index of public documents, together with quotations from letters received from certain prominent librarians relative to the value of such an index and to the importance of some early provision on the part of Congress for its preparation and publication.

Very respectfully,

JOHN G. AMES,
Superintendent of Documents.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

The following publications have been received by the Department of the Interior for distribution on behalf of the Government, viz:

The Journals, Executive Documents, Miscellaneous Documents, and Reports of the two Houses of Congress, bound in leather.

The Reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the subordinate officers of the Department.

The publications of the United States Geological Survey.

The Official Register of the United States.

The Reports of the Supreme Court.

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS.

Of these publications there were received as follows:

Senate Executive Documents	5,640
Senate Miscellaneous Documents	3,780
Senate Reports	3,336
House Journals	435
House Executive Documents	24,534
House Miscellaneous Documents	15,510
House Reports	470
Total	53,705

being 420 of each Senate publication and 470 of each House publication delivered, excepting the Journals, of which 435 copies were received.

These documents have been distributed as follows: To each State and Territorial library, one set. To the several institutions in each State and Territory which have been designated as depositories of public documents, in accordance with the provisions of section 501 of the Revised Statutes, one set each.

The list of Depositories remains as given in report of February 15, 1890, excepting that the following libraries have been dropped therefrom:

Howard College, East Lake, Ala.
State Normal School, Jacksonville, Ala.
Library Association, Jacksonville, Fla.
Gould College, Harlan, Kans.
Houghton Historical Society and Mining Institute, Houghton, Mich.
Public Library, Greenville, Miss.
Library Association, Natchez, Miss.
Reading Room Library, Fremont, Nebr.
Library Association, Newark, N. J.
Wadsworth Library, Geneseo, N. Y.
Library Association, Fayetteville, N. C.
Cambria Library Association, Johnstown, Pa.
Franklin Lyceum, Providence, R. I.
Library Association, Florence, S. C.
Public Library and Reading Room, Dallas, Tex.

Marvin College, Waxahachie, Tex.
Public Library, Galveston, Tex.
Athenæum, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Galesville University, Galesville, Wis.
Racine College, Racine, Wis.

and the following have been added thereto:

Bar Library, Mobile, Ala.
Bar Library Association, Hartford, Conn.
Public Library, Princeton, Ill.
Public Library, Joliet, Ill.
Borden Institute, New Providence, Ind.
Stockton Academy, Stockton, Kans.
College Library, Uniontown, Ky.
Michigan Mining School, Houghton, Mich.
Hoyt Public Library, East Saginaw, Mich.
Public Library, Grand Island, Nebr.
New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, N. J.
Supreme Court Library, Delhi, N. Y.
Old Hickory Club, Saulsbury, N. C.
Trinity College, Trinity College, N. C.
Library Association, Wilmington, N. C.
Jamestown College, Jamestown, N. Dak.
Agricultural College, Fargo, N. Dak.
Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa.
Public Library, Providence, R. I.
Park Building Public School Library, Waxahachie, Tex.
University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.
Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash.
College Library, Spokane Falls, Wash.
State Normal School, River Falls, Wis.
Public Library, Sheboygan, Wis.
Wyoming University, Laramie, Wyo.

The documents distributed during the last fiscal year appertain chiefly to the Forty-ninth Congress and the first session of the Fiftieth Congress. Of the documents of the second session of the Fiftieth Congress only nine volumes have been distributed to date, while no volumes of the Fifty-first Congress, excepting the Senate Journal, have been received from the Printing Office, though many of these volumes have already been printed and to some extent distributed either in cloth or in unbound form.

Attention is called to the discrepancy in the number of copies of Senate and of House publications received by the Department, fifty copies more of each volume of House publications being delivered than of the corresponding publications of the Senate. It is very much to be desired that some action should be taken by those having authority in the premises by which the number of Senate publications shall be made equal to those of the House.

Bills were prepared and submitted to both Houses of Congress at its last session making provision for adding to the documents supplied to depositories certain important publications not now embraced in the set. These bills were prepared at the suggestion of many of the important libraries, and embodied the views of the Conference of American Librarians, as repeatedly expressed at their annual gatherings. It is earnestly hoped that this matter may secure the favorable consideration of the two Houses of Congress at the present session, so that hereafter depositories may be assured of the regular receipt of these publications, for which they are now obliged to rely upon the courtesy of Senators and Representatives, and which in many instances they fail to secure by reason of the fact that application is not made until the quota of the Senators or members appealed to is entirely exhausted.

A careful estimate as to the expense of adding these documents to

the set supplied to depositories fixes the cost at not more than $15,000 annually. If it were essential or important that this amount be saved in some other direction this could readily be accomplished by excluding from the miscellaneous and executive documents of the two Houses many papers that are of merely temporary value, and which do not deserve to be bound up for permanent preservation. This is trne emphatically of mere resolutions introduced in either House and which are included among the miscellaneous documents of the same. It would seem that these resolutions might with entire propriety take the form of bills or joint resolutions and so cease to be included among the miscellaneous documents. In this way the bulk of miscellaneous and executive documents might be largely reduced, lessening the cost at least in the matter of binding, and rendering it much more feasible to prepare a satisfactory, comprehensive index of public documents.

It is probable that a careful scrutiny of papers presented to Congress of the class usually incorporated in the executive and miscellaneous documents and reports of the two Houses with reference to their permanent value and to the wisdom of their being printed and bound in the Congressional set of documents would result in excluding from this set a large number of such papers, which could be printed for temporary use, and thus materially reduce the bulk of bound public documents and the expense of their publication. It is, however, almost if not quite impossible for the members of the committees of the two Houses of Congress having supervision of this matter to conduct such scrutiny, as they are so burdened with Congressional duties of vastly greater importance that but little if any time is left for a critical examination of documents presented for publication. Under these circumstances it is suggested whether it would not be wise for Congress to provide for the appointment of a special commission, consisting of three thoroughly competent persons, whose business it should be to examine all documents presented to Congress and decide upon those which are of sufficient importance for permanent preservation in bound form, leaving all others to be printed in more convenient form for the temporary use of Congress and of the Departments of the Government. To this same commission might be intrusted the duty of preparing the index of the several series of Congressional documents, and also a comprehensive index of all the publications of the Government, to this extent relieving the committees of Congress now having charge of the matter and at the same time securing economy in the matter of public printing, and the preparation of a satisfactory index of public documents.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

Of the reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the several subordinate officers of the Department, and of other miscellaneous publications of the Government, 68,267 were received during the last fiscal year by the Department. Most of these documents were in pamphlet form. All were issued for the official use of the Department and its several bureaus and for their discretionary distribution.

THE OFFICIAL REGISTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

Volume 1 of this work was issued in January and volume 2 in June, 1890, 2,500 copies of each volume being received by the Department. These have been distributed in accordance with the provisions of an act of Congress, approved December 15, 1877, and of a joint resolution,

approved March 3, 1887, so far as their distribution under said resolution has been directed by members of Congress. Sixty-three libraries still remain to be designated by such Senators and Representatives as have not yet availed themselves of the privilege of naming each one public library to receive this work.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Under the provisions of a joint resolution approved March 3, 1887, the following libraries and institutions have been designated to receive one copy each of the special memoirs and reports of the U. S. Geological Survey.

