

Twenty-Fourth Annual Report
OF THE
Public Library Commission
OF
NEW JERSEY

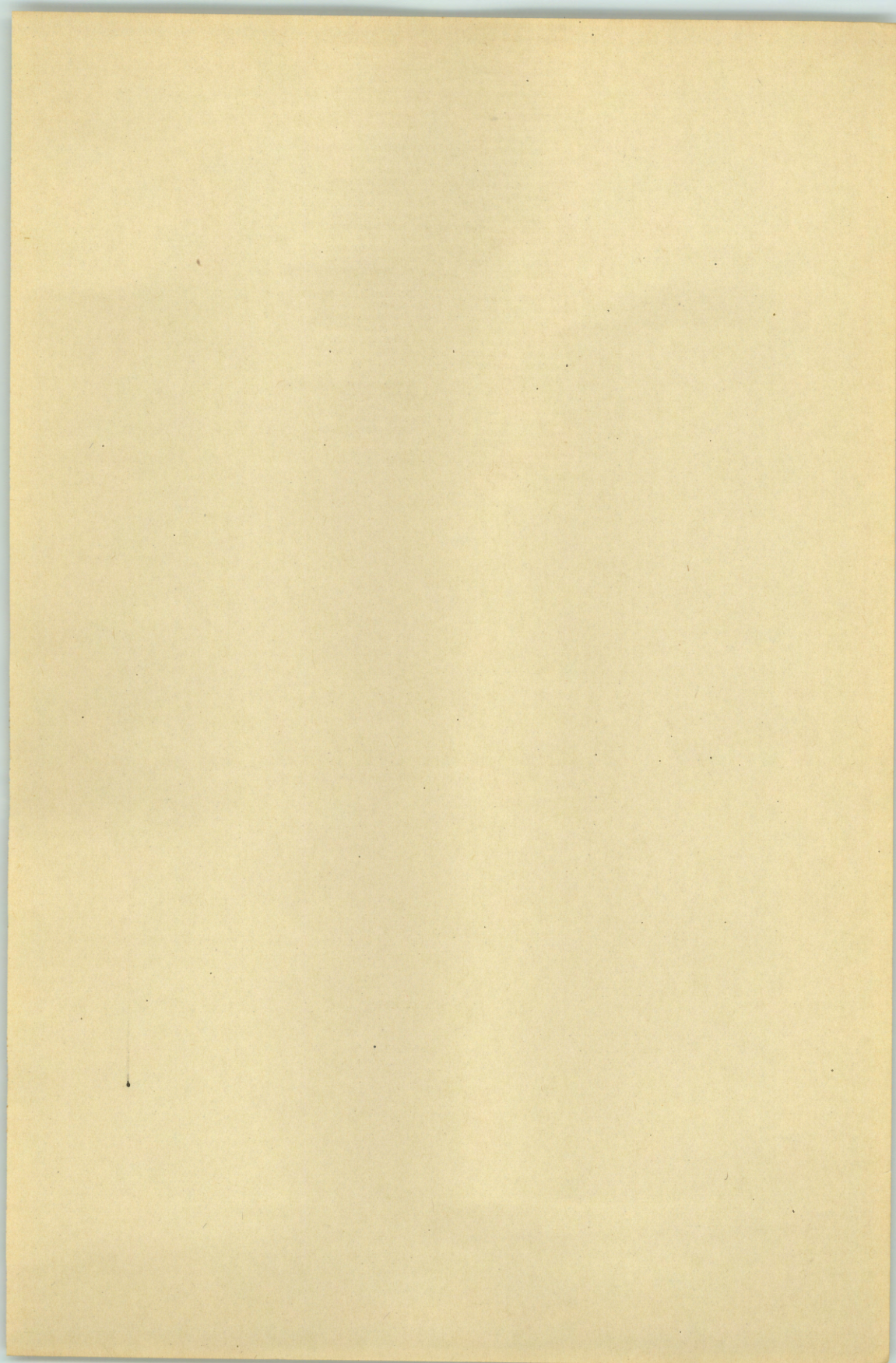
For the Year Ending June 30th

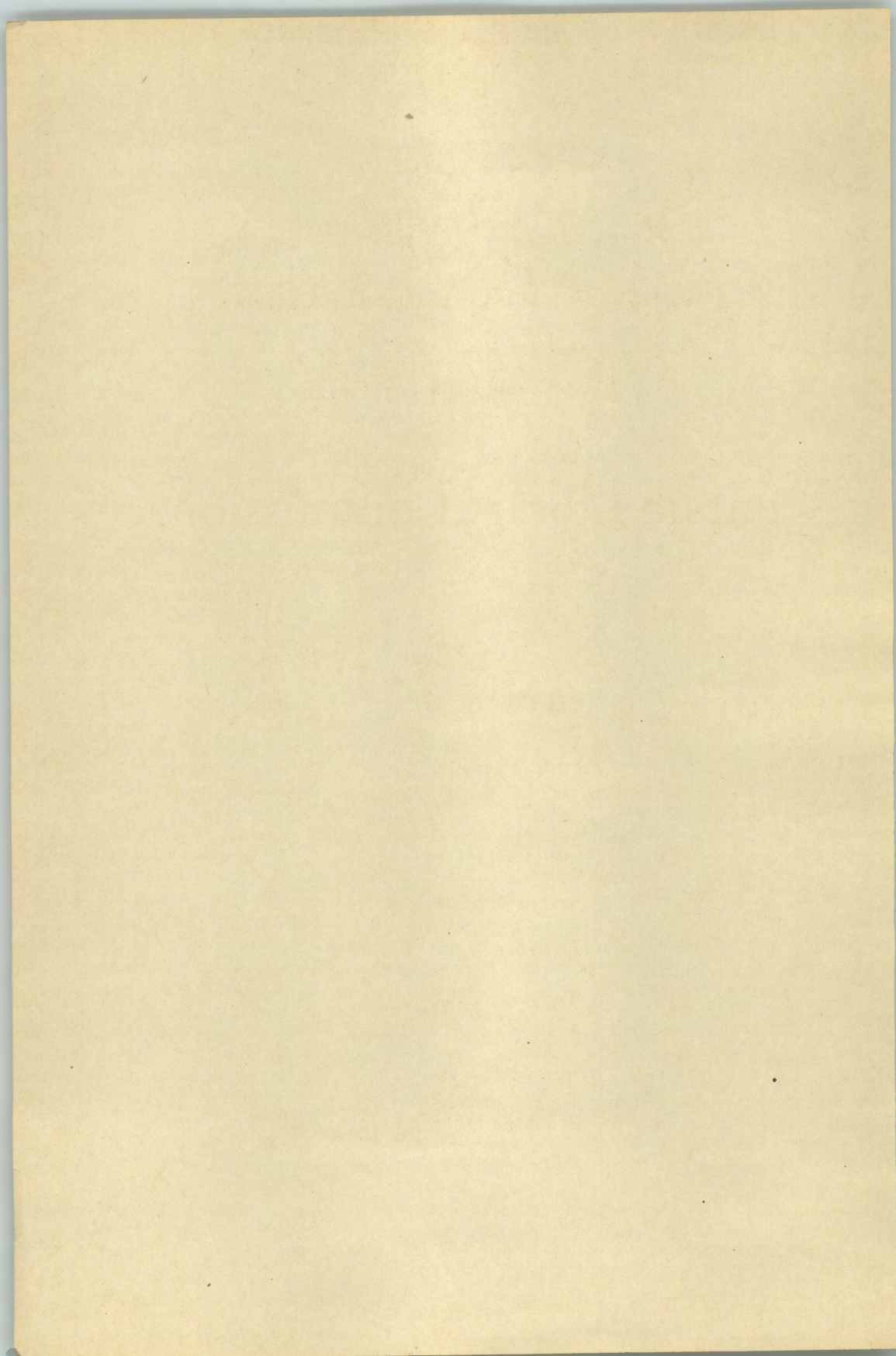
1924

TRENTON, N. J.
Published by the State
1924

New Jersey State Library







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HONORABLE GEORGE S. SILZER,
Governor of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Public Library Commission respectfully submits the following report for the year ending June 30, 1924:

This year has shown a steady gain over the preceding year in library work in New Jersey. The people seem to have awakened to the value of books, and to the necessity of training children in the use of them. More books have been borrowed for study purposes than ever before—the number so loaned showing an increase of 34,000 over last year. Not only have 34,000 more books been read in the traveling libraries, but the books in demand are of higher standard, both in fiction and non-fiction.

The most popular book of the year was Walter Hines Page's *Life and Letters*, and next to this was Papini's *Life of Christ*. To one request for a book that was off color, a hundred for books of value were received. Historical novels have been in predominance.

So far from the moving pictures having an adverse effect upon reading, they have led to more and better reading throughout the rural districts. Many of the old standard works have been brought back into prominence and favor; new lines of thought have been suggested; new nations have attained an interest, and that leads to reading.

This is also true of the radio. More widespread interest in political subjects has been created, and many inquiries come for books relating to lectures heard over the radio. The increase in traveling library stations was limited only by the appropriation, as one hundred and sixty-two requests were held over, because of the Commission's inability to furnish books.

With the traveling libraries and special loans the Commission is developing a desire for local library service as well as bookownership. It is not possible to get people to vote

to tax themselves for libraries until the value of books has been demonstrated.

