

LIBRARY

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Prince Edward Island Libraries  
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### M.L.A. Conference 1950

The date of our annual conference has been set as Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24. We are to convene in Charlottetown; meetings may be arranged in the city or perhaps at one of the summer hotels. The President has received some suggestions for the program and will welcome others. Provision will be made for librarians to meet in separate groups, e.g. Public Libraries: University and Special Libraries. When the program has been more fully settled an outline will be sent to members.

#### Why attend Conferences?

A Convention may give the answers to a few specific questions; more often its benefit is through inspiration. It gives us the urge to tackle our problems energetically and work out ways of improving our library service.

Our little trips to M.L.A. meetings give many of us a chance to know the Maritimes better. Visits to other libraries help us to see our own in a new light and spur us on to further achievements.

The acquaintance we gain with fellow librarians is valuable to the Association as well as to each one individually. Much of the work of the M.L.A. must be done by correspondence, and how much easier it is to work with someone you know! In one's own work too, the answer to some knotty question may be found by seeking the help of another librarian in the same line of work whom you met at the M.L.A. Convention.

Attendance at the Convention reached a new high last year when 39 members were present. We hope to equal or better that record this year.

## Regional Libraries in Nova Scotia

Great progress is being made in the establishment of regional libraries in Nova Scotia. The Annapolis Valley regional library is a going concern; Cape Breton has adopted the scheme, and Pictou and Colchester counties will probably follow within the year.

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library was set up January 1, 1949. Miss Alberta Letts' report for 1949 tells us: "The Municipality of Annapolis and the towns of Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown and Middleton voted to come into the scheme as of January 1st, 1949, and the Municipality of West Hants, and the towns of Windsor and Wolfville as of July 1st, 1949. The population served is 33,000. A bookmobile was ordered, and work started immediately on ordering and preparing for circulation an initial book stock. The headquarters office in the District Community Centre in Annapolis Royal was opened towards the end of April, with a librarian and a clerical assistant. By mid-May, the task of sorting the books for the various branches was completed, and three branches were opened in Annapolis County: Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, and Lawrencetown. The Middleton branch opened in September, and the Windsor and Wolfville branches in November. These branches are open from three to five days a week, depending upon the size of the town and the interest shown, and are under the supervision of a local custodian.

A trained librarian as bookmobile assistant, and a driver joined the staff in July. The bookmobile arrived in mid-July and was immediately put into operation in the rural districts of Annapolis County. During the summer, it visited some twenty communities on a regular two week schedule. This schedule was steadily expanded, until by the end of December, the bookmobile was making regular visits on a four week basis to some eighty-two rural communities and schools in the two counties of Annapolis and West Hants. Only a few new stops could be added at one time because of the drain on the book stock, but an effort was made to fill all requests for service as quickly as possible.

By the end of 1949 a book stock of 11,000 volumes had been built up. There were approximately 3000 registered borrowers and the circulation figures showed that over 21,000 books had been borrowed. This picture is somewhat understated, as it does not show as borrowers the teachers and pupils of the rural schools, nor show the full circulation figures for the books borrowed by them. However, it is at least indicative of the enthusiasm with which the service has been met.

Progress during 1949 has been gratifying, but not completely satisfactory. The demand for library service has been greater than the staff or book stock could meet. Requests for additional service such as annotated book lists, story hours for children, and book talks, have had to be shelved temporarily because of the pressure of routine work, and insufficient staff. It is hoped that with an increased staff in 1950, the library may extend its services to cover the Valley more adequately, and may improve the quality of the service offered."

The Cape Breton Regional Library, established January 1, 1950, includes all of Cape Breton County except Sydney Mines and North Sydney; the latter is considering the matter. The library, which will serve 112,000 people, is to have headquarters in Sydney. It is hoped to begin active operations this summer. Miss Ruby Wallace, who has done splendid work in her fifteen years' connection with Niagara Falls Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Cape Breton Regional Library.

Arrangements are progressing for organization of a regional library in Colchester County. This will include the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke and the municipalities of Colchester and East Hants, with a population of 39,000. A librarian has not yet been appointed although applications have been received in answer to the advertisement of the position.

The proposed date of establishment of a Pictou Regional Library is January 1, 1950. It would include all the Towns and the Municipality with a population of 48,000.

### Regional Union Catalog Proposal

D.A. Redmond

The purpose of this article is to inform everyone of what little progress has been made, and particularly to clear up some misapprehensions which I know have existed regarding the purpose and scope of a regional union catalog. Opposition to such a catalog has chiefly been founded on two beliefs, both of which I consider mistaken:

1. Excessive cost of establishing and maintaining a full-blown card catalog. The book form proposed, and the restricted scope of the one union catalog actually underway, would overcome this.
2. Doubts of the amount of use which the catalog would get, and of the usefulness, or duplication with the Ottawa catalog. The dual possibility of a catalog-cum-bibliographic-tool, and the daily need of a joint catalog of recent but expensive books in technical and public libraries, answer this.

