

BULLETIN

of

THE MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Wolfville, Nova Scotia

A Word From the President

Our editor has displayed her accustomed resourcefulness in introducing new voices into the Bulletin this month. Reports from our Vice Presidents make this a special and representative Christmas number.

1942 has been a hard year - one of anxiety and increased responsibilities. The war has brought untold suffering in Russia and England and China and to the conquered countries of Europe. In comparison our lot has been easy and our sacrifices few. At present the hopeful news from North Africa and from Russia gives us new hope. We can all appreciate President Roosevelt's message that in this war "Books are weapons". If 1942 has seen the "beginning of the end", let us hope that 1943 will bring us victory with a wise and just peace. Meanwhile, here is another Christmas, and for it there is the old but sage advice of Thomas Tusser:

"At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year."

Marion Gilroy

Bethlehem Town

There burns a star o'er Bethlehem town --
See, O my eyes,
And gloriously it beameth down
Upon a Virgin Mother meek
And Him whom solemn Magi seek;
Burn on, O star, and be the light
To guide us all to Him this night.

There is a cry in Bethlehem town --
Hark, O my soul.
'Tis of the Babe that wears the crown;
It telleth us that man is free --
That He redeemeth all and me.
The night is sped - behold the morn -
Sing, O my soul, the Christ is born.

Eugene Field

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Library Activities in New Brunswick, 1942.

by

Mrs. B. F. Moore, Vice President for N.B.

At the request of the Editor, I submit a summary of a report received from various librarians.

Clifton Public Library, Miss. E.K. Matthew, Librarian, reports that as there are a great many children of school age in the community special effort is being made in developing the Junior department. A few educational games were provided for the young people, a separate catalogue was made, and new book shelves were donated. The Library is open on Saturday afternoons for the exchange of books.

The Dalhousie Public Library was opened in 1939 through the ingenuity and perseverance of a number of interested citizens who felt that a public library could be of great benefit in a small town and of especial assistance to the school children, while at the same time it would encourage a love of good reading among the people. Starting without endowment of any kind, but with the goodwill and generosity of interested well wishers, eager to assist, it has grown and is an asset to the community. Hundreds of books were donated and the best kept, so that now there are well over twenty-five hundred good books. Books for the Junior Department were selected with care Miss E. Matt, a Librarian in the Montreal High School, kindly assisted in this important work. The upkeep is obtained by Association dues from the different organizations of the town who paid \$12.00 each, entitling them to four votes at the annual meeting, with its election of officers. Individual dues are \$1.00, adult membership fees 25¢ and juvenile 10¢ per year. The librarian's work is voluntary. Membership in the Book of the Month Club and subscriptions to four leading magazines with a continual supply of recent books of note, both fact and fiction keep a continually growing interest. A teacher who is a member of the Book Selection Committee, has the privilege of choosing suitable and necessary books for the school as part of the monthly purchases. The International Paper Co., very kindly furnished shelves, supplies etc. gratis. The first President and organizer, Mr. J.A. MacDonald of Moncton has been overseas for the past two and a half years, and the first Secretary, Mr. Lloyd Jones, is a Flight Commander with the R. C. A. F. Mrs. J.A. MacDonald very kindly reported for the Library.

From Fredericton, we have three reports. Miss D. Harper of the Legislative Library reports that the past year has witnessed a marked increase in the number of persons making use of the library, and a rather amazing turnover per person. The interest of children and teen age young people has been very noticeable, and she thinks some good has been done in this important direction, as she sees the youngsters progressing from the simpler books to others more worth while. The reference and technical books have been made good use of by the Army and Air Force for their classes.

