

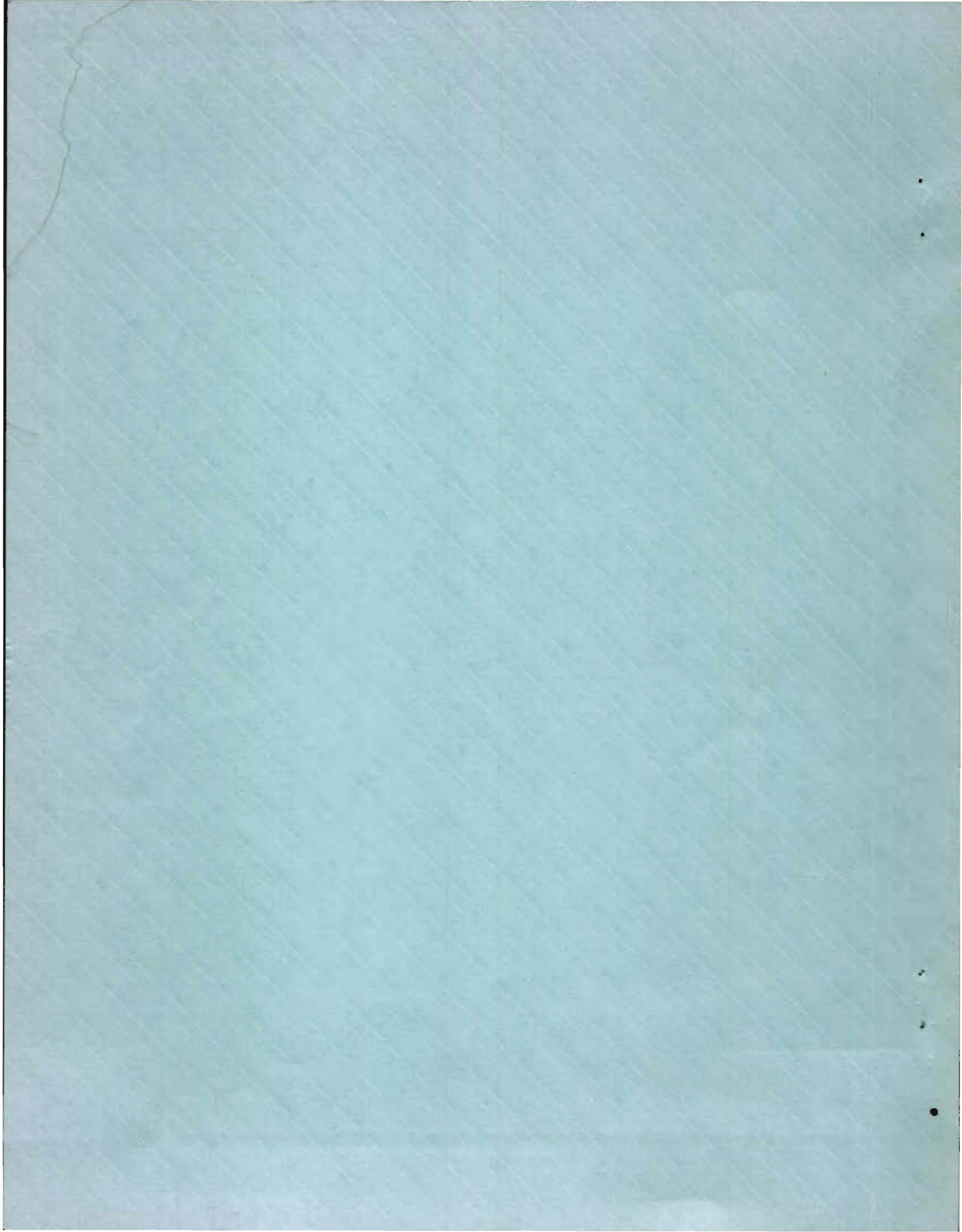
MLA BULLETIN

MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1 FALL 1957



House Of Assembly, St. John's, Newfoundland

This lovely building, of finely wrought white limestone imported from Ireland, with its six Ionic columns supporting a beautifully executed pediment representing the royal arms, contains the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Library. The artistic painting and moulding of the Assembly Room and the Room formerly used by the Upper House, was done by a Polish artist, Pindikowsky, who was serving a term for forgery in the penitentiary at the time. The cornerstone was unveiled May 24, 1847, by Sir John Gaspard LeMarchant, Governor, and the first sitting was held Jan. 28, 1850.



MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

Volume 22

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Editor: Miss Evelyn Campbell, N.S. Research Foundation, Box 1027, Halifax, N.S.

This BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Association and is free to members. Membership fee: Individuals - \$2.00 per year; Institutions - \$4.00 per year. Please address communications on membership to Miss C.I. Abernethy, Sec.-Treas., Glace Bay Public Library, Glace Bay, N.S. The MLA Bulletin is indexed in Library Literature and Contents in Advance.

Editorial

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Library Lit. Notes. Barbara Murray

As we go to Press - a rather pretentious statement for our modest effort - man-made satellites are circling our planet and others will soon be joining them, and we are suddenly aware that we have slipped quietly but logically from the Atomic into the Space Age. The BULLETIN cannot hope to compete in interest with this science fiction become reality, nor with what is on the opposite end of the scale - the findings in the Shanidar Cave, but we do hope that the volume now completed has provided its readers with some useful professional information and with some items of interest.

The series of pictures and historical articles on each province finishes with Newfoundland, our newest Province, but one which has brought new significance to the word "Atlantic". The term "Atlantic Provinces" is gradually replacing that of "Maritime Provinces" and the Maritime Library Association will soon follow the trend in the matter of a name. (Sorry, Mr. Mowat, not 'Dolphin Striker' !).