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"Agreement in principle" has been general in the Halifax area upon the benefits to be derived from a regional union catalog. Miss Allan and Mr. Redmond, Halifax members of the M.L.A. Committee on the regional union catalog, presented the proposal to the Halifax Library Club in October last, and since then informal consideration has been underway. The Regional Libraries Commission under Mr. Grossman has independently started the nucleus of a union card catalog for public and special libraries in Nova Scotia.

The Halifax area, with nearly 400,000 volumes, was the logical starting area for any Maritime union catalog, the committee believed; and Mr. Redmond's proposal for the use of the Library of Congress Catalog in book form, offering dual use as a union catalog and bibliographic tool without the growing bulk and expense of a card catalog, was accepted as the most practicable method, for college and research libraries at least. Dalhousie University was suggested as the logical location for the L.C. catalog-tool. The new L.C. Author and Subject Catalogs would keep the book catalog up-to-date.

The libraries in Halifax most concerned in the project would be those of Dalhousie, King's, Mount St. Vincent, Nova Scotia Research Foundation, the Technical College, Regional Libraries Commission, Halifax Memorial Library, Pine Hill, St. Mary's and the other Nova Scotia government libraries. No one organization can finance the L.C. Catalog purchase, and the committee has received Mr. Grossman's suggestion that an authoritative outside body be asked to seek a grant-in-aid from some provincial source.

#### Interim or Supplementary Proposal

Use of a selective bibliography such as the Shaw List of books for college libraries was suggested in a recent issue of College and research libraries to form the skeleton of a union catalog system. Each cooperating library would have a checked copy of the Shaw List, which would indicate basic books and serve as a guide to the most probable source of other items. The committee pointed out that the Shaw List (1938) is obsolescent and too skeletal for research purposes, but that newer bibliographies such as the Hawkins Scientific, medical and technical books... 1930-1944 and forthcoming supplement could be used as well.

#### Purpose of a Regional Union Catalog

Difference in purpose of a regional union catalog from the goal of the National Union Catalog was pointed out by Prof. C.L. Bennet of Dalhousie, a member of the National Library Committee, and Mr. Redmond. The national catalog, beginning with Ottawa libraries, is to be primarily a research catalog.

of rare items. The local or regional catalog would be a working tool of modern and necessary, though specialized and perhaps expensive, material. It would facilitate interlibrary loan and aid in filling daily requests from all classes of readers, when local library facilities are necessarily limited. The local or regional catalog would include recent books, especially in the growing special and technical collections of Halifax, and would not be a duplication of Ottawa listings.

Mr. Grossman pointed out the probable cleavage between the needs of the public library reader, the technical worker and the university researcher in non-technical fields. The L.C. Catalog would be specially helpful to the college researcher, while a selective catalog of recent material would be particularly useful to the public and special libraries. The Regional Libraries Commission in Halifax is adding to its master file of holdings throughout cooperating Nova Scotia branches, cards for major holdings in other Halifax libraries including the Research Foundation and Technical College.

#### News of Libraries and Librarians

##### Moncton Public Library

The Library was closed and extensive renovations were made from Sept. 24th to Dec. 12th, 1949. We now have the use of the whole building, the former home of the Kirby's, at 51 Highfield St., about a block from Main St., the Post Office and C.N.R. Station. The Library is situated in spacious grounds, which would make an excellent site for a real library, should the City ever decide to build a fireproof building. The City purchased the property about a year ago. We are very fortunate to have it for our Library. On the ground floor there are the following rooms, fiction, a reading room where our charging desk is situated, the non-fiction is between this room and the fiction, (at my request), and many people find their books before reaching the fiction, so our circulation in classified books has jumped. The office is on the first floor, not far from the desk. Upstairs we have a very pleasant reference room, Juvenile room, an alcove for our French books and a Board Room.

The Library has purchased a projector, screen etc., and we are quire busy supplying films, projector, and a projectionist, to many of the organizations in town. Films are borrowed by persons operating their own machines. Most of our films are borrowed from Fredericton. In time we hope to purchase some.

We had about two hundred classical records given us recently, also a record player to use with a radio. In time I hope that we may have a music appreciation hour, an hour a

week, after the Library closes in the evening. The difficulty seems to be to get someone who has the time to act as narrator in an interesting programme. Meantime we expect to lend records.