The Rev. D.S. Gillis, Librarian of St. Dunstan's Library, reports that during the past year extensive renovations were made, the books classified and several new volumes added. Of these, some were donations, others were purchased. The Library is open on Sunday to adults and on Friday afternoon to the children; it is a Free Public Library although the patrons are, for the most part, members of St. Dunstan's Parish. The Library Board consists of seven members, of which Rev. Father Gillis is Chairman, Jas. A. Hughes Secretary, Miss Molly Barry, Librarian. Of the 5,000 volumes in this library many are of ancient origin and of great value. The circulation was approximately 1800. There are 150 patrons. In the Library are presentation copies from writers who were formerly patrons - Rev. W.P. Stockley of Ireland, the first Librarian in 1897, author of several works on Shakespeare, and Miss Mary Graman, writer of children's stories and at present with the C. B. C. in Toronto. As the

interest in reading is steadily growing, especially among the young people, it is hoped that there will be an expansion of the activities during the coming year.

Mrs. M.J. Thompson, Librarian of the University of New Brunswick, sent in the following - With the exception of holidays and Sunday mornings, the library has been open every day from Monday to Friday from 9-30 A.M. to 9 P.M., on Saturday from 9-30 to 12-30, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during examination time. The staff is composed of one trained librarian and five student helpers. The number of volumes in the Library has been roughly estimated as 30,000. There are a great many books to be catalogued. The Library contains many old, rare valuable books, and special collections acquired by gift. The former librarian, Miss Sterling, did an amazing amount of work in organizing the library, but it was beyond the physical capabilities of any one person, no matter how willing and devoted to the task. Last year the circulation was 3,361 books. In October 1941 the circulation was 355, in October 1942, 511. The increase tempo of college life is felt. The Collection of books belonging to the York Sunbury Historical Society is housed here. This contains rare and valuable historical books and documents.

This library belongs to one of the oldest universities in Canada. It has treasures as yet unexplored. Were it to be fully catalogued and articles written about the different rarities and collections, we might, like the man with the better mouse trap, find the world beating a path to our door. Or, if not the world, at least some of the scholarly world.

From Sackville, Miss W. Snider, Librarian of Mount Allison Memorial Library, reports that the war has wrought a change in the kind of use which is being made of the Library. The number of people using the library for serious study has increased. The circulation of recreational books has decreased. This is of course inevitable with a public which is composed largely of students enrolled in C. O. T. C., U. T. A. C., first aid, home nursing and war work generally. The classes of Air Force radio technicians strain the reading room space to capacity. Two important bequests were received from friends of the library. Mr. B. Eaton Paterson on his death added largely to a fund already established in memory of his wife. Dr. S.W. Hunton, one of the earliest librarians of Mount Allison and professor of mathematics at the university for fifty years, on his death bequeathed his entire mathematical library to Mount Allison. A microfilm Reader was presented by Dr. P.C. Archibald, the donor of the Mary Bellish Archibald Memorial collection in the library.

The Mount Allison Academy is beginning to build up a library of its own. The books which are placed in their reading room are of course a part of the Mount Allison Memorial Library and are purchased, catalogued, and cared for as such. Some of the books in this collection remain there permanently, while others are borrowed for a period of a month and then exchanged.

Miss F. Tilley reporting for the I.O.D.E. Boys and Girls Library. This is a joint undertaking by the Lord Sackville Library and Mount Allison University. The Library is housed in the University Library Building and administered by a member of the Mount Allison staff. It is open on Saturday mornings and free to all Sackville children. The attendance and circulation of books have been increasing steadily. Book talks and story-telling in the four schools are always successful in bringing the children to the library and in bringing the teachers and librarian closer together. Teachers use the books and material as supplementary reading for social studies and are always willing to give their full support to the organization. Books are selected by the

Educational Secretary of the I.O.D.E., and the librarian. This is one of the four libraries in Canada to have a Children's International Mind Alcove, sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Alcove books have been added several times each year for the past few years. As they are colorful, informative and popular they fill the requests of children for "stories about other children". By reading books of this type the young reader learns that children all over the world work and play in very much the same way, although they may wear different clothes and speak strange languages.

Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, Librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library, sent in the following:- "When the war broke out we opened our Library to the men of the Armed Forces and their families. Since the summer of this year we have been sending books to the R. C. A. F. at Pennfield Air Station. As a rule we have 40 to 50 books at the base for distribution among the men - the officers have a Library of their own. The books we lend are chosen and collected by one of the officers in charge who guarantees their safe return.

Among the unusual problems we have had to face this year are the various aspects of the Air Raid Precautions: irreplaceable material has been moved to safety in the vault; the Library and contents have been covered by War Risk Insurance; the number of books in the Library has been checked; preparations have been made for black-outs; the room beneath the stack has been requested as an air-raid shelter by the Business College nearby; and the Library has also been selected as an evacuation area by Civil Defence Committee. We received a special book-case as a memorial to the late Dr. H.S. Brides, purchased from a memorial Fund of the Teacher's Association. The gift also included a guarantee of \$25.00 worth of books each year to help fill the case. Mr. A. Trueman, Superintendent of Schools in the city, has been appointed to the Board of Commissioners. This appointment makes an important link between the two main educational institutions, the Library and the School. As far as reading interests are concerned, we find non-fiction is more popular than formerly. For the first time history has had the largest circulation, displacing biography, the usual leader in non-fiction. War activities have reduced the circulation statistics considerably, but we find an upward trend at present.

Miss G.E. Starrett, reports for the L.P. Fisher Public Library, Woodstock. The Story Hour was carried on each Saturday morning during January, February and March. On two mornings pupils from Woodstock High School were in charge, and several of them showed marked ability for story telling. A collection of Indian relics has been arranged in the library. These implements were ploughed up on a farm near our town, and have aroused interest in the history of our Indian period. Our Book Club enjoyed its usual popularity. The membership fee is \$1.50, and books purchased and read by members are afterwards placed on the shelves for general circulation. The "Friends of the Library" Association has been active and has contributed funds for book buying and for book and magazine binding. With a small membership fee, this association includes many of our book borrowers and has given them a greater interest in the library. As two-thirds of our books are non-fiction, including reference, we supplement the work of our public schools and Vocational School.

The Librarian of Saint Joseph's University, Mr. Rene Baudry, reports:- Saint Joseph's University library comprises about 15,000 volumes, which are housed in a spacious fire-proof hall. Included in these volumes is a large collection of works dealing with the history of Canada and Acadia. The literary and educational sections which were destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1933 are being replenished gradually.

A special literary department for the use of younger students contains already about 2000 volumes. The library has been enriched with the addition of a few hundred recent works either bought or exchanged. It has likewise received three important donations: the manuscripts of the late Mr. Placide Gaudet, Acadian archivist and genealogist, presented by his daughter; the extensive library of Rev. Joseph Fiset, former professor of philosophy and sciences at the University; a large number of periodicals, including two important collections of Acadian journals, presented by Mr. Henry P. Leblanc, of Moncton. The library is used especially by the students and the professors of the University but is also consulted by an increasing number of persons from outside the University. Last summer, during the course of pedagogy given at the University, a reading room was organized for the special use of the public-school teachers, and a good collection of works on pedagogy was put at their disposition. Owing to the fact that we have not yet a permanent librarian the task of classification advances but slowly. We intend in the near future to open a reading room in order to facilitate the work of the students.

The Silver Jubilee Rural Public Library at Hopewell Cape has laboured under difficulties owing to the illness of Mr. J.A. Drummond, its founder and librarian, although Mrs. Drummond has carried on the work until recently. At present Mr. Ernest Wallace, an English war veteran, is helping. The library is open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Several gifts of books and a cash donation from Lord Bennett for the installation of electricity and a new heating system are reported. The branch libraries are functioning as usual and a good average of the readers are enjoying the books in the main library at Hopewell.