Although we intend to carry on the policy of featuring one special item of interest to libraries, we shall welcome any suggestions for improving the Bulletin and making subsequent issues more worthwhile.

We extend the most sincere good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our own National Association, to all those other library associations allied with us, to other members, and particularly to our own Atlantic Province members for whom this Bulletin has always been specifically designed.

The Editor

..... Of Interest.....

Miss Jessie Miffen's title was reported incorrectly in the last issue of the Bulletin. Miss Miffen is Regional Supervisor of Public Libraries in Newfoundland, not Assistant Director.

Readers who are interested in the Documentation Seminar to be held at McGill University, Jan. 20, 21, 1958 will find in LIBRARY TRENDS for October 1957 (vol. 6, no. 2) much worthwhile material.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES for November 1957, vol. 48, no. 9, deals with various aspects, including copyright of reproducing library materials. Many photocopying machines are described and the addresses of the companies given. Anyone wishing to borrow this issue may do so from the libraries of the Nova Scotia Technical College and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation.

A new Chemistry-Physics Building on the campus of St. Francis Xavier University was officially opened August 29th. It provides some 20,000 square feet of lab space for the Physics Department. The labs are ten in number and will accomodate 260 students at one time. As well as the regular labs, there is a spectrometry lab, two research labs, and facilities for the study of advanced optics. (Physics in Canada, vol. 13, no. 3, Autumn, 1957).

On Tuesday, October 29, 1957, at a special ceremony the first sod was turned by Lady Dunn to signal commencement of work on the new \$1,750,000 Sir James Dunn Science Building at Dalhousie University. When completed, the new building will house the university's departments of Engineering, Geology, and Physics. Plans include the construction of a modern science library for the building capable of seating 60 persons. The new departmental library will be under the supervision of a trained librarian.

D.G. Lochhead.

.....Personals.....

Mr. Harold Greer has joined the staff of the Naval Research Establishment as librarian. We welcome Harold back to the Atlantic area.

Mrs. Joan A. Browne has joined the full-time staff of the Dalhousie University Library as a cataloguer. Before coming to Dalhousie from London, England, Mrs. Browne worked in the Library and Publications Department of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and also was a member of the staff of the Medical Research Library of Organon Laboratories Ltd., a pharmaceutical firm.

Mrs. Pat Hart, a former librarian at the Saint John Free Public Library, and always an active member of the MLA, has written that she is now Reference Librarian of the North York Public Library, Willowdale, Ontario. She sends greetings to us all.

THE COLONIAL BUILDING - ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Leo F. English, Archivist

The building which has housed the Legislature of Newfoundland for more than a century stands in spacious grounds near Military Road in the East end of St. John's. The cornerstone of this House of Assembly was laid by Governor Sir Gaspard LeMarchant in the year 1847. The building was officially opened three years later. In this historic House the politicians of the Island have framed their colony's laws and have strutted their brief hour, and orated both brilliantly and rustically in turn. Hectic scenes have marred the history of Newfoundland's Parliament.

Self government in Newfoundland goes back to 1832. Through the efforts of a Scottish doctor, William Carson, the boon of home rule was granted to the colony after a struggle which lasted nearly 30 years. The first parliament was known as Representative Government. Fifteen members were elected for the nine districts. Friction took place between the elected body and an Upper Council, mainly composed of the merchant class. The Lower House of Representatives claimed certain rights and privileges as their constitutional authority. The Upper House held that it was their right to withhold the power and throw out any and every bill passed by those beneath. Supply, control of government appointees, in essence full dictatorship, was maintained by the ring of wealth that hedged the Governor. The fight continued vigorously until 1855. At last the British Government decided to grant to Newfoundland that form of local control which under the name of Responsible Government had already been bestowed on the neighbouring provinces in Canada.

The first session of Responsible Government was held in the newly erected Colonial Building on the 22nd May, 1855. The new era was ushered in by the opening speech of Governor Sir C.H. Darling. A resolution of no confidence in the existing Upper House was immediately passed by the Assembly. The Governor was advised to send for P.F. Little, member for St. John's West, to form a cabinet to take over the administration of affairs. Little, a native of Prince Edward Island, thus became the first Premier of Newfoundland.

During the course of a century, much valuable legislation has been passed by the various political parties. The first party was Liberal, but from time to time Conservatives have won the acclaim of the electorate. The first few years of Liberal Rule were very prosperous, but the depressions that follow upon poor fishery returns have consistently resulted in a change of leadership. Newfoundland, a century ago, had but one mainstay, the codfishery. When this was poor, there was widespread poverty as a consequence. The seal hunt did act as a help in the early days of Responsible Government. The building of large sailing ships for the seal hunt and for the export of codfish to the Mediterranean ports constituted another source of profitable employment. In the sixties of the last century the opening of copper mines in the north of Newfoundland gave a fillip to local earning power. In the twentieth century the opening of iron mines, of fluospar deposits, of lead and zinc mines, and the growth of a vast pulp and paper industry have broadened the Island's economy and have taken care, to a goodly measure, of the increase in her population.

As a means of opening up fertile belts of land in the large river valleys of the North and West, Sir William Whiteway conceived the idea of a cross-country railway. The first Railway bill was passed in the House of Assembly in 1875. It was considered as a momentous piece of legislation at the time. A relatively large expenditure was necessary for the project, and a loan was obtained. The first railway was built in the early eighties from St. John's to Harbour Grace in Conception Bay. The matter of a cross-country railway was held in abeyance for another 15 years because of opposition by the British Government. The French had fishery rights on the West coast of Newfoundland and they claimed territorial rights as well. It was not until the late eighties that the West coast was represented in the Legislature. Magistrates and customs officers for this section were appointed about that time. In 1897, the railway across the Island was begun. The West terminus is at Port-aux-Basques on the Southwest corner of the Island. By an agreement between Britain and France, in 1904, the French relinquished their rights in the West for a strip of territory in Africa.