Our circulation last year totalled 27252 books, plus 1298 circulated at the Moncton Hospital, and 1368 new borrowers took out library cards.

Members of the Dr. John Clarence Webster Chapter of the I.O.D.E. are doing a splendid work in circulating our books to the patients in the Moncton Hospital on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. This is voluntary and greatly appreciated by the patients, especially children.

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Grand Falls, N.B.

The Grand Falls Public Library has been making steady progress since its opening in April 1949. The library is sponsored by the Grand Falls Literary Club and receives some financial assistance from the Town Council and the School Board. The library is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening with members of the Literary Club serving as volunteer librarians. Membership in the library is free to residents of the town and surrounding districts; it has reached the 400 mark. At the end of 1949 book stock and circulation we as follows:

	Stock	Circulation
Adult non-fiction	324	47
Adult fiction	632	917
Juvenile	270	938
French	80	
	<u>1306</u>	<u>1902</u>

The greatest problem has been to procure an adequate supply of children's books. Although all the book funds were spent on children's literature the demand still exceeds the supply. It is planned to take advantage of the loan service of the Department of Education by which a collection of fifty books may be obtained for four months. Circulation reached its highest point to date one evening in March when 44 books were borrowed during one-and-a half hour period - the usual number of books given out being between twenty-five and thirty-five.

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Woodstock, N.B.

Miss Maude K. Close, Librarian of the L.P. Fisher Public Library writes:

A reading project has been sponsored at the L.P. Fisher Public Library by the Carleton Soldiers' Memorial Chapter of the I.O.D.E. School Children who read ten books of the approved I.O.D.E. list will be awarded a junior I.O.D.E. pin. This has greatly stimulated reading interest and as we have an unprecedented lot of new books due to the generosity of the Friends of

the Library, the children have had a wonderful collection of the very latest books to choose from. This work has largely been due to the energetic and enthusiastic labor of one of the teachers of the L.P. Fisher School, Mrs. Laura Simms, who is also Educational Secretary of the Carleton Soldiers' Memorial Chapter.

The Dr. Nelson P. Grant Memorial Chapter of the I.O.D.E. has sponsored a story telling hour on Saturday mornings, which has been immensely popular.

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#### St. John's, Newfoundland

Mr. Hedley C. King, who has been since 1941 Supervising Librarian of Newfoundland Regional Libraries, during which time he established 26 regional libraries in various parts of the island, has taken a position as Rehabilitation Officer for the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association.

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#### Yarmouth, N.S.

The Yarmouth Public Library has been kept especially busy during the past year by the great demand for children's books. An average of 30 juvenile books were given out each afternoon. The total circulation for the year was 21,252 books - 6,266 of these were juvenile. There are 1540 borrowers registered of which over 500 are children. During the year 545 books were donated to the library and 90 were purchased.

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#### St. Dunstan's Library, Fredericton

Reports given at the annual meeting of the library board showed a prosperous year with an increase in the number of patrons and in circulation of books, especially non-fiction. It was decided to specialize in acquiring books of a spiritual nature during 1950; the Chairman, Rev. Dr. C. T. Boyd, expressed the hope that this Holy Year which Pope Pius XII has designated the "Year of the great return" might mean also a return to the great literary heritage that is ours.

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#### Dartmouth, N.S.

At the annual meeting held March 15, the librarian reported that circulation which had increased steadily for the last eight years was over 38,000 for the year just past.

The Library has been newly painted in a pleasing shade of green.

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Halifax, N.S.

Miss Elizabeth Barnaby, Librarian of the Citizen' Free Library, Halifax, has retired after more than forty-eight years' service. On behalf of the employees of City Hall, Mayor Kinley presented Miss Barnaby with a handsome silver tea service. The Halifax Mail-Star paid tribute to Miss Barnaby in an editorial April 8, 1950. "Almost ten years ago, Miss Elizabeth Barnaby said that a new, centrally-located library building of suitable architectural design so planned as to take care of the citizens' reading requirements would be needed in Halifax and should be provided in the peace to come. To that end she worked assiduously, hoping that her voice would be heard. Now, as what was then termed her 'dream' is becoming an actuality, Miss Barnaby is retiring from the City's service as chief librarian. To most people it might be a blow to have had to work under the greatest handicaps in the wholly unsatisfactory and inadequate room supplied for the library and then to see others continue the work with every modern aid. But not so Miss Barnaby. Her interest has been in books and how to get more books into the hands of those who could use them, and that is what she is interested in today. As she retires from active duty she takes with her the best wishes of all to whom she gave counsel and assistance at the old library".

The Dalhousie University Library is to have an extension added to its stacks, probably in 1951. Mr. Fairn, who designed the new Halifax Memorial Library, is the architect.

