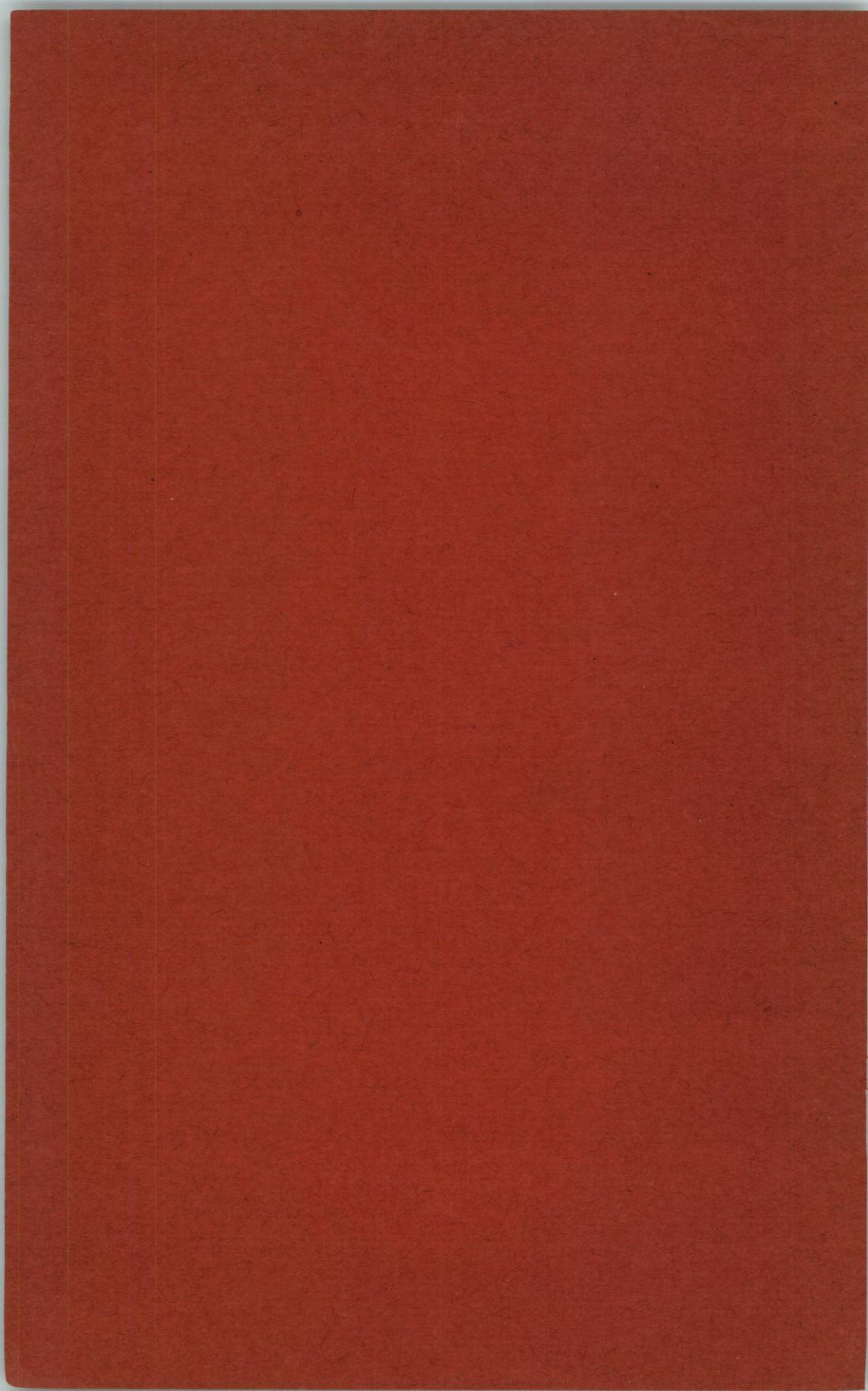


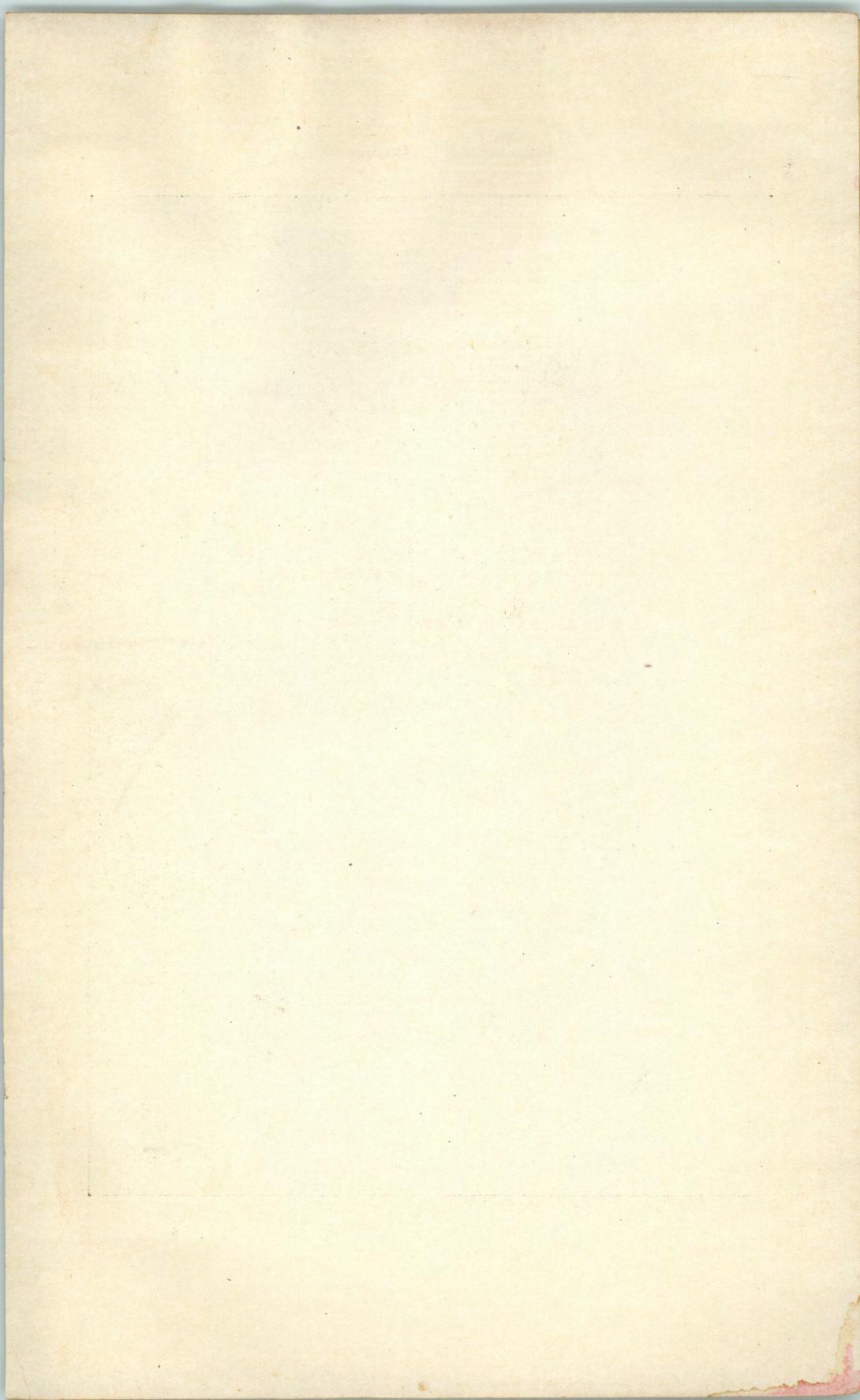
FOURTH
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REPORT

