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Some notes on the Conference at Hamilton
by the Editor

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, with its attractive stone buildings and spacious campus, was the setting for the organizational conference of the Canadian Library Association, June 14-16. About two hundred delegates attended; they were kept busy and interested all the time, as there were morning, afternoon and evening meetings. Since the Residences and Refectory at McMaster were made available to delegates, there were many opportunities of meeting and chatting with librarians from all over Canada, between sessions as well as at the highly enjoyable social occasions - tea at the Hamilton Public Library on Friday afternoon and at McMaster University on Saturday.

A good deal of time at the business meetings was taken up with a discussion of the Constitution which was adopted with a few minor changes. It was suggested that fees, beginning at \$2 per year, be graduated in accordance with salaries - the scale to be set by the Council of the Association. Activities proposed for the Canadian Library Association include:

Maintaining headquarters office as a clearing house of library information for the Dominion.

Publications (Bulletin, etc.)

Liaison between the library associations and (1) the Dominion government, (2) the American Library Association and other library associations, (3) organizations concerned with education and cultural activities.

Development of standards of librarianship, of library service, and of library legislation.

Encouragement of the compiling of Canadian reference books

Promotion of library training and placement.

The Nominations Committee submitted the following slate of officers:

President - Miss Freda Waldon, Librarian, Hamilton Public Library
Pres.-Elect - Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Librarian, University of British Columbia

2nd Vice-Pres. - M.J.A. Brunet, School Libraries Department,
Montreal Catholic Schools Commission

Treasurer - Mr. Hugh C. Gourlay, Librarian, Edmonton Public Library.

As the Executive Board is to include a Past-President, Miss Margaret Gill, Librarian, National Research Council, Ottawa, was named as Past-President. It was decided that members of the Canadian Library Council, Inc. should act as the Council of the Association until a Council as provided in the Constitution is appointed.

At the first meeting, Dr. G.R. Lomer gave an informative account of the events leading up to the formation of the C.L.A. A beginning was made at meetings held in Seattle and Vancouver in 1925. The matter was discussed again in Toronto in 1927, and in 1930 a Commission surveying Canadian libraries under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation recommended; the provision of books for all of Canada, a National library, better legislation and provincial support, and an Association with a paid Headquarters staff. In 1934 it was decided to form a Canadian Library Council, but little was done until in 1942 the Carnegie Corporation provided a grant for such an undertaking. In 1945 the Council began the work which culminated in this meeting in Hamilton for the formation of a Canadian Library Association.

Another very interesting address was that by Dr. Luther Evans, describing briefly the work of the Library of Congress as a National library helping to sustain throughout the land the high level of information and intelligence needed for an effective democracy. He told of the service to students and to other libraries, and of the cultural activities - exhibits, films, concerts, etc. Dr. Evans urged that, in setting up a national library, no effort or expense should be spared in procuring the best administrative talent. The film "Library of Congress", which was shown following Dr. Evans' talk, was a splendid accompaniment to it, illustrating vividly many of the points he brought out.

The possibilities in library service to children and adults were portrayed in the films "Coin des enfants", a film made in two children's libraries in Montreal, and "Free reading for all" which showed American libraries of various kinds. In the discussion following, several of the audience expressed the opinion that these films would be valuable publicity material in campaigns for library expansion.

On Saturday afternoon I attended the workshop group on Organizing library service. Mr. C.K. Morison as Chairman asked a representative from the various sections of Canada to outline what is being done or needs to be done to give library service to those who haven't any, and discussed ways in which the C.L.A. might promote the extension of library service. A feature of this meeting was a talk by Miss Mary Fleming of Wellington, New Zealand on the Country Library Service instituted in her homeland in 1938. This aims to supplement libraries in smaller towns and rural areas, which contain about half of New Zealand's total population of 1,750,000.

The Buffalo Conference
by Marion Gilroy

The A.L.A. Conference was held in Buffalo, June 16-22. It seemed a bit strenuous to start meetings on Monday, when we had left Hamilton Sunday afternoon after a long meeting in the morning and a brief Canadian Library Council meeting after lunch. But the warm hospitality of McMaster and the successful launching of the Canadian Library Association offset the long days and nights of meetings. The work of Miss Gill, the Chairman of the Canadian Library Council, and Miss Morton, the Executive Secretary, in particular, and the many interested Canadian librarians, blossomed at Hamilton into a new and vigorous Association.