COUNTY LIBRARIES—The four county libraries in existence have surpassed expectation in the work they have accomplished. Not only have the rural districts been supplied but the small libraries already established have taken on new life, with a steady source of new books and trained supervision. Two more counties were ready to vote on the question of a county library at the last November elections, but it was thought advisable to have them delay for a year.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS—The new library buildings at Verona, Chatham and Ridgewood have been completed and occupied. These are three unusually fine examples of beautiful architecture. Jersey City has completed and is occupying a new library building in the Bergen district. Mrs. Walter Pharo is having built a charming little library for Beach Haven. Bound Brook is erecting a building paid for by popular subscription. Hackettstown has purchased and remodeled a building for library purposes, and plans have been drawn for a new building at Bloomfield.

SUMMER SCHOOL—Advanced courses in library work were conducted at Navesink during the summer of 1923, with an enrollment of 62 for the four courses given, and an added attendance of 21. These courses were upon exactly the same basis as courses upon these subjects in regular library schools, and a credit of thirty hours was granted for each. The courses given were: Children's Work, by Mrs. Caroline Burnite Walker; Book Selection, by Miss Margaret Jackson; Cataloguing and Classification, by Miss Frances Hobart; Reference Work, by Miss Marie Law.

LIBRARY EXTENSION—Aid has been given to twenty-four libraries in various phases of organization during the year. A representative of the Commission assisted in the reorganization of seven libraries, teaching the local people how to do the work.

Addresses have been made at seventy-one meetings of local library organizations, in the interest of various phases of library work.

Visits were made and talks given to ninety--six groups of people for the promotion of county library campaigns.

Library boards in forty-one towns asked for conferences for the discussion of local problems. School libraries were organized in fifteen schools. The Commission was represented at four national and nine State conferences, and took part in the programs.

SPECIAL LOANS—During the year 47,382 books were sent out on special loan for study and serious reading. Of this number 19,876 were borrowed from other libraries. These books, if purchased, would have cost the Commission not less than \$40,000. One book alone that was asked for would have cost \$50. No branch of the work has been more highly appreciated than the special loan, as it has enabled many persons to pass examinations, do research work, continue investigations, and thus earn more money.

INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES—Aid has been given to eleven industrial plants in establishing libraries for laboratory use as well as for the use of their individual employees.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES—It has been possible to add only four hundred books to the foreign collection during the year, though many of the people in the foreign colonies cannot read English and are too old to learn to read English for enjoyment. These books are carefully selected and are in constant use.

LIBRARIES ESTABLISHED—At the November election Bloomfield, Leonia, Red Bank and Westwood voted by large majorities for municipally supported libraries. Libraries on the associated plan have been established in Belvidere, Glassboro, Fords, Secaucus, North Caldwell, Saddle River, North Arlington, Lodi, South Plainfield, Colonia, Somers Point, Stone Harbor, Peapack, Leeds Point, Woodbine, Sewell, Cokesbury, White House, Deerfield, Dividing Creek, and Mantua.

EXHIBITS—The exhibits made during the year seem to have been unusually successful. They were loaned to the Helping Teachers of Hunterdon, Bergen, Ocean, Cape May, Cumberland and Somerset Counties. Exhibits were made at all

teachers' meetings and parent-teacher association meetings in the counties named. They consisted of posters, books for rural schools, books for a Child's Own Library, and books in inexpensive editions. A typical small school library was shown at each teachers' institute, and at the State Summer Schools for Teachers.

Exhibits were also made at four county fairs, during Farmers' Week in Trenton, and at the State Grange conference. Such a demand was created for the books so shown that they had to be duplicated to a large extent. The New Jersey State Grange asked to have this exhibit shown at the National Grange Meeting to be held in Atlantic City in November.

The county librarians helped get up the exhibit for the Federation of Women's Clubs, as it was on "county libraries." It was said to be the finest exhibit ever made at the Federation meeting. The county librarians took charge of it during the meeting. The same exhibit was made at the State Sunday School Convention.

The usual exhibits were made at the Social Workers' Conference, the High School Teachers' Conference and the Mothers' Congress.

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIANS—The library of the State Prison has been transferred to the care of the Educational Director and has been reorganized and increased by about two thousand volumes. More than five hundred books of the best fiction and non-fiction have been added to the libraries at the Rahway Reformatory, the Boys' Home at Jamesburg, the Girls' Home, the Home for Feeble-minded at Woodbine, the Home for Feeble-Minded Women at Vineland. More than two hundred books on technical subjects have been added to the library at the Rahway Reformatory and the State Prison. These institutions are using the library in connection with their shops and classes.

BOOK COLLECTION—The book collection, while constantly growing, is by no means adequate. Public Libraries with the circulation shown by the Public Library Commission have twice as many books. If it were not for the cooperation of the libraries of this and adjoining States the amount of work

done would have been impossible. During the year 24,982 books were added to the collection at an average cost of 92 cents each, making a total expenditure of \$22,989.50

Book prices are still high. Little fiction is published for less than \$2.00 per volume, as against \$1.15 before 1917. Few biographies are listed for less than \$5.00. The popular books of the year, Page's Letters and Papini's Life of Christ, were respectively \$10.00 and \$5.00. Children's books are even more expensive than those for adults.