Mrs. Hazel S. McClelland, Convenor of the Sussex Library sponsored by the Women's Institute, reports that they have had a busy and profitable year. The Town grant is \$100.00 per year and other revenue is received from the rental of new fiction and the sale at five cents each of books beyond repair. Cards are issued to the wives of soldiers. One hundred books of the latest fiction and fifty others including some on the required reading list of the High School were purchased. The Library is open on Monday and Friday afternoons from two to five. All the work is voluntary.

In the Moncton Public Library there has been an increase in the circulation of juvenile books and more reference material used by the young students. The Moncton Women's University Club presented their reading club books, a splendid collection of about forty volumes, and in addition to this annual gift a generous cheque of \$77.00 for books. These gifts were greatly appreciated. Privileges of borrowing books from the Library were extended to the men in the services and their families, and many have taken advantage of the offer. Books on loan from the Educational Branch of the Canadian Legion War Services, about 200 in the collection, are available to the men. Newcomers constantly seek information of a local nature, such advice concerning trips to take, points of interest to see, concerts to attend. Through these contacts we have met some interesting young men, including the son of A.H. Sutherland, author of "Arches of the Year" and other books; Basil Rathbone's son, and other young lads who are giving up so much that we may enjoy free books, the right to read what we wish, and the freedom we enjoy.

I regret that no report was received from the St. Croix Community Library in St. Stephen, as this Library presents a splendid example of cooperation between not only two towns, St. Stephen and Calais, Maine, but two countries, Canada and the United States.

It is gratifying to note that there is a greater demand for good literature for the young people and that more are using the Libraries, due to the new curriculum in the schools.

I would be glad if this review of our library activities encouraged the librarians and friends of the library to cooperate in the improvement of Library Service, so that the entire Province may have an adequate system of Regional Libraries, similar to that now in operation in Prince Edward Island.

I wish to extend my thanks to all those who submitted such splendid reports.

Library Interests in Nova Scotia, 1942

by

Evelyn Campbell

Vice-President of the M.L.A. for Nova Scotia

Although Nova Scotia had a free education Act as early as 1868, this Province has never had an adequate Public Library System. Not at any period of history has it been so necessary to provide books for complete education. At a time when so many have opinions but no convictions, when even the most thoughtful observer of current events cannot see clearly the development of the future and when there are ever those, who, with the insidious poison of false values and distorted hopes of the past, wish to obstruct the changes that must come to insure a better world, the best books by the best minds should be available to all.

In 1917, Lord Haldane, dismayed by the evidence of the illiteracy in the British Army, made a survey and pointed out the appallingly low level of education among service men. When it was ascertained that the ordinary civilian had a corresponding lack, an adult education program was put into effect in Great Britain and a complete system of public libraries was organized.

It is not too much to expect that something similar might be done in Nova Scotia. While a Regional Library System has been temporarily put into the background since the outbreak of war, the idea is being kept alive, and the advantages of libraries are being brought home to the people, by displays of books, discussions and meetings in those sections most eager for adult education facilities.

The most significant library development in Nova Scotia within the last three years, has been the establishment of the Canadian Legion War Services Libraries under the direction of Miss Nora Bateson. It is hoped that this library service will be financed as a regular war department under the Department of National Defence. The excellent work it is now doing would be immeasurably increased. The War Service Library has in its collection the most important and the most outstanding books published today. There is much talk about winning the peace as well as winning the war, but we cannot win the peace if we do not provide educational facilities for millions of our men in the services. The Canadian Legion War Services Library is doing a magnificent piece of work under great difficulties. Not only is the aid they give now important, but they are establishing a foundation for future library development.

Changes have come to the University Libraries during war time. The MacDonald Library at Dalhousie University makes its collection available to the service men, provided they are recommended by some one affiliated with the University. The Library is used a great deal for reading and reference work by men of the armed forces, apart from the borrowing. The Library of the University of King's College is carrying on its regular work, despite the fact that the University has been requisitioned for naval use.

Both these libraries cooperate to the fullest extent with the Canadian Legion War Services Library, supplying requested books, as do the Dalhousie Medical Library and the Provincial Science Library.

