

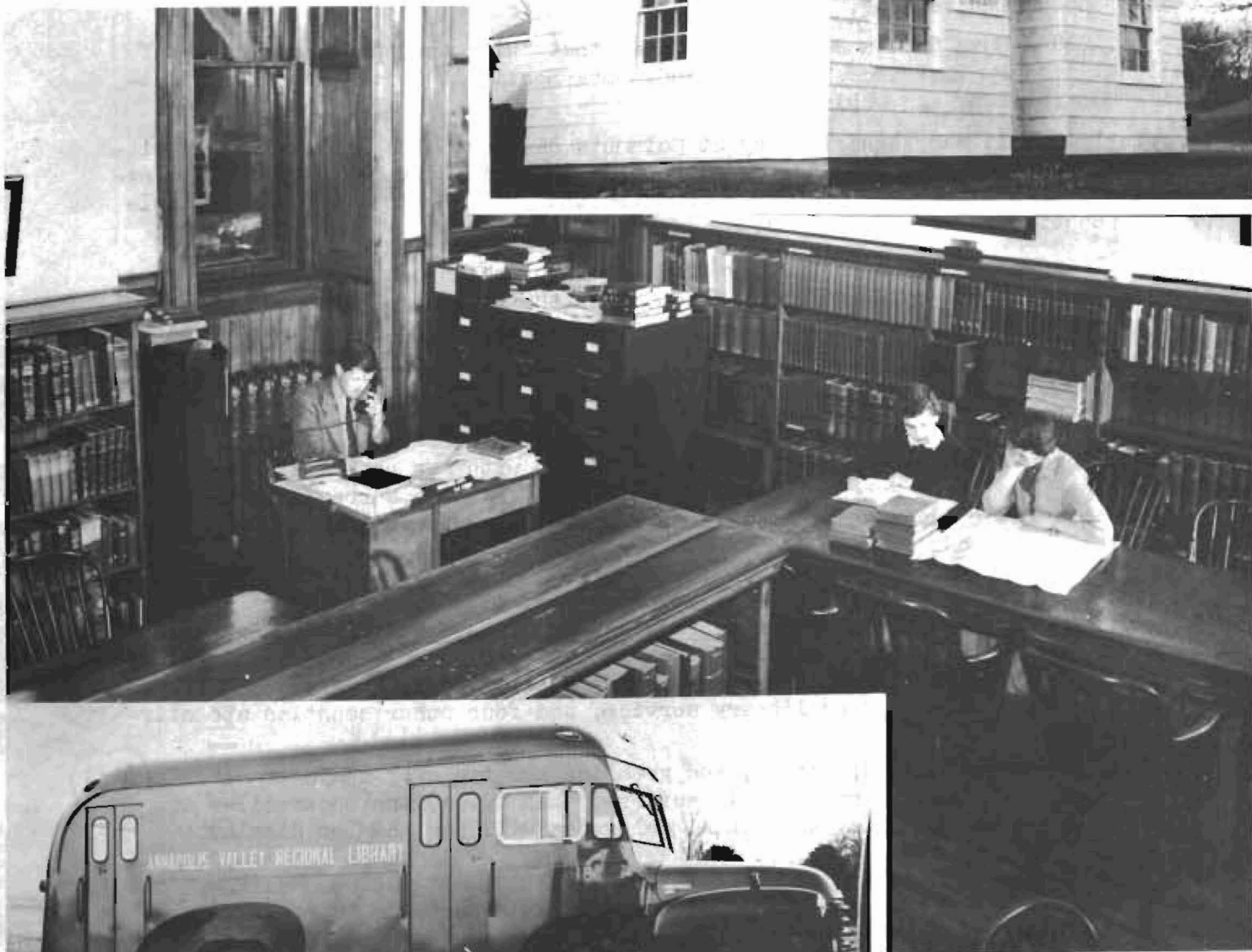
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*Cover described
at top of page 44*

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ON THE COVER: Top Breadalbane branch, P.E.I. Public Libraries, opened Dec. 8; Center Reference Room, Saint John Free Public Library (Mr. Francis A. Johns, Reference Librarian); Bottom Bookmobile recently put into service by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library.

No Profit in Prophecy A C.L.A. CONFERENCE EDITORIAL

"Within three years, as the years of a hireling..." --Isaiah 16:14

"Isaiah, of course, has his chronology all wrong." --Abingdon Commentary.

In 1876 a Toronto LL.D. declared that "We cannot but think that our colleges, while they provide the student with libraries, should also provide him with a professor of books and reading."

In 1938 a Nova Scotia educator declared that "With the splendid example of a regional library in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia it is confidently expected will not for long lag behind."

In 1947 a library school study at Columbia discussed the public library situation in Nova Scotia, and using the discontinued Acadia University bookmobile experiment of the Thirties as an omen, predicted that bookmobiles were not suitable for Nova Scotian roads and climate.

In 1949, a library school study at Illinois proposed salary scales for Maritime college libraries beginning at \$1800, when the beginning government library salary scale in Canada started at \$2160, and hoped \$2160 might sometime be reached.

In 1953 a California graduate suggested a regional library in New Brunswick's Carleton and Victoria counties, as a typical development, but warned that "It will be a long, slow process."

The Torontonians were William Mathews, in Hours with men and books; the Nova Scotian, the late H. F. Munro; the Columbia student, Barbara Murray; the California graduate, Peter Grossman; the Illinois student, the undersigned editor. And like Isaiah, how wrong can you be.