ALABAMA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Noble Institute for Boys	Anniston.	Male and Female College	La Fayette.
Abbeville College	Abbeville.	Judson Female Seminary	Marion.
College Library	Blountsville.	Athelstan Library	Mobile.
Alabama Club	Birmingham.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Montgomery.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Do.	Do	Selma.
Do	Camden.	Calloway School	Do.
Marengo Institute	Demopolis.	Normal School	Troy.
Female College	Eufaula.	Alabama Conference Female College.	Tuskegee.
Normal School	Florence.	Pierson Library—Insane Asylum.	Tuscaloosa.
Wheeler Rifles	Do.		
Young Men's Christian Association.	Huntsville.		

ARIZONA.

Public Library Association.	Phœnix.	Public Library	Tombstone.

ARKANSAS.

Ouachita College	Arkadelphia.	La Crosse College Institute.	La Crosse.
Central Collegiate Institute.	Altus.	Arkansas Society of Engineers, Architects, and Surveyors.	Little Rock.
Arkansas College	Batesville.	High School Library	Lonoke.
Cane Hill College	Boonsborough.	Rogers Library	Rogers.
Public (Y. M. C. A.) Library.	Conway.	College Library	Texarkana.
Hendrix College	Do.		
High School Library	Evening Shade.		
Female College	Hope.		

CALIFORNIA.

Free Public Library	Alameda.	Mechanics' Institute	San Francisco.
Public School Library	Biggs.	Mercantile Library	Do.
Do	Gridley.	Santa Rosa Free Library	Santa Rosa.
Public Library	Los Angeles.	Santa Cruz Free Library	Santa Cruz.
Free Public Library	Oakland.	San Mateo Library	San Mateo.
Petaluma Free Library	Petaluma.	Ventura Public Library	San Buena Ventura.
Leland Stanford, jr., University.	San Francisco.	Public Library	San Diego.
Odd Fellows Library	Do.	California Normal College.	Vacaville.

COLORADO.

University of Denver	Denver.	Presbyterian College	Del Norte.
Chamber of Commerce	Do.	Agricultural College	Fort Collins
Durango Club	Durango.	State School of Mines	Golden.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

CONNECTICUT.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Douglass College	Canaan.	Sheffield Scientific School	New Haven.
People's Library Association.	Danielsville.	High School Library	New Britain.
Danbury Library	Danbury.	Public Library	New Haven.
Hartford Library	Hartford.	Public Library	Norwalk.
High School Library	Do.	Ferguson Library	Stamford.
Wesleyan University	Middletown.	Willimantic Linen Company's Library.	Willimantic.

DELAWARE.

Library Association	Dover.	Corbit Library	Odessa.
Public Library	Milford.	Public School Library	Seaford.
Delaware College	Newark.	Shields Library	Wilmington.

FLORIDA.

De Funiak Library	De Funiak Springs.	Agricultural College	Pensacola.
Public Library	Lawtey.	Tallahassee University	Tallahassee.
Public School Library	Pensacola.	Normal School Library	White Springs.

GEORGIA.

Young Men's Christ'n Asso.	Acworth	Middle Georgia Agricultural College	Milledgeville.
Butler College	Butler.	Newnan Library	Newnan.
Cedartown Library	Cedartown.	Emory College	Oxford.
Rockdale Club	Conyers.	Public Library	Perry.
Public Library	Columbus.	Brooks County Library	Quitman.
Stephens' High School	Crawfordsville.	Georgia Medical Society	Savannah.
Grantlin Club	Griffin.	Oglethorpe Club	Do.
Young Men's Library	Gainesville.	South Georgia Agricultural College.	Thomasville.
Library Association	Hawkinsville.	Library Association	Do.
Public Library	Hartwell.	Public Library	Washington.
Martin Institute	Jefferson.	Literary Association	Waynesboro.
Mercer University	Macon.		
Wesleyan Female College	Macon.		

IDAHO.

Camas Library	Camas.	Murray Library	Murray.

ILLINOIS.

Public Library	Alton.	Kankakee Library	Kankakee.
Do	Aurora.	Lake Forest University	Lake Forest.
Library Association	Bloomington.	Macomb City Free Public Library.	Macomb.
Young Men's Library Association and Reading Room.	Chicago.	Library Association	Mount Sterling.
Library of Married Men's Sodality.	Do.	Cassell Library of Mount Morris College.	Mount Morris.
Illinois Club	Chicago.	High School Library	Ottawa.
La Salle Club	Do.	Scoville Institute	Oak Park.
Public Library	Cairo.	Peoria Scientific Association.	Peoria.
Library Association	Cohden.	Paxton School Library	Paxton.
Northern Illinois Normal School and Dixon Business College.	Dixon.	Public Library	Quincy.
Free Public Library	Decatur.	Do	Ravenswood.
Do	Danville.	Augustana College	Rock Island.
High School Library	Englewood.	Literary Society	Rantoul.
Ewing College	Ewing College.	Public Library	Rock Island.
Young Men's Library Association.	Freeport.	Do	Rockford.
Gnothantic Library of Knox College.	Galesburgh.	Do	Sycamore.
Public Library	Greenville.	High School Library	Streator.
High School Library	Hyde Park.	Springfield Library	Springfield.
Public Library	Hillsboro.	Reading Room Library	Shawneetown.
Illinois College	Jacksonville.	Library of St. Mary's of the Woods.	St. Mary's.
Public Library	Kewanee.	Public School Library	Vandalia.
		Westfield College	Westfield.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

INDIANA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Library Association	Aurora.	De Pauw College	New Albany.
Public School Library	Crown Point.	Central Academy	Plainfield.
Central Normal College	Danville.	High School Library	Rockville.
Indiana Normal University	Evansville.	Earlham College	Richmond.
Public School Library	Frankfort.	Natural Science Library Association.	Rising Sun.
Concordia College	Fort Wayne.	Seymour High School	Seymour.
High School Library	Do.	St. Meinard College	St. Meinard.
Patoka Township Library	Huntingburgh.	St. Joseph County Teacher's Library.	South Bend.
City Library	Indianapolis.	Library Association	Spiceland.
High School Library	Do.	Indiana State Normal School.	Terre Haute.
Public Library	Kokomo.	Rose Polytechnic School	Do.
City Library	La Porte.	Public School Library	Washington.
High School Library	La Porte.	Noble Township Library	Wabash.
American Normal College	Logansport.		
Moore's Hill College	Moore's Hill.		
Public School Library	Marion.		
Workingmen's institute	New Harmony.		

IOWA.

High School Library	Audubon.	Free Public Library	Independence.
Normal School Library	Algona.	Simpson Centenary College.	Indianola.
Public Library	Bloomfield.	Library Association	Keokuk.
Iowa Masonic Library	Cedar Rapids.	Public Library	Mt. Pleasant.
Amity College	College Springs.	Cornell College	Mt. Vernon.
Public School Library	Clinton.	High School Library	Missouri Valley.
Free Public Library	Cedar Falls.	Penn College	Oskaloosa.
Free Public Library	Charles City.	Public School Library	Sidney.
Public School Library	De Witt.	Western Normal College and Shenandoah Commercial Institute.	Shenandoah.
Norwegian Luther College	Decorah.	Normal School Library	Storm Lake.
Drake University	Des Moines.	Western College	Toledo.
Parsons College	Fairfield.	Public Library	Washington.
Public Library Association	Fort Dodge.		
Pattersonville Institute	Hull.		

