

BULLETIN
of the
MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Editor: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, M.A.
Acadia University Library
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of the
MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

The third Annual Conference of the Maritime Library Institute will meet in the Library of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N. S., on August 17 and 18, 1937. Arrangements for two sessions on August 17 have been completed; a third session may be appointed for the day following at whatever hour the Conference shall decide. The Rural Conference of the St. Francis Xavier Co-operative Movement will be in session at Antigonish from August 18-20, and so librarians who wish may remain and attend this world-famous meeting.

It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large attendance at this, our third conference. Will all who wish room and board reserved for them please write immediately to Miss Mary C. Macdonald, Librarian of St. Francis Xavier University, stating the hour of their arrival in Antigonish and the time they expect to remain.

For the sessions on August 17 the program will be as follows:

Afternoon Session - 3.15 p.m.

President's Address - Miss E. M. A. Vaughan, St. John Free Public Library
Reading of Minutes
Secretary-Treasurer's Report - Mrs. M. K. Ingraham, Acadia University Library
Election of Officers
Business - The M. L. I. Bulletin - the M. L. I. in respect to new library legislation - the Annual Conference for 1938 - payment of dues, etc.
Reports from libraries, legislative, university, public, private
Reports from library clubs and local associations

Evening Session - 7.15 p.m.

President's opening address
Paper: Adult Education in Prince Edward Island - Mr. Bramwell Chandler, M.A., Superintendent of P. E. I. Libraries
Discussion: Projected program of the Maritime Library Institute in respect to Adult Education in the Maritime Provinces; led by Miss Eugenie Archibald, B.L.S. of Dalhousie University.

Announcements

Public Archives
Halifax

THE RELATION OF THE LIBRARY
TO THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

by
Mary C. Macdonald
Librarian of St. Francis Xavier University

"The true university of today is a collection of books", wrote Carlyle and one sees the truth of this statement strongly emphasised on observing the part played by the Library in the movement for adult education fostered by the University of St. Francis Xavier.

For over twenty years, members of its staff have been studying ways and means of improving the cultural and economic life of the people of its constituency. The result of these efforts is the Extension Department of the University which was formally organized in 1930 for the purpose of carrying on a systematic programme of adult education. In each locality the study group forms the basis of this programme. These groups, now numbering over 1000, are organized by members of the Extension staff and they average about ten members each. They meet at regular intervals and discuss social, economic and other vital subjects. Most of the study work being of an economic nature, many persons are interested in the co-operative plan in all its phases -- co-operative buying and selling, co-operative finance, co-operative industry, etc., -- even a co-operative library service. So intensively is co-operation being studied in Eastern Nova Scotia, and so many co-operative industries are being evolved from the study groups, that this campaign of adult education has become widely known as the "Co-operative Movement".

As the study group is the basis of this movement, so is the library of the Extension Department the foundation of the study group, thus making, we may say, the Library the corner-stone of the Co-operative Movement. All the literature used for study purposes is supplied by the Department which maintains an Open Shelf Library, now numbering over 1000 volumes. A list of these is sent to each study group and any that are required, for either group or private study, are mailed out on request. This library contains works on sociological, economic and technical subjects, on home economics and handicrafts, and some biography and fiction. Twenty-five boxes of books, containing about thirty volumes each, are kept in circulation among the study groups and parish societies and are sent to the leaders who are responsible for their safe return. Study material is also loaned from the Package Library which includes government publications on technical subjects, pamphlets on economic and social questions, mimeographed addresses, clippings, etc. The request for this type of literature is increasing yearly, as the Department is also called upon to provide package libraries for debates, public speaking contests, plays and other activities held by parish organizations. The postage, one way, is paid by the Department on both books and pamphlets.

During the past year it has been found that this library service was inadequate to meet the needs of the study groups, partly because of its distance from the industrial centres, and partly from an insufficient number of books. So, during the winter months, a Central Library of 950 volumes was established in Glace Bay. It is under the guidance of the Central Library Committee with a librarian in charge. Branch libraries are located in Dominion, New Aberdeen, Caledonia, Florence and New Waterford, as well as two in Sydney -- one connected with the Dosco Credit Union and one with the Sydney Co-operative Society. One or

two other branches are soon to be opened. In these places, the Credit Unions and study groups have raised funds to buy books, thus supplementing those bought by the University. All books are first sent to the Central Library and from there are distributed to the branch libraries, each library exchanging its quota every three months. In each of these communities there is a library committee; the books are housed in a Credit Union building, a co-operative store or some other convenient place; and a librarian attends to their distribution two days a week. Meetings of the Central Library Committee are held monthly in Glace Bay and are attended by a delegate from the committee of each branch library. The study groups have taken the initiative in all this work and the Library Report is one of the subjects discussed at the monthly meetings of the Associated Study Clubs.