Nova Scotia marked time, or beat about bushes, for ten years after Munro's gladsome foreword to Nora Bateson's Library survey of Nova Scotia. (Miss Bateson eventually went halfway round the world for recognition Munro's government refused her.) But after those years, what development began! Today, half the province's 650,000 population have modern library service, and four other counties are stirring.

Despite mud, potholes, storms, and gremlins who tip over trays of circulation cards (Jim Bell of Truro recently suffered that twice) the bookmobiles are rolling all over Nova Scotia, and C.L.A. delegates will see them on display.

Today's C.L.A. recommended basic salary is \$3000, not \$2000; and though the "basic" salary is like the old story about the Pullman porter's "average" tip, library salaries are holding their own against living costs.

The first and most promising stirrings in New Brunswick, under the new Central Library Services scheme, are in Westmorland County; nebulous beginnings perhaps, but with the nuclei in Moncton, Sackville, and Point de Bute already flourishing. The seed is germinating within six months of being sown. (Contd. on p.58)

JOHN THOMAS BULMER - LIBRARIAN

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By DOUGLAS LOCHHEAD

Librarian, Dalhousie University

In 1882 an insignificant thirty-page book was published in Halifax, entitled simply Testimonials of John T. Bulmer [pronounced Boomer]. On the title-page there was also the phrase "For Private Circulation Only". We know now that this little book was published by Bulmer himself, not prior to making application for a position, as was the custom some years ago, but following his resignation. In this case his resignation was from the position of Legislative Librarian of Nova Scotia, which took place under unfortunate circumstances. What makes this book doubly interesting, and now worth public attention, is the fact that it reveals John Thomas Bulmer, lawyer and politician, to have been a librarian of exceptional ability and insight.

Testimonials of John T. Bulmer is filled with glowing tributes from librarians, legislators, editors and others in authority, all testifying to the ability of Bulmer. One cannot help wondering about this extraordinary man. Who was this Halifax librarian of the 1880's who was on such intimate terms with men like C. A. Cutter, John Russell Bartlett, Stephen B. Griswold, and whose talent as a librarian was so highly praised?

As a lawyer, politician, and temperance advocate, Bulmer's career has already received notice. The Hon. Benjamin Russell read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society a paper entirely devoted to Bulmer, which was published in the April, 1929, number of the Dalhousie Review. Bulmer as an archivist and founder of the Nova Scotia Historical Society is given fair witness in D. C. Harvey's paper The Contribution of the Nova Scotia Historical Society to the Legislative Library, read before the N.S.H.S. in November 1944 and later published by that Society. In an unpublished paper, also read before the N.S.H.S., Hon. Mr. Justice J. W. Longley provides some interesting material on the circumstances of Bulmer's resignation from the Legislative Library. But if we are to discover something of Bulmer the librarian, we must read his reports in the Annual Report of the Library Commissioners and Librarian for 1880 and 1881 and his own Testimonials of John T. Bulmer.

At this point a few biographical details of the man might prove helpful. Bulmer, then, was born at Nappan, Nova Scotia, in 1847 and was raised on his parents' farm. Howard Trueman tells us in his book The Chignecto Isthmus and its First Settlers that the first Bulmers arrived in the old township of Cumberland from Yorkshire in 1772. They are said to be of Norman descent. Bulmer took his early schooling at Amherst Academy and he first turns up in Halifax in 1872. At least he is listed in MacAlpine's Halifax Directory of 1872 as "J. T. Bulmer, student-of-law boarding at 117 Argyle Street". In 1875 he was examined and called to the bar. During his law career he occupied himself with the activities of many associations and societies. In addition to his brief but effective fling as Legislative Librarian from 1880 to 1882, and as Librarian of the Dalhousie Law School from 1883 to 1885, Bulmer was Secretary of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, of which he was one of the founders, and was also involved in the work of other provincial historical societies and associations. In 1896 he attended the founding of the Canadian Bar Association in Montreal and was made its first secretary.

Bulmer was also active in reform movements and political campaigning. He was not in favor of alcohol in any form and according to Morgan in Canadian Men and Women of the Time (1898) he was known as "the Prohibitionist leader of the Maritime Provinces". His enthusiasm for the temperance cause carried him into politics and as an independent candidate he opposed Sir Charles Tupper in the Federal election of 1887, but was defeated. Bulmer continued to practice law until his sudden death

in Halifax on Feb. 9, 1901, at the age of fifty-four.

It was on Jan. 2, 1878, that a meeting was called to discuss the possibility of organizing a Nova Scotia Historical Society. This gathering was initiated and presided over by John T. Bulmer. Bulmer was then thirty-one years of age and was practicing criminal law in Halifax. The outcome of Bulmer's energy and his promotion of the idea of an historical society was that the Nova Scotia Historical Society was founded and he became its first Recording Secretary.

In a very short time the Society had accumulated, through Bulmer's efforts, a large number of pamphlets and other material. With the permission of the Conservative government of the time, the Society was able to store its holdings in the Legislative Library. This rather informal arrangement was soon superseded by a bill which was introduced in the House (and here I quote from Mr. Justice Longley's paper)

... in which the parliamentary library and the Historical Society should be one and placed under the management of a joint commission, consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor, secondly four members appointed by the Government, and four members appointed by the Society, and these appointments were to be made each year. It also occurred about this time that old Mr. Venables, who had been librarian of the institution for some years, was retired, and the Historical Society, by resolution, voted a recommendation of Mr. J. T. Bulmer for the position of librarian.