We remarked that the House of Assembly has witnessed hectic scenes, and on occasion has been the centre and origin of rioting in the old city of St. John's. The most serious of these occurred in 1861. A tempestuous election occurred that year. When the House opened for the Spring session, two members for Harbour Main District sat in the House despite the fact that their opponents in the election had been declared by the returning officer to be the duly qualified representatives. The usurpers were ordered by the Speaker to quit their seats, but they refused. They were then ejected under orders from the Speaker. Going downtown they gathered supporters of the party, and were prepared to march on the House when the soldiers from the garrison were called out by the Governor. After the Riot Act had been read and the mob had refused to disperse, the officer in command of the troops gave orders to fire. Three men were killed and several were wounded. Among the latter was Reverend O'Donnell who had gone to the scene to try to restore order. The Catholics were preparing to wreak vengeance when the bells of the Roman Catholic Cathedral pealed out. Bishop Mullock came out on the steps and addressed his people and besought them to go to their homes. This they did, and thus the sad affair was ended.

Less violent but equally dangerous in their possible results were mob marches on the House in the depression days of the early thirties of the present century. There had been accusations and counter retorts hurled across the floor of the Assembly. Poverty was widespread and tempers were easily inflamed. The arrival of a warship helped to quiet matters. Mobs had broken into the liquor sales departments controlled by the government and into several Water Street stores and general looting had begun to reach an alarming stage. A force of local volunteers was organized to patrol the city until all danger had passed.

Perhaps the greatest debates that took place in the Colonial Building were those pertaining to union with Canada. The first attempt to win over Newfoundland was in the election of 1869. The pro confederate party was led by Sir Ambrose Shea and Sir Frederick Carter, two of the ablest men that ever entered the political arena in Newfoundland. The anti-movement was led by C.F. Bennett, a wealthy merchant of St. John's, who had a major interest in the newly opened copper mines in the North. It was a bitter contest with ridicule and insidious propaganda. The cause was lost for Confederation, and the issue was left in abeyance for nearly a century. For weal or woe, the electorate voted in 1949 to

join the Dominion.

Newfoundland relinquished self government in 1933 under duress of economic conditions. The status of Responsible Government was to be restored as soon as the Island became self supporting. This did not occur in reality, because by 1942 prosperity had returned in full measure. The Commission of Government held office until the year preceding the election which decided the confederation issue. In 1947 the provincial government took over the reins of power, with the first Premier as Honourable J.R. Smallwood, the one man who, more than any other, was responsible for the success of the election in the vote for union with the Canadian Confederacy.

The Colonial Building has undergone many changes in its century of existence. Recently a complete renovation has been done by the Provincial Government. The interior has been redecorated. The Council Chamber has been adorned with paintings of the Premiers and Speakers since 1855. Exterior renovation has also been done on the walls of Irish grey limestone. Within the past year or two a decided improvement was made on the frontal space with the addition of an illuminated fountain. It is planned to have in this space a group of statues commemorating the memory of those men who were most outstanding in the early struggle for self government.

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Maritime Library Association Executive Meeting
Morse Room, Dalhousie University Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia
October 13, 1957

An Executive Meeting of the Maritime Library Association was held on October 13, 1957 at 2.30 p.m. in the Morse Room, Dalhousie University Library.

The following were present: Miss Jessie Mifflen, President
Mr. James MacEacheron, Past-President
Mr. D.G. Lochhead, Vice-Pres. for N.S. and
President-Elect
Miss Ena Murphy, Vice-Pres. for P.E.I.
Miss Isabel Abernethy, Sec. Treasurer
Miss Evelyn Campbell, Editor, MLA Bulletin

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$193.40.

Nominating Committee for 1958-59 Executive. It was MOVED by Mr. MacEacheron and SECONDED by Miss Campbell that Miss Mary Fraser be appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee with power to select her own committee. CARRIED.

Bookbinding. Mr. Lochhead was asked whether there had been any follow-up from the letters sent out just prior to the Annual Conference last May regarding interest in bookbinding by Maritime printing firms. He reported that there might be more to report at the next annual conference.

MLA Bulletin. Miss Campbell reported that Mr. Redmond will be remaining in Ceylon until at least April 1958. She expressed her willingness to continue as editor of the Bulletin until his return or for one more year. At the end of that time, if Mr. Redmond does not resume the editorship, she suggested the

possibility of the Bulletin being edited in another Province.

Miss Campbell said that she had received excellent cooperation in producing the Bulletin. The Summer 1957 issue was produced with no financial burden on the Association.

She then spoke of a theme for the next volume of the Bulletin and suggested universities as a possibility. This was discussed at some length and it was decided to use this theme for the next volume and to leave the editor to use her judgment as to the form the articles will take.

Scholarship Committee. It was MOVED by Mr. Lochhead and SECONDED by Mr. MacEacheron that Miss Molly Cameron be appointed Chairman of the Scholarship Committee with power to appoint her own committee. CARRIED.

APEC Checklist. Mr. Lochhead reported on the Atlantic Provinces Checklist which was to be prepared for APEC. It had been agreed, he pointed out, that the Checklist should be published twice yearly by APEC. The first issue was completed and handed to APEC in time for printing and distribution at the recent Premiers' Conference in Charlottetown. APEC, however, stated that they did not have the money to print and distribute it at present.

Mr. O. Nelson Mann, Executive Manager of APEC, took a copy of the list to the Premiers' Conference and asked for a sponsor for it, but no sponsor offered.

