

Nineteenth Annual Report  
OF THE  
Public Library Commission  
OF  
NEW JERSEY

For the Eight Months Ending June 30th

1918

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NEW JERSEY REFORMATORY PRINT  
RAHWAY, N. J.  
1919

New Jersey State Library



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# REPORT

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*Hon. Walter E. Edge, Governor of New Jersey:*

SIR—The New Jersey Public Library Commission herewith submits its report for the eight months ending June 30, 1918, for transmission to the Legislature. As will be noticed, the Commission, in addition to its regular work of promoting the library interests of the State, has taken an active part in the various activities incident to the war, and may, without being charged with immodesty, claim to have rendered valuable aid to the different agencies that are engaged in what is generally known as "war work."

BOOK COLLECTION.—During the eight months 8,972 books and pamphlets have been purchased, at a cost of \$6,801.03, an average of 74 cents each, which is four cents per volume lower than the average for the year 1916-1917. One-third of the books purchased were for children. The remainder were divided as follows:

Useful arts .....	20 per cent.
History and travel .....	20 per cent.
Fine arts .....	1 per cent.
Biography .....	10 per cent.
Sociology .....	10 per cent.
Philosophy and religion .....	1 per cent.
Literature .....	11 per cent.
Science and nature .....	6 per cent.
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Total non-fiction .....	79 per cent.
Total fiction .....	21 per cent.

Eight hundred and seventy-three books have been discarded during the year, making the total number of books now owned by the Commission 52,202. The discarded books were sent to prison road camps and to traveling library stations where they could be given away.

SPECIAL LOANS.—Twelve thousand, three hundred and eight books have been sent out on special requests during the period covered by the report. The majority of these requests were for technical books. The Commission has been able to fill them only through the kindness of the State Library, Trenton Public Library, New York Public Library, Newark Public Library and the Library of Congress, in lending books. To them grateful acknowledgment is hereby made.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.—Eleven hundred and eighty-one libraries have been sent out, containing 59,050 books. Fifty-four new stations have been established, making a total of 561. These stations circulated an average of 400 books, making a total circulation of 224,400 from the traveling library stations, or an average of about three times for every book sent out from Commission headquarters. The demand has changed greatly since the beginning of the war, being now mainly for history, travel, books on the war, useful arts, sociology and science. While the reading of fiction has decreased, the reading of other books has greatly increased. From small communities comes the information that books furnished by the Commission have enabled them to have food courses, first-aid classes, history classes, to make gardens and to understand the causes of the war as would not otherwise have been possible.

The continued interest in traveling libraries in spite of great delays in transportation is a testimony to the place they occupy in educational work in rural communities. The difficulty attending the operation of a traveling library system during wartime, when transportation facilities are so poor, can hardly be appreciated by one not in direct contact with the work.

Forty-three talks have been given by representatives of the Commission during the year in connection with the use of books in rural communities. An attempt has been made to correlate this work with that of the County Farm Agents and the County Home Economic Demonstrators. The hearty co-operation of the Home Economics Division and the Agricultural Extension Department of the State College of Agriculture has made this possible in a very practical way and enabled us to obtain maximum results at minimum cost and effort.

Book talks have been given at farm demonstration meetings, at food demonstrations, at meetings of County Boards of Agriculture and at Farmers' Institutes. This explains to some extent the large use of books on useful arts. The Commission owns nearly five thousand books on different phases of home economics, and rarely can more than fifty be found on our shelves. Out of a stock of more than eight thousand books on various phases of agriculture and gardening, barely a shelf full are ever out of circulation.

In view of the difficulty and cost of transportation efforts are made wherever possible to have, in the more remote counties and districts, local exchange stations for traveling libraries. For instance, the small communities around Shiloh, in Cumberland County, exchange their libraries with one another through the library at Shiloh, that being used also as a shipping point to receive and return libraries to Trenton. These stations in this way are supplied with fresh books without the necessity of shipping each library back to Trenton for exchange.

**BULLETIN.**—The "New Jersey Library Bulletin," which is published quarterly by the Commission, has made possible efficient aid to libraries in war work. Through this medium ideas evolved by one librarian have been passed on to all. Bibliographies have been published in its pages, and the attention of librarians directed to valuable free material to be had on request.

