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OF  
THE MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The eighth annual conference of the M L A will meet at Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. Thursday and Friday, June 11-12, 1942. In another issue of the Bulletin before that date the program will be outlined. Board and room can be secured in one of the University dormitories at moderate cost.

RUSSIAN LIBRARIES

In 1934 Arundel Esdaile of the British Museum published a book: National Libraries of the World: Their History, Administration, and Public Services - This is vastly more than a simple manual and catalogue; it is a complete reference work on this most vital subject. In his chapter on the State Public Library in Leningrad, formerly the Imperial Public Library of St. Petersburg, he cites the number of printed works as 4,832,948, and the number of manuscripts as 331,000. He writes also that the new All-Union Lenin Library in Moscow was designed to hold 9,000,000 volumes, and was in structure the largest library in the world. These figures were astounding and we naturally wondered whether these 9,000,000 books would or could ever be assembled.

Theodore Bayer answers our question in the issue of Soviet Russia Today for February, 1942. He writes that the Soviet Union has indeed the largest single libraries in the world, that the All-Union Lenin Library in Moscow has now more than 9,000,000 books and that the State Public Library in Leningrad has 8,500,000. Also in 1939 there were 77,600 public libraries serving the Soviet people; as against 33,000 in 1933. The libraries of Russia now house more than 146,000,000 books. No wonder that the former illiteracy of the Russian masses is disappearing.

M.F.I.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Warmth in the sun, marbles rolling over sidewalks, and many letters from the Secretary of the M.L.A. discussing plans for the June conference indicate that the grim grip of winter is loosening. Spring, and another jump brings us to Sackville. Let us hope that shortage of gasoline and tires won't keep anyone away. It might be a good idea to re-read Mary Poppins and see if we can imitate her unorthodox methods of traveling with the East wind.

Wasn't the article in The Library Journal (February 15, 1942) by Eduard C. Lindeman of very great interest? For many years Dr. Lindeman has advocated the discussion method as the most desirable means of adult education. Here he weighs it in the balance and finds it wanting. Like President Hutchins of Chicago, he found the members of discussion groups exhibited an ignorance of basic texts, "the fundamental literature upon which the intelligence of our civilization rests." He also concluded to his sorrow that many of the devices used by discussion leaders were intended to produce conflict, often a full dress quarrel. His solution is the "Reading-Conversation" group. This method of reading aloud and discussing what has been read has many advantages: It develops an increase of social feeling and encourages joint problem solving. One of the best testimonials to its effectiveness we know is to be found in Autobiography of John Stuart Mill. Dr. Lindeman, however, bases his conclusions on groups he has observed or participated in, particularly those groups formed among the constituents in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, organized by the Librarian, Elizabeth Turner. Dr. Lindeman, by the way, was Chairman of that County Library Board. Experience with adult groups in the Maritime Provinces frequently bears out the above conclusions. The reading group commends itself to us as individual members of study groups and as librarians for its simplicity and sense, as well as for the fact that it is definitely "down our alley".

Interested groups in Cape Breton are carrying on the active campaign for a Regional Library we referred to in our last issue. The obstacles are still formidable, but the members of the Committee look upon them as hurdles to be mounted rather than impossible barriers. More power to them!

Marion Gilroy.

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## CANADIAN LIBRARY COUNCIL

On October 28-29 the Canadian Library Council met in Ottawa to discuss the problems ahead and primarily to draw up a Constitution. This constitution will be submitted to all provincial library associations for their ratification at their 1942 annual meetings and any discussion of it might take place at that time, after members have had the opportunity to examine it.

The existing Council is made up of personnel originally nominated by the American Library Association as their Canadian Advisory Board and ratified by the constituent provincial library associations at their annual meetings in 1941. It consists of

Nora Bateson, Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission

Alexander Calhoun, Calgary Public Library

Margaret S. Gill, National Research Council Library,  
Ottawa

Helene Grenier, Bibliotheque des Instituteurs de la  
Commission des Ecoles catholiques de Montreal

Gerhard R. Lomer, McGill University Library, Montreal

Edgar S. Robinson, Vancouver Public Library

Charles R. Sanderson, Toronto Public Libraries

To ensure a sound start these persons are suggested for re-election at the 1942 meetings of the respective provincial associations but after the expiration of the first term of office no member of the Council shall be eligible for re-election until after the expiry of one year. The Council is to consist of ten members, seven of whom will be elected at the annual meetings of the provincial library associations and three appointed by the seven elected members.