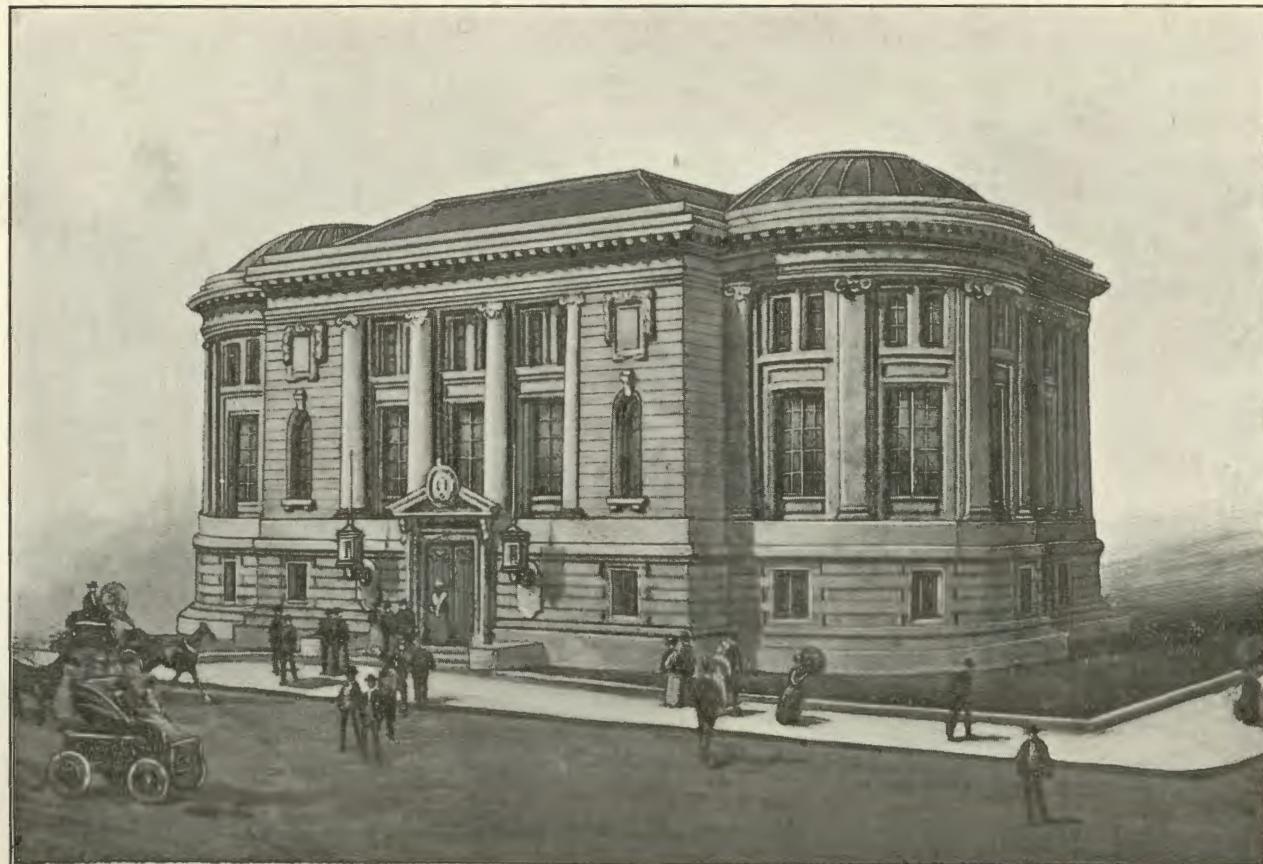
NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION

1903

CAMDEN, N. J.:
SINNICKSON CHEW & SONS COMPANY
—
1908







ATLANTIC CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Public Library Commission

OF

NEW JERSEY

For the Year ending October 31st,

1903.

CAMDEN, N. J.:

SINNICKSON CHEW & SONS COMPANY

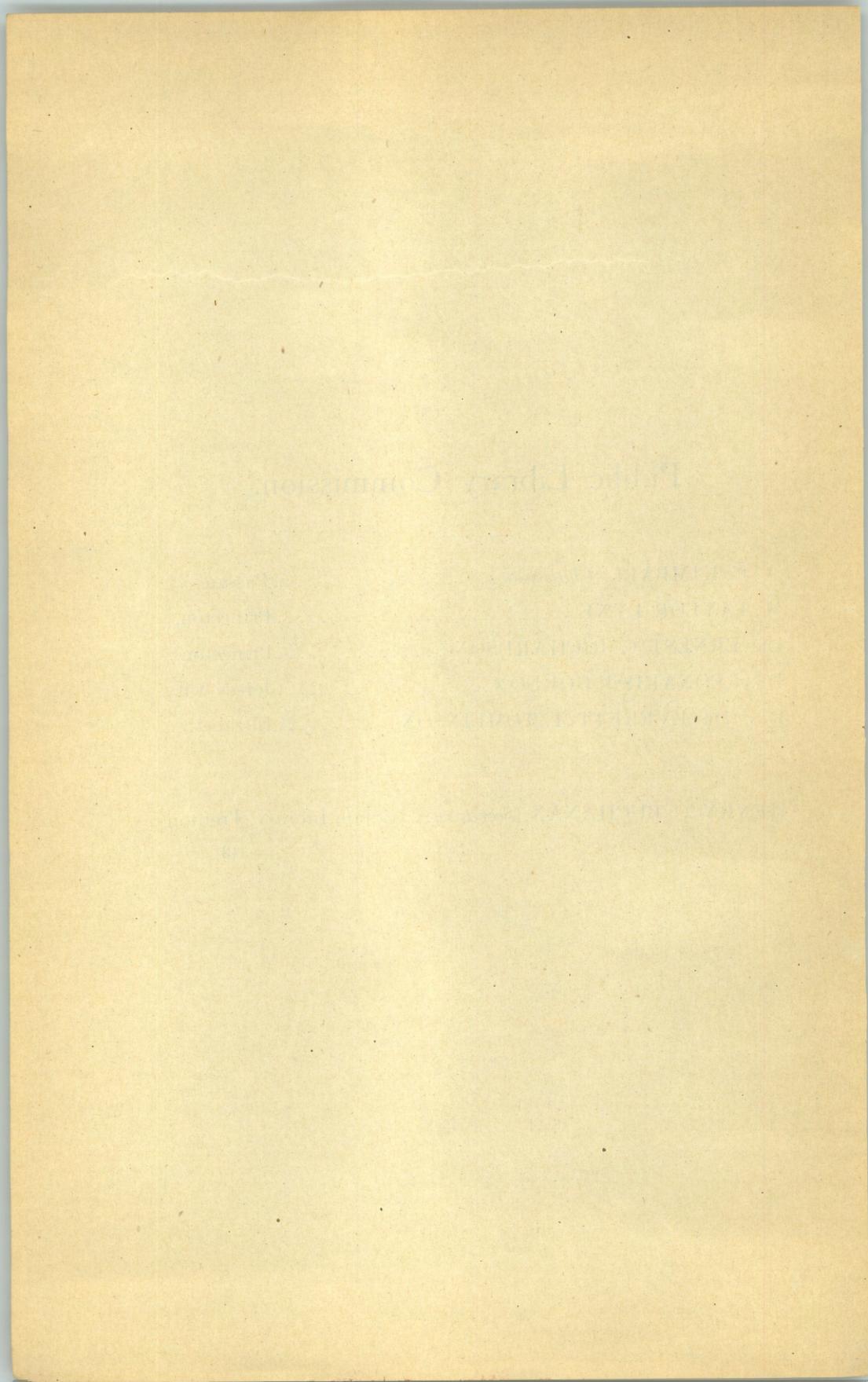
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1908

Public Library Commission.

W. C. KIMBALL, *Chairman*..... Passaic.
M. TAYLOR PYNE..... Princeton.
DR. ERNEST C. RICHARDSON Princeton.
DR. LEONARD J. GORDON..... Jersey City.
REV. DR. EVERETT T. TOMLINSON Elizabeth.

HENRY C. BUCHANAN, *Secretary*.... State Library, Trenton.

(3)



REPORT.

Hon. Franklin Murphy, Governor of New Jersey:

DEAR SIR—The New Jersey Public Library Commission respectfully submits, for transmission to the Legislature, the following report for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1903:

From the appropriation of \$1,000 made to the Commission to enable it to aid in the purchase of books for some of the smaller libraries under municipal control, donations of \$100 each were made to the free public libraries at Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Matawan and Paulsboro, certification having been made by the trustees of the four libraries that an equal sum of money had been set apart by them to be expended for books. These donations are made only to such libraries as are organized under the State laws which require the municipalities to raise by tax a sum equal to one-third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property, and whose affairs are managed by boards of trustees appointed in pursuance of the Free Public Library acts of April 1st, 1884, and April 2d, 1890, and their supplements. The Commission has been advised that it may not make donations to any but free public libraries that are under municipal control.

For clerical assistance, necessary traveling, postage and other incidental expenses in carrying on its work the Commission expended \$526.53 of the \$1,500 appropriated for the purpose. Trained librarians were sent during the year to advise with and assist persons interested in free public libraries at Paulsboro, Atlantic City, Dover and Wharton, and to present the subject of libraries before the convention of the teachers of the State at Trenton in December; besides which much has been accomplished by correspondence.

The Commission has in view the employment of a secretary or agent to visit some of the smaller subscription or association

libraries and to present to them the advantages to be gained by organizing under the Free Public Library acts, one of which is that they may have a regular income and that the public may take a greater interest in them. This will probably be done during the present year.

The statistical table of New Jersey libraries which is appended to and made a part of this report, shows that there are many libraries in this State, some of which own their buildings and have large collections of books, but, hampered by a lack of funds, want of interest on the part of members, and similar causes, are accomplishing little in the work of providing reading for the people of their localities. On the other hand, there are small libraries, free in fact as well as in name, that in towns with small populations are doing excellent work.

The Commission has co-operated with the New Jersey Library Association in holding meetings at Plainfield and Morristown, and during the year has been represented at all the sessions of that association, in which the experienced librarians of most of the larger institutions have taken great interest, and whose presence and advice have been of advantage to the library movement in this State.

