

Twenty-Second Annual Report

OF THE

Public Library Commission

OF

NEW JERSEY

For the Year Ending June 30th

1921

TRENTON, N. J.
Published by the State
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New Jersey State Library



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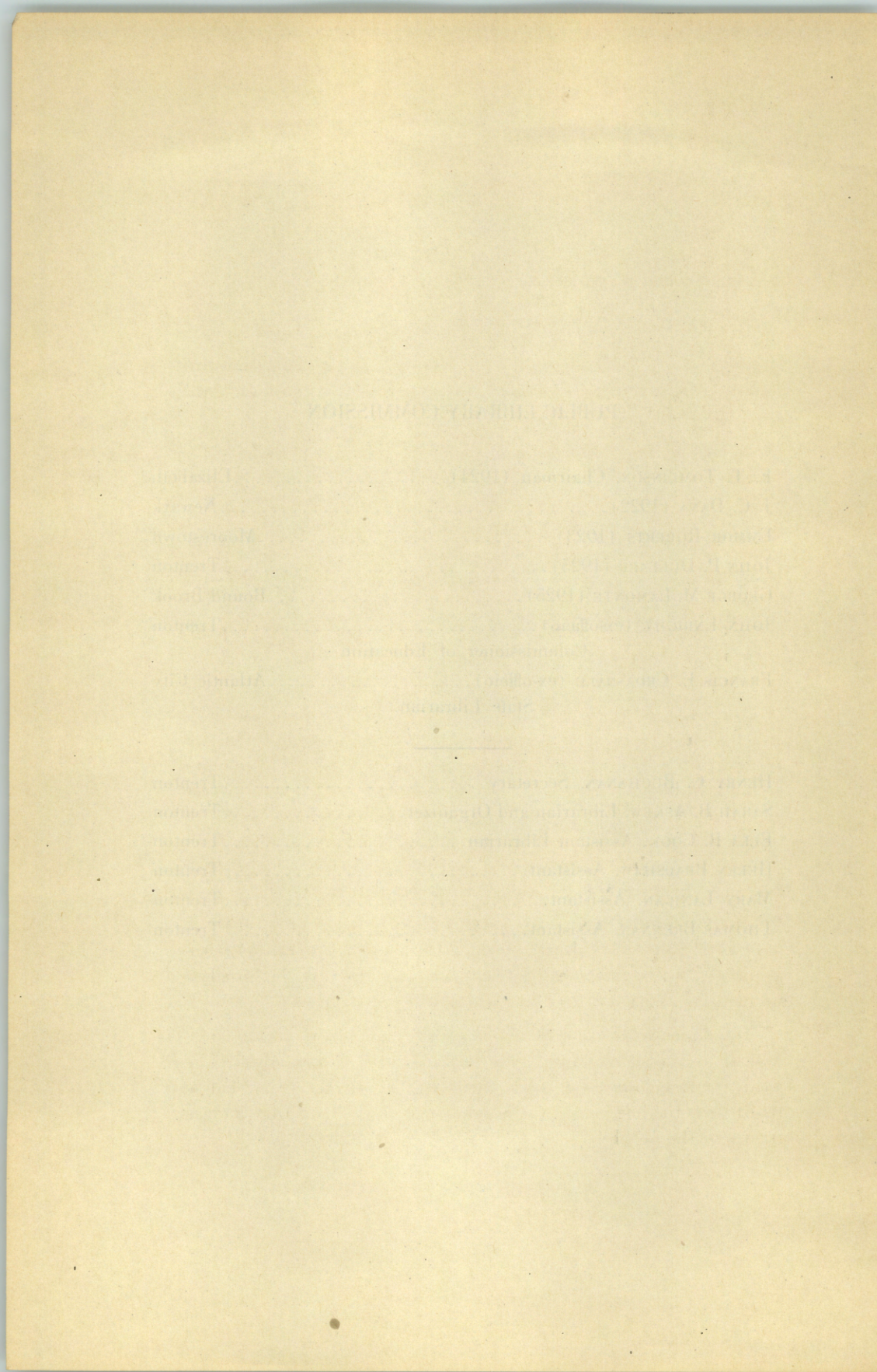
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PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