KANSAS.

Public Library	Atchison.	Oswego College for Young Ladies.	Oswego.
Dodge City Library	Dodge City.	City Library	Paoli.
State Normal School Library	Emporia.	St. Mary's College	St. Mary's.
Library Association	Garnett.	Methodist College	Salina.
Campbell University	Holton.	Stockton College	Stockton.
Ladies' Library Association	Independence.	Public Library	Troy.
Kansas State Agricultural College.	Manhattan.	Washburn College	Topeka.
High School Library	Mankato.	Garfield College	Wichita.
City Library	McPherson.		

KENTUCKY.

Alexander College	Burkesville.	Princeton College	Mayfield.
Berea College	Berea.	Athenæum	Mount Sterling.
Cecilian College	Cecilian.	Western Kentucky College.	Mayfield.
Clinton College	Clinton.	National Institute	Madisonville.
Christian College	Columbia.	Limestone Lodge, Knights of Pythias.	Maysville.
Catholic School Library	Earlington.	Odd Fellows Library Association.	Newport.
High School Library	Frenchburgh.	Law Library Association	Do.
Normal School Library	Glasgow.	Bethel College Library Association.	Russellville.
Public Library	Georgetown.	Central University	Richmond.
Hartford College	Hartford.	St. Mary's College	St. Mary's.
High School Library	Jackson.	Public Library	Versailles.
Hamilton College	Lexington.	Riverside Seminary	Vanceburgh.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.	Louisville.		
Male High School Library	Do.		

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

LOUISIANA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Morehouse Central College	Bastrop.	Mount Lebanon College	Mount Lebanon.
Collegiate Institute	Baton Rouge.	Straight University	New Orleans.
Jefferson College	Convent.	Howard Memorial Library	Do.
Sugar Planters' Association of Ascension.	Donaldsonville.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Do.
St. Charles College	Grand Coteau.	Soulé Mercantile College	Do.
Homer College	Homer.	Sugar Planters' Association of La Fourche.	Thibodeaux.
Centenary College	Jackson.		
Old Keatchie College	Keatchie.		

MAINE.

Young Men's Christian Association.	Auburn.	Rice Library	Kittery.
East Maine Conference Seminary.	Bucksport.	Wesleyan Seminary	Kent's Hill.
St. Croix Library Association.	Calais.	Manufacturers and Mechanics' Library.	Lewiston.
Town Library	Dexter.	Norway Library	Norway.
City Library	Ellsworth.	Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.	Orono.
Western State Normal College.	Farmington.	York Institute	Saco.

MARYLAND.

New Mercantile Library	Baltimore.	Charlotte Hall Academy	Charlotte Hall.
Calumet Club	Do.	High School Library	Easton.
Loyola College	Do.	Rock Hill College	Ellicott City.
Woman's College of Baltimore.	Do.	Library Association	Hagerstown.
Odd Fellows' Library	Do.	Hannah More Academy	Reisterstown.
Washington College	Chestertown.	Library Company	Sandy Springs.
Library Association	Catonsville.	St. John's Library	Westminster.
		Woodstock College	Woodstock.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Congregational Library	Boston.	Public Library	Marlborough.
Boston College	Do	Smith College	Northampton.
Public Library	Chelsea.	Public Library	Newburyport.
Tufts College	College Hill.	Do	Newton.
Bryant Free Library	Cummington.	Berkshire Athenæum	Pittsfield.
Public Library	Fall River.	Thomas Crane Public Library.	Quincy.
Do	Fitchburg.	Public Library	Spencer.
Do	Haverhill.	Do	Southbridge.
Do	Hingham.	South Boston Public Library.	South Boston.
Do	Holyoke.	City Library Association	Springfield.
Free Public Library	Lawrence.	Clark University	Worcester.
City Library	Lowell.	Polytechnic Institute	Do
Public Library	Middleborough.	Public Library	Woburn.
Do	Milton.		
Do	Malden.		

MICHIGAN.

Agricultural College	Agricultural College	Hillsdale College	Hillsdale.
Albion College	Albion.	Public Library	Ionia.
Alma College	Alma.	City Union Library	Lapeer.
Public School Library	Big Rapids.	Public School Library	Muskegon.
Do	Cassopolis.	Public Library	Niles.
Free Public Library	Coldwater.	Ladies' Library	Pontiac.
Scientific Association	Detroit.	Ladies' Library Association	Petoskey.
Hoyt Public Library	East Saginaw.	Union School Library	St. Clair.
Public Library	Eaton Rapids.	Public School Library	Sault de Ste. Marie.
Public School Library	Escanaba.	Public Library	Three Rivers.
Do	Flint.	Do	Wyandotte.
Akely College	Grand Haven.	Sage Public Library	West Bay City.
Hope College	Holland.	State Normal School	Ypsilanti.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

MINNESOTA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Albert Lea College	Albert Lea.	City Library	St. Cloud.
Free City Library	Do.	Gustavus Adolphus College.	St. Peter.
Public Library	Alexandria.	Hamline University	St. Paul.
Chamber of Commerce	Duluth.	Public Library	Do.
Carlton College	Northfield.	Free Library	Winona.
Turn-Verein Library	New Ulm.	Willmar Seminary	Willmar.
Seminary Library	Red Wing.		

MISSISSIPPI.

Female College	Blue Mountain.	Female College	Grenada.
Normal College	Buena Vista.	Do	Gillsburgh.
Bethlehem College	Bethlehem.	Public Library	Harpersville.
Whitforth Female College	Brookhaven.	Academy Library	Jefferson.
Odd Fellows' Female College.	Carrollton.	Calliopean Society	Summit.
High School Public Library.	Carthage.	Jefferson College	Washington.
Female Institute	Clinton.		

MISSOURI.

Public School Library	Albany.	Hardin College	Mexico.
Avalon College	Avalon.	Collegiate Institute	Marionville.
Kemper's Family School	Boonville.	Public School Library	Nevada.
St. Joe Lead Company	Bonne Terre.	Park College	Parkville.
Public School Library	Cameron.	School of Mines	Rolla.
Baird College	Clinton.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Sedalia.
Southeast Missouri Normal School.	Cape Girardeau.	Public School Library	Savannah.
Public School Library	Dexter.	Society of Natural History.	Sedalia.
Central College	Fayette.	Labor Library	St. Louis.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Independence.	St. Theresa's Library	Do.
Lincoln Institute	Jefferson City.	High School Library	Do.
Public School Library	Kakoka.	Washington University	Do.
Public Library	Keytesville.	Americus Association	Do.
Kansas City Club	Kansas City.	Knights of Labor	Springfield.
La Grange College	La Grange.	Central Wesleyan College.	Warrenton.
Missouri Valley College	Marshall.	Missouri State Normal School.	Warrensburgh.

MONTANA.

Public Library	Butte City.	Montana University	University Place.
Montana College	Deer Lodge.	Alice Mine Library	Walkerville.

