

BULLETIN
OF
THE MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. VI, No. 1

May - June, 1941

Editor: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, M. A.
Librarian,
Acadia University,
Wolfville, N. S.

PROGRAM
of the

Seventh Annual Conference of the Maritime Library Association
Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., June 26-27, 1941.

Thursday, June 26

- 9:30-12:30 Address of welcome by President Patterson or
a Dean of the University.
Address by Miss Snider, President of the M.L.A.
Minutes; Report of the Secretary-Treasurer.
Business.
Librarians' Round Table, with informal reports.
Reports from Library Clubs.
- 2:30-4:30 Report of Boston Conference of the A. L. A.
by Miss Vaughan.
Address: Historical Records in War and Peace,
by Dr. R. S. Longley, followed by discussion.
Address: The Canadian Library Council, by
Miss Bateson. Discussion.
- 5:30 Buffet Supper in Faculty Hall.
- 8:15 Public Meeting in University Hall or in B3
Classroom.
Short Musical Program.
Address: Regional Libraries, by Rev. J. J.
Tompkins, D. D., of the Regional Libraries
Commission. Discussion.

Friday, June 27

- 9:30-12:30 Topic: Camp Libraries in the Maritimes.
Addresses by Miss Nora Bateson, Miss Doreen
Harper, and Mr. Bramwell Chandler.
Discussion.
Reports of Committees. Business
- 2:30 A drive to Windsor and other points of inter-
est in the vicinity, with a visit to the Hal-
iburton Museum.

Meetings, unless otherwise announced, will be held in the Emerson Memorial
Library, where there will be an exhibit of books from Toronto publishers. All per-

sons interested in library progress are cordially invited to attend.

Wolfville has one large hotel with room and board from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a day. Excellent rooms with or without board may be secured in boarding houses and private homes. Those expecting to attend the Conference may have a room reserved by writing Mrs. M. K. Ingraham, Librarian, Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S.

The President's Letter

I have been reading Mr. Chandler's excellent analysis of readers and reading habits in Prince Edward Island as indicated by five years' circulation statistics of the Prince Edward Island libraries. The thought of regional libraries is never entirely out of our minds, and it will be very much in the forefront at our annual meeting when Father Tompkins will address us on that subject. I hope that Mr. Chandler's book "A regional library and its readers" is available to all our members as a background for Father Tompkins' address. It is a particularly timely reminder, if such is needed, of the unquestionable value to communities of a regional library. But to quote Mr. Chandler: "To say that a library is valuable, however, is not sufficiently concrete for the purposes of the rural sociologist or the adult educator. The extent of its value to various groups within the community must be measured, for economic and social factors operating in the lives of the people are reflected inevitably in their use of the library." With Mr. Chandler's statistics firmly fixed in our minds we shall be much more convincing propagandists for regional libraries.

One of the most interesting features about library work is the inevitability with which one project leads to another. Libraries for the enlisted forces, for instance, are not merely of temporary significance. If reading habits can be established in these men and the value of library service demonstrated to them, there is no question that after the war there will be a greater need and demand for books than can be supplied by our present numerically inadequate libraries. This of course in the Maritime Provinces means that regional libraries will be a necessity.

The importance of education in the fight for democracy is being constantly stressed. It cannot be said too frequently or too emphatically that libraries are at least equally as important as schools in any educational plan. Professor John Hughes, of the Department of Education, McGill University, told a group of men in Montreal the other day that "People must think less and talk less about the high cost of education and talk more of the high cost of ignorance." It seems to me that this would be an excellent slogan to apply to the cause of regional libraries.

- Winifred Snider

The Canadian Library Council

The possibility of an organization of librarians in Canada, a Canadian Library Association, has been under discussion since 1925. In October, 1940, President Culver of the A. L. A. appointed a special committee of five consultants to the A. L. A. for the year ending August 31, 1941. This committee met in Ottawa in January, 1941, and recommended the following:

(1) That a Canadian Library Council be established composed of the following persons:

Miss Nora Bateson, Director of Regional Libraries, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Alexander Calhoun, Chief Librarian, Calgary.

Miss Helen Grenier, Librarian, Catholic School Commission, Montreal.

Miss Margaret S. Gill, Librarian, National Research Council, Ottawa.

Dr. G. R. Lomer, Librarian, McGill University.

