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Wolfville, Nova Scotia

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Library Associations

The forty-first annual conference of the Ontario Library Association was held June 9 - 10, 1941, in London, Ontario. Three hundred and forty delegates registered.

Four thousand three hundred and fifty librarians attended the sixty-third annual conference of the American Library Association in Boston, Mass., June 19 - 25.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.

From the New President

A word by September 3 - Cromwell's lucky day - ask the editor. So I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by the Maritime Library Association in electing me President.

In his address at our meeting in June Mr. Nunn laid stress on the importance of maintaining democracy and making it more effective. Surely books and libraries are our best tools. We should never lose sight of this fact though the world is torn with war and its distractions. Miss Culver, the new President of the A.L.A., brings out this point succinctly in an article in the July Bulletin. She says: "The greatest tribute that has ever been paid to libraries has been and is being paid by Adolf Hitler. He is afraid of them - he is destroying some of them - he is carrying others off to Germany. He is afraid of the contribution they make to the mind and the spirit of man. He is afraid of the truths they contain."

On the other hand, the part books play in maintaining a high civilian morale is nowhere more evident than in England at the present time. In The Book Crisis, published last winter by the National Book Council, we have a collection of speeches by prominent authors, publishers and public men upholding the value of books when the threat of the defence tax was imminent. These speeches are not merely opposing a tax, they are putting the claim of books to the help of every intelligent man and woman - a help specially needed in war time in return for the help that books themselves are giving to a nation at war. Not since Swift has there been such a Battle of Books in England.

In Canada, where large parts of our population have no free access to books, we must not only make every effort to maintain our existing services, but to redouble very many times our efforts to bring efficient library service to the people who need it. If we are hindered from making sweeping advances while the war is on, we must never lose sight of the fact that we are being deprived of an essential service, and bear in mind that any worth-while program of reconstruction which follows the war will proclaim among the first essentials the establishment of an adequate system of public libraries. In time of war we must prepare for peace.

Marion Gilroy

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the morning of 26 June, 1941, the seventh annual conference of the Maritime Library Association met in the Library of Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and continued its sessions until the afternoon of the next day. The President, Miss Winifred Snider of the Library of Mount Allison University, conducted the meetings with grace and dignity. Twenty-five librarians were present, these representing archives, university, legislative, regional and public libraries in the three Maritime Provinces of Canada.

At the first session Dr. V. B. Rhodenizer, head of the department of English at Acadia, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the University. He spoke of the natural beauty of the region, the land of Longfellow's Evangeline, of its unique historical and literary associations, and he also mentioned its most notable writers. The President's address followed, dealing with the responsibility of libraries and librarians in war time. She discussed the problem of adult education, advocated more careful book selection and stronger effort to interest the people in reading. Social understanding was the need of democracy. The outstanding matter of the Secretary-Treasurer's report, which followed the President's address, was the incorporation of the M.L.A., the charter having been secured from the Nova Scotia Government a few days before the conference. A letter from the President of the A.L.A., Mr. Charles H. Brown, extending the cordial greetings of that great association to our little one in the Maritimes, was read by President Snider. She then appointed the resolutions and the nominations committees, with Miss Marion Gilroy chairman of the one, and Miss Estelle Vaughan of the other.

"Libraries I Have Known", an address by Dr. Esther Clark Wright, interested and charmed the delegates. The speaker wittily described her experiences as she pursued her researches in the history of civil engineering in these libraries and others: Harvard, Boston Public Library, Library of the Institute of Civil Engineering, Library of the Port of London Authority, the Guildhall, the British Museum, the Bodleian and other libraries of Oxford, and also provincial and town libraries in England.