E. T. TOMLINSON, Chairman (1924) Elizabeth
J. C. DANA (1922) Newark
EMMOR ROBERTS (1923) Moorestown
JOHN P. DULLARD (1925) Trenton
GEORGE M. LAMONTE (1925) Bound Brook
JOHN ENRIGHT (ex-officio) Trenton
Commissioner of Education
FRANCIS E. CROASDALE (ex-officio) Atlantic City
State Librarian.

HENRY C. BUCHANAN, Secretary Trenton
SARAH B. ASKEW, Librarian and Organizer Trenton
ELLA B. COOK, Assistant Librarian Trenton
HELEN BRADSHAW, Assistant Trenton
MARY LANICAN, Assistant Trenton
THOMAS BRENNAN, Assistant Trenton



HONORABLE EDWARD I. EDWARDS:

Governor of New Jersey:

Dear Sir: The New Jersey Public Library Commission respectfully submits the following report of its activities for the year ending June 30, 1921:

Never before in the history of the Commission has such great interest been shown by the people in reading and in the development of libraries. This is, of course, the cumulative result of the work of twenty years not only by the Commission but also by libraries, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Mothers' Congress, and the New Jersey Library Association. The first step was to convince the public of the value and use of books, "to earn, to save, to learn, to enjoy;" the next step was to convince it that the library is the only economical and efficient method of serving the book and information needs of the community.

Not only are more books read, but a better type is called for, and they are being used for more practical purposes. It has been necessary to economize in order to meet a portion of the increased demand for books and for aid in establishing and reorganizing libraries.

Again, even with the increased service, work in the State, when considered as a whole, has hardly begun. While in many places much is accomplished, in others the surface has barely been scratched, and in still others nothing whatever has been done.

The Legislature has been liberal, but the number of requests that were held over to be filled as soon as the new appropriation became available, shows that even the increased amount will be insufficient to meet the demand if it continues at the present pace.

The Commission is advocating county and township libraries to meet this growing demand. The establishment of such libraries will mean increased work for the Commission for several years, but will result in a final lessening of demands upon the State, with increased service to the people.

Until the county and township libraries are fairly under way the increased cost of books, transportation and traveling expenses will compel close calculation to show effective results even with the larger appropriation of money.

LIBRARY EXTENSION—During the past year twenty-six new libraries were organized, the highest number in any previous year having been nineteen, the record of the year 1920. These new libraries are at Midland Park, Palisades, Rochelle Park, Wortendyke, Wyckoff, Elk Township, Atco, Greenville, National Park, Mullica Hill, Pensauken, New Market, Avenel, Clifton, Quakertown, Stanton, Verga, Hightstown, Union Hill (Morris County), New Providence, Chrome, Centerville, West Englewood, Gibbsboro, Newfield, Ogdenburg.

Ridgefield Park, Hackettstown and Metuchen voted to support their libraries by taxation. The libraries at Mt. Holly and Bridgeton were made free. Twenty libraries were aided in reorganization. Thirty-seven library meetings were attended and talks given. Nineteen meetings were held with library boards. Forty-five public meetings were addressed. Four hundred and twenty-three visits were made at an expense of \$1,369.72. Cost of traveling continues to increase and if it were not for the kindness of Y. M. C. A. secretaries, Helping Teachers, Farm Demonstrators, Home Economic Demonstrators and others so much could not have been accomplished for twice the money spent.

Visits, talks and meetings have not been for the extension of the work of the Commission, but rather to persuade the people of the value of books in their homes, in their schools and in local libraries, to assist and enable local libraries to serve their communities and extend their services and to persuade townships and districts to pay part of the support of good libraries in their neighborhoods so that the people may be more directly and efficiently served.

