

BULLETIN

of

THE MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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A Word From The Secretary

Because of the serious illness of the President of the Maritime Library Association, Miss Marion Gilroy, we must issue this Bulletin without her usual inspiring letter. She is on the road to recovery, we are glad to report, but it may be several weeks before she can take up her duties as chairman of the Executive Committee. We miss her especially just now, as in the March number of the Bulletin we are accustomed to announce our plans for the Annual Conference. The conditions that caused us to cancel the Conference for 1942 still obtain, and are even more drastic than last year. It is possible, however, that a meeting of the Executive may be convened before June, and all possible ways and means for the furtherance of our work freely discussed. If this should be, a full report will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The Place of Libraries in the War

(We quote the following from an article by Mrs. Pearl S. Buck in last month's issue of the A.L.A. Bulletin. Ed.)

The First World War was lost, in spite of military victory, because we had too little understanding of what was necessary for total victory. Insufficient knowledge of what events meant and of what peoples were like, was directly responsible for the failure of the Treaty of Versailles and of the League of Nations, responsible for the rearmament of Germany and the aggression of Japan. Pearl Harbor could never have happened had we been sufficiently informed

of the many events which led up to it, had we sufficiently known and understood how the Japanese people were developing.

Yet all the knowledge necessary for understanding was at hand-- but in books. The trouble was that people did not read the books, partly because they did not know about them, partly because they were not always available in public libraries, partly because they did not even know enough to want to read them. I consider the duty and influence of the public library to be of utmost importance in any democracy. Books can always be found which contain all the information essential to the understanding of our times. But the average person has to be told about these books, and the books have to be available to him. And librarians must be the guide to such books. I know that when I say this I am only saying what is in the best tradition of American public libraries. But the fact is it will not have been said often enough until the tradition has become practice in every library in city and village over our whole country. Left to themselves average people, and that is most people, read in a dreary rut of light novels, mystery stories, and hobby books. It is the duty of public libraries to try every possible means to waken the mind of the average people and to persuade, startle, and compel them to the realization that upon the average person depends the success of democracy. Citizens cannot withdraw, not in democracies, for they make the nation what it is. If they are ignorant, the policies of the nation will be ignorantly made and all will suffer from the consequences of the people's ignorance, as indeed we are suffering today. Schools are only for the young, and the work of education must go far beyond them. This work can and must be carried on by the public library.

Canadian Library Council

Members of the Maritime Library Association will be interested to know what progress the Canadian Library Council is making. The Council held a meeting in Montreal February 4-5.

Last April the Rockefeller Foundation made a grant of \$15,000 (to be paid over three years) to the Council for the purpose of filming early Canadian newspapers and other documents of the same nature. The Chairman reported at this recent meeting that the project had been unfortunately held up because of the difficulty of buying the necessary camera in war time. He still hoped however that one might be secured. The Rockefeller Foundation made a further grant of \$2,500 for a three-year period to be used for "field visitors". The purpose of this grant is to make it possible to bring special speakers to library meetings or occasionally to send librarians to give advice and counsel

to places needing it. This is of course the merest nibble at a very big problem. Application for such small grants can be made to the Council through the agency of the local representative.

Work already undertaken by the Council includes a mimeographed list of librarians prepared by McGill. Many members of the Maritime Library Institute have no doubt received copies of this. Any errors or omissions should be reported to Dr. Lomer, McGill University, so that corrections may appear in the next issue.

Another publication undertaken at the request of the Council is my Report on Rural Libraries for Canada. This may be printed later by the Council but in the interval it has appeared in two numbers, January and February 1943, of "Food for Thought". The purpose of this report is to draw attention to the fact that half of Canada's population is completely without library service, a situation intolerable to anyone thinking seriously of a new reconstructed Canada. I shall be glad to send a copy of the report to anyone who wants it or it can be secured through the Canadian Adult Education Association.

There is also in preparation a brief on Canadian government publications and their distribution. A report on library training in Canada is also being prepared by a sub-committee -- Mr. Calhoun (Calgary), Professor Lothian (University of Saskatchewan) and myself.

At the request of the James Committee on Post War Reconstruction the Council is preparing a brief on Canadian libraries covering present provision, needs and costs involved.

Many plans of the Council are still held up by some technical difficulty over incorporation. It appears that some slight change in the constitution will be needed, and this will have to be sanctioned by the Provincial Library Associations before the Council can be incorporated. The Carnegie grant made provisionally only becomes a fact after incorporation is completed. Probably before the next number of this Bulletin these preliminaries will be over and it will be possible to outline what the Council proposes to undertake with this grant.

