

Rossau
Dominica

LIBRARY

Term *Dominica (Rossau)*

Population *30000*

Correspondent *H. H. Bell, Public Administrator of Dominica*

Date of Application *Dec. 27, 1904*

Amount *\$7500* — *\$750* Increase

Promised *March 14, 1905* do. promised

Debits Authorized *July 17/05* do. authorized

NOTES

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

\$ 7500

1. Town? *Roseau, Capital of Dominica, British West Indies.*
2. Population? *7000. Pop. of whole island 30000.*
3. Has it a Library at present? *Yes - (small one, much needing extension).*
4. Number of Books (excluding Government Reports)? *1600.*
5. Circulation for past year? *about 4000*
6. How is Library Housed? *In a concrete building, specially erected by the Government in 1902*
7. Number and measurements of Rooms, and their uses? *One large room, measuring 28 ft x 16 ft, surrounded by a piazza, 6 ft wide.*
8. Finances according to last yearly report.

Receipts:		Expenditures:	
<i>Government</i>		Rent,	\$
<i>City Appropriation,</i>	\$ 360	Salaries,	\$ 210
<i>Bequests,</i>		Books,	500
<i>Miscellaneous Receipts,</i>	500	Miscellaneous,	150
<hr/>		<hr/>	
<i>Total Revenue for year,</i>	\$ 860	<i>Total Expenditures,</i>	\$ 860

9. Rate at which Councils will pledge support of Library yearly (levying tax for purpose) if building obtained? *\$ 500.*

10. Is Requisite Site Available? *Yes: property of the Government*

11. Amount now Collected toward Building? *Existing building cost £460. Spent on books. 283*
 $£ 743 = £ 3700$

To facilitate Mr. Carnegie's consideration of your appeal, will you oblige by filling in the above, and returning with statement of any other particulars likely to assist in making decision.

It is necessary to give explicit answer to each question, as in the absence of such, there is no basis for action, and the matter will be delayed pending further communication.

Respectfully,

Signature *H. Basketh Bell.*

JAS. BERTRAM,

Designation *Administrator of Dominica.*

Secretary.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DOMINICA.

27th December, 1904.

My dear Sir,

Three years ago, when contemplating the building of a small Public Library to commemorate the reign of Queen Victoria, I addressed myself to Mr. Carnegie in the hope that he would be pleased to extend his benefactions to this small British Colony. My communication must have been overlooked among the many hundreds of similar ones which Mr. Carnegie was probably receiving at the time, and I was not fortunate enough to get a reply from him.

2. We nevertheless proceeded with our project, on the strength of our own small resources, and spent about £700 in erecting and furnishing the small building of which I enclose a view. An additional sum of one hundred guineas was also raised locally by private subscription for the purchase of a handsome copy of Von Angeli's portrait of Her late Majesty, and the picture now hangs in the Library. The Government contributes an annual Grant of £75 a year, and the management of the Institution is confided to a Board of Trustees.

3. The Library has now been in existence for three years and is a great success. There are 38 subscribers of the 1st Class, 33 of the 2nd, and 26 of the third. We have some 1542 carefully selected volumes,

volumes, and a good assortment of the best periodicals. The popularity of the Library among the white and coloured inhabitants of this island has grown so rapidly that the building is already proving too small for our requirements and we are very anxious to enlarge the premises and to make them more worthy of their purpose. Unfortunately the margin between revenue and expenditure in this small dependency is a very thin one, and we are unable to devote sufficient funds for our object. Would Mr. Carnegie extend his benevolence to us? I can assure him that we are a deserving community, and that much gratitude would be felt for his assistance. This Government spends nearly one tenth of its whole Revenue on education and does its best to raise the standard of life among the coloured population. The island once belonged to France and French influences and sentiments in the shape of a barbarous "patois", still linger to an unsatisfactory degree. The dissemination of good Anglo Saxon literature will do much to improve the moral tone of our people, and I trust that Mr. Carnegie may help us in our endeavour.