Bulmer thereupon resigned his position as Recording Secretary of the Nova Scotia Historical Society and took the post of Corresponding Secretary of the Society and that of Legislative Librarian. Hon. Mr. Justice J. W. Longley records with commendable restraint and gentlemanly tolerance, I think (when we remember that Bulmer was his bitter political opponent and later blackballed Longley from membership in the N.S.H.S.) that

Mr. Bulmer occupied his new position with considerable grandeur and made considerable effort among all persons who had any possessions of ancient or interesting manuscripts to obtain copies of them for the Historical Society, and about the beginning of the year 1882 he was complimented by the members of the Historical Society on the work which he had done and the distinguished position which he occupied.

During his two years as Legislative Librarian Bulmer did accomplish a great deal. It is most interesting to read the account of his efforts in the Annual Report of the Library Commissioners and Librarian for the years 1880 and 1881. After his first year in office Bulmer so impressed the Library Commissioners with his abilities as librarian that they recommended his salary be increased, and they had this to say to the Hon. A. G. Archibald, CMG, Lieutenant-Governor of the province:

The Commissioners would be remiss if they did not advert to the valuable services of their librarian. They cannot too highly commend the zeal and diligence which he has brought to the performance of his duties. It is to his exertions, chiefly, that the reduction to systematic order of the Library, and the classified arrangement of the books are due; the purchase of a large number of bound volumes, the collection of numerous files of the earliest as well as the most recent newspapers of the province, and the numerous pamphlets published within it, on every variety of subject, are entirely his work.

Bulmer's contribution to the 1880 Report was a history of the Legislative Library to 1879, followed by a report on the activities of the year 1880 entitled "The Present Management".

We are quite safe, I think, in forming our estimate of Bulmer's ability as a librarian on the basis of his annual reports while at the Legislative Library. From the passages quoted below, it is fair to say that his ideas were sound, his zeal and enthusiasm boundless, and his writing style forthright, to state it mildly. Here is how he begins his report on the operations of 1880:

On the 26th day of December, A.D. 1879, I entered upon the discharge of the duties of librarian of the joint collections of the Legislature and the Nova Scotia Historical Society. At that time the Legislative Library consisted of a broken down mass of books lying in neglect and filth, and almost destitute of works of recent scientific investigation and current thought. Of pamphlets there were none and of newspapers not above 40 volumes. In bibliography the Library had almost nothing, and of books relating to the history of Nova Scotia not over a dozen, and of the documents printed by the Province itself not even a complete set, to say nothing of duplicates. Of periodicals, 138 volumes were gone altogether, and over 400 volumes besides were missing from the Library. Few people at this time frequented the Library, and of daily readers pursuing special studies, there were few, if any. The collection of books at this time hardly numbered 6000 volumes. Of the cleaning, dusting, shelving, etc., for the next two months, no mention need be made. The Government provided at once additional shelving accommodation for about 4000 volumes, and in a short time the united collections were put up. From the 2nd January, 1878, the date of the formation of the Historical Society, to the present time, we have allowed no opportunity to pass without making the most of it to increase the Library.

His 1880 Report is a lengthy one but it reveals time after time Bulmer's desire to build a complete historical and legislative collection. Here he justifies the collection of old newspapers:

Some may say why all this collecting of old newspapers--this reverence of rubbish? To such persons we would say, a library should have in it such works as are in demand, and in the long run it will be found that a file of newspapers will serve more readers than any other work. As a picture of the times, nothing equals them, and no history, whether of Province, town or country, is to be compared to a well-kept file of papers for the same period. Much the same may be said of pamphlets, which are simply books in paper covers, and should be preserved in every well-kept library. I conceive it to be the first duty of a librarian, no matter where he may be placed, to gather everything ever printed in or about a town, county or province for which he is acting.

Speaking more specifically of the future of the Legislative Library of Nova Scotia he continues, with a well-stated awareness of the conditions which are necessary for the success of any library in any community:

The future of the library depends in a great measure on the public spirit of the legislature and the appreciation of the public. If supported by the legislature, the newspapers, and the people, it can become the pride and delight of every Nova Scotian, and of the greatest practical service to the people of the Maritime provinces. Already people are coming from the neighboring provinces to examine our collections, and

during the year we have loaned books, pamphlets, etc. to the Department of State in Washington, as well as to our own departmental offices in Ottawa. Facts like these should assure us that we are not working for nothing, and that the public are quite ready to appreciate the importance of the Library. Our progress during the past year has been without parallel in the history of state or provincial libraries.

Bulmer's Report for the year 1881 is equally illuminating as it reveals his interest in library work outside the boundaries of Nova Scotia. In his second Annual Report he notes that he visited Prince Edward Island "with a view to impressing on the government and leading citizens the importance of founding a library in keeping with the wants of the Island, and of putting the records in such condition that they would answer the purpose for which records are kept." He goes on to say that the citizens assured him of their good intentions by forming an Historical Society and that the government promised its support.

In December 1881 Bulmer paid a visit to Fredericton and reports "I... succeeded in organizing a fine historical society with a good membership and better prospects." I have not had an opportunity to check the records of the P. E. I. Historical Society, nor have I been able to find mention of Bulmer's efforts in New Brunswick. However, there may be some references to his visit to Charlottetown and Fredericton in the newspapers of that time.