Mr. E. S. Robinson, Chief Librarian, Vancouver.

Mr. C. R. Sanderson, Chief Librarian, Toronto.

(2) That the Canadian Library Council shall take under consideration such projects as the following:

The submission of briefs or petitions to the Canadian Government on any matters which concern the interests of Canadian libraries.

The forwarding of the establishment of a Canadian National Library, which in addition to the usual functions shall also serve as a national central lending library.

Readers of this Bulletin will please take note that Miss Bateson, the Maritime member of the Council, will address the coming Conference on this whole subject on the afternoon of Thursday, June 26, and that she will invite free discussion.

Canadian Legion War Services Library

The Canadian Legion War Services Educational Services in the Atlantic Area have made a small beginning towards the establishment of something approaching a real library service. In the Fall of 1940 the Legion asked the Nova Scotia Government to lend the services of the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission staff and made a grant of \$12,000 for books.

Over 7,000 books have been selected and distributed throughout the Area which includes Newfoundland and the Maritimes. In Debert and the larger camps collections up to 1,000 books have been installed. In the Halifax, Saint John and Sydney areas and in Newfoundland there are some fifteen deposits of two to four hundred books. There are besides between 30 and 40 boxes of 20 books each in forts and outposts and a collection of 1,000 books is ready for the Halifax Dockyards and has been waiting for several weeks for shelves and accommodation. It is hoped soon to extend the service to the R. C. A. F.

It was the wish of the Legion Educational Services that this library should first of all supply books to supplement the educational work offered through the Canadian Legion War Services correspondence courses. Most of these courses are on technical subjects and the nucleus of the Canadian Legion War Services Libraries consists therefore of hundreds of technical books. These are distributed through the Legion's Educational Organizers, and in the large camps are used as reference books in the libraries.

In addition the Legion library has aimed to have a wide selection of the more popular books on the World Today, on our war aims and peace plans, etc. For a nation fighting for liberty and freedom of ideas it is of the most vital importance that its young men should have access to what our best minds in England and America are saying about the war and what is to come after it. In England we read again and again of the extraordinarily quickened interest among the younger men and women in the great and urgent problems thrown up by the present conflict. At a recent meeting in London called to promote the wider distribution of books one of the speakers said, "There are scores of books being written now ... on the great changes that are taking place under our eyes, and I think it is most important that those changes, literally a social revolution that is going on in our midst, should be made known to the people. That Social Revolution ... I hope ... will mean a freeing of the spirit and an opening of the mind and if we are going to achieve that it is of paramount importance that new books, new ideas should be given the greatest possible encouragement and currency."

Taking a broad view of its "educational purpose" the Canadian Legion War Services library contains also many copies of the outstanding "readable", popular books of the last few years: books of adventure and travel, biographies, histories,

anthologies of poetry, and fiction. And here we can confirm the recent pronouncement of the Saturday Review of Literature of a noticeable resurgence in the writing and reading of poetry; in the Atlantic Defense area there is a surprising turnover in books of poetry.

There are several hundred French books. Sussex has a large proportion of them and there are also simple books for the use of those learning to read.

The use made of books in the various places varies, exactly, according to the quality of the volunteer help we can enlist to distribute them. In the Cogswell Street Military Hospital in Halifax we have an ideal setting; an interested matron and staff and a member of our own staff who goes round the wards once or twice a week with a truck of books—making suggestions and taking requests for information on subjects not represented on the truck. There are as many books circulated weekly there as there are beds in the hospital, and the requests vary from "something in French" (from a French-speaking Canadian) to "stage-craft" and "calculus". Very popular are all the books on current world affairs.

In Debert Camp we are most fortunate in having a very interested woman from the West in charge of the distribution. There is a vigorous circulation and we are only afraid we may hear soon that there are no longer any books left on the shelves. Debert could use ten times as many books as we have been able to send.

These are two of the high spots in our distribution. No system run on a basis of volunteer help can be uniformly good. We may well look with envy on the Camp libraries set up by the United States Department of Defense where trained librarians are being employed in the camps.

We have to face the fact that the very inadequate library provision made for our Services is the index of the lack in Canada of any recognition of what part libraries might play in our national life. The Canadian Legion War Services library small as it is and capable of much wider extension has at least some of the elements of a modern library service.