NEBRASKA.

Public Library	Beatrice.	Public Library	Norfolk.
Doane College	Crete.	Nebraska College	Nebraska City.
Franklin Academy Library.	Franklin.	Gates College	Neligh.
Normal School Library	Fremont.	Creighton College	Omaha.
Brunn Memorial Public Library.	Humboldt.	State Normal School	Peru.

NEVADA.

Public Library	Carlin.	Engineers' and Mechanics' Library.	Wadsworth.
Public School Library	Paradise.		
Library Association	Reno.		

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Public Library	Concord.	Public Library	Nashua.
Fiske Free Library	Claremont.	Town Library	Peterborough.
Manufacturers' and Village Library.	Great Falls.	Public Library	Rochester.
Public Library	Keene.	Do	Warner.

NEW JERSEY.

Delanco Library	Delanco.	Public Library	Lakewood.
Public Library and Reading Association.	Elizabeth.	High School Library	Lawrenceville.
Peddie Institute	Hightstown.	Drew Theological Seminary	Madison.
German Academy Library	Hoboken.	Free Public Library	Passaic.
St. Peter's College	Jersey City.	Rahway Library Association.	Rahway.
Library Association	Long Branch.	Public Library	Vineland.

NEW MEXICO.

Las Vegas University	Las Vegas.	St. Michael's College	Santa Fé.

NEW YORK.

State Normal School Library	Albany.	Free School Library	Monticello.
Catholic University	Do.	Mead School Library	Malone
Union School Library	Albion.	Macedon Academy Library	Macedon.
Board of Trade	Amsterdam.	University of the City of New York.	New York.
St. Augustine Mechanical Library.	Brooklyn.	New York Press Club	Do.
Columbian Club	Do.	Free Circulating Library	Do.
College and Polytechnic Institute.	Do.	New York Society Library	Do.
Adelphia Academy	Do.	Apprentices' Library	Do.
Packer Collegiate Institute	Do.	St. Mary's Library	Do.
St. Peter's Library	Do.	St. James' Library	Do.
Loyola Union Library	Do.	St. Mark's Chapel	Do.
St. Vincent De Paul's Library.	Do,	New York Turn-Verein	Do.
State Normal School Library	Brockport.	Normal School Library	Do.
Public Library	Buffalo.	Academy of the Sacred Heart.	Do.
Mechanics' Institute	Do.	University Club	Do.
North Buffalo Catholic Institute.	Do.	Young Men's Library of Holy Cross Church.	Do.
School District No. 1	Catskill.	West Side Library	Do.
Hamilton College	Clinton.	De La Salle Institute	Do.
Franklin Hatch Library	Cortland.	Young Men's Railroad Reading Rooms.	Do.
Union Free School and Academy.	Canastota.	Washington Heights Free Library.	Do.
Cazenovia Seminary	Cazenovia.	Free School Library	Nyack.
Union Free School Library	Cattaraugus.	Union Free School Library	Oneonta.
Union School Library	Dansville.	State Normal School	Oswego.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Elmira.	Vassar College	Poughkeepsie.
Union Free School Library	Ellicottsville.	Railroad Young Men's Christian Association.	Plattsburgh.
Hobart College	Geneva.	Field Library	Peekskill.
Madison University	Hamilton.	Normal School Library	Potsdam.
Franklin Library Association.	Hudson.	Reynolds Library	Rochester.
High School Library	Hoosick Falls.	Central Library	Syracuse.
Union Free School	Herkimer.	Public Library	Skaneateles.
Cook Academy	Havana.	Griffith Institute	Springville.
Hornell Library	Hornellsville.	High School Library	Troy.
Cornell Library	Ithaca.	Oneida Historical Society	Utica.
Fulton County Library	Johnstown.	Public School Library	Watertown.
Kingston Academy Library	Kingston.	Public Library	Yonkers.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society.	Chapel Hill.	Chowan Female Baptist College.	Murfreesboro.
Clinton Female Seminary	Clinton.	Public School Library	Mount Airy.
Concordia College	Conover.	Young Men's Christian Association.	New Berne.
Davidson College	Davidson College.	Old Hickory Club	Salisbury.
Gaston College	Dallas.	Sparta Academy	Sparta.
Greenville College	Greenville.	High School Library	Wilson.
Graded School Library	Goldsboro.	Wake Forest College	Wake Forest.
High School Library	Hayesville.	Graded School Library	Winston.
Goodwell Free Library	Ledger.		

NORTH DAKOTA.

Public School Library	Bismarck.	Jamestown College	Jamestown.
City Library	Devil's Lake.	University Library	Rolla.
University of North Dakota	Grand Forks.		

OHIO.

Ohio Normal University	Ada.	National Normal University	Lebanon.
Public Library	Akron.	Free Library	Lancaster.
Do	Bluffton.	Wells Library	Lee.
Library Association	Bryan.	Public Library	Mount Vernon.
Adelbert College	Cleveland.	Lyceum Library	Mansfield.
Cincinnati University	Cincinnati.	High School Library	New Lexington.
Lane Theological Seminary	Do.	Young Men's Library and Reading-room Association.	Norwalk.
Society of Natural History	Do.		
Belmont College	College Hill.		
Library Association	Circleville.	High School Library	Newark.
High School Library	Coshocton.	Tuckerman's Institute	New South Lyme.
Public School Library	Cambridge.	High School Library	Piqua.
Public Library	Canton.	Temperance Library	Painesville.
Do	Cuyahoga Falls.	Public High School Library	Sandusky.
Law Library Association	Cleveland.	Carlton College	Syracuse.
Socialer Turn-Verein	Do.	Scio College	Scio.
Library Association	Defiance.	Heidelburg College	Tiffin.
Birchard Library	Fremont.	Public Library	Urbana.
Public Library	Germantown.	Wilberforce University	Wilberforce.
Union School Library	Gallipolis.	Wooster University	Wooster.
Lane Free Library	Hamilton.	Public Library	Washington C. H.
Public Library	Hillsboro.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Youngstown.
Briggs Institute	Ironton.		
Citizens' Library	Lima.	Athenæum	Zanesville.
Union School Library	Leipsic.		

OREGON.