Quoting from a statement of the Chairman, C.R. Sanderson, "The primary function of the Canadian Library Council will be to consolidate librarianship and libraries throughout the Dominion. Hitherto there has been no organization which could speak for libraries in Canada. Amongst the many particular examples of the lack of this it might be recalled that there was no body to make representations to a commission like the (so-termed) Sirois Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, or to make representations to the Dominion Government for relief from the War Defence Tax of 10% which has added very substantially to the burdens of all libraries in the face of static and often declining budgets, and has meant the inevitable curtailing of the books and periodicals which can be provided by libraries. The lack of a centralised body has also led to the provision of books for troops being allowed to drift into the hands of innumerable separate organizations, with a resulting great waste of energy and little practical result.

In addition to discussing the details of the constitution, a programme of action was considered and specific projects planned. Efforts are being made to get financial backing for these projects but as the efforts are still in progress any discussion of them now would be premature. But they are such as have appealed to the majority of Canadian librarians most desirable. Perhaps by the time the Maritime Library Association meets they will have passed from the realm of speculation and hope to the ground of fact.

Nora Bateson

NOTES AND PERSONALS

Miss Charlotte Allen, Secretary to the Halifax Library Club, sends these notes:

The Library Club has held two meetings in 1942.

Dr. Margaret Gosse addressed the Club on the subject of War time medicine with special reference to blood donor clinics.

Mr. William Strickland showed some very beautiful moving pictures of Scotland and Nova Scotia at our last meeting.

Miss Lola Campbell has recently joined the W.A.A.C.

From Saint John, N.B.

All members of the M.L.A. will be saddened to learn of the passing in February of Miss Ethel Gertrude Shaw, a charter member of our Association when it was reorganized at Montreal in 1934, and a faithful attendant at our conferences before her long illness. For years she was the efficient Secretary-Treasurer of the Saint John Branch of the M.L.A. Her devotion to library interests in the Maritimes was keen, constant, and utterly disinterested.

Miss Estelle M.A. Vaughan, Chief Librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library, was re-elected President of the Saint John Branch of the Maritime Library Association, at a recent meeting of the Branch, and Miss M. Hope Jarvis was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. The guest speaker was Miss Bessie Wilson, who spoke on the poetry of flight. At a later meeting the guest speaker was Miss Kathleen Shackleton, whose address was entitled, "The Wife behind the Book".

A new member of the Branch, writes Miss Jarvis, is Miss Margaret Evans, formerly Librarian of the Legislative Library in Fredericton, now working among the books in Holman's Colonial Book Shop. Miss Evans was one of the thirteen members of the M.L.A. when it was reorganized at Montreal, and we gladly welcome her back among us.

Miss Greta Wallace, Librarian of the Church of England Institute in Saint John, is, we regret to write, rather seriously ill.

From Moncton, N.B.

Miss Berdia F. Moore, Librarian of the Moncton Public Library, sent us a sheet of interesting notes and clippings for the December issue, just one day too late for publication. In November, 1941, the Moncton Library issued 5139 books, a daily average of 214, and 230 new registration cards, 116 of these to men in the army service.

On December 6 an excellent collection of books was placed on display in the Brunswick Hotel, Moncton, under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the Local Council of Women. The books were selected by Miss Ella Smith, of the faculty of Mount Allison University, Sackville, with intent to illustrate the versatility of good literature. Upwards of 500 books were on display.

The annual meeting of the St. Croix Library Association, St. Stephen, N.B., was held in January, with Mr. W.W. Quatermain as chairman, Miss Beatrice Smith, vice-chairman, Mr. Harold Haley, secretary. The Librarian is Miss Rae Cawley, with Miss Doris Inches as assistant. The library is open six days a week, afternoon and evening. The number of books on the shelves is 4,032, with others to be catalogued.

Miss Jean C. Gill writes from the Legislative and Public Library, Charlottetown.

We have been quite busy at the library. Our circulation shows an increase over last year. We are pleased to see so many of our soldiers, sailors and airmen using the library. The war seems to have intensified the demand for technical and mechanical books and those dealing with the background of European affairs. Every book about the war seems to be in constant circulation.

We had two very successful exhibits during the year. -Book Week of which Miss Cullen wrote you about, and our pamphlet display of which we have hundreds, covering a wide variety of subjects. They are filed in pamphlet boxes according to subject which provides a constant source of usefulness.

A copy of the Constitution of the Canadian Library Council is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin. We hope all members of the M.L.A. will read it carefully, and come to the Sackville Conference prepared to discuss it thoroughly. Please bring your copy of the Constitution with you.

For the first time in the ten years of its existence, the Quebec Library Association is sponsoring a series of short broadcasts designed to interest the public in the Association, to show what library service is available in Montreal, and to stress the need of special training for librarians.