Purchases have been divided among the classes as follows:

Useful Arts.....	15	per	cent
History and Travel.....	21	"	"
Fine Arts	4	"	"
Biography	13	"	"
Sociology	8	"	"
Philosophy and Religion.....	1	"	"
Science and Nature.....	10	"	"
Literature	5	"	"
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Total non-fiction	77	"	"
Total fiction	23	"	"

Children's books 51 per cent of the whole.

There were discarded during the year 8,482 volumes as unfit for further use. This leaves a net gain of 16,500 volumes for the year. These books were sent to the State Prison, Road Camps, Girls' Home, Boys' Home, Home for the Feeble Minded, Hohokus, Asbury, Cedar Crest, Secaucus, Phillipsburg, County Jails, Municipal Hospitals, Y. M. C. A. Camps, Y. W. C. A. Camps, and Sea Girt.

LIBRARY BULLETINS—We have had to reprint the May-July, 1923 Bulletin, to the extent of 25,000 to meet the demand for the Tentative Reading Lists. A supplement was published consisting of an "Additional List of Books in Educational Editions". This had to be reprinted to the extent of 11,000. There were no funds for the printing of other numbers of the Bulletin. This has been a loss, as has been shown by the number of letters received asking for copies.

COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS. County Library Associations have been formed in Morris, Warren, and Monmouth

Counties. Meetings have been held quarterly during the year.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES—High School Libraries are showing a steady growth. The ruling that no High School will be approved until it has bought at least \$2,000 worth of books, has been a great factor in this growth. A certain number of years has been given to the existing High Schools to comply with this ruling. There are school libraries now in forty-nine High Schools. Aid was given to each school newly establishing a library, by personal visits and instructions. The campaign of the Parent-Teachers' Associations to establish libraries in rural schools is continuing with excellent results. A representative of the Commission has met with fifty-one Parent-Teachers' Associations to aid and direct them in promoting this work.

Instruction has been given to seven Teachers' Institutes and three hundred and eleven schools have been visited. A study has been made of children's interests and teachers' needs with a view to making school libraries more vital.

BOOK LISTS AND PAMPHLETS—In addition to the 25,000 copies of the Bulletin and 11,000 copies of the supplement 8000 pamphlets have been distributed. Among these were the "Book Shelf for Boys and Girls", "Gifts for Children's Book Shelves", "Business Books", "Books for Boys", "Books for First Purchase for a Small Library", "Best Books of 1922", "Students' Reading Lists", and bi-monthly catalogue of "Best New Books".

TRAVELING LIBRARIES—During the year 2,913 traveling libraries containing 144,650 books were shipped from the central office.

Many exchanges have been made locally. The helping teachers, Y. M. C. A. directors, home economic agents, all have acted as agents for exchange and have thus saved labor and postage. By the establishing of the Monmouth County Library we were able to open 113 new stations. We have had to hold up 162 requests to be made stations, as by November 15th all requests had to be denied because of lack of books to give adequate service. The present number of stations is 1,129.

During the year many of the stations have paid postage on the return of books rather than pay the \$2.00 fee, as it is more convenient for them to return books by parcel post, and it is difficult to receive parcels sent C. O. D. As nearly as can be estimated from cards and reports, the circulation from these stations has been about 970,000. Figures do not give an adequate idea of the service rendered, however; only the letters received from the people can do that.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—Without the cooperation of other agencies, little efficient work would be possible by the Commission. The women's Clubs, the Rotary and Kiwanis, local and county Chambers of Commerce, Parent-Teachers' Associations, Farm Bureaus, Helping Teachers, County Superintendents, Churches, have all extended aid in campaigns, in transportation, in carrying books and in entertainment. Acknowledgement for service is rendered to the Middletown Township Free Library and the Navesink Library Association for free quarters for the Summer School; to the State Library, Newark Public Library, Elizabeth Public Library, Trenton Public Library, New Brunswick Public Library, East Orange Public Library; Monmouth, Morris Camden and Burlington County Libraries; New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Pittsburgh Library, and Pratt Institute Free Library, for books freely loaned and personal aid extended during the year; to the State Y.M.C.A. and the Federation of Women's Clubs for aid in legislation; to the Helping Teachers and County Superintendent of Ocean County for transportation furnished in seventy-two visits made in that county; to the Department of Public Instruction for pamphlets for distribution.

GEORGE M. LAMONTE,
JOHN COTTON DANA
E. T. TOMLINSON
JOHN P. DULLARD
JOHN ENRIGHT
SARAH R. BUDD