Twenty-five hundred copies of a pamphlet containing the address of John Cotton Dana, of the Free Public Library of Newark, before the State Teachers' Association, were distributed throughout the State, with the assistance of Hon. Charles J. Baxter and the county superintendents of public schools. The pamphlet explains briefly the course to be taken to establish a free public library, procure a teachers' or a school library, or the use of the State Traveling Libraries. The Commission also aided in the publication and distribution of the first number of the Journal of New Jersey Libraries, which was intended to serve as a means of communication with those interested in libraries in this State.

By appointment of the Commission, Mr. Kimball attended a conference of representatives of State Library Commissions held at Niagara Falls, in June last, in connection with the annual meeting of the American Library Association. He was requested to present to the conference the need of suitable plans for small

public libraries, and endeavor to secure the co-operation of the Commissions of other States in the work of procuring such plans, particularly in reference to the interior arrangement of libraries, so that they will be adapted to convenient and economical administration. The other States have felt the same need, and the conference endorsed the proposition and the work of preparing such plans is now under way.

It has been noticed that the natural disposition on the part of trustees and building committees is to attempt to secure fine buildings and not give to the interior plans the consideration they should receive. As a result of this, it frequently is the case that because of the faulty arrangement, a library with an income sufficient to warrant the employment of one or two attendants, finds that more are required to do the work. This sacrificing of convenience and economy of administration to mere show it is desired to correct by directing the attention of the trustees to the practical side of library planning. While the exterior may be left to local sentiment or the ideas of the architect, the views of experienced librarians will be of great value in locating loan-counter, children's-room, reading-room and reference-room, or even in placing the different departments in a single room.

According to the report made to the American Library Association, at the Niagara Falls meeting, the gifts made to American libraries for the year ending on May 31st amounted to 96,247 volumes and \$10,306,407.61. These include only gifts of \$500 or more and of 250 volumes and upwards. Andrew Carnegie gave \$6,679,000, with the usual condition that a site be provided and that 10 per cent. of the amount of the gift be pledged for annual maintenance. New Jersey will receive \$302,000, of which \$100,000 will go to Camden, \$70,000 to Atlantic City, \$50,000 to Bayonne, \$40,000 to Montclair, \$12,000 to Vineland, \$10,000 to Freehold, \$10,000 to Cape May, and \$10,000 additional to Montclair. These will raise to nearly half a million dollars Mr. Carnegie's gifts to New Jersey libraries.

Other gifts recorded include 1,000 volumes from the Women's Research Club to the Atlantic City Library; \$1,000 for the

purchase of reference-books for the Jarvis Memorial Library at Bloomfield; a library building at Bound Brook, from the La Monte family; 5,000 volumes and pamphlets from Anderson Fowler, of New York, and 300 from Rev. Dr. J. C. Hartzell to Drew Theological Seminary Library; \$10,000 from Peter Reid for the purchase of books for the new Jane Watson Reid Memorial Library at Passaic; \$1,000 from Colonel Washington A. Roebling to the Trenton Free Public Library, and \$12,000 by residents of Bernardsville for the new library at that place.

The interest in public libraries is apparently nowhere greater than in New Jersey. This is shown by the facts and figures which have been given, and in the reports received by the Commission from all over the State. An attempt has been made to show this interest in the brief extracts given herewith.

The Atlantic City Free Public Library was formally opened on January 1st. Before that date the Trustees had purchased, for \$23,000, a site for a new building at the corner of Illinois and Pacific avenues. A little later A. M. Heston succeeded in interesting Mr. Carnegie in the enterprise, and that gentleman offered to donate \$60,000 for the building. Subsequently he promised to increase his gift to \$70,000 to provide for equipment and furnishings. The city must annually raise at least \$7,000 to maintain the library. On October 16th the contract for the new building was awarded to Kendrick & Roberts, of Philadelphia, and the foundation walls have been laid. The corner-stone will be laid on New Year's day, the first anniversary of the opening of the library. It is expected that the building will be finished by June, or certainly by September 1st.

The new library will be of granite, white Vermont marble, and terra-cotta to match in color. The main stairway will be of white marble, the interior columns and pilasters of Mycenian marble, and the main floor of Mosaic. The building will be three stories high: the first floor containing the children's reading-room, newspaper, toilet and stack-rooms; the second floor the principal reading and delivery-rooms, trustees', librarian's and cataloguing-rooms, while the third floor will be divided into a lecture hall, museum and art gallery, and two rooms for study clubs.

