

Eighteenth Annual Report  
OF THE  
Public Library Commission  
OF  
NEW JERSEY

For the Year Ending October 31st

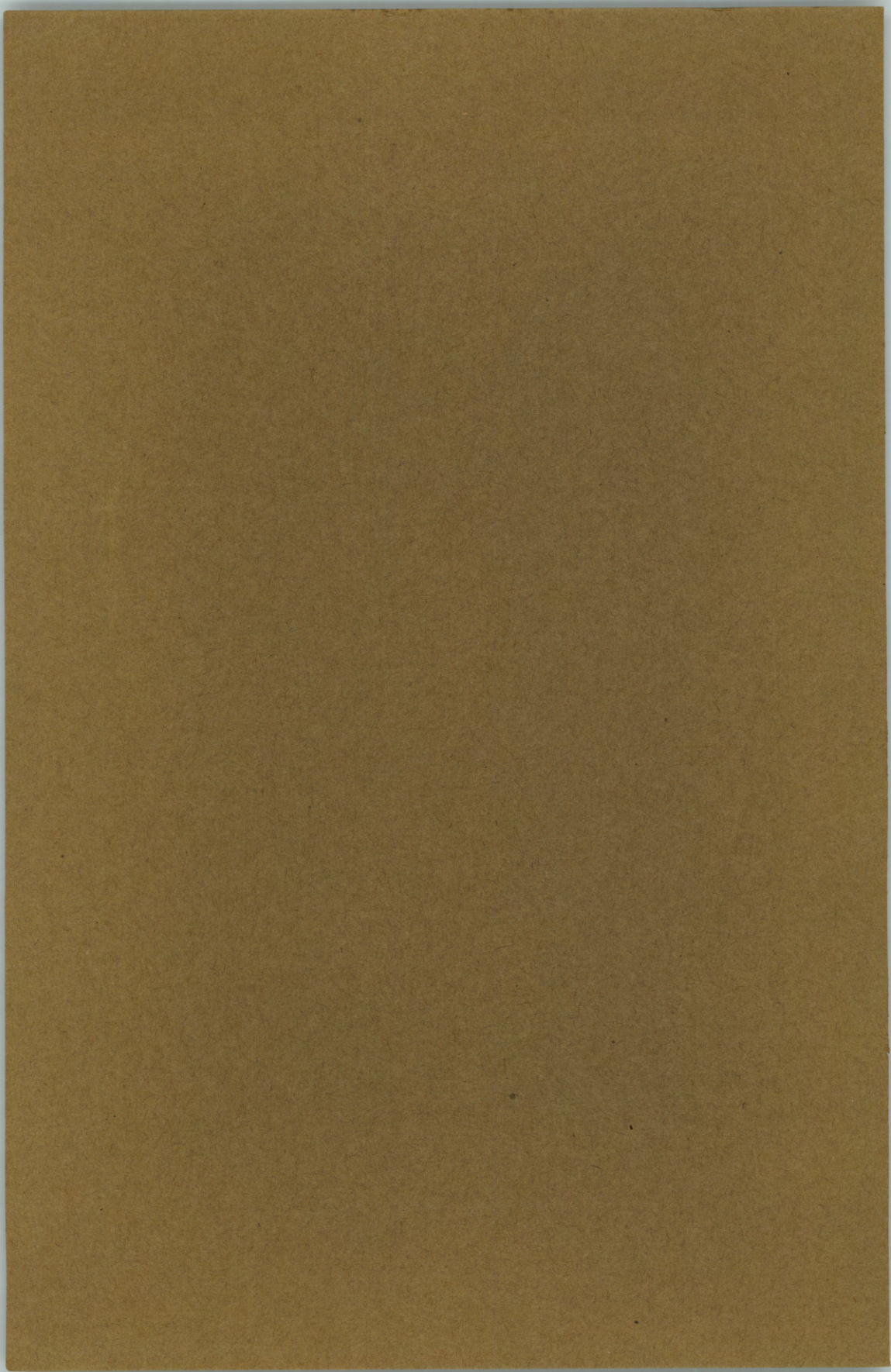
1917

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New Jersey State Library

RAHWAY N. J.  
NEW JERSEY REFORMATORY PRINT  
1918







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Exhibition Annual Report

Public Library Commission

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The Public Library of the City of Newark