Even with this additional service there is still need of a larger number of books to satisfy the demands of a people in whom a library consciousness is being developed. Surely the time is not far distant when we, in Nova Scotia, shall see established an adequate library service; for it is now universally conceded that a good library is the real educational centre of a community.

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by

E. M. A. Vaughan

The "Friends of the Library" is an organization or group of people interested in the welfare of the Library. The idea was started in connection with the Bodleian Library of Oxford University. It is concerned not only in contributing to the finances of the Library, but also in making the citizens library-conscious, acquainting them with its scope, the service at their disposal, and creating a feeling of ownership, interest and good will.

It was in the minds of the Commissioners of the Saint John Free Public Library to organize such a group in connection with their Library, but the time did not seem ripe until a crisis occurred in January, 1937. A cut in appropriations for each and every civic department was deemed necessary by the Common Council. To the Library this meant the wiping out of the entire book budget. The Commissioners took this blow bravely, wrote to the City Council of their regret that this drastic cut was necessary, but stated that they would endeavour to find ways and means to supplement this sum and retain the standard of service and efficiency that the Library had attained. One of these "ways" was to launch a "Friends of the Library" group. A committee was appointed to draw up plans and suggestions. A mimeographed bookmark was prepared and placed in each book circulating two weeks before the date set, as follows: "The Commissioners of the Saint John Free Public Library, desiring to stimulate public interest in the Library, invite all interested in the welfare of the institution to attend a meeting, open to all, to discuss the formation of a "Friends of the Library Association" as has been done in many other cities. The meeting will be held at the Library, April 7, at 8 p.m. Please accept this as an invitation to attend and bring other friends with you." Letters, with a similar invitation, were sent to all societies and clubs and certain outstanding citizens. The response to this invitation was a gathering of representatives from the different organizations. After introductory remarks by the Chairman, and an explanation of the reason for calling such a meeting, the aims and definitions of a "Friends of the Library" group were set forth by the Chairman of the organizing committee. The citizens present at the meeting decided to organize and appointed temporary officers

to carry on and arrange for a larger meeting to discuss aims, to formulate plans and to arrange a date for the next meeting.

The ball was set rolling by a reception held April 26, 8-10, at which the admission was a book. This was a huge success, in attendance and enthusiasm, and resulted in over 300 books and cash contributions for books to be chosen by the Librarian. The reception expenses were all met by "Friends" contributions of refreshments, advertising and service. The representatives of many of the affiliated societies signified the intention of their society to donate annually a book or books of special interest to the group they represented. The French Club gave the books selected by the French Book of the Month Club, The Teachers Association, books dealing with Education, etc. It was decided to make this an annual event.

A lecture was given on "Appreciation of Reading" at a later meeting. At this meeting it was decided not to meet during the summer, but that the representatives of the affiliated societies should work through the summer to arouse interest and get members. The membership fee was set at twenty-five cents, affiliation fee for societies, a book or books. A series of lectures for the fall and winter months will be planned during the summer.

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THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

(Thirty-seventh Annual Conference)

(Members of the Maritime Library Institute will remember that they were invited as a body to join the Ontario Library Association in its thirty-seventh Annual Conference, which met at Ottawa, May 24-25, 1937. As our interests seemed to demand a full conference somewhere in the Maritime Provinces during the summer, it seemed expedient to decline the invitation when it was presented at the Sackville Conference last spring, but it was resolved that all members who could attend the Ottawa Conference should be regarded as delegates of the Institute. Happily, Mrs. John Stanfield, formerly of Truro, N. S., but now of Montreal, was able to attend as our representative, and she has sent us the following report.)

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association was held in the Chateau Laurier on May 24, 1937. Miss Carlisle, the president, in opening her address said that this was the first time the Association had met outside of Toronto, and that this was also the first inter-provincial meeting, as the Quebec and Maritime associations had been asked to join with Ontario in a library conference. The American Library Association was also represented. Miss Julia Wright Merrill of New York brought greetings, and invited delegates to attend the New York State Library Convention in New York City on October 4-9. Miss Maude Grill of Detroit spoke of the Michigan State Library Association and invited delegates to attend their convention in October. Greetings from the Old Land were brought by Dr. Richard Offor, Librarian of the University of Leeds, who has been in America studying library architectural types. He was impressed with the organization of Canadian libraries. Mentioning their openness he said that librarians seemed to have great trust in the public, for he had not yet seen a turnstile in a Canadian library, but he had noticed the long faces of some library assistants when he had questioned them as to the loss of books. Although he realized the necessity of universities getting suitable buildings "if the twentieth century belonged to Canada", he thought the construction of large

libraries should be postponed until "you can get something of which you will be proud."