Nora Bateson

Report - Saint Croix Community Library
Year Ending December 31, 1942.

(The following report was not received in time for Mrs. Moore's summary in last issue)

To the Officers and Members of the Saint Croix Community Library, I beg to submit the following report:

With the War so trying and our people being called upon to give more and more of their time to the call of their country's need, we may feel happy that we have been able to give to our Community a most satisfactory service.

With the exception of two months during the summer, Thursdays and public holidays, we have continued our regular daily service. During July and August, the books were gone over completely - the old ones repaired, and those unfit for use, of which there were 160, were sent to the salvage, and the shelves were re-arranged.

At the close of our year we have 2065 registered patrons from this district. Of this number, we have lost about 300 through death or removal from town. I feel we should have more Juvenile readers, and they should be encouraged to come and read the books and magazines in our Library, even though they are not old enough to become regular patrons.

Our distribution for the year was less; 10,050 against 11,079. With travel restricted let us hope that 1943 will see a large increase in the number of books going out.

Our Book Committee purchased 118 new books. Among the number were: Mission to Moscow, That Day Alone, Time Runs Out, Burma Road, Men Around Churchill, Windswept, Frenchman's Creek, To-day and Forever. Of these 100 have been catalogued and placed on our shelves. The new 1941-1942 Encyclopaedia Britannica Year Books have been received. We have received 300 gifts of books during the year. Of this number 250 were sent to us by the Saint John Free Library. These will have to be examined, as they are second hand books, and the duplicates sent on to one of our school libraries. We continue to receive gifts of magazines which we appreciate most sincerely.

As in the past, we have tried to give the High School students the material which they require. The book committee has had difficulties, due to the closing out of so many of the book stores. Last year's magazines, as well as some held over from the previous year, are ready now to be given to the rural schools or any other organization the Board recommends.

We have had two splendid travelling libraries from McGill this year - one received February 2 and the present one received on December 9.

The Ways and Means Committee continue an interested and active service. Our cleaning service is being maintained and the rooms generally are kept in good condition. To their various committees may I express my appreciation of their efforts. We are deeply indebted to those women who have served as librarians for the time they so willingly gave to this work. It would be well to bear in mind that no matter how many books we purchase and place on our shelves, our efforts would be futile without the assistance to distribute them. We should be very proud of our librarians, and the work they are doing for this community. They mean much to me in my work and I should like to extend to them my sincere thanks.

In closing I should like to recommend the purchasing of new magazines and papers for our reading table - and that the Board consider the re-opening of the "Story Telling Hour" for the children.

To the Board of Directors may I express my appreciation of all you have done in the interest of this library. It is well known in the province that we have a "flourishing library" and may I congratulate you on being the Trustees of such an organization.

H. Ray Cowley
Librarian.

Notes and Personals

A "Friends of the Library Association", sponsored by the local University Women's Club is under consideration at Moncton, N.B.

On January 13 Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, Librarian of Saint John Free Public Library, presented her annual report to the Board of Commissioners of Saint John Free Public Library. The points of special public interest were published in Mrs. Moore's admirable summary in our last issue. The whole report bears witness to the masterly administration of the Library in a time of crisis.

Miss Vaughan writes: "It has been pointed out that in our brief report in the last Bulletin there were two errors, one of our making and one of yours. The airfield at Penfield is R.A.F. not R.C.A.F., and the books we send are for the officers; the men have a library of their own".

The Saint John Branch of the M.L.A. has cancelled its meetings for some months, owing to the demands for war service in the members. The last meeting was in Feb. 18, and was addressed by Mr. Louis Arthur Cunningham.

The Library of the Church of England Institute in Saint John, N.B., is under the care of Miss Isabel Nelson and Miss Helen Camp.

A correspondent suggests that we make the Bulletin a medium for exchange of duplicates. Will librarians who agree kindly send their lists, especially lists of federal and provincial documents.

We regret that Miss Georgia E. Starrett, for many years the efficient librarian of the L.P. Fisher Public Library at Woodstock, N.B., has had a serious breakdown in health.

The School of Library Science at Mount St. Vincent College, under the directorship of Sister Francis de Sales, receives qualified students from other colleges and universities. Miss Lillian Swim, a graduate of Acadia University, is now at Mount St. Vincent, taking training in librarianship.