Mr. Lochhead read a letter from Mr. Mann suggesting that the list be published only once a year instead of twice. He then read a letter from Mr. Stephen Branch of APEC concerning conversations between himself and Miss Shirley Elliott about the Checklist. From this letter it appeared that the list would be published only once a year and that the first issue might be ready for distribution early in February.

Mr. Branch's letter also raised the questions of whether APEC was to do any editorial work on the list, such as making additions and deletions. It was felt by the meeting that it had been agreed that this should be left to the MLA.

The possibility of publishing the list without the assistance of APEC was considered.

It was MOVED by Mr. MacEacheron and SECONDED by Mr. Lochhead that the MLA proceed with the Checklist on the grounds agreed on by the May 1957 Conference, i.e. that APEC is responsible for printing and distribution only and that the MLA is responsible for compiling and editing, this motion to go into effect subject to further discussion with Miss Elliott. CARRIED.

Miss Campbell suggested that a letter from the Executive be sent to APEC setting forth the views of the Association as outlined in the foregoing motion.

It was then MOVED by Mr. MacEacheron and SECONDED by Miss Murphy that a letter be sent to APEC outlining the position of the MLA on the Atlantic Provinces Checklist and embodying the previous motion. CARRIED.

It was MOVED by Mr. MacEacheron and SECONDED by Miss Campbell that the thanks of the Association be expressed to Mr. Lochhead and Miss Elliott for their work on the Checklist. CARRIED.

It was decided to use the cover of the Checklist as a cover picture for the Bulletin, should that prove feasible.

Name of Association. It was MOVED by Mr. Lochhead and SECONDED by Mr. MacEacheron that the name of the Association be changed from the "Maritime Library Association" to the "Atlantic Provinces Library Association" and that the Constitution be so amended. CARRIED.

Notice of the above motion will appear in the MLA Bulletin prior to the 1958 Annual Meeting.

1958 Conference - Time and Place. The place of meeting for the 1958 Conference was first discussed. It was decided, as agreed upon at the Annual Conference last May, to hold the meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, provided a sufficient number of members are willing to attend. It was decided the Executive should have notice of a minimum of 20 members who plan to attend before going ahead with preparations for the Conference to be held in St. John's.

Plane fares to St. John's are: From Sydney, (approximately) - Tourist \$62.00; First Class \$70.00. From Halifax (approximately) - \$100.00. These are return fares.

It was suggested that it might be advisable to hold the 1958 Conference in the early Fall instead of at the usual time in May. Alternative dates suggested were:

Friday and Saturday, May 30th and 31st
Tuesday and Wednesday, September 2nd and 3rd (after Labour Day week-end).

It was then MOVED by Miss Campbell and SECONDED by Mr. Lochhead that the membership be circularized as to how many would be likely to attend a Conference in St. John's and whether the time would be more suitable in May or in September. CARRIED.

Conference Programme. Topics suggested for the Conference Programme were as follows:

Library Architecture: Miss Miffen to look for a speaker in Newfoundland. Mr. Ganong to be asked to work with Miss Miffen on this topic.

The Canada Council: The representative to the Council from Newfoundland or any alternative Province in which the meeting will be held, to speak to the Association on the Canada Council.

Visit to Regional Libraries: Miss Miffen said that a visit to some of the Newfoundland Regional Libraries would also be planned.

The question of asking publishers to present displays for a Book Fair

was brought up. It was agreed that a letter should be written, after the time and place of the Conference are definitely settled, to the Book Publishers Division of the Toronto Board of Trade along the following lines: for the first time in its history the Maritime Library Association is holding its Annual Conference in Newfoundland, and the Executive feels that the Canadian book publishers might wish to participate in a Book Fair on this occasion. The Association would be prepared to give every assistance possible in making arrangements and to give the Book Fair a regular place on the programme. Unfortunately it could not provide any financial assistance.

Tentative Programme for 1958 Conference (subject to change in place of meeting)

1st Day - Morning - Business Meeting - Report of Nominating Committee
APEC Checklist - Scholarship Committee

Book Fair (if available)

Afternoon - Speaker on Canada Council
Visit to Memorial University

Evening - Dinner with speaker.

2nd Day - Business - Resolutions - Turning over to new Executive
Visit to Regional Libraries.

It was decided to omit the discussion on Library Architecture owing to lack of time and the difficulty of getting a qualified speaker.

On motion by Miss Murphy the meeting then adjourned.

NEWFOUNDLAND LIBRARIES

Grace Butt, Reference Assistant

Public library service began in Newfoundland with the opening of the Gosling Memorial Library in 1936. This library was named after the late William Gilbert Gosling, scholar, author, and one time Mayor of St. John's, whose personal book collection formed its nucleus.

The Gosling collection was augmented by separate gifts from Lord Rothmere and Sir Edgar Bowring, the volumes belonging to what was known as "The Travelling Library" - a system of book lending to schools then operated by the Bureau of Education - part of the collection that had been acquired by the Newfoundland Legislative Library, and additional purchases.

The Gosling opened in St. John's on Duckworth Street in what was known as the old Museum Building. But it was only the first of a series of libraries which gradually came to be established through the Island.

Public library services in Newfoundland came of age this Year of Our

Lord 1957, and the occasion of a 21st Anniversary found much reason for celebration. The original stock of 17,000 volumes housed in the Gosling has swelled on a province-wide scale to over 230,000. Book circulation has grown from 53,000 volumes a year to over half a million. Thirteen new library buildings have been erected, and six others renovated for library purposes. There are now 27 regional central libraries, responsible in addition for about 150 "deposit" stations as well as 20 branch or community libraries, and besides this the Travelling Library serves some 200 schools.