State Normal School	Drain.	Alpine Club	Portland.
Pacific University	Forest Grove.	Odd Fellows' Library	Do.
McMinnville Baptist College.	McMinnville.	Academy Public Library	Roseburg.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
King Public Library	Andalusia.	Union School Library	Mercer.
High School Library	Allentown.	Library of Art and Historical Association.	Meadville.
Muhlenburg College	Do.	Young Men's Christian Association.	New Castle.
Lebanon Valley College	Annville.	Young Men's Library Association.	New Brighton.
Mechanics' Library	Altoona.	Athenæum	Philadelphia.
Western University of Pennsylvania.	Allegheny.	Philadelphia Club	Do.
Lincoln Club Library	Do.	Young Republican Club	Do.
Columbia County Law Library.	Bloomsburgh.	James Page Library	Do.
Beaver College	Beaver.	Apprentices' Library	Do.
Library Association	Blairsville.	West Philadelphia Library	Do.
Wilson Female College	Chambersburgh.	German Society of Pennsylvania.	Do.
Shock's Library	Columbia.	Athenæum	Pottsville.
Dickinson College	Carlisle.	Milford Grange Library	Patterson.
Public School Library	Curwensville.	Iron City Microscopical Society.	Pittsburgh.
Thomas Beaver Library	Danville.	Public Library	Reading.
La Fayette College	Easton.	Lackawanna Institute of History and Science.	Scranton.
La Fayette Post, G. A. R.	Do.	Somerset County Law Library.	Somerset.
Law Library of the city of Erie.	Erie.	Pennsylvania State College.	State College.
Friends' Library	Germantown.	Public Library	Sewickley.
High School Library	Greensburgh.	Public School Library	Sharon.
Dauphin County Historical Society.	Harrisburg.	School Library	Tunkhannock.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Hazleton.	Centre Library Society	Van Dyke.
George Institute	Hestonville.	Public Library	West Chester.
Library Association	Indiana.	Free Library	West Grove.
Friends' Library of Abington.	Jenkintown.	Ely Post, G. A. R	Wilkes Barre.
Franklin and Marshall College.	Lancaster.	School District Library	Williamsport.
Lyceum Library	Minersville.	Dickinson Seminary	Do.
School Library	Montrose.	Collegiate Institute	York.

RHODE ISLAND.

Rogers Free Library	Bristol.	Public Library	Providence.
People's Library	Newport.	Harris Institute	Woonsocket.
Free Library	Pawtucket.	Lyceum Library	Do.
High School Library	Providence.	Pawtucket Public Library	Westerly.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Citadel Academy Library	Charleston.	Lyceum Library	Cheraw
Smythe Theological Institute.	Columbia.	Public Library	Edgefield.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Charleston.	Furman University	Greenville.
South Carolina Military Academy.	Do.	Library Association	Graniteville.
High School Library	Do.	Cooper Limestone Institute	Gaffney City.
Thornwell Orphanage	Clinton.	Young Men's Club	Marion.
		Newberry College	Newberry, C. H.
		Oats' Library	Oats.
		Adgar College	Walhalla.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Young Men's Christian Association.	Deadwood.	Commercial Club	Sioux Falls.
University Library	Mitchell.	All Saints' School	Do.
State Normal School	Madison.	University of South Dakota.	Vermillion.
School of Mines	Rapid City.	Yankton College	Yankton.

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

TENNESSEE.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Webb School Library	Bell Buckle.	Christian Brothers' Library	Memphis.
Female College	Brownsville.	Law Library	Do.
Warren City Library	Chuckey City.	Milligan College	Milligan.
Library Association	Chattanooga.	Bethel College	McKenzie.
Southwestern Presbyterian University.	Clarksville.	Y. M. H. Library	Memphis.
Athenæum	Columbia.	Cossitt Library	Do.
Columbia Institute Library	Do.	Nashville University	Nashville.
Hiwassee College	Hiwassee College.	Public Library	Rugby.
Public Library	Jackson.	Wesleyan Methodist Academy.	Ripley.
Lawson-McGhee Library	Knoxville.	Normal School Library	Winchester.

TEXAS.

School of Geology, University of Texas.	Austin.	Sam Houston Normal Library.	Huntsville.
Public School Library	Athens.	High School Library	Houston.
Public School Library	Austin.	Public Library	Hillsboro.
Baylor Female College	Belton.	Southeast Texas Male and and Female College.	Jasper.
Carleton Library	Bonham.	Young Men's Christian Association.	McKinney.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Corsicana.	Central College	Sulphur Springs.
Public School Library	Cisco.	Library Association	Sherman.
Commercial Exchange	Fort Worth.	Public Library	Terrell.
Public School Library	Fairfield.	Trinity University	Tehuacana.
Ball High School Library	Galveston.	Add Ran College	Thorp's Springs.
St. Mary's University	Do.		
Southern University	Georgetown.		

UTAH.

Deseret University	Salt Lake City.	Salt Lake Stake Library	Salt Lake City.

VERMONT.

Public Library	Bennington.	Free Public Library	Rutland.
Vermont Episcopal Institute	Burlington.	Norman Williams' Free Library.	Woodstock.
Library Association	Bellows Falls.	Library Association	Windsor.
Public Library	Chelsea.		
Public Library	Richmond.		

VIRGINIA.

Randolph Macon College	Ashland.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Norfolk.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Charlottesville.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Petersburgh.
Chamber of Commerce	Danville.	Richmond College	Richmond.
Artillery School	Fortress Monroe.	Mechanes' Institute	Do.
Female Normal School	Farmville.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Roanoke.
Hampden Sidney College	Hampden Sidney.	Hubbard Library	Stuart.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Harrisonburgh.	Young Men's Christian Association.	Staunton.
Town Library	Jonesville.	William and Mary College.	Williamsburgh.
Young Men's Christian Association.	Lynchburgh.	Library Association	Wytheville.
Washington and Lee University.	Lexington.		

WASHINGTON.

University of Washington	Seattle.	High School Library	Tacoma.
Public Library	Tacoma.		

Libraries supplied with the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey—Continued.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Institution.	Location.	Institution.	Location.
Bethany College	Bethany.	Grammar School Library	Martinsburgh.
Buckhannon Academy	Buckhannon.	Experimental Station	Morgantown.
Clarksburgh Academy	Clarksburgh.	Literary Society	Romney.
Normal School Library	Concord.	School for Deaf and Blind	Do.
High School Library	Farmington.	Shepherd College	Shepherdstown.
Marshall College	Huntington.		

WISCONSIN.

Vaughn Library	Ashland.	High School Library	Ohkosh.
Public Library	Eau Claire.	State Normal School	Platteville.
Business Men's Association	Green Bay.	High School Library	Portage.
University of Wisconsin	Madison.	Do	Prairie du Chien.
Milton College	Milton.	Ripon College	Ripon.
High School Library	Monroe.	High School Library	Richland Center.
Public Museum Library	Milwaukee.	State Normal School	River Falls.
Public School Library	Do.	Business Men's Association	Sheboygan.
Public Library	Marinette.	State Normal School	Whitewater.
Theological Seminary	Nashotah.	Free School Library	Waupun.
High School Library	Neenah.	Carroll College	Waukesha.

WYOMING.

Laramie County Library	Cheyenne.	University of Wyoming	Laramie City.
High School Library	Evanston.	General School Library	Rock Springs.

To each of these libraries 58 publications of the Survey have already been sent and 32 additional publications are now ready for distribution and will be forwarded to them as soon as the work of this office will permit. Additional copies of these documents still remain which are not required for the official use of the Department, while a large number of public and college libraries throughout the country still remain unsupplied. Under these circumstances it is recommended that authority be given to the Secretary of the Interior to make distribution of the same to those libraries to which they have not been sent and in which they will be of the largest service to the public. These publications are of a highly scientific character and should be deposited especially in college and school libraries where they will be available for the use of students who are making a special study of the several subjects to which they relate.

SUPREME COURT REPORTS.