The Commission has been represented and talks have been made at five State Conventions. Through local libraries, schools and churches, the Library and Literature Department of the Women's Federation of Clubs, and Parent-Teachers' Associations, the celebration of Children's Book Week was general in the State, and book stores testify to the value and far reaching results of this campaign for more and better books for children.

BOOK COLLECTION—From the total appropriation \$10,450 was spent for books. With this amount 11,465 volumes were purchased, making

an average price per book of 90 cents and a fraction. It would not have been possible to secure so low an average if the Commission did not receive a higher rate of discount, in many instances, than even the largest libraries, and because of special arrangements by which some of the dealers in publishers' remainders and used books gave the Commission the privilege of going through their stock before putting them on general sale. The average price was lowered also by purchasing reprints wherever possible. These are not quite so attractive and last only about two-thirds as long as the regular editions, but as the price is 75 cents as against \$2.00 it has been thought best to buy them.

The Legislature was generous in granting an increased book appropriation, but the increase, which at a casual glance may appear large, does not exceed in buying power the appropriation of five years ago. Book prices have steadily increased during the past year and show no signs of falling. Children's books purchasable for 75 cents in 1916 are now costing from \$1.75 to \$2.00. Biographies formerly issued at \$2.50 are now selling for \$5.00. Travel, considered formerly high at \$3.00, is now put on the market at \$5.00. Notwithstanding the increased prices the bindings are poor and the paper not up to the former standard; books therefore wear out sooner. Two-thirds of the fiction is priced at \$2.00, and although a few publishers make a price of \$1.75 on an occasional book, others, and among them those who are publishing some of the best works, make a price of \$2.50 for the novel that formerly sold for from \$1.25 to \$1.35. The reprint purchased for 32 cents in 1916 can not now be bought for less than 75 cents.

Additions have been divided as follows:

Useful Arts	23	per cent
History and Travel.....	16	" "
Fine Arts	1	" "
Biography	8	" "
Sociology	11	" "
Philosophy and Religion.....	2	" "
Science and Nature.....	6	" "
Literature	7	" "
Total (non-fiction).....	74	" "
Total (fiction)	26	" "
Juvenile 40 per cent of the whole.		

The fluctuations of the people's interest in subjects are shown in the re-adjustments of the percentage of books in each class. For instance, during the past year a curious wave of interest in character study, psycho-analysis, and psychology swept the country. This increased the percentage of philosophy and religion. The Presidential election turned interest toward government and history. The grade and type of reading since the war is, on the whole, much higher and better than before.

Books have been discarded during the year to the number of 2,112 volumes, making the net gain 9,353, which gives 74,617 now in the Commission's available collection. The discarded books have been sent to boys' and girls' camps, hospitals, jails, road camps and to traveling library stations.

SPECIAL LOANS—The special loan work has grown until it is almost a department by itself. The number of books loaned has grown from 10,666 in 1916 to 41,284 in 1921. Small libraries have availed themselves of this privilege as never before. Large libraries have borrowed a number of highly specialized books through the Commission, in addition to enabling the Commission to give better and more extended service through their generosity in lending books. The Newark Library extends special loan privilege to libraries in its vicinity and thereby saves postage and time for this Commission. People in the country districts of the State are asking for books for study purposes on every subject from rotation of crops to the Einstein theory. This service has become a corollary to every phase of rural welfare and educational work. In the summer books are loaned to the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. camps for boys and girls and these boys and girls return to their homes and demand similar books in their own community. In many instances the book is on nature study, hygiene, manual training or government. This demand leads to an inquiry as to how books may be obtained, which leads to a special loan, which in turn frequently is the opening wedge for a public library.