In the last report of this Commission it was stated that Camden had accepted the Free Public Library act of 1884 and its supplements. During the year Mr. Carnegie offered to give \$100,000 for a new building, provided the city would furnish a site and agree to appropriate \$10,000 a year to maintain the library. Subsequently this offer was so modified as to permit the donation to be used for a main library and two branches, one of which is to be located in the southern and the other in the easterly section of the city.

The main building, which is to be located at the corner of Broadway and Line streets, is to cost, with the furniture and fittings, \$80,000, and the two branches \$10,000 each. The site for the library has been purchased, at a cost of \$15,000. The branches will probably be built on lands now owned by the city. A supervising architect has been selected, who is now engaged in preparing for competitive plans for the new buildings. All architects living in Camden county will be permitted to compete, and four will be selected from outside the county.

The Jane Watson Reid Memorial Library, at Passaic, was formally opened on May 18th. Though nominally a branch of the Free Public Library, it has a distinctive and peculiar work that differs from that of any other New Jersey library. Located in the center of the factory district, the population of which is almost entirely foreign-born, it has furnished books and papers printed in French, German, Italian, Dutch, Hungarian, Russian, Slavish, Polish, Hebrew and Yiddish, and has been called upon to add books in still another language to supply the needs of fifty families. The demand for foreign literature has been great, and, of seventy-two books in one language, there were but two remaining in the library on one day.

The resources of the Reid Library are at the service of the residents of Garfield, Wallington, Belmont and other towns in that section. On the occasion of the visit of members of the Commission to Passaic, the new library was completely filled with school children, and we were told that in the evenings the rooms were thronged with women and men who are employed during the day in the mills, many of whom spend their leisure hours in the endeavor to secure the education they are not free to get in the public schools.

Notwithstanding the fact that many readers have transferred their cards to the Reid Library, the main library shows an increase in circulation and in use of the reading-rooms. It was one of the first institutions in New Jersey to introduce the duplicate collection feature that has been so successful in many libraries, and now has taken up the work of supplying libraries to the public schools, thus supplementing the work of the teachers, and of providing reading lists for study clubs and the schools.

The King's Daughters' Library, established by the young women of Freehold in 1899, and the Freehold Juvenile Library for boys, which was opened by the King's Daughters in 1901, are to be succeeded by the Freehold Free Public Library. Mr. Carnegie has given \$10,000 for a building, the township having in March last voted to raise \$1,000 a year for its support, and a site has been purchased with money raised by the King's Daughters, who will contribute their books to the new organization. The new library will be of brick, and the corner-stone was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, on October 19th. The expectation is that it will be ready for occupancy early next spring.

The Free Public Library of the city of Englewood has succeeded the Englewood Library Association. At an election in November, 1900, the voters decided by a large majority to maintain a public library. The trustees of the old association, desiring to aid as much as possible in the preliminary work, had the books put in good condition, classified and catalogued according to the most improved methods, and a new charging and circulation system introduced before the formal opening in July, 1902. The library building was given to the city by Donald Mackay. It is delightfully located on Palisade avenue, is large and commodious, in perfect repair, and, with every modern library appliance, affords adequate accommodation for nearly 10,000 volumes.

Englewood's experience under the new conditions has been similar to that of Vineland, reported by this Commission last year. Miss Harriet R. Prosser, the librarian, writes: "The growth of the library since its formal opening to the public in July last has been that of all free institutions which have suc-

ceeded those maintained by subscriptions, and, from a subscribers' list which never reached 200, our register shows to-day a list of 1,400 borrowers; while our circulation, which in 1899 was 9,000, will reach at the end of our first year, 25,000.

"The work shows a marked improvement in all ways, and a greater breadth in the character of its activities. Our relation with the school children and the teachers has become most cordial, while the demand for lists of references for individual study, as well as for all the local clubs and classes, makes us feel that the library is rapidly becoming the educational center of the city, rather than the exclusive opportunity for the fortunate few."

The use of the Newark Free Public Library in 1903, as shown by the books lent for home use, was greater than in any previous year, exceeding 1902 by about 20 per cent. Its use for reference purposes also increased. From the room for young people small collections of books were sent out to one hundred of the school-rooms of the city. The reference department was moved from the third floor to the delivery-room on second floor, to the greater accommodation of the public and with added efficiency in the work of the staff. Several deposit stations were opened in drug stores, where books are on shelves for the public to select. The use of spare-rooms in the building for meetings greatly increased. Two notable loan exhibitions of paintings were held last winter in the art gallery, with a total attendance of nearly 50,000 persons. Other minor exhibitions have been held from time to time.