The Dartmouth Reading Room is now situated in the St. Peter's Parish Hall. The former quarters, on the 3rd floor of the Post Office, have been taken over for Government Offices. The new location is a re central. The town of Dartmouth has grown tremendously in the last three years and the Reading Room has contributed much to the reading interests of the people. It is indeed the beginning of a much greater library development.

This is a technical age and the interest in science and technology demands more and more books for research and reference. The joint Provincial Science Library and Library of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science is a free public library and offers its resources to the people of Nova Scotia. The collection of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, consisting of Journals, Proceedings and Transactions of scientific societies of all countries in the world, is an extremely valuable one. It is expected that more use will be made of this in future. The Science Library plays a small but important part in the reading interests of the people of Nova Scotia.

Not what we have, but what we hope and expect to have in library facilities has been the keynote of these remarks. Nova Scotia has contributed much to the civilization of this continent, and I am sure that we are not going to neglect our own educational future. Like the 8th Army in Egypt, when we start we shall go places.

Prince Edward Island Libraries, 1942
by
Miss Dorothy Cullen, Acting Librarian

The outstanding bit of news from the Prince Edward Island Libraries is that the librarian, Mr. H.B. Chandler, has been granted a leave of absence to enter the Personnel Selection Service of the Army. For the duration, then, our staff consists of Miss Grace Campbell, B.A., Miss Ella MacPherson, a new member, Miss Genevieve Solomon, formerly librarian of the Georgetown branch, and Miss Dorothy Cullen as acting librarian.

Libraries in Prince Edward Island are marching along at about the same pace as formerly. Over 4000 new books have been purchased in 1942 with the emphasis at present being on replacements of children's books and adult fiction. The increasing number of worn and soiled books, which we call "derelicts", is becoming difficult for our small headquarters staff to handle. We have had 400 books rebound during the year, but many more are waiting to be mended.

In the past few months it has been necessary to get new custodians for several of the branches. We find that this has a tendency to retard library activity in these centres for a time, until the new person becomes familiar with the book collection and library routine.

Circulation for 1942 is generally slightly lower than that of 1941. The Charlottetown Public Library still contributes nearly a third of the total circulation each month. The libraries at the R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. stations are being used more and more; and we have lately placed a small collection of books in the R.C.N.V.R. barracks, from which we expect good reports.

In the effort to acquaint readers with the books in the library, we have put out several mimeographed lists of new books; and during the winter of 1941-42 gave our usual book reviews over radio station CFCY.

Miss Jean Gill, Vice-President for P.E.I. and Librarian of the P.E.I. Legislative and Public Library wrote late in October:- At the moment we are busy getting ready for Book Week. We plan on a short radio talk followed by a book quiz, and then our usual display of children's books, posters and book marks. We will have our story telling hour followed by film slides. Just how much of this will materialize is hard to say, but we hope to be able to follow this programme as closely as possible.

SINCE YOU ASKED ME --

With places as well as people, first expectations are seldom fulfilled. I suppose the early settlers in Canada suffered some pretty severe shocks on their arrival in this Promised Land; and I've no doubt that some of their descendants are even now experiencing equally rude awakenings on their return to the Old Country by invitation of the Axis. So it was that I too, travelling with so many others, found that most things in Canada were other than as we had anticipated. In this part of the Dominion at least, Hollywood cowboys do not shoot up Main Street by day and render hideous the night with hill-billies; our Main Street holds nothing more savage than hired mazzepas in taxicabs and small boys on coasters, and our nights are broken not by the call of the coyote but by plaintive bovine cries from freight trains at the depot. We have no rolling prairies, but a very nice line in well-kept city lawns; the highest peak in sight is the tower of the Roman Catholic Cathedral; and if in winter we do achieve something like the frozen wastes of fiction, there are always the lights of George's Grill and an occasional stirrup pump to remind us that here too Man has left his civilising touch.