The "Bulletin" also enables the Commission to keep closely in touch with all libraries in the State and saves labor and expense by providing means of dissemination of information and of answering inquiries that are constantly being made.

**FREE DISTRIBUTION.**—The Commission has continued its work of free distribution of book lists, bibliographies and pamphlets. Aside from the pamphlets from the United States Food Administration and National War Garden Commission, over three thousand pamphlets have been sent to the libraries of New Jersey.

**LIBRARY EXTENSION.**—Ten libraries have been started during the past eight months at Cedarville, Cape May Court House, Palisades Park, Parlin, Chrome, Bergenfield, Saddle River Township, Shiloh, Dumont and Mountain View. Eleven libraries have been

reorganized and recatalogued. Toms River, Roselle and Bradley Beach became tax-supported libraries at the November elections.

Two hundred and thirty-one visits have been made by representatives of the Commission, at an expense of \$567. The cost and difficulty of traveling has been greatly increased, but the interest awakened by the war in efficient administration and in books has increased the number of calls for assistance. Fifteen meetings have been held with library boards to consult as to ways and means of improving their libraries, and twenty-four town meetings to explain to the people the practical value of books and libraries.

**SUMMER SCHOOL.**—Only the first week of the Summer School comes within the range of this report. The eleventh session began June 24th in the rooms of the Commission at Trenton. The class is the largest since the third session of the school, thirty-four pupils being regularly enrolled, besides six part-time pupils. The course given is based on that approved by the A. L. A. Committee on Library Training.

**BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.**—The demand for books in French, Italian and Polish has greatly increased during the past eight months. It has been necessary to quadruple the number of French books owned by the Commission and to triple those in the Italian language.

**STATE INSTITUTIONS.**—Books on deposit in state institutions show constant use, especially in such institutions as have librarians appointed to administer the collection. We have assisted by renewing the collections, giving talks, instruction in administration and aid in book selection.

**NEW BUILDINGS.**—Work has not been begun on any new library buildings during the period covered by this report. The Carnegie Corporation asked that some of the towns to which it had given money postpone the erection of their buildings.

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES.**—Seven high school libraries have been reorganized since the last report was made, and forty-seven rural schools have been visited upon requests from helping teachers, local teachers or county superintendents. It is realized more and more

that to reach the rural schools we must work in close co-operation with helping teachers and county school superintendents (a special effort has been made in this direction). Wherever the helping teacher aids in compiling the list of books to be purchased for the school library, the list has been found to be excellent and well adapted to the community.

With a view to securing this co-operation a meeting was held, through the aid of the Commissioner of Education, with the helping teachers and county superintendents to consider the subject of school libraries. The immediate result of this meeting was the appointment of a committee to evolve plans for better school libraries, a simpler method of securing State aid, and active co-operation with the Public Library Commission. The first meeting of this committee was held in Newark the latter part of June and an outline made of plans for the work of next year. The number of schools applying for State aid shows an increase and the grade of books on lists shows improvement. Requests for book lists have been so numerous that it will be necessary for the Commission to publish a new edition of the list adopted for school use.

Talks have been made at seventeen teachers' meetings and before thirty-one parents' and teachers' associations. Exhibits of books have been loaned for thirty-one meetings. The exhibit which perhaps had the widest results was that of books on foods and gardens, at the State Normal School at Trenton, for the meeting of the vocational teachers of the State.

At the request of Dr. Savitz, of the Trenton State Normal School, a mimeographed circular was given to each girl at the school before she left for the summer. This circular stated concisely what a public library could do for a teacher, what the Commission could do for a teacher in a rural community, how the teacher could build up a school library, what she should buy for the school library, and how State aid could be obtained. A similar circular will next year be sent to all Normal Schools in the State if the heads of the schools desire it.

**BOOKS FOR CAMP LIBRARIES.**—In addition to more than \$50,000 contributed to the Library War Service, New Jersey has collected and distributed to camps, hospitals, ships and training stations 293,-

000 books. Up to the date of the latest report made this showing had been surpassed by New York State alone. The Commission has been supplying in New Jersey forty-six camps, hospitals and stations that are centers of war work. In order to do this a total of one hundred thousand books every four months must be shipped from our New Jersey libraries, as these camps are almost all used as embarkation points, and books are given the men to take overseas with them. Two of the camps—Merritt and Dix—have librarians. There is also a librarian at the Port of Embarkation. The other camps are served and supervised by the Public Library Commission, under and in co-operation with the A. L. A. War Service. They are visited at frequent intervals by a Commission worker as a war service representative. Librarians in towns adjoining have assisted greatly in this work.

