

NEARLY 100 YEARS OLD, LIBRARY WELL STOCKED, WELL PATRONIZED

In Hampton's Inn, Mary St., on January 24, 1855, a group of formally dressed Milton gentlemen met and passed a motion to create a Mechanics' Institute and Library Association.

This was Milton's first library.

Fine, flowery lettering describes the origins of a library in Milton, in a precious old minute book kept in the present library — a bright, spacious room just being completed in the town hall basement.

Now nearly 100 years old, the Milton library is an extremely good one for a town this size. In 1855, there were 49 members—now there are about 750. The circulation last year was 11,673 volumes.

All the hundreds of books which comprise the store available to any Milton and district residents who wish to join, are this week settling down in new quarters. Old shelves are being repainted; some new shelves have been built as well.

Stewart Lockie, a member of the library board and Miss Helen Mockridge, the librarian, are surrounded by books as they arrange them under children's, detective and western, fiction, travel, biography, psychology, religion, sociology, science, fine arts, useful arts, humor, literature and history.

Quite a number of faded books have the old Mechanics' Institute stamp. One old book is that "Statutes of the Province of Canada, passed in the 20th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, 1857." Here one finds "an act to incorporate the town of Milton in the county of Halton . . .

"Whereas the inhabitants of Milton, in the county of Halton, have, by their petition to the Legislature, represented that it is now the county town of the said county of Halton, and contains about one thousand inhabitants, and that it should be incorporated, and have prayed that it may be incorporated by the name of the Town of Milton; and whereas . . . Her Majesty . . . enacts as follows . . ."

The Association Library, government contro:

What is there for you in the library? There's bound to be something and likely quite a lot. Skim these titles and you're bound to find some appealing cream—Garden Flowers, the Cordon Bleu Cook Book; Selected Writings of Bolivar; Modern Democracies; Astronomy of Everybody; Fathers are Funny; Mental Faculty; Nothing but Murder; the R.C.M.P.; Amateur Machinist; Japan Speaks; Malabar Farm; The Plouffe Family; Churchills Closing the Ring; funny old volumes like Walks in Rome and many, many others.

The library is open for adults every afternoon from 1.30 till 5 p.m. except Wednesday and Wednesday from 9 till 12 noon; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

Library operation is strictly business and here are some of the figures. The government co-operates if council does — and Milton council does.

If, in a town of 2,000-4,999 population, the town grants 50 to 60 cents per capita of the population to the library, the government grant is 15 per cent. of this sum. If the town gives 61 to 70 cents, the government gives 20 per cent.; 71 to 80 cents rates 40 per cent.

This year, however, town council has granted 81 cents per capita population for the library, so the government is giving 60 per cent. of this per capita sum!

The government is also endeavoring to have all librarians certified. Since Miss Mockridge has had her certificate since 1948, the town claims an extra grant of \$100.

Circulation is creeping on an upward trend, which of course is interrupted just now with the library closed temporarily during the titanic job of classifying all the books and arranging them alphabetically.

Then, it is hoped, the circulation of interesting, useful and valuable books from this modern, efficiently-operated and exceptionally well-stocked library will rise and top