During 1881 Bulmer added over 5000 separate works to the collection of the Legislative Library. A great deal of this was pamphlet material which he collected from all over the United States and Canada. Much of his 1881 Report is concerned with an earnest plea for more financial assistance for the Library. His request is well fortified with comparative figures of budgets, book collections, library staffs, etc., from libraries elsewhere. He evidently conducted a wide correspondence with other members of the profession. He also kept in touch with library development in the United States by making frequent trips to Boston, New York City and other centers.

But this report was to be Bulmer's last as Legislative Librarian. In 1882 he resigned. There have been various accounts of the story behind his withdrawal. At any rate he resigned voluntarily and was not dismissed. Mr. Justice Longley tells the story as follows:

...there came trouble in the Historical Society. The Commissioners had insisted upon having a catalogue made of the Library, and the Rev. Dr. Hill's son (Rev. Dr. Hill was one of the Library Commissioners) Mr. P. C. Hill Jr. was appointed to prepare the same. This was against the will of Mr. Bulmer, violently against his will, and he insisted that it should be stopped and that likewise matters should remain in his hands. The members of the Historical Society declined to do this, and the consequence was that Mr. Bulmer tendered his resignation as Corresponding Secretary of the Society and also tendered his resignation as Librarian to the Government. No doubt he was under the impression that the Government, which was still Conservative until July 1882, when it was defeated, would continue in power and that he would exert influence enough to compel his views to be accepted and restore him to the position of Librarian.

About this time, Mr. Bulmer, who was a great adherent of the Conservative party, went into Annapolis county to take part in the election against myself, and he remained there for nearly a week, indulg-

ing in the most violent tactics, until at the conclusion of a certain meeting, in which he was very nearly mobbed by the crowd present, he received notice from me that he should leave the county at once, and, as a consequence, he did leave the next day, with vengeance resting in his soul in regard to myself. After the election was over he found the Government had been defeated.

I have quoted Longley at length rather than cloud the issue by re-telling. Bulmer later blackballed Longley when the latter's name was suggested for membership in the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

So we find our friend Bulmer in 1882 without a library job, and his Conservative party out of office. He was still able to practice law, however, and he was not without influential friends in the profession. His connection with Halifax libraries was not long interrupted, as he was appointed to the post of Librarian of the Dalhousie Law School the next year.

However, in 1882, following his resignation, Bulmer evidently sat down and wrote to all his librarian friends about the sad turn of affairs and the unreasonable and narrow attitude of the Library Commissioners. He then published extracts from the letters of condolence and sympathy in the little book Testimonials of John T. Bulmer. Included are testimonials from librarians in the United States and Canada, along with several newspaper articles. Whatever his purpose was at the time-- and I assume he hoped to make public the injustice of the circumstances which made his resignation necessary, and to place the Commissioners in as embarrassing a position as possible-- whatever his purpose, this interesting little book testifies today to Bulmer's exceptional insight into the fundamental problems of librarianship. He seems to have been an organizer and a "scrounger" of outstanding ability and a person who was able to see beyond local boundaries in his conception of cooperative library service.

He also seems to have been one of the first advocates, if not the first, of a Canadian Library Association. Here is a quotation from a speech he made, part of which appears in the book of testimonials:

In 1876 the librarians of the United States formed themselves into an association, known as the American Library Association. The year following the librarians of the British Isles formed themselves into another association, known as the United Kingdom Association. The cooperation thus secured, and by meetings, papers, reports, discussions, tests of appliances and examination of methods, has revolutionized library work, and it remains to be seen if we in Canada are to stand still. A high professional standard among the librarians of Canada is one of the great wants of our time.

The letter placed first in his letters of recommendation from the United States is that written by C. A. Cutter, then Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, one of the founders of ALA, managing editor of the Library Journal and now known for his rules of cataloging and system of classification.

The public press also rose to the defence of Bulmer as this extract from the Saint John Sun, July 29, 1882, shows:

While in Halifax recently we gave the Provincial Library a call for the purpose of noticing the progress made in the work of building up a great library of books, pamphlets, and papers, relating to the old Province of

Acadia, and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. A notice on the board informed us that it was "closed by order of the Commissioners" and on enquiry we found that during the time of the election, when the newspapers were wanted most, and after the election, when the law-books were likely to be of service, the public had been carefully excluded from the premises. On getting inside we found that Mr. Bulmer had resigned the librarianship in March last, owing to the hasty and inconsiderate action of the commissioners in appointing a cataloguer during his absence, and without reference to the true interests of the Library.

Commenting on the catalog then being prepared by the unfortunate Mr. Hill, the paper continues:

The catalogue in course of preparation is a marvel, and the Commissioners have done well to close the Library to the public, and if they are wise they will keep it closed.

Continuing:

While in Halifax, we learned that the late librarian, Mr. Bulmer, contemplated a working catalogue for the Library, which would have been the complete bibliography of the Maritime provinces, and would have included newspapers as well.

The newspaper concludes its story by praising Bulmer as "a great librarian" and at the same time condemning the people responsible for his resignation.