The first afternoon the A.L.A. Council met. At the opening general session there was a stimulating address by John Grierson, Chairman, International Film Associates, Washington, D.C. Mr. Grierson is well known in Canada for his outstanding work during the war as head of the National Film Board. He suggested that libraries are natural centres of enlightenment in democratic societies, but that they must become real adult education centres with emphasis on films, discussion groups and other new educational media as well as books. Otherwise the opportunity to do a really creative community job may pass to others. Mr. Grierson summed up by stressing the need of new educational principles: we must internationalize the minds of men; we must make our educational policy dynamic; we must strive for simplicity and an understanding of the elemental interests of men; we must be tolerant; we must bring education to people's local interests, to the farm, the factory; we must make education and enlightenment a dramatic force.

Outstanding leaders at other general sessions were Mrs. Emily Taft Douglas, representative from Illinois, who is sponsoring the federal aid to libraries bill; Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, who had been at the Canadian Library Association, and spoke at Tuesday's general session on National Library Resources. Thursday morning was a real international treat, with representatives from Mexico, India, Switzerland and England speaking on library cooperation. The address of General McChrystal was salted with humour and full of understanding and common sense.

It was helpful to drop in at special sessions to get light on what was doing in one's special field. The groups on library building and architecture were particularly large and lively. As soon as materials are available, there are going to be hundreds of new library buildings, bigger, better, and more sensibly planned for use than ever before. It was interesting to hear about modular construction and to see and hear Mr. Githens, the architectural co-author (with Dr. Wheeler) of "The American Public Library Building".

One of the special sessions which drew a large audience was Dr. Mortimer Adler's discussion of "The Great Books". It was a joy to hear Dr. Adler state one of the basic assumptions of librarians, that books are an essential instrument in the process of education. He believes that the problem of adult education is not to teach what to think, but what to think about. He explained that the reading and discussion of the great books in seminars meet all the requirements of a program of adult education. They are inexhaustible. They are not vocational. They permit an adult method of education. In Dr. Adler's opinion, the question is the greatest intellectual tool; for while it is easy to tell people, it is hard to ask them. He explained the leadership training plan of the University of Chicago and described the work of public libraries in sponsoring discussion groups. After Dr. Adler's most eloquent presentation it was hard not to feel that the Great Books Seminars were THE solutions to adult education; and even after some time has passed one feels that undoubtedly there is a place for many of these "great books" seminars. It was interesting to see the demonstration of a discussion of Plato's Apology and Crito.

After five days of meetings the Conference ended on a high note. In the same evening two great people from the Tennessee Valley Authority spoke, and it was a dazzling "double-header". Miss Mary U. Rothrock, as President-Elect of the A.L.A., gave her address which sounded the high note of international cooperation. She emphasized the need for a complete library service because "sound ideas do not come from starved minds". With the most infectious humour, Miss Rothrock said that her remarks would be brief because she had "one of the boys from home to deliver my message". So she introduced David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority. His speech, "Science and the Human Spirit", was a real masterpiece. Besides being a superb administrator and a pioneer in a field which is having repercussions all over the world, Mr. Lilienthal writes and speaks with a poetic beauty and warm human understanding. He emphasized that science can be used to augment the dignity of human existence; but that technology must have an ethical purpose. Basic to all this development must be a deep and abiding faith in human beings. Nothing is realistic that ignores the spiritual basis of mankind. In eliminating the atomic menace we must seize the affirmative, creative impulses of mankind. While science in evil hands can make us slaves, science in good hands can emancipate us from drudgery. The choice will be made by the people, who need to know the alternatives, which can be done only through the widest dissemination of knowledge, pure and undefiled, and open to all. Those with faith in the people have to let people know what science can do.

Next year the A.L.A. meets in San Francisco; which will probably mean the C.L.A. will be meeting in Vancouver. Perhaps by that time science will find a way of compressing 3,000 miles, or making air travel inexpensive enough even for librarians. It's up to technology.

EXTENSION LIBRARY SERVICE AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

by Sister Marie Michael

In the minds of the authorities at St. Francis Xavier University there is no doubt as to the important part which a library must play in both its intra- and extra-mural program of education. After the urgent requirements of housing are taken care of, then they hope to turn their attention to the matter of erecting and equipping a suitable library building. Meanwhile, both the University library and the Extension library carry on as best they can.

In the Extension library are some seven thousand volumes, financed mainly through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Probably the largest section is taken up with books dealing with economic and social matters, such as labor problems, economic theories, money and finance, and the study of cooperative philosophy and techniques. There is a large section on home arts and crafts. Next to this comes biography. As a matter of fact, there are books on a large range of subjects.

These books are sent free to anyone in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia requesting them. There is no need to duplicate the already excellent service in Prince Edward Island, so we do not send any books there. Our books are sent out by mail, in small boxes containing from 15 to 20 books, and in larger lots which may contain a hundred or more books. Those who receive books by mail get them postage free, but those asking for boxes of books are expected to pay express charges both ways.