Three hundred copies each of volumes 132 to 136 of United States Reports were received during the fiscal year 1889–'90, subsequently to the date of the last report, which have been distributed in accordance with the provisions of section 683 of the Revised Statutes and of an act of Congress approved February 12, 1889. In compliance with the special requests of the heads of the several Departments of the Government, for which inadequate provision has heretofore been made in the matter of Supreme Court Reports, a bill was submitted to each House of Congress at the last session having in view the supply of such officers of the Government as under existing laws were not entitled to receive this work, but by whom it is required in the discharge of their official duty and also for the supply of courts recently established for

which the number of copies received by the Department is found to be inadequate. No action upon this bill has, however, been taken by Congress. In the mean time demands continue to be made on this office for these reports by officers of the Executive Departments who have occasion to make constant reference to them, and also by certain circuit and district courts of the United States, which still remain unsupplied by reason of lack of authority on the part of this office to purchase the volumes required. It is therefore hoped that early in the present session Congress may take action in this matter and make adequate provision for the supply of all parties who have occasion to use these publications, so that hereafter requisitions for the same by such courts and officers of the Government may be promptly complied with.

THE TENTH CENSUS.

No reports of the Tenth Census have been received from the Public Printer since the last report of this office. The distribution of those previously received has continued throughout the year so far as orders on the part of members of Congress entitled to direct their distribution have been received. A large number of the Compendium, Statistics of Population, and Statistics of Agriculture still remain undistributed by reason of the fact that members of Congress have not availed themselves of their privileges in this respect.

The further the distribution of this important series of documents proceeds the larger is the number of duplicate orders given, showing more conclusively each month the importance of having the distribution, especially of all valuable and costly publications of the Government, made through one office, by which, through a proper system of registration, all duplication can be prevented.

The system of registration adopted in the distribution of these documents is such that it is possible almost in a single moment to ascertain whether any individual or library in the country has received any one of the twenty-six volumes forming the series, so that it is perfectly possible to discover and prevent all duplication in their distribution. The number of volumes thus saved for distribution to parties who would not otherwise have received them is little, if anything, less than 50.000. The experiment has proved so successful, and, it is believed, satisfactory to all parties concerned, that it is recommended that the distribution of the reports of the Eleventh Census, which will soon begin, be made by this office under the general regulations that have governed the distribution of those of the census of 1880.

SALE OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The following statement shows the number and price of the several documents sold under the provisions of joint resolution approved March 3, 1887, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell at cost any publications of the Government available for this purpose:

	Copies.	Price per copy.	Total.
Official Register of the United States, 1887:			
Volume 1	7	$1.25	$8.75
Volume 2	5	1.50	7.50
Official Register of the United States, 1889:			
Volume 1	43	1.35	58.05
Volume 2	2	1.55	3.10

Statement showing the number and price of documents sold—Continued.

	Copies.	Price per copy.	Total.
Land Decisions:			
Volume 1	132	$1.05	$138.60
Volume 2	136	1.15	156.40
Volume 3	130	1.07	139.10
Volume 4	133	1.15	152.95
Volume 5	130	1.05	136.50
Volume 6	151	1.45	218.95
Volume 7	186	1.10	204.60
Volume 8	220	1.16	255.20
Volume 8, in signatures, unbound	18	1.00	18.00
Volume 9	153	1.15	175.95
Volume 9, in signatures, unbound	118	1.00	118.00
Volume 10, in signatures, unbound	133	1.00	133.00
Pension Decisions:			
Volume 1	47	1.10	51.70
Volume 2	43	1.00	43.00
Volume 3	124	1.00	124.00
Volume 4, in signatures, unbound	33	1.00	33.00
Report of Public Lands Commission, 4 volumes	14	2.50	35.00
Reports of the Tenth Census:			
Compendium:			
Volume 1	4	.65	2.60
Volume 2	3	.55	1.65
Final reports:			
Volume 1, Statistics of Population	3	1.50	4.50
Volume 2, Statistics of Manufactures	2	1.50	3.00
Volume 3, Statistics of Agriculture	4	1.50	6.00
Volume 7, Valuation, Taxation and Public Indebtedness	2	1.35	2.70
Volume 8, Newspapers, Alaska, and Shipbuilding	1	1.60	1.60
Volume 9, Forest Trees of North America and portfolio maps	28	2.00	56.00
Volume 10, Petroleum, Coke, and Building Stones	10	1.75	17.50
Volume 11, Mortality and Vital Statistics (Part 1)	1	1.20	1.20
Volume 12, Mortality and Vital Statistics (Part 2)	4	1.60	6.40
Volume 13, Statistics and Technology of the Precious Metals	2	1.00	2.00
Volume 14, Mining Laws of the United States	3	1.10	3.30
Volume 15, Mining Industries of the United States	17	2.00	34.00
Volume 16, Water Power of the United States (Part 1)	15	1.25	18.75
Volume 17, Water Power of the United States (Part 2)	11	1.00	11.00
Volume 18, Social Statistics of Cities (Part 1)	3	1.50	4.50
Volume 19, Social Statistics of Cities (Part 2)	3	1.37	4.11
Volume 20, Wages, Prices of the Necessities of Life, Trades, Societies, and Strikes and Lockouts	2	1.10	2.20
Volume 22, Power used in Machinery and Ice Manufacture	6	.85	5.10
Monographs:			
Shipbuilding Industry of the United States	1	.30	.30
Petroleum and its Products	20	.60	12.00
Seal Islands of Alaska	17	.25	4.25
Population, Industries, and Resources of Alaska	3	.40	1.20
Flour Milling Processes	1	.05	.05
Cattle, Sheep, and Swine	1	.15	.15
Manufacture of Tobacco	1	.10	.10
Silk Manufacturing Industry	1	.05	.05
Culture and Curing of Tobacco	1	.25	.25
Manufacture of Glass	2	.10	.20
Factory System of the United States	1	.10	.10
Physical and Agricultural Features of California	1	.20	.20
Chemical Products and Salt	1	.05	.05
Manufacture of Coke	1	.20	.20
Machine Tools and Wood-working Machinery	1	.40	.40
Proceedings of the National Museum, Volume 1	1	1.56	1.56
Bulletins of the National Museum:			
Synopsis of Fishes of North America	2	2.87	5.74
Manual of American Land Shells	2	1.33	2.66
Check List of North American Reptilia and Batrachia	1	.96	.96
Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories (Hayden):			
Annual Reports:			
1876	1	1.82	1.82
1878	5	3.52	17.60
Bulletins:			
Volume 2	1	2.40	2.40
Volume 3	1	3.00	3.00
Monographs:			
Fresh Water Rhizopods	1	3.86	3.86
Cretaceous Flora	1	2.00	2.00
Atlas of Colorado	5	5.50	27.50
U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region (Powell):			
Geology of the Henry Mountains	1	.50	.50
Geology of the Black Hills of Dakota and Atlas	4	3.22	20.88
Geology of the High Plateaus of Utah and Atlas	1	3.40	3.40

Statement showing the number and price of documents sold—Continued.