-Nora Bateson

The Acadia Library

The Library of Acadia University had its beginnings in 1841, when three books, the authors and titles of which we do not know, were donated to the new Baptist college by a Presbyterian minister, Rev. John Sprott. The college had been founded in 1838. In 1843, the year of the first graduating class, 500 pounds for the maintenance of the library became available, this money a bequest from the estate of Mr. W. S. DeWolfe. In that same year Rev. I. E. Bill travelled in the United States collecting money for the college and books for the library, while Rev. John Pryor went to England on a similar mission. Both were successful; they returned with many books and money to purchase more, and the library was now recognized as a vital part of the academic institution.

During the later '40's, and until his untimely death by drowning in 1852, Prof. Isaac Chipman worked persistently and vigorously for the increase and usefulness of the Library. He encouraged pastors and clerks of the Baptist churches in the constituency to prepare church histories and deposit them in the college library, and while zealous in collecting theological books, he was moved, he wrote, about the secular part. Where he kept the books we do not know.

In 1854, two years after Prof. Chipman's death, the first college building was completed, and a room in the west wing was set apart for the library. The number of books increased steadily until 1877, when through some accidental cause this college building was burned. Most of the books in the library were saved, but in a sadly damaged condition. They found a new home in 1879, when a new college hall was ready for occupation. A large room on the second floor was assigned for the library,

and the 3,000 volumes then in possession of the college were neatly if not scientifically classified and shelved. These had increased to 15,000 volumes in 1914, when the collection was moved to the newly constructed Emerson Memorial Library, the gift of the family of the late Rev. R. H. Emerson, and the gem of the campus today.

The librarian's office was assigned to different professors until 1910, when President George B. Cutten became President of Acadia University and immediately undertook the reorganization of the library. Miss Jean Steadman Haley, a graduate of Acadia with a degree in Library Science from Simmons College, was appointed chief librarian, and the library was opened to students daily from half past eight in the morning until half past four in the afternoon. Miss Haley resigned in 1914, to become Mrs. M. R. Elliott. She was succeeded by Miss Amy Freeman, who remained only two years. The work for the next year was carried on by Miss Vesta Peck, now Mrs. Philip Illsley. In 1917 the present librarian, Mrs. M. K. Ingraham, was appointed. At that time 19,743 books had been accessioned; the record is now 78,575.

The library has several special collections. They were received in the following chronological order: The Eric R. Dennis Collection of Canadiana, 1917, of which a catalogue compiled by Miss Helen D. Beals of the Library staff was published in 1938; the John D. Logan collection of Canadian Literature, 1918; the A. J. Crockett Collection of Pictoniana, about 1920; the William Inglis Morse Collection, 1926, consisting of about 2,000 books, manuscripts, and maps, many of them of rare value. There are several smaller collections of unique significance: The Hispanic Collection, donated by the Hispanic Society of America; a library on the fine arts, the gift of the Carnegie Foundation; and a select library on music from the same source. There is also the Ward Memorial Collection of books on Biology. The Library has many constant friends and donors whose names are purposely omitted from this sketch, which already exceeds the length usually allowed by the Bulletin. Speaking of gifts, however, we should emphasise the Carnegie Grant of \$15,000, announced in 1932, and paid in yearly instalments of \$5,000 each until 1935.

We should mention, however, our travelling libraries, about 1000 books for the general public and about 450 for Baptist ministers in the Maritimes. Also, two courses in Library Science are given every year, elective for Seniors and Juniors in the University. In fact, we are so busy, our shelves are so crowded, our office space so small, that it is not always easy to maintain our academic dignity, and no one is more conscious of this than we ourselves. We are certain, nevertheless, that Acadia students all agree in loyal appreciation of their library.

- M. K. Ingraham

Incorporation of the M. L. A.

We are glad to announce that when the seventh annual conference of the Maritime Library Association meets at Acadia University, June 26-27, it will meet as a corporate body. On its behalf we heartily thank Mr. G. C. Nowlan, Barrister, of Wolfville, N. S., who gave his services in securing the charter.

Honors were given to Dr. and Mrs. J. Clarence Webster of Shediac, N. B., when, at its recent Convocation, the University of New Brunswick conferred upon them both the degree of Doctor of Civil Law.