As was pointed out, Bulmer did not remain away from library work for long. When Dr. Weldon became Dean of Law at Dalhousie Bulmer was appointed shortly thereafter as Librarian of the Law School. His name also appears in the roll books of the time as a student of law. Evidently he set about to qualify for the law degree even though he had been admitted to the bar some eight years previous. Bulmer had many friends in law circles, one of whom was Sir John Thompson, who is reported to have said of Bulmer, "...He knew more about the outside of books than anyone with whom I have ever been acquainted." In defense, the Hon. Benjamin Russell says of Bulmer that "...There were a few books, and those of the highest order, of which Bulmer knew more than any but the best-read scholars in the community." Emerson was supposed to have been a great favorite of Bulmer's.

Bulmer remained at Dalhousie from 1883 to 1885, when it was found necessary to dispense with the services of a librarian because the University could not afford to keep a fulltime person. While at Dalhousie Bulmer was a great favorite with the students and there are many references to him in the Dalhousie Gazette of that time. Bulmer's salary at Dalhousie was \$1300 in addition to his tuition and other expenses, which was very fair treatment in those days.

I have purposely avoided the temptation to attempt some sort of estimate of Bulmer's character. This would be unfair without much more investigation. That he was devoted to the highest principles of good librarianship, I believe, is quite evident. He could be a direct and vitriolic letter-writer to the newspapers and he was not afraid to attack anyone or anything. Bulmer is remembered by the Hon. Benjamin Russell for many things: his witty sayings, his explosiveness in court, his hot attacks on behalf of the temperance cause. While arguing one case in court Bulmer became so excited that he was carried twice from the court-room, and was finally locked up in the cells for the night. He later came

back to sue the Supreme Court for damages and was awarded, in this instance, the sum of \$700.

Bulmer, after leaving Dalhousie, continued to practice law in Halifax until his death in 1901.

There are many amusing stories told about J. T. Bulmer, but perhaps the best of the lot concerns the state of his relationship with Mr. F. Blake Crofton, who succeeded him as Legislative Librarian. Here is how the Hon. Mr. Russell tells it:

It was natural that there should be no love between the first librarian and his successor. On one occasion in the period of transition it happened that one of our prominent citizens was desirous of showing the really beautiful interior of our Legislative Council Chamber to a distinguished visitor from France. The door of the public entrance was locked, but the host knew that access could be secured through the door that led into the anteroom from the Legislative Library. Crossing the threshold, he happened to meet the new librarian, whom he innocently greeted as "Mr. Bulmer". Crofton was furious--"Please do not call me Bulmer. I do not mind being called by the name of any ordinary criminal, even up to the rank of Judas Iscariot, but I cannot allow anyone to call me Bulmer."

Hon. Mr. Russell tells us that Bulmer, for his part, had absolutely no use for Crofton, especially when he happened to discover that some of his valuable newspaper collections were being used to wrap up sausages in a local butcher shop. Naturally he blamed Crofton and as only Bulmer reputedly could do it, he denounced Crofton publicly and at every occasion and in the strongest terms.

There seem to have been some hectic and at the same time interesting times in Halifax library circles during the last century and John Thomas Bulmer would appear to have been involved in most of them. At any rate, despite his personal eccentricities, Bulmer was a librarian with vision and one of the true pioneers of Canadian librarianship.

_____ Paper presented to the Halifax Library Association, April 1954. _____

FREDERICTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DUE; NEW BRUNSWICK MAKES PLANS

By Bob Rogers

The Fredericton Public Library is planning to concentrate on children's work at first and to develop other phases later. Miss Hope Jarvis is hopeful that the library will open to the public in the fall, but is unable to give a definite date.

The Legislative Library has now returned to its normal function as a government reference library. Effective June 1 the circulation of fiction and popular non-fiction came to an end. Books in these fields have now been transferred to Central Library Services and will form the nucleus of the collection for the regional library system. Central Library Services will take over the mailing service formerly performed by the Legislative Library and will begin this work Sept. 1. Borrowers in the Fredericton area will be served by the Fredericton Public Library. The Legislative Library will be open to the public for reference and research.

James MacEacheron, Director of Central Library Services, reports encouraging progress in several sections of the Province, but is not in a position to make a detailed statement at this time.

The NBLA Executive meets in July to plan the October annual meeting.

Saint John Library Passes Half-Century

By ROBIN R. B. MURRAY

Librarian, Saint John Free Library

With Champlain Week looming over CLA Conference week, the Saint John Free Public Library has been busy preparing a booklet to commemorate the opening ceremony of the Carnegie building, which was held on the 300th anniversary of Champlain Day, June 24, 1904.

This was not the start of the library. A Mr. Murdoch proposed the institution of a Free Public Library in 1874. Through a petition instigated by James Hannay in 1875, a room was prepared for this by the City in the Market building. After the great fire of 1877, Colonel Domville solicited contributions from abroad in preparation for the basic establishment of a Free Public Library. A "friends of the library" group of forty ladies worked very hard in cooperation with the Commissioners, who had been delegated by the City to be responsible for the care of the books that had been received by Colonel Domville. On Oct. 24, 1882, a "Grand Conversazione" was held in the Natural History Society rooms of the Market building, which brought added funds to the library accounts. It was not until the Provincial Act of 1883 that the Library became officially the Saint John Free Public Library. Needless to say, there had been other libraries in the city, such as the Saint John Society Library which was started in 1811 and the Eclectic Society Library which was formed in 1821, but these were not freely open to the public. In 1855, the library was moved to the Masonic Hall--the librarian was receiving \$250 per annum in those days! After much trial and tribulation, the present property was purchased by the City, and Andrew Carnegie donated \$50,000 for the construction of the present building.