What sort of books are being read in Newfoundland libraries?

Well, first in popularity, fiction - with biography and travel close seconds, and the useful arts not far behind. Newfoundland male readers have also always taken a keen interest in books about the sea - sagas of sailing vessels and the exploits of naval ships at war.

There is a noticeably growing interest in matters personal and psychological: the relation of peace and conflict in the personality, between parent and child, husband and wife, worker and manager. And of course, a demand for books on subjects currently topical - on man-made satellites, for instance, or hypnosis, or some geographical centre of world crisis, such as Hungary or Poland.

High school and college students turn to the public library for additional help with their academic studies or for the writing of essays set either by their teachers or by such prize-awarding bodies as the Royal Empire Society.

There is a constant demand by the general public - both young and old - for stamp and coin catalogues and (particularly at the Gosling) for dictionaries of foreign languages, especially French and Portuguese (many Portuguese fishermen visit St. John's), trade registers and business almanacs.

Apart from lending books and providing reference aids, Gosling Memorial fulfills certain purposes as the parent library for the whole province. It is the Administrative head for the Island, the headquarters for regional activities, and the cataloguing centre. It is the home of book selection, purchasing, processing, shipping and accountancy.

To these functions are added two other very important ones, one is the service of its Reference Department in indexing current Newfoundland newspapers and periodicals in order to build up a file indicating sources of Newfoundland material for current investigations or for future research by historians to come.

The other function Gosling Memorial serves is as a repository for old and valuable, as well as current, books, newspapers, periodicals, bulletins, documents, manuscripts and maps pertaining to Newfoundland. Locked up in the Gosling vault is one of the rarest books written about the New World, - "The Golden Fleece" by William Vaughan. Printed in 1626, it is beautifully bound in green leather and gilt, its aging pages inscribed in old English with 'f' used instead of 's' and lots of capital letters. (The Title Page reads:

The Golden Fleece Divided into Three Parts under which are discovered the Errours of Religion, the Vices and Decayes of the Kingdome and lastly the wayes to get Wealth and to reftore Trading so much complained of.

Evidently Newfoundland was to be one of the 'wayes to get wealth and reftore Trading fo much complained of').

The Gosling has a number of old maps and coastal and harbour charts as well as plans of fortifications - such as the plan of the battery at Fort Amherst.

A number of old official records date back to the time when Newfoundland was ruled by the naval governors and was chiefly important as a trade and naval base as is testified by entries concerning the prevention of fishing restrictions, disputes over fishing property and reports concerning the manning of forts and the disposition of troops.

There are court records too of some of the growing Newfoundland settlements, such as those of Placentia, one of which contains the following entry apparently made at Burin dated 3rd August, 1786:

"I, Catherine Baker, do hereby swear by the Holy Evangelist before the Lord of the Harbour, the undermentioned People in the Court held here, that on Monday, the thirty-first day of July in the evening, Michael Maguire came into my house, and brought with him a Bottle of Rum and after asking me to drink with him, which I refused, and desired him to leave the House, he beat and bruised me to a violent degree, after which I took up a hatchet in defence of my life, he then seized on and dragged me through the Fire, and burned my arm, and would not quit the House till after daylight wherein I remained in dread of my life".

Sworn before us. Joseph Hookey, Lord of Burin Harbour.

Robert F. Darrell, etc. etc.

Then there are the reports of the proceedings of democratic government from the very first volume with its heading: "The Journal and Proceedings of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland Begun Holden at St. John's on Thursday, the First Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three."

The library has a number of histories, from Reeves' "Fhorth History of the Government and Conftitution of the Ifland of Newfoundland" published in 1793 to Prowse's chronicle of events published over a hundred years later, a volume which is highly documented if not always detached in opinion and is besides, and probably unintentionally, a remarkably colourful reflection of Newfoundland life and characteristics particularly during the period of the author's own lifetime.

And then there are the newspapers, old and current, commencing with the Gazette of 1816. Issued once and later twice a week, they were made up of official notices, shipping news, advertisements of such staples as flour, rum and pork and its news was almost entirely confined to Colonial residents - such

as the progress of the Napoleonic war or the English dispatches, sometimes months late, of interest to the British and proceedings of the English Parliament. Gradually more and more local news items appeared, with editorials defending native Newfoundlanders' interest, and letters of opinion not remarkable for their brevity. And so on to the modern Newfoundland newspapers most of which are also bound and kept for reference.

Library services in Newfoundland are administered by the Newfoundland Public Libraries Board whose duties are defined by law to be the establishment and maintenance of library services throughout the Province. It was officially established by an Act of Legislature in January 1935 but was active some months previous to that date. It consists of twenty-five members representative of business and the professions who may be chosen from all sections of the province. It is representative of the province as a whole and of course serves without remuneration.

The Board is the policy-making body, and assisting it in this and charged with the duty of putting policies into effect, is the Board's chief executive officer - the Director of Public Library Services. Associated with him in the work of administration and organization are the Assistant Librarian and the Regional Supervisor together with the heads and assistants of the various departments, a staff numbering some twenty-five in all.

Also associated with the Public Libraries Board in its task of promoting and maintaining library services are the Library Boards in charge of the various Regional Centres together with their Librarians as well as the Committees who help in the distribution of the books of the Travelling Library. These Boards and Committees have made and are making a remarkable contribution to the Public Library Services.

As a result of all this activity on the part of Boards, staffs and citizens, there are today approximately 400 towns and villages in Newfoundland receiving the benefits of library service - and in the future there will be more.

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".....I no sooner come into the library, but I bolt the door to me, excluding envy, avarice and all such vices, whose nurse is idleness, the mother of ignorance and melancholy herself, and in the very lap of Eternity, amongst so many divine souls, I take my seat with so lofty a spirit and sweet content that I pity all our great ones and rich men that know not this happiness".