The increase of special loan work has been brought about without any effort on the part of the Commission. It has resulted from the co-operation with county agencies, meeting the secretaries at county fairs, attending grange meetings, visiting schools, conferences with welfare agencies and other direct and roundabout means.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES—During the past year new traveling library stations have been established in seventy-one communities. It has

been necessary to deny 211 requests for libraries because of lack of funds to further extend the service. Books are now being circulated from 762 centers. To serve these stations 2,289 traveling libraries containing 114,450 books, have been prepared and shipped from the central office. The average circulation is six times per book, making approximately a total circulation of 686,800 in the 762 centers. This, however, does not show the total book circulation in these places, as individual needs in each community are met through the special loans. Such an arrangement enables the work to be done with fewer books, since no book stands unused after the person for whom it was borrowed has read it, and the value of the collection for general community use is not lessened by the inclusion of books on highly specialized subjects in the traveling library.

Such emphasis has been placed on the value of books in study and reference work that there is danger of losing sight of the value of a general collection of good fiction and popular non-fiction, both for grown people and children. The giving of clean, wholesome pleasure; the broadening of the horizon by the reading of even the most popular Western thriller; the presentation through fiction of even a lay figure dressed with traits of character worthy of emulation; the development of a patriotic ideal through even the pages of an ephemeral book; the holding together of family life through giving something all may enjoy at home, may in the long run be worth more to the State in the development of good citizenry than the assisting of a man to construct a better roof or to understand the Federal Reserve Act, worth while though that may be.

Redistribution of traveling libraries from a local center instead of the constant return to the central office has proved even more effective and economical than in previous years because of the rise in express rates. In five counties Helping Teachers have taken charge of from six to eight traveling libraries and redistributed them during the year; in one county the Y. W. C. A. Secretary has taken charge of the exchange of four libraries; in two the Y. M. C. A. Secretaries are so co-operating; and in four counties the County Farm Demonstrators aid in this work. The saving to the State in express charges amounts to hundreds of dollars. The interest of the co-operators in the traveling libraries results in greatly increased circulation of books and reading of a far better grade of books.

Even with the increased appropriation granted by the State it will be impossible to meet all the requests for traveling libraries during

the coming year. The increase in the one item of express charges will show how present conditions bring down the working value of the appropriation of 1922 to the level of the much smaller appropriation for 1916. Not only have express rates risen, but the express company has withdrawn the half rates on return libraries, and by this one act increased express bills 25 per cent. The express bills for 1916 averaged \$70 per month even when exercising every possible economy and using all agencies for assistance in exchanging libraries without reshipping; the express bills for 1921 averaged \$130 per month.

To ship books by freight would keep the books out of circulation for at least one-quarter of the year and necessitate a much larger book collection.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES—More applications for library aid have been received than during any previous year. The appropriation was exhausted and 85 requests were held over until the new appropriation became available. Booklists sent for approval have greatly improved in character and few lists have now to be returned because of unsatisfactory titles.

Through the aid of Helping Teachers country schools during the past year have made long advances in the use of books and the acquisition of libraries. To aid in this work forty selected volumes were loaned to six of the Helping Teachers. These books were left with a country school for two weeks, so that the children might see them and appreciate the pleasure and value to be derived from reading them. In nine schools the children raised money to purchase similar books.

To aid in developing interest in books and to give a means of earning money, Mrs. Winifred Ayres Hope, of Ridgewood, wrote for the Public Library Commission a play, "Friends in Bookland." This play was not finished until April, but was given in fifteen schools to earn money for school libraries, as well as at the Normal School in Newark, and at two of the State Summer Schools for Teachers. Two hundred and fifty-seven schools celebrated Children's Book Week last November, and forty-nine rural schools report having instituted a "book hour" each week, when the children discuss the books they have read.

A number of the larger towns have adopted the grade library system with splendid results. North Bergen shows a circulation of over 43,000 to a school population of about 5,500. In Westfield the Parent-Teachers' Association raised the money and gave the necessary

books to the public library of the city for providing these libraries. The Book Shelf for Boys and Girls was distributed to every school in the State.