Constant correspondence keeps the post librarian in touch with the New Jersey State representative of the A. L. A. War Service. At twenty-eight of these posts the acting librarian has been given library aid and instruction. Special loan privileges are extended to post and camp libraries on the same basis as to public libraries; two thousand seven hundred and eighty-one special loans have been sent to these posts since November first.

At every post classes are being held in technical, scientific and military subjects, besides the classes in English. From reports received there are over three thousand men in special classes in the Cape May Naval Training Stations alone. The commanding officers and Army Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. workers report that this work would be almost impossible if it were not for books supplied by the A. L. A. War Service and this Commission in co-operation. One hundred and ninety-three trigonometries have been sent to different posts.

The United States Ordnance Department has written expressing appreciation of the library at the Raritan Ordnance Camp, which has enabled classes in special subjects for the men, this increasing the efficiency.

The Lakewood Hospital is one of the big vocational training schools for disabled soldiers. The commanding officer says it would have been impossible to start the classes except for this book service. At the request of the commanding officer at General Hos-

pital No. 3 the library has been built up as the hospital is being built, so that when the hospital is ready the library will also be ready.

The requests for the loan of technical books have been great. From Lakewood Hospital came requests for 890 such books, from Cape May for 529, and from the Ordnance Camp for 468.

Many of the post librarians visit the Commission headquarters at Trenton in order that they may know exactly what books they may have, and thoroughly understand the work.

WAR WORK.—The Commission has acted as Educational Publicity Director for the United States Food Administration in New Jersey and has been the agency for the distribution of food literature to the libraries of the State. Besides the work for the Food Administration much other work has been done. The aim has been to establish close connection between books and the work of food production and conservation in the State. Five good bibliographies have been distributed to all libraries, besides those contained in the "New Jersey Library Bulletin." Twenty-one exhibits have been held and thirty-four talks made in the interest of this work. Besides books sent out as exhibits, others have been loaned to county home economics demonstrators and county farm agents, to lend to the people and to show them what may be had upon application to the Commission.

The Commission owns three food exhibits—one made by the Newark Public Library and two made with the help of the State Museum. These have already been loaned to thirteen towns, with twenty-nine more applications on hand.

The Commission has also taken part in the Red Cross campaigns and the campaigns for the sale of War Savings Stamps and Liberty Loan Bonds, literature having been distributed and talks made in the different counties of the State. It has also co-operated in the "universal service" campaign by talks, visits and distribution of books and literature.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Without the co-operation of other State departments and State organizations much of the work of the Commission would have been impossible. The Woman's Division of the National Council of Defense for New Jersey, the Federation

of Woman's Clubs of the State, the State Department of Agriculture, the State College of Agriculture and the State Department of Public Instruction have aided and made many meetings and visits possible which otherwise could not have been arranged. They have planned meetings to further the work of the Public Library Commission, have written many circulars, sent delegates to meetings and given the time of many of their members to this work.

The libraries of the State have come to the front in war work during this past year in a way that has shown New Jersey to be second to no other State. They have been able to do this through the firm hold they had already established in their communities. Never before have the people realized the need of libraries and been so ready to aid libraries and respond to calls. The libraries of the State have also given valuable aid to the Commission in work in the rural communities and have responded to every appeal for assistance in every form of war work.

Forty-eight of our libraries have had food exhibits. Seventy-six of them were Red Cross stations; sixty-two were Liberty Loan stations; fifty-seven aided in the clerical work of the draft, and practically all of them are Food Administration bureaus. The traveling library stations are also acting as food information centers and are doing for the rural communities what the town libraries are doing in the urban communities.

Respectfully submitted,

M. TAYLOR PYNE.

JOHN COTTON DANA.

EVERETT T. TOMLINSON.

JOHN P. DULLARD.

CALVIN N. KENDALL.

EMMOR ROBERTS.

Trenton, N. J., July 1, 1918.

New Jersey State Library