Dr. J. F. Kenny, acting Dominion Archivist, told of the work of the Archives, and showed how librarians could help by disseminating knowledge of the Archives work, and by emphasizing the value of preserving public records.

Major Normandin, chief of the distribution branch of the government department of public printing and stationery, explained to the librarians the ways by which they could obtain copies of government publications, and promised fullest co-operation with them in their efforts. He told, too, how the service had been abused, and explained why those outside of libraries were required to pay for the documents.

More than two hundred and fifty delegates and friends attended the luncheon at one o'clock. Mr. W. J. Sykes, who has just retired from the Carnegie Library, Ottawa, was chairman, and introduced Mr. W. H. Hill of Ottawa, who gave a delightful address on Old Ottawa, or Bytown, as it was first called. Mr. Hill pointed out that the capital was created as a result of the war of 1812, for then many British army officers settled on land purchased by the British government. The present parliament buildings are on land that has always been owned by the Government of Great Britain, and so it seemed fitting that Ottawa should become the capital of Canada, though at the time Toronto and Kingston were keen rivals for the honor, Mr. Hill's great grandfather was owner and editor of the first newspaper printed at Bytown, and he entertained the librarians with many anecdotes of the early days.

The meetings in the afternoon took the form of round table conferences, and as we could attend only one of these, the writer chose the circulating library section. Miss Mabel Dunham of Kitchener read a delightful paper on county libraries as she had seen a scheme worked out in Waterloo County. As this paper will be published in full in the Ontario Library Review I shall not attempt to outline the details of the scheme, but I feel sure it is one that could be worked out in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, using not one county but combining several with headquarters in the largest town in the district. Miss Dunham urges larger grants to libraries. "Schools get everything they want; we get only dribbles here and there."

The meeting on Tuesday morning was chiefly for the election of officers for the coming year. Mr. E. A. Dickson, mayor of Wallaceburg, was elected president, succeeding Miss Dorothy Carlisle of Sarnia. The meetings were interesting and instructive, and your representative was honored to be present.

Sarah Stanfield

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RECENT LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN NOVA SCOTIA

In February certain resolutions were passed by a committee of the Joint Expenditure Board, and by the Municipal Council of the county of Cape Breton. The resolutions stated that these bodies "go on record as favouring the establishment of county or regional libraries", requested that legislation be passed to enable their establishment, and that a survey be made of the area.

In answer, Premier A. L. MacDonald introduced a bill into the legislature during the last session, which was passed. The act allows municipalities, either alone or in cooperation with other municipalities, cities or towns, to vote sums for the establishment of regional libraries.

The Halifax papers, both in news items and editorials, have quoted the Premier as declaring that an experienced librarian would be brought to the province this summer to make the desired survey.

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NOTES AND PERSONALS

Miss Doreen Harper, of the Legislative Library, Fredericton, N. B., attended the Convention of the Ontario and Quebec Library Associations, held at Ottawa, May 24-25.

The Annual Convention of the American Library Association, is to be held in New York, June 21-29. Miss Estelle M. A. Vaughan, of the Saint John Free Public Library, and Miss Ethel G. Shaw, expect to attend. Arrangements have been made for them to attend the New Members dinner and meeting, of which committee Miss Vaughan is Maritime Convenor. They also intend to attend the Friends of the Library dinner, and special meeting.

Miss Shirley VanderVoort has been taking six weeks practical work in the Saint John Public Library, prior to taking up library training in Toronto. Miss VanderVoort is a student at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Miss Janet Cox, a recent graduate of Acadia University, plans to take up the six weeks practical work in the Saint John Free Public Library during the summer months.

Bramwell Chandler, M.A., is Superintendent of the Prince Edward Island Libraries, with headquarters at Charlottetown. Mr. Chandler will discuss certain phases of his work at the coming conference of the M.L.I. at Antigonish, N. S.

Miss Laura L. Freeman, of Wolfville, N. S., and Miss R. Isobel Mader of Barss' Corner, N. S., both graduates of Acadia University in the Class of 1936, were recently awarded degrees as Bachelors of Library Science by McGill University.

Miss Jeannette Foshay, B.L.S., of Wolfville, N. S., has been appointed Librarian for the Aluminum Company of Canada, Montreal, P. Q.

The Library of Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., has the following duplicate numbers of the periodical Foreign Affairs:

- Vol. 8: nos. 3, 4 1930
- Vol. 9: nos. 1, 2, 3 1931
- Vols. 10, 11, 12, 13 complete 1930-35
- Vol. 14: no. 3 1936

Any or all of these issues will be mailed gratis to the person or institution desiring them, on condition that postage charges be guaranteed.