From 1883 until his death in 1936, Richard O'Brien was a member of the Board of Commissioners, of which he was chairman from 1889 to 1936. In recognition of his long and faithful service to the library, a tributary plaque is being unveiled on June 21 with the present chairman of the Board of Commissioners, G. Earle Logan, QC, officiating.

A very interesting little book has just been donated to the library by a granddaughter of the author, S. G. Barter. Mr. Barter is now well over 80, and his "A short history of the Orser family" he traces the Loyalist Orser family of Hartland, N.B., from the Van Auslins of Holland to the present day through many striking recollections.

To remind the citizens of Loyalist Day, May 18, the Library has displayed several interesting items, including a summons to the body of Benedict Arnold to appear at Fredericton to answer a charge of trespass in 1790. Another is the Commission of Andrew Rainsford, the first "Receiver General of Quit Rents in New Brunswick in America". It bears the signatures of George III and William Pitt (the younger), who was Prime Minister at the time.

After the CLA Conference, the Saint John Free Public Library would be pleased to receive any visitors from other parts of the country. Conference visitors traveling by CPR will detrain at Saint John; travelers by car will find Saint John on the best highway route to central points.

Historical Archives and the Archivist

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By J. RUSSELL HARPER

This is the third in a series of articles published in New Brunswick newspapers during New Brunswick Library Week, Feb. 20-27, 1954, and reprinted from the Fredericton Gleaner. Mr. Harper is archivist librarian, New Brunswick Museum.

"What is an archives?" you ask. An archives is a place where historical documents such as military and government records, original letters, diaries, early newspapers, company minute books, and all similar papers are preserved. An archivist works with the materials used for the writing of books, rather than with the books themselves as does a librarian. The archivist must select from the papers offered to the archives those which he feels are historically valuable, and then store and catalog them for use. He may even have to get out and seek papers which he knows are important and which are in danger of being either lost or destroyed. His job is both a fascinating and important one, for on his shoulders rests the responsibility for the preservation of much of the history of his country, province or community.

We Canadians are becoming more aware of our historic past and of our rôle as a nation. With our greater interest in history, archives are becoming more important. We have in Canada several kinds where each year more and more people are going for information.

The Dominion Government Archives in Ottawa is a large, splendidly-organized institution responsible for all Canadian state papers and other papers relating to Canadian history in general. Most provinces have their own archives which collect provincial records.

New Brunswick is a notable exception and, as a result of lack of leadership and initiative provided by a provincial archives, a vast quantity of papers of New Brunswick interest have gone to other parts of Canada or to the United States in addition to much that has been destroyed. We are historically much poorer for it. Even many of New Brunswick's official government papers have been scattered.

To complete the Canadian picture, there are some public and semi-public institutions where historical papers are preserved. There is archives material in New Brunswick in the Legislative Library at Fredericton and in the archives of the New Brunswick Museum as well as the libraries of the three universities and some city and town libraries. Some large companies such as railways have well-organized libraries of their own papers.

A widespread interest in archives is relatively new in Canada and, as so often happens in the early stages of a new field, no "professional" training is provided in Canada. Summer courses in the handling of United States government documents are provided in the National Archives in Washington. There are archives courses in some American universities, but the best training is that of the Universities of London and Paris.

Special emphasis has been placed on archives research in certain Canadian universities such as Queen's in Kingston, where graduate history involves original research in the Dominion Archives as a prerequisite. Above all, a solid grounding in Canadian history is essential to all who wish to become archivists. The student must learn to systematize and evaluate historical material, and know the rudiments of research. He may most readily learn his profession by an apprenticeship period in a well-organized archives.

To all who are interested in Canadian history, go and visit an archives. A warm welcome will await you and the person in charge will be delighted to explain to you more about its aims and ambitions.

News of Nova Scotia Regional Libraries

COLCHESTER - EAST HANTS reported by Jim Bell

At the March meeting of the C.E.H.R.L. Board, Mrs. Dorothy Benson was appointed Regional Librarian, succeeding Shirley Elliott who left in January to go to the Legislative Library in Halifax. Mrs. Benson is a graduate of Acadia (B.A.) and McGill (B.L.S.), and previous to coming to Truro she worked in the University of New Brunswick Library. For the last three years she has been on the staff of the Colchester-East Hants library.

A new regional high school at Kennetcook will take a considerable load off the bookmobile in that area, when the school is completed this summer. Regrouping of bookmobile work will then be possible along with the inclusion of other, hitherto neglected, schools.

Plans are also being formalized for another branch library, at Noel. At the last visit of the bookmobile to that stop over 150 books were distributed. Interest in the bookmobile in the Noel area is very high and the new branch should make the library service much more far-reaching to meet the demand.

Saturdays have been busy days in Truro. On one occasion circulation reached a new high of over 515 books. Bookmobile circulation has remained fairly constant despite the fact that bad roads in the spring prevented making some trips. Circulation has dropped slightly in three of the branches but has boomed in the fourth.

The bookmobile driver, Pipe Major Ross Stone (North Nova Scotia Highlanders) is a man of parts and very useful in the work of the bookmobile. One of his accomplishments is being able to speak a little Dutch. This is very valuable to the increased number of Dutch newcomers the bookmobile serves from time to time. Ross' familiarity with the western European countries is again of value, for he is able to talk to these people of their own homes, many of which he has seen and visited.