The Free Public Library of Jersey City has fully kept up with the general library advance of the State, the circulation for home reading for 1903 having passed the 450,000 mark, while the demand for substantial and improving reading has never before been so great in the history of the library. The survey of the year's work is not only satisfactory, but gives a promise of better things to come.

The course of free lectures to the people began on October 2d, and continues until March 29th. Care has been taken to provide lecturers of recognized merit, their subjects being not only popular but instructive. The course comprises forty-eight lectures. The crowded lecture-hall bears witness to the great

appreciation of the public. Jersey City reports a very favorable year.

Paterson is to have a \$200,000 library building to replace the Danforth Memorial Library, which, with its 40,000 volumes, was totally destroyed by the great fire of February, 1902. A new collection of more than 12,000 volumes has been gathered and are installed in a building rented for the purpose. From June 15th, 1902, to February 1st, 1903, seven and one-half months, the circulation amounted to 65,545. The Paterson Library is the oldest free public library in New Jersey, and to its projectors is due the passage of the act of 1884, under which most of the institutions of the kind have been organized. The corner-stone of the new Danforth Library was laid on October 24th, by Mrs. Mary E. Ryle, through whose liberality it is to be secured.

Bayonne is to be a beneficiary of the liberality of Mr. Carnegie, who has given the city \$50,000 for a new free public library building, and the municipality has agreed to raise by taxation \$5,000 annually to maintain it, and has provided a site. The building is now well under way and will be completed during the coming year. It is to be of white brick, with Indiana limestone trimmings, and will contain general and children's reading-rooms, reference and librarian's rooms, delivery-desk and stack-rooms. It is to be built and furnished for \$50,000.

The new free public library at Perth Amboy, the first in New Jersey to the building of which Mr. Carnegie contributed, will be opened early in December. It cost \$20,000; is of brick, with terra-cotta trimmings, the interior finished in hard wood; contains general and children's reading-rooms, main library-room, auditorium with seating capacity for 400 persons, and workshop. Adolf and Leonard Lewisohn and James C. McCoy gave the site for the new building and contributed \$1,000 for the purchase of books.

The Carnegie Library at New Brunswick is nearly finished, and preparations are about complete for transferring the books from the old building. The new library will be occupied by the middle of November. The new Ralph Voorhees Library, the latest addition to the buildings on the campus of Rutgers College, is almost finished, and will be formally dedicated on November 10th.

Vineland, whose successful experience with a free public library maintained jointly by borough and township, was reported last year, expects soon to have a fine building. Mr. Carnegie has offered to contribute \$12,000 for the purpose, and, at Mayor Joseph A. Conwell's suggestion, an effort will be made to raise \$8,000 more by subscription to add an assembly hall to the structure. The selection of a site is now under consideration. The movement to establish the Vineland library was started by the Woman's Club soon after its organization.

On Thursday, October 1st, the Bernardsville Library Association, which was incorporated last year, took possession of the "Old Vealton Tavern," the oldest house in Bernardsville and one of the oldest in New Jersey. The interior has been restored to its original plan, handsomely furnished, and a small fire-proof stack-room erected in the rear. Twelve thousand dollars was raised by subscriptions, of which \$4,500 was paid for the historic building and the remainder for improvements, alterations and furnishings.

The library of 900 volumes was originally given to Bernardsville by the late George I. Seney and Frederick P. Olcott. For a time it suspended operations because of a lack of patronage. Recently the ladies of the village took charge of the work and have succeeded in arousing the interest of the wealthy residents, with the result that the association now owns its home and has a collection of more than 1,500 volumes.

Cape May's common council has agreed to furnish \$1,000 annually to maintain a free public library and voted \$500 towards the purchase of a site. Mr. Carnegie has agreed to give \$10,000 for the erection of the building, and all that is now needed is a comparatively small sum to provide a site.

The new East Orange Free Public Library, built by Mr. Carnegie, was opened to the public on January 22d, with about 13,000 volumes, and its great popularity is shown by the fact that between that date and July 31st, 54,340 were circulated.

At the spring election of 1903 the people of Matawan voted to establish a town library. Considerable delay was occasioned by the difficulty of finding a suitable building, but, on the 24th of October, the library, containing 2,800 volumes, classified accord-

ing to the Dewey system, was opened to the public. Of these books about 2,000 were given by B. F. S. Brown, 500 by the Matawan Literary Society, a few others by different persons. One hundred dollars given by the State, and \$100 given by the town, were spent for new books.