	Copies.	Price per copy.	Total.
U. S. Geological Survey:			
Annual Reports—			
1880	4	$0.50	$2.00
1884	1	1.95	1.95
1885	2	1.67	3.34
1886	1	1.60	1.60
Mineral Resources of the United States—			
1884	5	.60	3.00
1885	5	.40	2.00
1886	8	.50	4.00
1887	18	.50	9.00
1888	1	.50	.50
U. S. Entomological Commission:			
Second Report	1	1.50	1.50
Third Report	1	.60	.60
Revised Indian Treaties	19	2.75	52.25
United States Maps	1,650	1.25	2,062.50
State and Territoral Maps, number of sheets	884	.17	150.28
Supreme Court Decisions (Curtis's edition)	22	2.00	44.00
Do	9	3.50	31.50
Do	3	3.00	9.00
Total			4,891.86

EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The work of conducting exchanges of public documents among the public and college libraries of the country, by which duplicates in one library have been made available for supplying deficiencies in another, has been prosecuted during the year as far as the pressure of other duties would permit. The number of libraries availing themselves of the opportunity afforded for securing missing volumes is steadily increasing, thus increasing also the number of documents put at the disposal of this office for supplying deficiencies, as nearly all that make requests for aid in this direction are glad to surrender their duplicates for the benefit of other libraries. The aggregate number of duplicate documents received by the Department since this system of exchanges was inaugurated is little if anything less than 100,000.

Three additional check lists have been recently prepared, the redistribution of documents enumerated in which is now in progress, viz:

Annual reports of the Department of the Interior, 1849 to 1889.
Annual reports of the War Department, 1850 to 1889.
Diplomatic Correspondence or Foreign Relations of the United States, 1861 to 1889.

This important work of building up and of rendering more serviceable the public college and school libraries of the country would be greatly aided if the surplus documents, for the distribution of which no provision is made, which are now stored in the Capitol and elsewhere, could be made available for this object. These documents now occupy room that is required for other purposes and many of them are also in process of decay, and it is believed that no better use can be made of them. It is submitted that it would be altogether wiser to utilize them in completing series of documents in our libraries, thus putting them where they will be brought within the reach of whole communities, than to scatter them in separate volumes over the country.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

It is a matter of special satisfaction that the judgment expressed in the last report of this office regarding the importance of the establishment of a bureau of documents seems to be shared by the members of

the Committee on Printing of the two Houses of Congress, and also by many other Senators and Representatives. Every year's additional experience and observation of the publication and distribution of documents only serves to make the arguments in favor of such a bureau still more convincing. It is certain that many of the very serious evils growing out of the present unsatisfactory method of distributing the publications of the Government can be remedied only by the creation of such a bureau. In this way alone can this branch of the public service be centralized and unified and a satisfactory system introduced promotive of economy and the largest convenience of all having to do with public documents.

It is therefore hoped that in immediate proximity to the new Government Printing Office, which it is proposed soon to erect, it may be found possible also to provide a suitable building for the storage of all documents published for the benefit of the people at large, whether the distribution be made upon the order of members of Congress or of the executive officers of the Government. It is believed that such provision for the distribution of the publications of the Government will be satisfactory to all parties concerned and that there would result a very large saving annually to the Government.

GENERAL INDEX OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

In my last report I dwelt at length upon the importance of some provision for the preparation of a general comprehensive index of all publications of the Government. The longer this matter is delayed and the larger the accumulation of public documents, the more apparent the necessity for it becomes to all who have occasion often to refer to these publications. They are of little worth to the general public in comparison with what they would be were such an index available.

The recommendations embraced in the last report have attracted the attention of a large number of the librarians of the country, some of whom have put on record their emphatic approval of these suggestions with an expression of their hope that Congress would at an early day make provision for an official indexer who shall be responsible for the preparation month by month of such an index as will meet the demands of the case. It may not be improper in this connection to quote from communications received relative to this subject.

The director of the New York State Library says:

It is absolutely impossible to escape from the present disgraceful conditions unless a thoroughly qualified indexer can be provided. In view of the enormous amount of money spent by the General Government on public printing it seems strange that proper provision for expert indexing has not yet been made. I should be willing to undertake to prove before a fair and competent jury that it would be an enormous gain in the practical value of our public documents if they could be satisfactorily indexed by an expert, even if the number of copies published were reduced so as to save twenty times the cost of the indexing. The trifling expense is the only conceivable objection to having this work properly done, and if the United States is too poor to pay for it they can make a specific economy by doing the two things for which there is a constantly growing demand from intelligent users: (1) Indexing the documents properly; (2) distributing them systematically to the libraries of the country. Half the number by this method would do five times the good.

The librarian of the Chicago Public Library writes:

A matter in which all librarians are greatly interested was your recommendation concerning a general index of all the Government publications. I sincerely hope that something may be done by the present Congress to carry out your suggestions. It is a pity that so much important and valuable matter as is contained in these publications should be inaccessible for want of a good index. Only a few of the larger libraries can afford to index the public documents and then only in a partial manner.

The judgment of the librarian of the Apprentices' Library, New York City, is that—

It is high time something was done to provide a clew to the many valuable works now buried in the literary labyrinth called "public documents." With a general index to all public documents heretofore published, on some simple and easily understood method of classification by subjects, librarians would frequently be able to put these Government publications to good use. As it is, neither the librarian nor the reader knows what they contain and there is no way of finding out. The consequence is, that, in the majority of cases, public documents are practically a useless incumbrance to a library. Yet no librarian would do without them for he hopes that some day a key will be provided which will unlock their treasures.

The librarian of the Mercantile Library, New York City, comments upon the subject thus—

What a blessing such an index would be to the weary searcher who is now compelled to wade through a mass of documents, hour after hour, and perhaps days, before being able to find what is known to be buried somewhere among them. With seventeen years experience as the executive officer of this library, I believe I have come to know something of the nature of our public documents. I know the excessive labor so often necessary to find what you need is a great drawback to their use. With an index, such as you suggest, their value and usefulness would be immensely increased.

The librarian of Amherst College expresses himself to this effect—

The statement that an improvement in the arrangement and indexing of the United States public documents is among the possibilities seems too good to be true. Year by year my sense of the value of those documents in a public library becomes more decided, and my use of them increases. And in the same ratio has my feeling grown that it would be a gain if the Government should print half as many documents and have them properly indexed and arranged, rather than continue to treat us to the present hocus-pocus. A competent official indexer would be worth $10,000 a year if the documents are worth issuing at all at their present expense.

The librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., says:

I was much impressed with the plan for a general index to the buried treasures in the public documents which our Government supplies with such a lavish hand. We not only need the books in such a library as ours, Congressional Record, Statutes-at-Large, etc., but we need the key to unlock some of them.

The librarian of the Young Men's Christian Association, New York City, comments upon the subject as follows:

The recommendation in your report that Congress should provide for a general index to public documents is one that must be approved by all librarians. Public documents contain much useful material, but without a proper index they are used but little. I believe that if all public documents could be indexed, particularly by topics, and distributed promptly after issue, that their use would be greatly enhanced. A book, even, to-day without an index, comes under severe censorship; a collection of books without one, is dead stock, if we may use a mercantile expression.

The librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia thus commends the project:

I am glad that there is a prospect of a general index to all public documents. I strongly approve of your recommendation to that effect and trust it will be successful. The need of it is so urgent and so obvious, that it should commend itself to universal favor.

These utterances but reflect the opinion of nearly all the prominent librarians of public libraries and of colleges in the country, which opinion finds expression year by year in the discussions that transpire at the general conference of American librarians at their annual meeting.