PICTOU COUNTY reported by Doreen Bailey

A new branch in River John opened in March of this year. A small deposit station, it is housed in a room behind the post office, and the postmaster looks after the collection, which will be changed regularly. The people are well pleased with it, and circulation is very fair. There are no children's books included, as the bookmobile serves the school. Formerly River John, too, was served by the bookmobile, but the townspeople asked for a branch.

Eileen Connolly, our bookmobile librarian, won the award as best actress in the Dominion Regional Drama Festival this year, for her portrayal of the title part in "Dear Ruth".

Our Copy Incomplete? I wonder, asks Dorothy Cullen from the P.E.I. Libraries, how many readers notices or commented on the blank page in Harry Allen Smith's Compleat practical joker. Just a little practical joke, apparently.

Nova Scotia's Union Catalogue

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By GLADYS F. BLACK
Reference Librarian
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

In the not-too-distant future, when a request for the location of a book or periodical is sent to the National Library at Ottawa, the reply may give the symbol NSHPL, indicating that there is a card for that book in the Union Catalogue of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in Halifax.

The Union Catalogue at present contains about 40,000 main entry cards, representing all titles, fiction and nonfiction, in the catalogue of the Provincial Library, and covering the nonfiction stock of the following Nova Scotia libraries:

Adult Education Division of the Department of Education
Maritime Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council
Mount Saint Vincent College
Nova Scotia Museum of Science
Nova Scotia Regional Libraries (Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Colchester-
East Hants, Halifax, Pictou County)
Nova Scotia Research Foundation
Nova Scotia Technical College
Regional Reference Library, Federal Department of Agriculture, Kentville

Miss Martha Shepard, Director of Reference Services of the National Library, has been in Nova Scotia since the beginning of April, microfilming main entry cards in the larger library catalogues in Halifax, including the Union Catalogue, and in the catalogue of Acadia University in Wolfville. As these reels of film are developed, and enlarged positives made, a copy of each will be acquired by the Union Catalogue. Locations will be stamped and the rools of positives cut into the regulation 3x5 card size, ready to be punched and arranged for filing into the Union Catalogue.

As the cards are edited during their final filing into the drawers of the Union Catalogue, additional cards are made for joint authors, for subjects of biographies (the only subject cards in the Union Catalogue) and for important illustrators, translators and editors, but location symbols are put on the main entry card only. The usual name reference cards are made for the Union Catalogue as for any other library catalogue.

Depending on size of staff, and the time that can be given to filing and editing, it may be one year or two or more before all the cards photographed by Miss Shepard this spring are incorporated into the Union Catalogue, though at the end of a year or so they will probably be in a form in which they may be consulted. During this time, too, since with one exception those libraries whose catalogues have been photographed will be sending in cards for the books they catalogue, as will in addition the Legislative Library, cards will be coming in at the rate of one to two thousand a month; and these too must be assimilated into the Union Catalogue as quickly as possible. The Union Catalogue, for its part, will forward to the National Library a record of each new entry in its files.

The Union Catalogue's primary purpose is the location of books whose authors and titles are known. However, with the help of the bibliographic and encyclopedic tools and the general stock of the Provincial Library, along with a partial classified index to the Union Catalogue, many books are located of which the title only is known, and help can often be given in locating books on a subject.

As its coverage increases, the ability of the Union Catalogue to find locations in Nova Scotia for books and periodicals needed by Nova Scotia libraries will increase. For libraries outside the province, it will (Continued on Page 58)

St. F. X. Library Reviews Active Year

By SISTER REGINA CLAIRE

Librarian, St. Francis Xavier University

In the Fall 1953 MLA BULLETIN we gave a resumé of what we do here to orient new students in the use of the library. Now in looking back over the past months we find that the results achieved have been very satisfactory. Experience has proved that this initial contact with the library goes a long way in establishing future contacts with the "campus workshop".

The past year has been a very busy one, particularly from the viewpoint of student use. Although our trained staff was not increased any, we made use of student assistants throughout the year. One or two of these assistants were on duty all day and in the evening until the library closed at 10.30. A student assistant also worked part time in the office. Students registered in the library science courses used the library extensively. Engineering students were given a good working knowledge of the library by means of assignments involving the use of reference and other books. A radio interview on the rôle of the library in the life of the student was in preparation, but had to be cancelled for this term due to a conflict with several other campus activities and coming examinations.

A special room in the reference section of the library was used all year for French pronunciation classes, where use was made of the Linguaphone records and films.

New books, other than the purely technical, were displayed near the circulation desk, and these were borrowed widely. We also displayed for about two weeks a small art collection lent to use by Mount St. Bernard College. We feel that such displays go a long way in rounding out the education of any student. In line with this idea we intend to hang several paintings in the Reading Room as soon as the framing is completed.

Much of our periodical binding has been brought up to date, and we find that these journals are in demand for seminars, major essays, etc. This summer we hope to list our duplicate periodicals, and if any librarian is interested we shall be glad to mail one or more copies as required.

The foregoing are a few highlights of the past year. These, together with the daily round of routine activities, kept our staff very busy. However, when one realizes that the library should play a very vital rôle in university life, we hope that busy days are an indication that the functional aspect of our book collection is being emphasized to the fullest extent.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LIBRARIES reported by Dorothy Cullen

Branch Burned About 800 library books were lost in a fire which destroyed Stella Maris School, North Rustico, Mar. 20. The branch library, housed in the 9-room school, was set up in 1942 for the use of school children and adults of the district. It contained 450 adult and 600 children's books; about one fifth were in circulation and thus were saved.