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REGIONAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

Federal Department of Agriculture, Kentville, N.S.

Henri J. Arsenault

A permanent library at the Department of Agriculture at Kentville was established in 1952. Prior to that date, library services were provided for the members of the staff from the Main Library at Ottawa. Some literature was available, as well, from the miscellaneous collections of published material which had been gathered in the various units comprising the Station. This literature with the material and information available from the Main Library sufficed to fill the needs of the staff of many years. However, with the continual growth and expansion of the Station, especially so in the number of its professional staff, a more substantial and permanent set-up was required, wherein standard agricultural works would be available to the staff members at the right time and near their working quarters. Accordingly, in June 1952, a librarian was appointed to organize a library that would serve the personnel of all the units at the Station.

The rather unique organizational set-up found at the Department of Agriculture at Kentville presented certain problems in organizing the library. The personnel is divided into two main branches, Science Service comprising Chemistry, Entomology, Botany, and Plant Pathology; and Experimental Farms Service comprising the Horticultural Division, Food Processing Division, and others. These units in 1952 had their own collection of literature which for the most part contained a great deal of duplicate material. In order to make the material available to all personnel, as well as to eliminate duplication, it was necessary to coordinate this literature through a proper channel such as the library - no easy task - as some of the units were rather reluctant to allow the transfer of all their literature files to a central unit such as the library. Here was a need for developing understanding and cooperation on the part of the reader and the librarian in order to complete the transfer of this material in agreement and to the satisfaction of all concerned. Solving the problem required a great deal of discussion through library committee meetings, personal interviews on the part of the librarian and the parties concerned. However, with the cooperation and goodwill of all groups, a satisfactory and workable arrangement was reached.

The collection is varied - made up of books, journals, reports, reprints, bulletins, microfilm, photostats, trade catalogues, and other miscellaneous loose leaf material. The journals and bulletins, however, make up the bulk of the collection, and it is in this category that the library can play a more important part in interlibrary exchange, especially so with the other libraries of the Province, particularly those that serve the farming public. The bulletin collection is quite extensive and contains up-to-date information on topics that relate to agriculture, both from the scientific and technical sphere to the more down to earth subjects of interest to the farmer, householder, and gardener.

There is, of course, a need in this particular field of literature to make the material known to more readers. In the case of our own staff, this had been achieved through monthly accession lists and the demands for the literature have increased enormously. More farmers and householders in the immediate area have

been making use of this material as well, and are finding it of great interest and value in their work or for some particular hobby.

Copies of accession lists of this material will soon be available to other libraries in the area and should no doubt be useful to them in helping to fill their needs for material requested on agricultural topics.

Aside from the purely technical items, such as cataloguing, indexing, circulation, which are basic to all libraries, the library extends to its readers such other services as photostating, translating, bibliographic and reference work, reprint distribution, and other miscellaneous tasks which fall within the sphere of library service.

The library is directed by a Library Committee made up of the officers-in-charge of units and the librarian. Its overall functions, however, are closely associated with those of the Main Library at Ottawa, and thus it has at its convenience the resources of that institution to supplement its own collection. Full use is made of this opportunity and an extensive amount of literature is obtained from that library. For instance, a collection of approximately 170 journals, almost as extensive as our own journal collection, is routed regularly from the Main Library. These journals are circulated to our own readers and then sent back to the Main Library or forwarded to some other regional library or laboratory, in another part of the country. A punch-card system is used by the Main Library for the distribution of these journals. The system is working out very well and has proved to be a most effective and worthwhile improvement in journal circulation.

The Main Library also routes regularly a list of all accessions in its library and the material listed is available on loan. Hence, our library serves as a distribution centre, not only for our own collection of material but for a large amount of literature from the Main Library, and although the library is not large, the actual volume of printed matter that it makes available to its readers in their particular field of work is quite extensive.

Interlibrary loan service has also played an important part in the overall functions of the library. In this field of service, the library is indebted to many institutions, in particular to the libraries in the Province, for their cooperation in extending this service to our library.

The collection in the library, will, no doubt, remain comparatively small, but the material is rather special and will have its use in the field of exchange as the increasing demands in the past few years have shown.

The advancement of agriculture in the Province and in particular in the Annapolis Valley area has been closely associated with the research efforts of the Experimental Farm at Kentville. Prospects for future developments in the field of agriculture are very bright. Agricultural research will be increasingly important as a growing population will demand first-class agricultural products. In this research the library will continue to play a significant role.

The results achieved in increased circulation, the extensive demands

for reference and bibliographic work, translations, have more than proved the usefulness of the library to its personnel and can well serve as a yardstick of the effectiveness and value of the library to the organization.

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BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Barbara Smith

Mowat, Farley. THE DOG WHO WOULDN'T BE. Little Brown.

This tops the list of suggestions since anyone is bound to enjoy the rousing account of the Mowat family during the author's boyhood - spent chiefly in Saskatchewan. It is the story of Mutt, the dog who couldn't accept the fact of simply being a dog, but tried to be everything else as well, from cat to human. Among his accomplishments were walking fence-tops, climbing ladders (he would climb any ladder - sometimes with frightening results), and wearing goggles to protect his eyes when out driving. And with the exploits of Mutt are interwoven the unique exploits of the family as a whole, including a proposed cruise from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia in a home-made boat which sank several times prior to the final successful launching. Also related are the antics of a long procession of animals which at one time or another during Mutt's career were part of the family. This is sure to be a success as a gift. (\$3.95)

Lander, Cherry. MY KENYA ACRES. Harrap.

