LAND OFFICE BOOKS ARE BEING MOVED

Sun — april 6-35

Library Is Expected To Be Transferred To Hall Of Records In 10 Days

EQUIPMENT IS MODERN

New Quarters Described As Being Outfitted With Latest Improvements

[*By the Associated Press*]

Annapolis, April 5—The work of moving the office of the State Land Commissioner with its 6,000 books and more than 500,000 records to the new Hall of Records was being carried out today under the direction of Arthur Trader, chief clerk of the Land Office.

A group of men are employed to carry the books and records from the present Land Office in the Court of Appeals building to the stacks in the Hall of Records, on the St. John's College campus, about a block away. Before each book or record is placed in the stacks the dust is removed by a vacuum cleaner.

Ten Days For Moving

Besides the 6,000 huge books in the Land Office, the following must be shifted: Fifteen thousand original records of the High Court of Chancery, abolished in 1851, when its duties were taken over by the circuit courts, sitting in equity; 100,000 original certificates of surveys, 500,000 index cards to the various records and 50,000 marriage references.

Trader said he expected to complete the moving operations within ten days. He said the office was being shifted with a view of continuing its operation, either from the files that had been transferred or from the files still in the preent office.

The stack room at the Hall of Records contains three miles of shelves, besides a large catalogue room for index cards and similar small records. The room is fireproof, the doors leading into it containing asbestos, which, when the door is shut, drops into grooves at the top and bottom of each door. An air-conditioning plant in the basement keeps the air in the six-tier stack room at an even temperature and humidity.

Electric Book Elevator

An electrically-operated book elevator allows the records to be sent to the various rooms with dispatch. The entire room is brilliantly illuminated and interconnected with the other rooms by telephone and voice tubes.

One room in the basement of the hall is filled with photostatic and blueprinting apparatus for the use of the Land Office.

The Land Office and the commissioner's office are located on the first floor of the hall above this workroom, along the east side of the building. The west side of the first floor is given over to a research or reading room, filled with mahogany tables and chairs of antique resign. On each table is a four-poster old-fashioned brass lamp. A conference room opens from the research room.

Entering the hugh Colonial entrance of the hall, the visitor steps into a lobby lined with electrically lighted

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missioner's suite is to be left. Facing the entrance and surmounted by the State seal is a paneled recess, with the following inscription:

1634—1934
Hall of Records
Erected by the
State of Maryland
to Commemorate
the Founding of
the Province
and to Provide for
the Safe Keeping
of the Records of
Province and State
that Our Heritage of
Toleration, Liberty
and
Self Government
May Never Be
Forgotten

The second floor of the hall contains a workroom with equipment for the repair and binding of books and records, and the offices of the archivist, assistant archivist and secretary. A cunningly concealed circular stairway leads from the archivist's office down to the research room. A circular window also gives the archivist and his assistants a view of the research room.

DR. J. A. ROBERTSON NAMED ARCHIVIST

Appointment Is Announced By Hall Of Records Commission

ACCEPTANCE EXPECTED

New Official's Special Work Has Been In Spanish And Portuguese Chronicles

[*By the Associated Press*]

Annapolis, May 28 — The appointment of Dr. James Alexander Robertson, of Tacoma Park, as archivist of the Hall of Records, recently completed on the St. John's College campus, was announced today by Judge Carroll T. Bond, chairman of the Hall of Records Commission.

Although no formal acceptance has been received from Dr. Robertson, the commission pointed out that his previous expression of willingness to undertake the organization and management of the new hall "leads the commission to regard the appointment as settled."

Recommended By Others

Dr. Robertson was recommended by J. C. Fitzpatrick, for many years chief of the manuscript division of the Library of Congress and at present editor of the Government's memorial edition of the writings of Washington.

He also had the backing of Dr. J. A. Jameson, of the Library of Congress; R. W. C. Connor, the new archivist of the United States and his assistants, and of two officials of the manuscript division of the Library of Congress.

Dr. Robertson's special work has been in Spanish and Portuguese archives. He was born at Corry, Pa., August 19, 1873, and was educated at the Western Reserve University.

Engaged In Work Abroad

From 1902 to 1909 he was engaged in work in the archives of Spain, Portugal, France, England and the United States. In 1909 he was employed in the historical research department of the Carnegie Institution in Washington.

From 1910 to 1916 he was librarian of the Philippine Library at Manila, and purchased for the Government of the islands a $100,000 collection from Spain. In 1916 he returned to the Carnegie Institution; in 1917 passed to the Government Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and in 1923 became professor of history in the John B. Stetson University in Florida.

Held On False Alarm Charge

Shortly after a false alarm of fire was sounded from a box at Orleans and Forrest streets last night, Patrolman James Mack, of the Central district, arrested James Walker, 66-year-old Negro, who was loitering in the vicinity. He admitted sounding the alarm, police said, and reported that he had no home.

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Good Selection

The appointment of Dr. James Alexander Robertson as archivist of the Hall of Records at Annapolis will give satisfaction to everyone at all familiar with the interest and historical value of the records in which he will work. Dr. Robertson is a trained archivist of many years' experience, and is the author of many historical works and editor of several important collections of historical documents.

If the Hall of Records is to become a useful historical institution, it is particularly important that its career be launched by one thoroughly grounded in the technique of evaluating the raw materials of history. A merely sentimental interest in Maryland history is not enough. These records have been scattered in many places, have never been properly cared for despite their great interest, and have never been classified and arranged with regard to their historial and intrinsic value. The task of assembling them properly is technical work of a high order. The commission, therefore, did well to ignore the temptation to appoint a local man because he was local and to go afield for the most able archivist that it could find.

War Communiqué

is president, will place a collection of military relics.

HALL OF RECORDS

The new Hall of Records at Annapolis, built by the State of Maryland as a Tercentenary memorial and now nearing completion at a cost of $200,000, is the first building erected by a State exclusively for that purpose, according to the architect, Laurence Hall Fowler. The meeting room of the Maryland Historical Society was crowded Monday night, when Mr. Fowler gave a talk on the new Hall of Records. The talk was illustrated with lantern slides of photographs and architectural plans.

Mr. Fowler pointed out that planning the building involved numerous problems for which there was no precedent. The building had to afford every modern facility for the storage of priceless records, even to air-conditioning and the exclusion of sunlight, yet it had to conform in outward appearance to the old buildings on St. John's campus. Also, the building had to be large enough for its purpose and still not dwarf the small Colonial buildings nearby. Apparently, Mr. Fowler has met these requirements.

Mr. Fowler was followed by Arthur Trader, of the Land Offices at Annapolis, who is in charge of the records. Mr. Trader compared the careless handling of public records in the early history of the State with the minute concern and attention devoted to them today. He also told of the great documentary treasures which will be stored in the new building, readily accessible to the lawyer, the title searcher, the historian, the genealogist and the student.

Miss Caroline V. Davidson read a paper on the early French settlers of Baltimore, with particular reference to Maximilian Godefroy. Miss Davidson has unearthed a great deal of data about Godefroy, who is best known, perhaps, as the designer of the Battle Monument in Calvert street.

Both Miss Davidson and Louis H. Dielman, secretary of the Society, pointed out that the story of the French settlers of early Baltimore has been neglected by historians, although it offers a fruitful and interesting field. These settlers included political refugees from France, Acadians from Nova Scotia and fugitives from the slave insurrection in San Domingo.

SKIPPY