It must be taken into consideration that this has been a year of great drawbacks. For a few weeks after the explosion the Library was closed for the circulation of books and used as a food depot; also the general condition of the building was such that during the winter months it could not be used with any degree of comfort, and this interfered greatly with the usefulness of the Library, especially the reading room.

Extracted from 102-1I-1917-1918, Halifax Annual Report 1917-1918, Report Citizen's Free Library, p.146, Halifax Municipal Archives