High schools have shown even more interest in libraries. The Assistant Commissioner of Education in charge of high schools asked that a list of basic reference books be compiled for him with a view to requiring every high school of the State to provide such books before the school would be approved. The total cost of the books included in the list was not to exceed \$500. Such a list was compiled for him. Libraries have been installed in eleven high schools and twelve high schools have been assisted in reorganizing their libraries. With the advice and assistance of the Commission nine other high schools have put in courses in the use of books. Two hundred and fifty-one schools have been visited.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION—Five Acts directly affecting libraries were passed at the last session of the Legislature. The most important was the law raising from one-half to two-thirds of a mill on each dollar of ratables the amount which a municipality is permitted to pay toward library support. Six municipalities immediately took advantage of the law and appropriated more money for library purposes.

That section of the library law permitting cities to bond themselves to purchase land for library sites and to erect buildings was amended to include all municipalities. Also to permit all municipalities to expend money over and above the permissible one mill in erecting or equipping such buildings.

An amendment to the law now makes it possible for a municipality joining with another municipality already supporting a library to appropriate more than \$1,000 toward the support of such joint library.

The library bond act was amended to correspond with the general municipal bonding act, thereby making it easier to place library bonds.

The law now permits historical societies to turn over their records and books to free public libraries.

An Act was passed permitting the return to the library by the governing body of the municipality of money paid in as fines, to be used in addition to the regular appropriation.

TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY LIBRARIES—A consolidated library has been established in Middletown Township, Monmouth County, to serve eleven small villages and a rural population of about 5,000. Two

small existing libraries prepared the way for this township library—Navesink and Middletown. Both of them were peculiarly successful. Navesink was founded first and led to the establishment of the Middletown Library, which in turn aided Navesink to prepare the way for the Township Library. The vote in the whole township gave a two-thirds majority for the consolidated library, while in Navesink the vote was over three-fourths favorable. Reading-rooms are maintained in the two large villages, branch deposit stations in the others, and a book wagon built for the purpose exchanges the books and serves the rural population. Mr. Anderson, of the New York Public Library, says this was the longest step forward in library administration in the last two decades. Elk Township, in Gloucester County, has followed the example of Middletown township. Such consolidated libraries make efficient service possible.

After a vigorous campaign to inform the people, Burlington County voted by a three-fourths majority for a county library. Morris and Camden have presented petitions to their Boards of Freeholders to have the question placed on the ballot at the next general election. Gloucester County is organizing to circulate petitions. Mercer, Bergen and Monmouth are working to create county library sentiment. County and township libraries will solve the rural and small town reading problem in New Jersey. The county library plan as worked out in New Jersey is more nearly that of a County Library Commission than is the county library plan as operated in Ohio and other States. Each existing library maintains its independence and is yet served by the County Library with books and has the benefit of the trained knowledge of the County Librarian. Stations are established in each small town and school, and books are exchanged through the medium of a book wagon, which also serves the rural population at the door when they are not within reach of a station. There is no large expensive central library.

Ninety-one visits have been made in the interest of the establishment of county libraries during the past year.

STATE INSTITUTIONS—The State institutions stand in great need of books. The State Prison is the only institution that is at all adequately supplied. The library at the prison has been reorganized and augmented during the year, and shows a circulation of over 43,000. The library at Jamesburg is being slowly built up through generous gifts by publishers of boys' books. This does not, however, give them the

good old stand-bys which every boy should have. The Commission continues to supply all the books and aid possible to such institutions.

An interesting point in the work is that since the advent of prohibition the county jails have not the need of books they formerly had. The Salem county jail returned their books with the comment that the jail was empty so much of the time that so many books were not needed.