Many books have been written within the last few years about this part of Africa, but although this includes the period of the Mau Mau uprisings, it is primarily the story of a lone Englishwoman who, against the advice of friends and relatives, bought a farm in Kenya and operated it with success. Mrs. Lander tells of the circumstances leading to her becoming a farmer - her brief marriage which brought her to Africa, a short stint at an agricultural college, then a temporary job as secretary of a local social club and the final purchase of the farm which had gone practically to ruin from neglect. She regards her native "boys" with humour and understanding, and is able to arouse them from their inherent laziness and cope with their sometimes haphazard operation of modern farm machinery. She stayed on through the Mau Mau terror, living with the occasional suspicion that even her trusted houseboy might himself have taken the Mau Mau oath. Mrs. Lander has studied the native character and his devotion to the customs of his ancestors so that her book gives us a picture of the Kikuyu and his background. Interest is sustained throughout the book and the reader is left with the feeling that the author loves every minute of her life as a farmer, and particularly as a farmer in Kenya. (\$3.15)

Lake, Carlton and Maillard, Robert, eds. DICTIONARY OF MODERN PAINTING. Methuen.

It is a year since this was first published, but it is a book that would make a fine gift in any year if one has friends interested in art. The arrangement is alphabetical and among its articles are short essays on modern painters

ranging from the impressionists to the present time. Articles on art movements and men of letters who have influenced the development of these movements are also included and are written by art critics, the majority of whom are French. The format is attractive and the book's chief appeal is in its many reproductions, and although they are small most of them are in color and are extremely clear. The print is small, but since its compact size makes this necessary and since it is not apt to be read through at one sitting, this is not a serious fault. Another point in its favour - for an art book it's extremely reasonable in price! (\$5.00)

Duff, Douglas V. SEA PIE. John Long.

For anyone who has a leaning toward seafaring here is a book made to order. "Sea Pie", in the days of the old sailing ships, was a concoction of all kinds of odds and ends that the cook could find in the galley, and served up in a sort of stew, so the term is an appropriate title for this mixture of strange tales and out of the way information, all having to do with ships and sailormen. The famous women pirates Mary Reade and Anne Bonney appear here, tales of great ships that have gone down only to rise and sail again, uncanny stories of the deep, tales of treasure, wrecks, castaways, and gory goings-on in the days of sail when discipline was maintained with a stern hand, are all included. One chapter deals with the original of nautical expressions that have found a permanent place in the language today and the whole is written in a very breezy and appropriately salty style. (\$3.00)

Farwell, Byron. THE MAN WHO PRESUMED. Henry Holt.

This is a new biography of Henry Morton Stanley, who until fairly recently was remembered mainly as the man who found Livingstone. He has been thought of as an Englishman, but appears as somewhat of an enigma when we learn he was not actually English, that although he fought on both sides in the Civil War, he was not an American, nor was his name Stanley. We are given a good picture of his early life and the hardships he survived in England and later in America read almost like Dickens. His life continued to be difficult when his journeys took him to Africa, and after his rescue of Livingstone we are told of his even more difficult expedition to rescue an European pasha who had been stranded in Equatoria after the fall of Khartoum. Of the more than 700 men who started with him on this expedition fewer than 200 returned, and ironically the rescued pasha finally went back to his old domain only to be foully murdered. The fact that one life could be so crammed with incident, most of it so adverse, makes this read like an adventure novel. The author has quoted at length from Stanley's diary and has illustrated his work with maps of the various expeditions and photographs, some of which were originally published in Stanley's autobiography. (\$5.75)

Milne, A.A. WORLD OF POOH. Dutton.

If there are children on your Christmas list, remember the combined edition of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Originally obtainable only in separate volumes "Winnie-the-Pooh", and "House at Pooh Corner", are available now under one cover, and they are complete with the original illustrations by Ernest H. Shepard. In this edition several new colored full page illustrations have been included. One criticism here, however, is that although they are appealing, Pooh, particularly,

appears to have grown portly over the years and seems to have become somewhat ungainly in these new drawings. (\$3.95)

Creighton, Helen. BLUENOSE GHOSTS. Ryerson.

Of interest to Maritimers generally will be these tales of the super-natural gleaned by the author in her travels through Nova Scotia in search of folk songs. In the prologue Miss Creighton mentions some of her own experiences with the uncanny and the locales of numerous manifestations will be familiar to many. Fore-runners of death, fore and hindsight, devils, angels, guardians of buried treasure, phantom lights and ghosts helpful, harmful and headless, are all dealt with. It is not a book of actual ghost stories told as such, but rather accounts of similar experiences from various parts of the province brought together under the various chapter headings - some very brief and others longer and more involved. This should be a welcome if somewhat spine-chilling addition to any Maritimer's personal library. (\$4.00)

Happy Christmas shopping!

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LETTER FROM CEYLON

184 Havelock Road
Colombo 5, Ceylon

Dear Friends:

This is the beach at Hambantota on the South coast of Ceylon, where fishing boats lie on a curve of sand around a sparkling blue bay. We stopped here on the way to a week-end in the Ruhuna National Park, where we heard leopards cough in the night and came within fifty yards of wild elephants.

That is part of the atmosphere of Ceylon, where the Redmonds arrived Jan. 7 having left home Dec. 28, 1956, and stopped in London and Paris. We rent a furnished house with a book-lined study, so we don't miss our books at home. Rents are as high as in any Canadian city. Our household includes the children's nanny, a Tamil cook and Tamil houseboy (at \$20 a month each) and part-time help for "garden", bathroom cleaning, laundry, etc.