Construction of the new Mount St. Vincent College building is well underway. The building will include spacious quarters for the library and library school, and on completion of the new building the Mount St. Vincent Library School will receive full accreditation from the American Library Association.

A credit course for teacher-librarians will be given at the Nova Scotia Summer School in Halifax, July 5 to August 7. Mrs. M. C. Vernon will be the instructor.

Several appointments have been made for the Halifax Public Library. Miss Mary Cameron, newly appointed Head Librarian was born in Saskatchewan of Nova Scotian ancestry. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Toronto Library School, and worked at Regina College, and Smith College, Northampton, Mass. before becoming head of the Galt Public Library in 1944. She has been president of the Ontario Regional group of Catalogers, a member of the board of the Y.W.C.A. and President of the Galt Business and Professional Women's Club. On her arrival in Halifax in February the Halifax Library Club entertained at a buffet supper in her honor at the home of Miss Evelyn Campbell.



Miss Mary Falconer has been appointed Reference Librarian. Miss Falconer will spend the summer in the Reference Department of the London Public Library. Miss Kathleen Currie, recently of the Brooklyn Children's Library has been appointed Children's Librarian. Miss Edith Clare has resigned from the staff of the Dalhousie University Library and will become Head Cataloger.

The Halifax Public library, under the direction of Miss Mary Cameron, has moved from the City Hall to the Bellevue Building on Spring Garden Road, but owing to restricted space will not be functioning as a circulating library until the new Memorial Library Building is opened, sometime in 1951.

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#### Prince Edward Island Libraries

Miss Patricia Pendergast, teacher-librarian at Summerside High School spent a week at library Headquarters receiving instructions before beginning the work of classifying and cataloging the school library consisting of about 2000 volumes. Pupils from Grade VI to Grade X have regular periods; it is expected that the library will be much more useful when it is fully cataloged.

A project of giving correspondence instruction to branch librarians was begun in January. Different ratings (with corresponding increase in remuneration) will be given for completion of some or all of the courses and attendance at yearly Institutes held at Headquarters. Subjects offered this year were Classification, Library Work with Children, and Survey of Libraries. Next year we hope to add Publicity, Circulation problems, and Selecting Books for Readers to the course. The response was very gratifying; fifteen librarians out of twenty-three started work on the course.

Maclean's Magazine of March 15 noted the collection of bookmarks garnered by Mrs. Margaret Reynolds from the 250,000 books that went through the Canadian Book Centre. Can she top this? Recently we have found in one book a nightshirt - well, not a real one but a birthday card in that form - and in another book a real, well-pressed, red squirrel's tail!

Miss Dorothy Cullen gave a talk on Library work as a career to high school students in two Charlottetown Schools during February. This was part of a series on occupations sponsored by the Charlottetown School Improvement League.

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#### Salaries

Mrs. Hart, Chairman of the M.L.A. Committee on Salaries has gathered considerable information on salary schedules in the Maritimes which she will present at our meeting.

The C.L.A. Bulletin Jan. 1950 gave representative salary schedules for various parts of Canada. The Salaries Committee hopes to have worked out by the time of the Convention a salary scale similar to A.L.A. but applicable to Canada.

Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in libraries  
of the Maritime Provinces

Work on the revision of this catalogue is now under way. To make it complete it is necessary to include the holdings of industrial firms, technical offices, government bureaux, etc. If you know of any such offices in your locality that are likely to have files of technical journals, please send their names to Miss Evelyn Campbell, Librarian  
Nova Scotia Research Foundation  
Bos 1027, Halifax.

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Advertisements

**URGENTLY NEEDED:** Cumulative Book Index, superseded cumulations covering 1943-June 1945; paper-bound issues or six-month volumes; at least two sets are needed by the BOOK ROOM, Chronicle Bldg., Halifax, and the NOVA SCOTIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, Box 1000, Halifax.

**WANTED -** Part time work during July and August 1950. A fully trained, experienced librarian wishes to combine a summer vacation with gainful interesting work in a cool climate such as the Maritime provinces offer. Write Miss Helen H. Rigney, Windham High School Library, 322 Prospect St., Willimantic, Connecticut, U.S.A.

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A UNESCO Library School will be hold in Malmo, Sweden July 24 to Aug. 19, 1950. It is to be a seminar on the role of libraries in Adult Education. The C.L.A. is making arrangements for three librarians to go from Canada. UNESCO provides room and board during the summer school; participants must take care of their own travelling and incidental expenses. As it is necessary to book steamship reservations by May 1, applications should be sent to Miss E.H. Morton, Executive Secretary, C.L.A. at once, stating name, address, official position, sex, and whether English or French is spoken or both.

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