I take the liberty of addressing this communication to you, as I have been informed that appeals of this nature are usually referred by him to you for first consideration. If you will plead our cause with Mr. Carnegie we shall feel grateful to you.

Believe me

Yours faithfully

H. Baskett Hill

Administrator of Dominica.

January 19th, 1905.

H. Wankett Bell, Esq.,
Government House, Dominica.

Dear Sir,

Yours of 27th December received. Mr. Carnegie confines himself to the erection of Library Buildings, and only that when there is an adequate revenue assured, that is to say, from taxation or guarantee from the Government. Some indication should be given as to the cost of a sufficiently large building or of the cost of extending the old one.

Respectfully yours,

P. Secretary.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DOMINICA.

8th February 1905.

DOMINICA

N^o 50
304

Sir

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of 19th January last, and have pleasure in returning you, herewith, the paper giving particulars of our existing small library.

2. The building we are now using has become much too small for our requirements, and we are very anxious to extend it. The Engineer to the Government estimates that for £1500, say \$7500, a substantial concrete building could be added to the present house, sufficiently spacious to meet the probable requirements of this community for many years to come. The proposed improvements could, of course, be on a much larger and more handsome scale, but I trust that the modesty of our request may give us better chances of Mr Carnegie's favourable consideration. I shall be happy to supply a plan of the building proposed.

3. This is a Crown Colony, and the Government will gladly guarantee such annual revenue to the Library as may be considered reasonable.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

H. Hesketh Bell

Administrator of Dominica.

Jan. Bertram Esq
2 East 91st Street
New York

March 14th, 1905.

H. Hesketh Bell, Esq.,
Administrator of Dominica.

Dear Sir,

Responding to your communications on behalf of the
Island of Dominica, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give
Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for the erection of
a Free Public Library Building for the Island, provided
the Government agree to give a site for the building and
to contribute Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars a year for
the carrying on of the Library.

Respectfully yours,

P. Secretary.

July 14th, 1905.

H. Rosbeth Bell, Esq.,
Government House,
Dominica, B.W.I.

Dear Sir

Yours of 27th June received. Mr. Carnegie's invariable procedure in regard to the many hundreds of Library Buildings for which he has provided funds is to authorize his cashier, R. A. Franks, Hoboken, N.J., to honor the calls of the authorities of the place at which the Library is being erected for monies from time to time as the building progresses and as payments are due to the contractors, such requisitions being signed by the architect and officials responsible. If you find you can conveniently do this, Mr. Franks will send you remittances in sums of £400. or £500. each by return of post, which will avoid our treating the case of Dominica exceptionally by sending the money in advance.

Respectfully yours,

P. Secretary.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DOMINICA.

27th June 1905.

DOMINICA

N^o 297
304

Sir.

In a communication, dated the 14th March last, your Private Secretary, Mr Bertram, informed me that you had been so good as to promise to give \$7500 for the erection of a Free Public Library Building, for Dominica, provided the Government agreed to give a site for the building and to contribute \$750 a year for the maintenance of the Library.

2. I beg, in the first place, to tender to you, my very grateful thanks for the generous manner in which you have acceded to my appeal, and to assure you that I will spare no effort to see that your munificence is applied to the best advantage.

3. I attach copy of a Resolution unanimously passed by the Legislature of this island, on the 17th April last, expressing the Colony's gratitude and binding the Government to provide a site for the proposed library, and an annual grant of 750 dollars for its upkeep.

4. It has been considered preferable to make arrangements for the erection of an entirely new building, to be called the "Carnegie Free Library" rather than to enlarge the existing small edifice. The site selected is in the Public Gardens, and is a very beautiful one.

5. I desire to add that the Secretary of State for
the Colonies

A. Carnegie. Esq

Skibo Castle

Sutherland.

Scotland

the Colonies intends to send you an expression of his appreciation of your generosity to this island.