BULLETIN—An effort has been made during the past year to have each number of the Library Bulletin cover some particular phase of library work, such as library publicity, library co-operation, library and schools, library income and budgets. Through the aid of the libraries many new suggestions have been presented. Copies of the Library and School number have been asked for by libraries, commissions and school departments all over the United States. The Secretary of the Department of Municipal Accounts commended the library budget as made out in the library budget number. A series of articles on State Departments has been run with excellent results in bringing to libraries the assistance of such departments.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES—It is impossible to keep pace with the demand for books in foreign languages, especially Polish, Slavish and Italian. The cost of such books remains exceedingly high and it is still impossible to obtain them in cloth bindings. There is a great need for books in foreign languages about America. There is also a demand for books with the same material in English and the foreign language. The Colonial Dames of Massachusetts paid for the translation and publication in Italian of a history and government of the United States. One hundred copies of this history were purchased. Every foreign book owned by the Commission, except those in German, is in constant circulation.

LIBRARY CLASSES—The library classes have been even more popular this year than formerly. Two general classes were held and one special one. The average number attending was forty. An interesting feature of the class held in Trenton was the attendance of a number of Normal and High School pupils with the purpose of gaining a knowledge of library work to help them in teaching or in college. The courses were extended to cover more than eight weeks and many of the pupils asked for meetings to be held every two or three months to give them an opportunity further to discuss their problems.

INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES—Inquiries and requests for aid and advice have been received from nineteen industrial plants during the past

year. In spite of the business depression four more firms have employed librarians to administer their libraries.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES, BOOK LISTS AND FREE DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS—"Bookshelf for Boys and Girls" and a list of the best new books for children were distributed to the schools, the clubs, the libraries and the Parent-Teachers' Associations of the State, as well as during the State Farmers' Week. A list of books on health and hygiene compiled by the State Bureau of Child Hygiene, Best Books of 1920, Check list of laws of 1921, and Tests of Library Efficiency, were distributed to all libraries. State Departments have furnished directly to libraries all important documents published by them, this being done upon the request of this Commission.

Five bibliographies and Courses of Study have been compiled for the Women's Federation and distributed to clubs through their Library and Literature Department. A list of twenty books for rural teachers was compiled with the aid of the State Normal School at Trenton. This was distributed through the Helping Teachers. A list of stories relating to trades, industries, geography, music and art was compiled for the grammar schools and distributed also through the Helping Teachers.

At the request of the Helping Teachers, bibliographies to accompany projects in United States Geography were compiled and distributed to them. Bibliographies for the new monograph on Reading have been compiled. Also bibliographies on United States History and Citizenship for the use of the rural schools. A bibliography for the use of lecturers in charge of the recreation and study work in granges has been popular. In addition to the above more than 5,000 miscellaneous pamphlets have been distributed through various agencies and upon individual request; and many bibliographies have been compiled for individual libraries, clubs, schools, granges and other organizations.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS—Through an amendment of the library law the borough of Verona was enabled to accept a Carnegie gift and the library building is now in process of construction. The Memorial library building presented to the City of Ridgewood by Dr. G. Adolph Anderson is almost ready for occupancy. The Oxford Steel & Iron Company has erected and equipped a building to be used by the free library of Oxford. The Carnegie Library at Long Branch has been completed and the library has shown great progress in its new

quarters. One of the new branch buildings in Jersey City has been completed and contracts for another have been let.

EXHIBITS—The practice of getting other exhibitors at conferences and fairs to include a few selected books in their exhibits, with a card calling attention to the books and the aid they will give, has been found successful as well as economical. The books in this way are recommended from two standpoints instead of merely by the booklending agency. Four good books on potato raising in the potato exhibit, with the query over them, "Didn't your potatoes take a prize? Get a book and find out why" was found to attract more attention than an expensive book exhibit, and when the same card, with variations, appeared in every exhibit, the cumulative impression sent the visitors away with a more lasting memory of the books than of any one exhibit. This was done at the State Farmers' meeting, five county fairs, and three State conferences.

The usual exhibits of children's books with recommended lists for distribution were made at the Mothers' Congress, State meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs, and County-Parent Teachers' Associations, and district meeting of the Library and Literature Department of the Women's Federation.