In our back yard grow (or struggle) bananas, 20-lb. jak fruit, mangoes, sour "billing" fruit, chili peppers and other edibles. We have sampled bread-fruit, butterfruit, mangoes, and mangosteens, papaws and pineapple, wood apples with shells like billiard balls (real apples are imported from California), jambu like sweet crabapples, umbrella fruit, sour local oranges - and we eat endless quantities of the dozen kinds of bananas.

Though the breakfast cornflakes are Kellogg's, several times a week we eat Ceylonese food - curries and rice; or pancake-like appas (hoppers); or spag-hetti-like idiappung (stringhoppers, resembling limp Shredded Wheat); or Chinese food from a nearby restaurant (\$2 for five people).

Houses are always open to the breezes in Colombo which is always between 80 and 90 degrees, but the windows are all barred against "rogues". House sparrows nest in the back verandah and occasionally dart through the house or perch on the ceiling fans; crows, the city's constant scavengers, awaken us at day's first light; and tiny geckos (a kind of lizard) are a good-luck sign in a house - not to mention two toads in the bathroom, and multicolored songsters in the trees.

Derek and Christopher attend a kindergarten school, though Christopher (8 this Boxing Day) must leave after this term. We are members of the Swimming Club where a Christmas tree will be set up beside the pool; the boys have learned to swim, and could do it any day in the year here. We attend St. Andrew's Scots Kirk (Church of Scotland) where many of the westerners - Canadians, Americans, and local businessmen - worship, and Ruth has joined the choir.

Ceylon is an ancient land, and we have visited the ruins of Anuradhapura, which two centuries B.C. was as large and populous as modern London, and watered by colossal irrigation tanks (reservoir lakes) - and Galle, a garrison town taken by the Dutch from the Portuguese in 1640, where ramparts reminded us of another seaport citadel - Halifax.

Colombo itself, Ceylon's only city, a sprawling area of 400,000 people, curiously mixes ancient and modern. Cadillacs and bullock carts mingle in its traffic jams, and squatters' coconut-leaf-thatched shacks huddle under palms a few yards from busy streets. It is really a collection of village centers with a modern skeleton and veneer. About 100 Canadians are here - some 30 of them Colombo Plan and other experts, with their dependents - and only some 7500 Europeans in Ceylon altogether. Our living costs are high - but the Ceylonese will never starve if he has a coconut tree, a patch of paddy (rice) and not much else. His average income is (in the city) perhaps 200 rupees a month (\$40), or nationwide, 600 rupees a year.

Ceylonese women, as in India, wear the ever-graceful draped sari, and Ruth has collected a few in their bright hues. Men wear the skirtlike, ankle-length (or tucked up, knee-length) sarong, or the shapeless white national costume of cloth and banian (skirt, and tail-out shirt). Office clerks, nearly all men, wear western dress. Donald acquired a checked green sarong but it takes a slim-hipped Ceylonese to wear one. Popular costume for two-year-olds is a string around the waist (to prevent obesity).

The work at the Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research has been to organize a technical library and train six librarians - one of whom, V. Mahalingam, left for McGill University in September to take the library science course. He has also given a short course for other library workers, and serves on the advisory committee to the Colombo Public Library. There are only a handful of trained librarians in Ceylon, but a great need - mostly unrealized - for professional work in the field. Donald's Institute job will be completed when the C.I.S.I.R. moves into its new building early in 1958.

As we write, at the end of September, one store is already having a "Pre-Christmas sale", with Santa Claus posters; but the children have stopped saying

they wish they were back home where they could play in the snow. Our thoughts are with our own house, and our family and friends - we wish you could be with us, as well as we with you. Shall we ask the Ceylon Tourist Bureau to send you folders?

Sincerely,

Ruth and Donald Redmond,
Christopher, Derek, and Margaret.

LIBRARY LITERATURE NOTES

Barbara Murray

Competing with this issue's news of sarongs and sputniks should be the announcement that a librarian of the future will travel by air to Canada's Northernmost readers.

In writing on "Lines of Communication", E. Martindale evaluates the flow of technical information to industry and asks if the Telex system, which has been developed by the Manchester Library Service to speed technical inquiries, could be built on a national scale in order to link industry with its source of information. (Aslib Proc. v. 9, no. 9, p. 263-279, September, 1957).

The librarian of the Los Angeles Trade-Technical Junior College reports on a visit he had this summer with Somerset Maugham at Cap Ferrat. During the visit, Mr. Maugham judged Ernest Hemingway to be best novelist in the United States of America. (Library Journal, v. 82, no. 7, p. 2317-2318, October 1, 1957).

A fairly large library - that of Northwestern University - has examined its duplicate exchange programme and the results of this examination have established beyond argument the fact that the Duplicate Exchange Union has little to offer the large research library. Cost accounting procedures adopted and conclusions drawn are explained in an article by Ian W. Thom, Chief of Technical Services, Northwestern University Library. (Library Resources and Technical Services, v. 1, no. 2, p. 81-84, Spring, 1957).

The conception that a branch library can be part of an urban shopping centre has been admirably achieved in Hamilton, Ontario, where the new branch public library fits into the commercial suburban area. Construction costs there were \$21.22 per square foot, and the library houses 30,000 volumes. Bookmobile service is given to outlying areas. (Canadian Architect, v. 2, no. 10, p. 32-35, October, 1957).

Librarians who plan to attend the DOCUMENTATION SEMINAR, to be sponsored by the Canadian Library Association and the McGill Library School in January, will appreciate reading the F.S. Northedge article on "The work of the League of Nations for documentation". Others may be illuminated as this reader was to know that so much that was good and permanent was initiated by the Intellectual Co-operation Organization of the League of Nations between the period of the 1st and 2nd World Wars. (Jour. of Documentation, v. 13, no. 3, p. 117-131, September, 1957).

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