Likewise with libraries. Owing to a possibly unfortunate upbringing on a heady diet of American professional literature, and a not very clear acquaintance with the forty-ninth parallel, I confess that I came to Canada with rather erroneous expectations of the kind of library conditions I might find here. I have now been in Canada for about ten months, during which time I have had contact or communication with several librarians in or out of the maritimes. One and all (with the exception of one poor gentleman who couldn't read my writing) have shown me unfailing courtesy and kindness, and in this immediate locality I have been impressed by the spirit and sincerity with which they are handling a somewhat thankless task; but, at the risk of seeming to bite the hand that fed me, I must admit to a humble opinion that the conditions of library progress and prestige in the maritime Provinces are as yet far from satisfactory.

Perhaps I may be condemned in my severity if I say something about my own origin. I was in fact before the war a member of the staff of one of Britain's largest Country Library systems, operating in an urban area on the outskirts of London, and covering a region of about half the size of Westmorland County. That area, in comparison with the spaciousness of New Brunswick, may seem very small beer to you; but in that area we had a system of fifteen whole time branch libraries, fifty-five small library centres and two hundred school libraries. I was not a pioneer in this movement and I would take no credit for it. Frankly I feel that we could have done and shall do much better, considering the means at our disposal. For, whatever our individual complaints might have been about our shortcomings and handicaps, the main root and cause of this comparative success lay in the fact that in England the public is library-conscious. Can the same be said of the public of New Brunswick and of Nova Scotia? I take leave to doubt it.

Canada - pardon me if I appear to patronise - is as yet a young country, not yet, I think, fully aware of a national and a civic responsibility; or perhaps I should generalise no farther than the Maritimes of which alone I have personal knowledge. In the sphere of education particularly, it seems to me, there is a spirit of laissez-faire which hardly makes for uniformity of progress; and the provision of a financially sound library service, which in England is tied up naturally with educational facilities, does not appear to receive anything like reasonable consideration. I have seen the library shelves spasmodically raided by the local High School children in quest of books which they have been told to read. The same authority which is responsible for this system of compulsory reading apparently does not concern itself as to whether the public library has sufficient funds to provide the books it prescribes, and the library has recourse only to the peculiar resources of the pay-shelf and fines collected in order to pay for new books and replacements. I concede that there is an income from City funds, and there are occasional donations in kind or cash; but this is manifestly not enough either to provide the necessary additions or to keep the existing stock in good repair.

To my perhaps fastidious mind this is a shameful thing. It is none the less perfidious because, in spite of the drawbacks of under-nourished and incomplete book stock, the library of which I speak is well used by its public and efficiently managed by its staff. That, I believe, reflects credit upon the staff and question upon the city which lets such things be in a reputedly educated community. It prompts me to ask, speaking for myself, what is wrong with a public mentality which sponsors a National Newsboys' Day but has never thought of a National Library Week, tag days for the Brownies but never a tag for the Library, and - laudable and essential though it be - a million dollars for Victory but so very few for the knowledge which will give us victory in peace as well as in war. I repeat, this is not a matter for satisfaction; and I have said this much boldly, knowing that most of my readers, as librarians, will recognise this as painfully as I do myself.