A bill is now under consideration by the proper committees of the two houses of Congress, making provision for the appointment of an official indexer of public documents whose duty it shall be to prepare

annually a comprehensive index to be published at the beginning of each session of Congress, the index to the documents of each subsequent session to be combined with those that have preceded, until a volume of convenient size shall have been formed. It is most earnestly hoped that this bill may receive the favorable consideration of Congress at its present session.

On the following pages will be found a section of such a general index as is herein suggested. This embraces about one thousand entries and is presented not as embodying all the essentials of a perfect index, but merely in the way of suggestion, for the purpose of eliciting criticism from those who are competent to advise with reference to the most satisfactory form in which a comprehensive index of public documents can be embodied.

It is designed that this index shall show, in an alphabetical arrangement, not only the general subject to which each and every document published by the Government relates, but in the case of those documents in which several important subjects are treated reference shall be made to every such subject and the particular place indicated in which each paper is found in the existing classification of Government publications into the executive and miscellaneous documents and reports of the two Houses of Congress, also the Department or office from which each document emanates or the person by whom it is prepared or presented, together with its date. In case documents are embraced in two or more series of publications, the several separate volumes in which they are found is indicated. If legislation follows, or is directly connected with any particular document, as reports of the Senate and House of Representatives, reference to such legislation is made, and the Senate or House bill or resolution upon which reports, or legislation, or both are based is cited.

For example, under the title "Petroleum and natural gas in Ohio and Indiana," the index shows that this paper was prepared by E. Orton, and is found not only in House Executive Document, Fifty-first Congress, first session, No. 1, part 5, volume 3, but also in the eighth annual report of the Director of the Geological Survey, in the third volume of the report of the Secretary of the Interior, 1887, and in message and documents, 1886–'87, Interior Department, volume 3. Under the title, "York, Pa., erection of public building at, recommended," the index shows that this is a report from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, presented by Senator Quay, May 10, 1890, having reference to House bill 749; that it constitutes Senate Report No. 931, of the Fifty-first Congress, first session, and comprises 2 pages, and that it was followed by appropriate legislation on May 24 and August 30, 1890, found in chapters 291 and 837, Session Laws, Fifty first Congress, first session.

Under the title "World's Fair, provision for holding, at Chicago, Ill., recommended," these facts are shown: That a report to this effect was made by Mr. Candler, from the Committee on the World's Fair, on March 15, 1890, to accompany House bill No. 8393; that this is House Report No. 890, of the Fifty-first Congress, first session, and contains 21 pages, and that an act of Congress based upon it received the approval of the President April 25, 1890, which act constitutes chapter 156 of the Statutes of the Fifty-first Congress, first session.

It will be observed that the volume in which the documents appertaining to the present and the last sessions of Congress are found is not given, which results from the fact that they have not yet been issued in bound form in the Congressional set. This item can be inserted whenever they are so bound.

A large number of documents, which are bound up with other publications and therefore form only a part of the volume, are also published in separate form, and can be had or referred to as distinct individual publications. Many of the reports of the subordinate bureaus and offices of the Executive Departments are thus issued. Other examples are found in the several papers which constitute certain volumes of reports of scientific research. The publication of such documents in separate form is indicated in the index by the abbreviation "sep."

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WARD, L. F.	**Fossil Plants**, geographical distribution of *Eighth Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey*, 1887, *pp.* 663–960. *Mess. and Docs.* 1886–'87, *Int. Dept.*, *Vol.* 3, *part* 2, *pp.* 663–960. *Report of the Sec. of the Int.*, 1886–'87, *Vol.* 3, *part* 2, *pp.* 663–960.	H	.....	.....	51	1	1 pt. 5	663–960	
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Do	**Indians,** report relative to the alleged armament of in certain States. December 11, 1890.	S	.....	.....	51	2	9	51	
	Indian schools, Superintendent of, annual reports of the. *Included in the annual reports of the Secretary of the Interior.* Sep.								
STRUBLE, I. S. Territories.	**Indian Territory,** establishment of courts in..... February 15, 1890. H. Bill 6786.	.....	.....	H	51	1	66	12	
MANDERSON, C. F. Senator.	**Indian tribes in States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, etc.,** resolution proposing inquiry into the condition of. December 19, 1890.	.....	S	.....	51	2	28	1	
UTAH COMMISSION	**Industrial Christian Ho me Association of Utah,** annual report of. November 12, 1890.	.....	S	.....	51	2	15	6	
Do	**Industrial Christian Home of Utah Territory,** report as to management of.	.....	S	.....	51	1	34	10	
WAR	**Inner Bay, Plattsburgh, N. Y.,** report of preliminary examination of. December 2, 1890.	H	.....	.....	51	2	22	3	
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STOCKBRIDGE, H. Commerce.	**Inspection of live animals designed for food in a State other than that in which the animals are slaughtered**, recommended. December 9, 1890. S. Bill 4155.	.....	.....	H	51	2	3262	2	
	Intercontinental railway, report of the International American Conference relative to.	S	.....	.....	51	1	125	215 5 maps.	
ADAMS G. E ..... Judiciary.	**International copyright**, establishment of..... February 15, 1890. H. Bill 6941.	.....	.....	H	51	1	65	5	
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.	—— **exchanges**, statement of expenditures for, during year ending June 30, 1889.	.....	H	.....	51	1	43	20	
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INTERIOR	**Interior Department**, statement of number and salaries of employés considered below a fair standard of efficiency. December 4, 1890.	H	.....	.....	51	2	58	4	
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WHITE, C. A	**Invertebrates**, fresh water, of the North American Jurassic. *Bulletin U. S. Geological Survey*, No. 29.	.....	H	.....	49	2	163	691–725 4 pl.	8
REED, J. R ..... Judiciary.	**Iowa**, creation of a new division in northern judicial district of, recommended. December 9, 1890. H. Bill 6586.	.....	.....	H	51	2	3264	1	
SWANK, J. M.....	**Iron**, American trade in, 1886 ..... *Mineral Resources of the United States*, 1886, *pp.* 11–22.	.....	H	.....	50	1	42	11–22	2
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BIRKINBINE, J....	**Iron ores of the Mississippi**..... *Mineral Resources of the United States*, 1886, *pp.* 39–103.	.....	H	.....	50	1	42	39–103	2
GRIFFIN, G. W.... Consul.	**Irrigation in Australia**..... *Consular Reports*, No. 79, *June*, 1887, *pp.* 513–522.	.....	H	.....	50	1	604	513–522	21
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ALDEN, W. L ..... Consul-General.	**Italy**, its population, resources, commerce, crime, education, emigration, debt, railways, telegraphs, etc. *Consular Reports, No.* 80, *June*, 1887, *pp.* 689–712.	.....	H	.....	50	1	604	689–712	21
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DILLER, J. S.....	**Lassen Peak District**, geology of ..... *Eighth Annual Report of the Geological Survey*, 1887, *pp.* 395–432. *Mess. and Doc.*, 1886–'87, *Int. Dep.*, *Vol.* 3, *part* 1, *pp.* 395–432. *Report of the Sec. of the Int.*, 1886–'87, *Vol.* 3, *part* 1, *pp.* 395–432.	H	.....	.....	51	1	1 pt. 5.	395–432	
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