Exhibits of a school library that could be purchased for \$40 were made at five county teachers' institutes. Sample libraries were exhibited at the Summer Schools for Teachers conducted by the State Department of Public Instruction. An exhibit of pictures suitable for schools was included in the exhibit at two county teachers' institutes. For two county grange picnics large pictures of the book wagon in service in the State were displayed with a ten-foot banner giving concisely the advantages of a county library. An exhibit of books on trades and occupations had good results at the annual meeting of the Vocational Teachers in New Brunswick. The permanent exhibit of industrial and technical books in the Museum of Safety conducted by the State Department of Labor has been far-reaching in results, one being the establishment of a library at Oxford and the presentation of a building for library use to the town by the Oxford Steel and Iron Mills.

CO-OPERATION—The cordial co-operation of the other State departments is a great factor in the work of the Public Library Commission. Through the State it has been impossible some times to tell where the work of the Department of Public Instruction ends and that of the

Public Library Commission begins. The Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Municipal Accounts have been cordial in lending aid, and the Commission in turn has aided them whenever possible. The Librarian of the Commission serves on the Advisory Board of the Federation of Women's Clubs of the State. The co-operation of both the Republican and Democratic Women's Committees made possible the high vote in favor of libraries at the last election. The American Legion has co-operated with this department conspicuously in establishing libraries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—Without the aid of local libraries and the educational, social, and welfare agencies of the State much of the work accomplished would have been impossible. Special mention should be made of the services of the Newark Library, New York Library School, New York State Library and H. W. Wilson Co. in preparing bibliographies and courses of study. Acknowledgement is gratefully made of generous loans of books from the Trenton Public Library, Newark Library, State Library, Passaic Library, Morristown Public Library, East Orange Library and the New York Public Library. Without loans of books from John Wanamaker, Lippincott, the Children's Bookshop, and H. R. Huntting, book exhibits would have been impossible. The use of rooms in the Jersey City Public Library, Trenton State Normal School, and the Middletown Township High School made the library classes feasible. Services in transportation and in arranging meetings of Farm Bureaus, County Agricultural Boards, Home Economics Bureaus, Y. M. C. A.'s, Y. W. C. A.'s, Helping Teachers' and Parent-Teachers' Association have greatly forwarded the work and our appreciation is hereby extended to them. To the Atlantic City Public Library is due the success of the exhibit at the Women's Federation, and to Miss Agnes Miller, of the Princeton Public Library, any good results from the exhibition at the State Fair and the Mothers' Congress should be attributed. Mrs. Beatrice Stern and the Legislative Department of the Women's Federation of Clubs aided materially in securing the passage of the library legislation, the initiation of which was in the hands of the Finance Committee of the New Jersey Library Association headed by A. C. Mack and backed by the executive committee of the New Jersey Library Association. Joseph A. Lanigan, of the Attorney General's office, drew the bills at the cost of considerable time and work, and to Mr. Emmor Roberts, of the Library Commission, was due the passage of the law permitting the increase of the library

appropriation. Miss. Mary Parsons, of the Morristown Public Library, and Miss. M. L. Sutcliffe, of the New York Library School aided materially in the preparation of the basic list of reference books for high schools, and to them our appreciation is also extended.

The members of this Commission sincerely regret the loss of the counsel and co-operation of Moses Taylor Pyne, who died on April 22, 1921, a few days after his re-appointment to a sixth term. He was first appointed by Governor Foster M. Voorhees, in 1899, and in 1914 was elected chairman, serving in that capacity until his death. During the twenty-one years he attended every meeting of the Commission and gave generously of his time and effort for the advancement of library interests in New Jersey. To him is due in no small degree the increase in the number of public libraries in the State from 66 to 276, the increase in the number of traveling libraries from less than a score to 900, and the number of books in the control of the Commission from a few hundred to more than 73,000.

E. T. TOMLINSON,
J. C. DANA,
EMMOR ROBERTS
JOHN P. DULLARD,
GEORGE M. LAMONTE,
JOHN ENRIGHT,
FRANCIS E. CROASDALE.