6. We are anxious to proceed, as quickly as possible, with the building of the Library, and shall be very grateful to receive the promised funds at your early convenience. The amount might be paid to the Crown Agents in London who would hold the same for the object intended.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

H. Keshett Bell

Acting Governor.

DOMINICA.

RESOLUTION.

RESOLVED, that this Council, accepts with thanks
Mr Carnegie's generous offer of Seven thousand five
hundred dollars for the erection of a free public Library
building and pledges itself to grant a free site in the
Roseau Public Gardens and to vote the sum of Seven
hundred and fifty dollars annually for its upkeep.

H. Beshedwell

President Legislative Council.

Passed the Legislative Council of Dominica the
seventeenth day of April, 1905.

A. P. Maw

Clerk Legislative Council.

Communications on this subject
should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following
Number quoted. 24382/1905.

Downing Street,

20 July, 1905.

Sir,

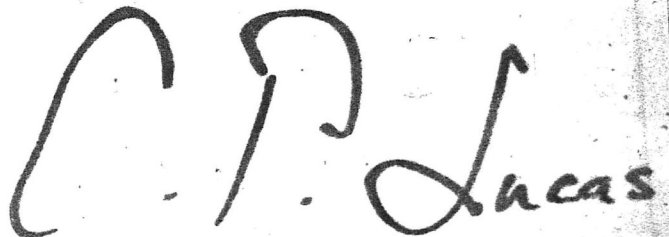
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to inform you that Mr. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., the Administrator of the island of Dominica has reported to him your generous offer of \$7500 for the establishment of a Public Library in that island and the grateful acceptance of that offer by the Legislative Council.

2. Mr. Lyttelton desires me to express to you his warm appreciation of your munificent gift.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. Lucas

ANDREW CARNEGIE, ESQ.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DOMINICA.

DOMINICA

11th April, 1906.

N^o 67/304
1904

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Free Library building in this town, the funds for which you generously provided in response to Mr Administrator Hesketh Bell's request, has been completed, and will be opened as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

2. I enclose a photograph of the building, within which a brass plate fixed to the wall will record the fact that it is a gift to the people of Dominica by yourself.

3. Legislation will shortly be passed by the local Council to make provision for the management of the institution, and ^{for} giving effect to the conditions attached to your gift regarding its maintenance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Acting Administrator.

Andrew Carnegie, Esquire,

Skibo Castle,

S U T H E R L A N D.

1500

May 2nd, 1906

Acting Administrator,
Dominica.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Carnegie tenders his thanks for yours of April
11th and the accompanying photographs of the new Free
Public Library Building.

Respectfully yours,

P. Secretary.

Acme Studio,

Roseau,

Dominica.B.W.I.

Andrew Carnegie Esq.

Sir,

Enclosed under separate cover please find
duplicate Photographs of the Carnegie Free Library of Dominica,
which I have taken, and if it pleases you, I have great pleasure
in forwarding these by this mail.

While I have the honour to be Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

W. A. Jentou

Photo Artist.

Sub.
DOMINICA, BRITISH WEST INDIES.
File No.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

Date, July 17th, 1905.

Amount, \$7500.00

Order, To pay \$7500 for Library Building
at Dominica, British West Indies.

Oct. 16th, 1905,

\$1000.00

Apr. 30th, 1906, bal.

544-5-7-

293
SUTHERLAND

July 17th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Frank,

Please honor the calls of the proper authorities of the following towns for sums as needed to pay for the erection of their library buildings, to the extent stated in each case:-

- Dominica, British West Indies, Seventy-five Hundred Dollars.
- Kaytsle, Scotland, twenty-five Hundred Pounds Sigs.
- Portsmouth, England, Forty-five Hundred Pounds Sigs.

Also note increase in amount for the library building to twenty-three thousand Five Hundred Dollars.

Please honor the calls of the authorities of Furman University, Greenville, S.C. for sums as needed for library building to the extent of Fifteen thousand Dollars.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Frank, Secretary
Sutcliffe Company
Sutcliffe, S.C.