At the librarians' round table informal reports were heard from Miss Evelyn Campbell of the N.S. Science Library, Halifax, Miss Dorothy Cullen of the Prince Edward Island Regional Library, Sister Francis de Sales of the Mount St. Vincent College Library, Halifax, where a school of Library Science has recently been established, Miss H. G. Gifford of Dalhousie University Library, Miss Jean C. Gill of the P.E.I. Legislative Library, Miss Doreen Harper of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, Miss Zaidee Harris of the Peter Pan Library in Halifax, Mrs. M. K. Ingraham of the Acadia Library, Mrs. B. M. Moore of the Moncton Public Library, Miss E. O. Raymond of the Yarmouth Public Library, Miss W. Snider of the Mount Allison University, Miss Georgia Starett of the L. P. Fisher Public

Library at Woodstock, N.B., Miss M. Tilley of the I.O.D.E. Children's Library in Sackville, administered by the Librarian of Mount Allison, Miss E. M. A. Vaughan of the Saint John Free Public Library, who reported also for the Library Club in Saint John and for the St. Croix Community Library at St. Stephen, N.B.

Afternoon Session

At the afternoon session, June 26, Miss Nora Bateson of the Regional Libraries Commission of Nova Scotia, who had just returned from the A.L.A.

conference in Boston, Mass., spoke informally of the meetings she had attended. She had pleasure in telling those assembled that Harvard University had conferred an honorary degree upon Rev. J. J. Tompkins, D.D., of Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, a man renowned for his constructive and indefatigable efforts to provide books for workingmen and their families.

A paper, "Historical Records in War and Peace", prepared by Dr. R. S. Longley, Professor of History at Acadia, was read by Prof. H. F. Sipprell of the Department of English. Dr. Longley sought a tentative definition of history in the opinion of writers ancient and modern, quoting Polybius, Sir John Seeley, Carlyle, Turgot and others. History is a record of past politics, but politics are vulgar unless liberalised by history, and history is no longer history but literature when it loses sight of practical politics. History is the biography of society. "A wise nation", wrote Joseph Howe, "preserves its records." The paper commented upon the number and value of modern museums abroad and in Canada, the peril to the vast collections in Great Britain caused by the war, the treasure that is bringing priceless historical documents to the United States and Canada. Accuracy is the one demand of the scientific method in history and it is difficult to make sure that all documents are accurate, especially in these days of propaganda. A prominent Nazi was quoted as saying that the Germans did not wish to teach unbiased history, though Ranke's rule was that the only worth while history is that which can be known as true. Documents must be preserved, but they should be examined and tested by the most valid standards. Clio is at once a pleasing and an exacting Muse.

After this paper Miss Nora Bateson spoke on the recently organised Canadian Library Council, outlining its aims and purposes. Miss Bateson is one of its five members, and the only one from the Maritime Provinces. Her talk was heard eagerly and pertinent questions asked.

At 5.30 the delegates and guest speakers were entertained by the Acadia Librarian, Mrs. M. K. Ingraham, and the other members of the Library staff at a buffet supper in Faculty Hall.

Evening Session

The evening session which was open to the public, met at 8.15 in Faculty Hall, with Miss Snider presiding. There was a brief musical program furnished by three local musicians, Miss Emily Allen, Mrs. John Erskine, and Miss Eleanor Schofield. Then the president introduced Sister Frances Dolores of The People's Library, Reserve Mines, C.B., who spoke on Regional Libraries. She emphasised the vital need for a library service that will reach suburban and rural areas in the Maritimes, and referred to the pamphlets issued by Miss Nora Bateson and Mr. Bramwell Chandler's recent book outlining the result of five years of regional library service in Prince Edward Island. In Nova Scotia there is no city or town large enough to support an independent library, but at a cost of thirty-five cents per capita, realised by taxation, an excellent library service could be maintained. The Sister closed her address with a description of the work carried on in The People's Library, Reserve Mines, during the year. Reserve Mines is in a mining district, and has a population of about 2500, few of whom have had a formal secondary education. Here Dr. J. J. Tompkins established a library as an experiment to show that the ordinary workingman and his family could appreciate books, and would use them if they were freely circulated. This experiment, the speaker said, was proving more and more convincing every day.

Mr. Clyde Nunn of Sydney, N.S. also addressed the meeting. We are

told, he said, that we are fighting for democracy, a statement which he interpreted as a fight for what President Roosevelt termed the four freedoms,-- freedom of speech, freedom of religious worship, freedom from want and from fear. We are not fighting so much to preserve the old way of life as to build a new and better order. For this we must have better education, better schools and teachers, better and more adequate library service, better libraries. We must have books, for locked up in these is the arsenal of democracy.