The smaller boxes usually contain a selection of books centered around some community project, such as the establishing of a cooperative organization, or some community handicraft undertaking. Larger collections of books might be requested by a cooperative store or credit union, to be loaned out to the members, or they might be used by some social organization, such as a small community or parish library, or a young people's club.

The university students have for some years been encouraged to make use of this library in addition to their own. Gradually more and more of them have been coming in for books, and this year this was true to such an extent that we fear our outside borrowers suffered. Although this may seem rather unfair, we consider it worth while for several reasons to give this service to the student body.

In the first place, these students come largely from communities around the Maritimes, and it is not uncommon for them to request that books be sent to people "back home". This is particularly gratifying when "back home" means a farming or fishing community, isolated from any form of library service. Through their Sociology

classes an opportunity is afforded to interest these future leaders in worthwhile books. True, they have a library of their own on the campus; but many students can be said to have a bias against libraries, since they have come to associate them almost entirely with "required reading".

Many of the ex-servicemen show a particular interest in the library. This may be because they are more mature than the regular students, but it is likely owing, at least in part, to the fact that they had good library facilities while in the services.

These men, and women too, will soon occupy influential positions in society. It is our hope that this small effort of ours will help motivate a goodly number of them to lend their support to the movement now on foot to secure better library service for our Maritime people.

NEWS AND NOTES

Woodstock

The "FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY" have been active this year, and, in February, sponsored a successful Tag Day, -with boys and girls from our public schools doing the tagging.

On June 7th., the "Friends" held an afternoon tea at the library. Guests were received in our main Library, and refreshments served in the basement reading room. Several hundred dollars have been raised by these ventures, to be used for the purchase of new books.

A bit of good news, for this year, was a notification that the Fisher library was a beneficiary, -to the amount of five hundred dollars, -in the will of a former Woodstock man.

Acadia University

Mr. M.P. Boone, Librarian, Acadia University writes; "Like most University libraries we have had a very busy year. There have been a number of changes in our Library Staff:- Miss Lillian Swim, a graduate of the Mount Saint Vincent Library School, who has been Assistant Librarian for nearly three years, has resigned and is leaving our Library on June 8th. Miss Shirley Elliott, a graduate of Simmons, joined the staff on April 1st for an indefinite period. On July 1st, Mr. Harry Ganong, who completed the Library course at Toronto this year, will become Cataloguer. Mrs. Jessie Richards and Miss Amy Prescott continue as members of the staff.

We have had a number of improvements and changes in the Library this year, chief of which has been the installation of fluorescent lighting in all of the Reading Rooms.

In April of this year we had the pleasure of cooperating with the Mount Saint Vincent Library School when Miss Marie Ward of that school spent one week of Practice Work at the Acadia Library.

Library Science 2 was offered this year at the University. Eight students completed the course. Some of these are planning to enter Library School in the near future in order to become fully-trained librarians.

During Convocation Week the Library had on display its very fine collection of the writings of Haliburton in honour of the 150th Anniversary of his birth. The display received favorable comment from visitors and in the press. The Library would like very much to undertake the printing of a catalogue of the Haliburton collection.

Saint John

During the winter the Saint John branch of the Maritime Library Association had several interesting meetings. For the final meeting the members were invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Saint John Art Club. An interesting programme had been prepared on the Arts of the Seventeenth Century. This included a short resumé of the historical background and a paper on the Musicians of the period. A special exhibition of paintings by Miss Peggy Nichols of Fredericton was on display and also an exhibition of reproductions of the old masters which were on loan to the Art Club from the National Gallery.

On April 20, 1946 a new Boys and Girls' Room was opened in the Saint John Free Public library. The room, in the basement of the library, is painted in bright shades and has fluorescent lighting. It is open every weekday afternoon and all day Saturday and holidays. There has been a noticeable increase in new borrowers and the children are using the room to read and "browse". Miss Frances Walsh has been appointed assistant in the Boys and Girls' Room replacing Miss Helen Hume, who is taking up nursing training.

Miss Frances Tilley, Assistant Librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library, has resigned to be married. The vacancy will be filled by Miss Phyllis McLean (B.L.S. McGill, 1946).

Moncton

The Moncton Public Library has had fluorescent lights installed; two upstairs rooms are being converted into one reference room; and it is hoped to have another assistant added to the staff. These progressive steps are made possible by an increased civic grant.

When the I.O.D.E. War Services Libraries in the vicinity were discontinued, the Moncton Library purchased from them about 500 books to be used as replacements.