Drama Miss Gracie Campbell of the P.E.I. Libraries staff was adjudicator of junior plays in the 1954 P.E.I. Drama Festival in May. She adjudicated three plays, and gives credit for a good deal of helpful advice to Drama festivals and their adjudication by C. B. Purdon, published by Dent.

The library's collection of plays available to groups for reading and selection purposes has been in great demand; 830 plays were borrowed by people in all parts of P.E.I.; there were even a couple of requests from New Brunswick.

News of Halifax Libraries

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SUMMER READING HEAVY, HALIFAX MEMORIAL LIBRARY FORECASTS reported by Kay Currie

While it is difficult to note a trend in anything less than five years, summer statistics show that Halifax people like to include reading in their holiday plans. Figures for the last two summers were:

1952: July 15,244; August 16,598

1953: July 17,867; August 17,647

These figures were a drop of about 2500 volumes a month from the busiest months of the year--which is really not a very substantial drop. June is less busy than July and August, although this year may disprove that point--so far June has been quite heavy. These figures refer to the adult department only; juvenile figures show a decided slump during the summer.

Saturday, though not so busy as during the winter, is the second busiest day of the week--second only to Tuesday (the H.M.L. is closed on Monday) and business booms every Saturday night.

March 1954 was the peak month since the library opened in 1951, with an adult circulation of 23,122 volumes (13,524 fiction, 7786 nonfiction), 1832 Young Modern, and 7617 juvenile, for a total of 30,739; March 1953 stood at 25,280, and the April 1954 total was 28,301.

At the accepted capacity of seven volumes per foot, the Halifax Memorial Library shelving could hold 51,410; the actual book collection is now 51,525 volumes. About half the collection is in circulation, relieving the congestion. There were 14,172 adult and 5652 juvenile borrowers registered at the end of April 1954, up 4412 in one year.

Books on education are in great demand, chief librarian Mary Cameron reports. Teaching the younger generation, and aids to parents in helping the young folk, are heavily used. Hilda Neatby's So little for the mind has a waiting list of over 30 for the library's dozen copies; the demand for the book was "unprecedented" following Dr. Neatby's talk to the Canadian Club in Halifax in March.

Reference librarian Ellen Webster reports three acquisitions of special interest: Thieme and Becker's Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler in 37 volumes; Poor's Register of directors and executives, 1954; and Lloyd's Register of shipping, 1953-54.

MISS DONOHOE HONORED BY NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT

Miss Annie Donohoe, who retired from the Legislative Library this year, was honored May 12 at a ceremony in the Library when members of the Nova Scotia Cabinet presented her with a silver tea service.

The Nova Scotia Technical College Library passed the 10,000 volume mark at the first of June, with 6070 separates, 3700 volumes of periodicals, and 300 volumes in storage by count. Total loans for September 1953 to May 1954 were 2172, of which 1681 were to 200 students; average rate of library use was 1.1 book per student-month. In 1952-53 total circulation was 1630, and the rate of use 1.25 books per student-month. The Technical College Library will be closed June 17 to July 26 (except for C.L.A. conference visitors) while librarian Don Redmond attends the Atlantic Summer School of Advanced Business Administration at King's College.

NOVA SCOTIA'S UNION CATALOGUE (Continued from page 55)

provide the specific location for items for which the National Library's location symbol is NSHPL. Eventually, as the National Library extends its photocopying scheme, the Provincial Library Union Catalogue will be the master key to the resources of the libraries of Nova Scotia.

Following is a list of the libraries whose catalogues have been photographed to date: Acadia University; Cambridge Library; Dalhousie University, including the Medical-Dental Library but not the Law School; Nova Scotia Provincial Library Union Catalogue; Nova Scotia Public Archives; St. Mary's University; University of King's College.

In the April 1954 issue of Ontario Library Review, Ruby Wallace, librarian of the Cape Breton Regional Library, describes the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in general. Read it as background to Miss Black's article above. --Ed.,

NO PROFIT IN PROPHECY, a C.L.A. Conference Editorial (Continued from page 44)

Our colleges still have no professors of books and reading, perhaps; but a college librarian is becoming an active teacher and a colleague, not a servitor, of the faculty; students are approaching the libraries eagerly and constantly. Academic conservatism being what it is, 75 years it not too long for a prophecy to mature. But perhaps the special librarians--relative newcomers to Nova Scotia but now necessary workers in many organizations--are a partial (and to Mathews unexpected) answer to this prophecy. For what else do they do but as Mathews suggested, "advise the student how to read most advantageously"?

In Nova Scotia, it isn't safe to prophesy--not about libraries--even at short range. Things happen too fast. As the Canadian Library Association meets in Halifax in June 1954, it can see over fifty libraries, middle-sized and small, in bustling operation. More are a-building. A thousand times fifty Nova Scotians make enthusiastic use of their libraries every day. In the very recency and boom of the library upsurge in Nova Scotia, we can show Canadian librarians everywhere LIBRARIES IN ACTION, and that READING IS FUN--AND BUSINESS TOO.

D. A. Redmond

Miss Barbara Murray of Dalhousie University Library made a six-week pleasure trip to England in April and May, visiting among other places the libraries the University of Liverpool and the British Museum.

Miss Alberta Letts of the Provincial Library was a holiday visitor to Toronto earlier this month, and while there attended the Canadian International Trade Fair and the annual conference of the Ontario Library Association.

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