The Second Morning Session

Camp libraries in the Maritimes was the chief topic discussed in the Friday morning session. Miss Nora Bateson reported that in Nova Scotia the first objectives of the Regional Libraries Commission had been temporarily put aside, and the Commission was busily placing books in camps in cooperation with the Canadian Legion. The Nova Scotia Government had voted \$12,000 for this service, and there are now 8000 books circulating in training camps and different branches of the army service. Miss Doreen Harper spoke for the I.O.D.E. camp libraries in New Brunswick, which, at the request of the Order, she had taken charge of in addition to her duties as librarian of the Legislative Library at Fredericton. Books had been collected from many sources, assorted, made ready, and circulated. Mr. Bramwell Chandler, superintendent of the Prince Edward Island Libraries, said that the services of the Canadian Legion in the Island were thoroughly appreciated, and moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the M.L.A. in conference urge that, inasmuch as the Canadian Legion War Service have undertaken responsibility for the education of the troops in training, and more particularly for libraries in camps, that this service be extended to include general as well as technical books, and that it be available for all branches of the service.

This resolution was seconded by Miss Campbell of Halifax and passed.

Miss Marion Gilroy then presented the report of the committee on resolutions, which was adopted. The first of the resolutions was as follows: Resolved, that the Maritime Library Association feels that the establishment of a Canadian Library Council offers the best prospect for the advancement of Canadian librarianship and for the development of a Canadian library organisation. Further, feeling that the most urgent need in this part of the country and in other areas is promotional work, we would recommend that special attention be given to this item in the program of the Canadian Library Council.

Miss Estelle Vaughan presented the report of the nominations committee, which on motion was adopted. The list is found on first page.

A publishers' display from Toronto was a main attraction at the conference. More than 400 of the newest books were on exhibit in a room in the library across the lobby from the one in which the meetings were held.

After the sessions adjourned, to meet next year at Sackville, N.B., with Mount Allison University, the delegates drove to the Old Covenanters' Church at Grande Pre, where Rev. C.S. Johnson in a short address gave a sketch of the history of the region and of the church, then to Clifton at Windsor, once the residence of Thomas Chandler Haliburton and now the Haliburton Museum.

Schools and Public Libraries Working Together in School Library Service. Report of the Joint Committee of the National Education Association and the American Library Association. Published by the National Education Association of the United States, Washington, D.C., 1941.

This report of the Joint Committee is based on the findings of the Research Division of the National Education Association which, in 1939, was asked to undertake a study in the field of schools and public library relationships.

The Committee believes that elementary schools, high schools and vocational schools, as well as adult educational programs, must have adequate library service in order to carry out their educational responsibilities to their pupils. In Part I, "Principles of School Library Service", eight outstanding policies are clearly outlined and summarized. Part II, "School and Public Library Relationships in Selected Communities", presents a summary of findings in ten communities and describes procedures which represent differing plans of organization; and Part III, "Lines of Progress", makes proposals for action, giving several general recommendations for strengthening the relationships between schools and public libraries.

"The Committee hopes that the report will be equally useful to public libraries and to public school systems in planning for improved library service to school children. Groups of teachers, of school librarians, and of public librarians serving children may use the report as a basis for discussion. School superintendents and principals in particular are urged to give attention to the report because of the strategic position they hold in the development of library service."

Single copies of the report may be obtained for 25 cents from the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Discounts are allowed for orders of more than one copy.

The report is highly recommended and could, with benefit, be read and used by every librarian, school teacher, principal and trustee in the Maritime Provinces.

F. Tilley.

Another Book in Birch Bark Series

"Stories of Acadia Birch Bark Series, Part Four", by Rev. W.B. Bezanson, with a Foreword by Dr. D.C. Harvey, Archivist, is just off the press. It is sold for 50 cents a copy at the bookstores in Halifax and Sydney, or it may be purchased from the author at Rockingham, N.S. We can do no better than quote the concluding words of the Foreword:

"His tales are written con amore and breathe this love of country, which is broad enough to comprehend Micmac and Acadian, German and Swiss as well as the British stocks which later predominated in Nova Scotia and gave it its present character.

May his readers, young and old, continue to catch this spirit."