As I write this brief Jeremiad I am looking forward with considerable interest to reading the report, which I understand Mrs. Moore is preparing for this issue of your Bulletin, on the progress of New Brunswick libraries in the past year. I have read Miss Bateson's very thorough survey of libraries in Nova Scotia, and should like to see the same sort of investigation carried out in this Province. But such a survey is only useful, surely, if it contributes to greater co-operation between the libraries surveyed; and this is a subject on which my hopes are high but my knowledge limited. I will, therefore, presume no further than to say that in a community of collection of communities where public appreciation is scanty, it is more than ever important that librarians should be ready to pool their policies and share their progress. And that, it must be self-evident, is the main task of any Library Association. On that basis many things are possible. I do not consider it impossible or undesirable that there should come into being a union catalogue of non-fiction works in New Brunswick libraries and a free exchange of book requests and fulfilments by mail. I do consider it feasible that small libraries in outlying districts should be fostered and fed by those in more popular areas. I do believe that in villages where libraries do not and cannot exist, there may occasionally be found some responsible habitant to take care of a small supply of books for his neighbours - the "borrower-lender" principle as practised in some English rural areas (which we still have in England!). And is it not also possible and desirable to inaugurate and maintain an Aggressive publicity policy in the Provincial press? If every librarian reader of this bulletin were to undertake to bombard the nearest newspaper during, say, the first fortnight of the New Year, with columns, sketches and what-have-yous of popular library interest, is it not conceivable that some of this seed would fall on profitable ground? But please, no more lists of new additions and kind donations!

I know they have to be done to attract the moth and appease the tiger; but in this case let it be rather of the Cinderellas of your stock that you will speak - the old and tried if you like, the books of all time rather than the Book of the Dine-a-Day Book Club. Maybe I'm aiming too high; maybe you haven't such books in your library; then you'll just have to write about what you have - because I think you can be sure that if you don't talk about what you have, people will never be sufficiently interested to give you what you want. Anyhow, that's my story. - and thank you for listening.

H . J. Medd.

The Children's Room. Saint John Free Public Library.

In the Northwest corner of the Free Public Library is the Childrens' Room. Four large windown give a wide outlook on the historic "Fort Howe" and admit a wealth of sunshine - beneficial not only to the children but also to the flowers and ferns which give the room a friendly atmosphere. This recreational Reading Room for children was one of the first in Canada to have its own Librarian, hours, and book collection - absolutely separate from the other departments of the Library. The room is open every afternoon from one to six o'clock and from ten to six o'clock on school holidays and Saturdays. It is regarded by the children of pre-school age, and others up to fourteen years, as absolutely their own. The youngest members are very proud of having library cards and often do their own book choosing, though they sometimes ask for a "Book my Grandmother would like to read me". A Doll's House in the design of a modern cottage, constructed, furnished and presented by a "grandmother", is exceedingly attractive to all ages. Another feature of interest, especially to visiting librarians, is a map of Fairyland placed on one of the tables, under glass, showing the location of the mythical characters from classical times to Mother Goose. Attractive pictures, all of them donations, decorate the walls. For the information as well as for the delight of the children, special days and seasons are marked by special decorations. A Story Hour is conducted under the direction of a Committee who invite qualified citizens to speak to the children on Saturday mornings. Work is done in connection with schools, providing teachers and pupils with the needed reference material. Sometimes books are lent to the teacher for reading in class. Pictures illustrating the required subjects are available for use either in classroom or library. New books are eagerly read, though the unerring judgment of childhood still calls for the favourites of all time. Although the children seem to understand that in the stories of all countries they are seeing the world of yesterday, their sublime faith welcomes alike the Past, the Present and the Future.

Annebell P. Dole
Childrens' Librarian

Notes and Personals

On Nov. 3 Miss Eleanor Jean Mott of this city, a graduate of McMaster and B.L.S. from the University of Toronto, was married to Everard Stuart W.Y. Taylor of Toronto in the Parkdale Baptist Church, Toronto.

The Saint John Branch of the M.L.I. held its opening meeting at the home of Miss Alice Rannie, Sewell St. on Tuesday, November 17. Miss Edith Hudson, one of the Curators of the New Brunswick Museum, gave us a talk on Museums and their purposes, with special reference to the N.B. Museum and its efforts to live up to the ideal. This was naturally of great interest to the Library group as the works and ways of Libraries and Museums follow such parallel paths.

The President of the M.L.A., Miss Marion Gilroy, addressed the regular meeting of the Wolfville Home and School Association on the evening of Wednesday, December 2, in a room of the Wolfville Public School. She placed on display an unusually excellent assortment of children's books.