Since that time the library has been opened every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evening from 7 to 9 o'clock, and every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 3 o'clock to 5:30. In the first two months 250 borrowers took books, and over 1,200 volumes were circulated. The library is also used as a reading-room; twelve periodicals are taken.

The library at Caldwell was established to aid the school children and has been cared for by the teachers. The people of the town became interested in it, made gifts of books, and took advantage of its facilities. The collection will soon be removed to the new Town Hall, and an attempt will be made to have submitted to the voters next spring the question of acceptance of the provisions of the Free Public Library acts.

The borough of Fanwood will, about January 1st, open the newest and probably the smallest free public library in New Jersey under municipal control. It is organized under the act of April 2d, 1890, and while the one-third of a mill tax will give it an annual income of less than \$100, its friends hope by subscriptions to make it a model library.

Citizens of Red Bank have under consideration a proposition to take advantage of the act of April 2d, 1890, establish a free public library and erect a building. It has been discussed during the past year, and may be submitted to popular vote next spring. The town now has a subscription library with about 2,500 volumes.

Montclair's \$40,000 Carnegie Library has been finished and will be occupied within a few weeks. The delay in moving in has been occasioned by the slowness of the contractors for the furniture. The building is of Hartford brick, plain and substantial, and with no attempt at ornamentation. The library is very popular with all classes of readers, but the work with the young people, and in co-operation with the schools, receives special attention.

At Long Branch an attempt is now being made to arouse public sentiment in favor of establishing a free public library, the purpose being to enlist the interest of Mr. Carnegie, if the people favor the acceptance of the Public Library act and are willing to provide a site for a building and make an annual appropriation for maintenance.

Eatontown, which has been using the traveling libraries since they were established, early in the present year organized a free public library, but not under the law which would entitle it to municipal aid to the extent of one-third of a mill on the property valuation.

The public library at Hilton, Essex county, has been turned over to the public school, is known as the Hilton Public School Library and is managed by the county and township superintendents and the principal of the school. It has 2,400 volumes, which are accessible to the public one evening in each week and at the close of the school session each day. It is supported by donations and receipts from entertainments given for its benefit.

The Ridgewood Public Library, which, since it was established in 1898, has been maintained by the Village Improvement Association, now receives an annual appropriation of \$300 from the township.

Chatham appears to be nearly ready to accept the act of April 2d, 1890, and provide a free public library under municipal control. The town now has a collection of nearly 3,000 books, kept in a room furnished by the borough, which also supplies the light, heat and janitor's service.

Westfield has the free public library fever, and there has recently been some agitation in favor of submitting to popular vote the question of accepting the provisions of the act of April 2d, 1890. There has been quite a gain in public interest, and the friends of the movement are encouraged to believe that it will meet with success.

Elizabeth has not found the financial way clear to accept the offer of Hon. Charles N. Fowler to provide a public library if the city will agree to make suitable provision for its maintenance. Late in the fall the collection of nearly 10,000 volumes was moved into an old colonial mansion that had been remodeled for library purposes.

The Pilesgrove Library Association, at Woodstown, subscribes to two memberships in the Book Lovers' Corporation, which gives to it the use of 28 books each month. The membership fees cost \$48, for which the patrons of the library get 336 new books during the year.

The statistical table printed herewith shows that 116 libraries have reported to the Commission. This is a gain of 16 over the reports made in 1901, when 102 reported, but two of which this year failed to respond to repeated requests for information. There are 1,275,000 books in the 118 libraries of the State of which the Commission has knowledge. There are libraries in the public schools in 84 of the 97 cities and towns reporting, a fact to be borne in mind when comparison is made between New Jersey and the States which make no provision for public school libraries.

Fifty-one of the libraries own the buildings which they occupy. Seventy-one are free, 35 subscription and 10 school or institutional; but some of those classed as free are maintained in part by the annual fees received from subscribers. Eighty-one maintain reading-rooms and sixteen have separate rooms for children. Eighteen keep their reading-rooms open a part of the day on Sundays. Five have branch libraries, and 4 have delivery stations—Jersey City, 15; Newark, 8; Madison, 7, and Montclair, 1.

But 33 of the libraries are in whole or in part maintained by aid received from the municipalities. Some of these receive the full amount of the one-third of a mill tax provided by law; a few have taken advantage of the act of 1901, allowing half a mill, while others get only an annual contribution. Seventy-four have card catalogues and 54 are classified according to the Decimal (or Dewey) system of classification, or modification thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. KIMBALL,
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LEONARD J. GORDON,
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON,
ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