1917

Printed by the Newark Public Library



## Public Library Commission

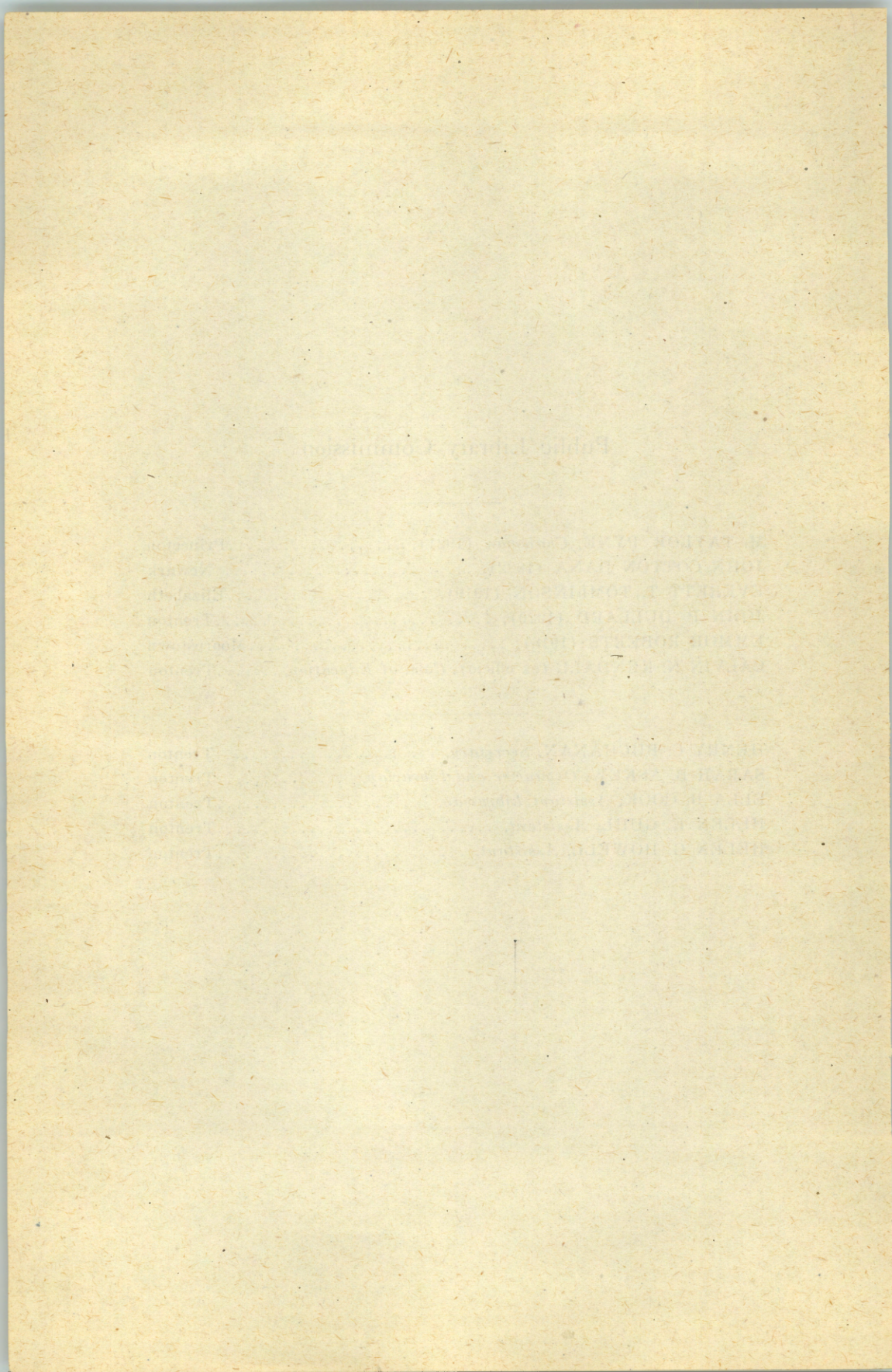
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M. TAYLOR PYNE, *Chairman* (1921), .....Princeton  
JOHN COTTON DANA (1922), .....Newark  
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON (1919), .....Elizabeth  
JOHN P. DULLARD (1920), .....Trenton  
EMMOR ROBERTS (1918), .....Moorestown  
CALVIN N. KENDALL (ex officio), *Com. of Education*, .....Trenton

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HENRY C. BUCHANAN, *Secretary*, .....Trenton  
SARAH B. ASKEW, *Organizer and Librarian*, .....Trenton  
ELLA B. COOK, *Assistant Librarian*, .....Trenton  
HELEN E. GUHL, *Assistant*, .....Trenton  
HELEN G. HOWELL, *Assistant*, .....Trenton







## REPORT

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

SIR:—The following report of the work of the New Jersey Public Library Commission is respectfully submitted for your examination and transmission to the Legislature:

BOOK SELECTION.—During the year 9,442 books and pamphlets have been bought at a total cost of \$7,491.37 which is an average cost of 78 cents per volume. The following table represents the per cent. bought in each class:—

Useful arts, .....	17 per cent.
History and travel, .....	19 per cent.
Fine arts, .....	2 per cent.
Biography, .....	8 per cent.
Sociology, .....	11 per cent.
Philosophy and religion, .....	3 per cent.
Literature, .....	9 per cent.
Science and nature books, .....	5 per cent.
Total non-fiction, .....	74 per cent.
Total fiction, .....	26 per cent.

Twelve hundred and twenty-nine books have been discarded and 109 rebound at a cost of \$40.86. The total number of books owned by the Commission is 45,103. The discarded books were sent to Phillipsburg, Califon, Naughton and Columbia, also to prison road camps. After the National Guard was called out all worn books suitable for men were sent to them.

Although the Commission now owns only 45,103 books, 52,210 have been accessioned in the seventeen years the traveling libraries have been in existence. Of this number 8,123 have worn out and have been discarded.

SPECIAL LOANS.—The demand for the use of special books, which has always been large, has been greatly increased by



the requests now coming from army and navy cantonments within the State. This special loan service enables an individual to get a book or books for special reading or study if the book needed can not be obtained from a local library. The number of special loans sent from the Commission office this past year is 13,580. These requests come from people of all ages, in many walks of life, and could not be filled if it were not for the co-operation of the larger libraries in the State, especially the Trenton and Newark Public Libraries, the State Library, the New York Public Library, and the Library of Congress. The Commission gratefully acknowledges this co-operation.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.—A total of 74,050 books in 1,481 libraries have been sent to 509 stations. New stations established during the year number 52. Librarians of traveling libraries have attended meetings held in eight different places and many talks have been given before rural audiences in the interests of better reading.

Fifty traveling library cases have been purchased from the Rahway Reformatory at a cost of \$125, and one hundred more have been ordered.

FREE DISTRIBUTION.—The policy of the Commission of sending out at each Christmas-time lists of books suitable for gifts, was continued and some book dealers used these lists in making up their Christmas stock. The Commission is interested in influencing the individual buying and owning of good books as well as the circulation of them from its office.

A pamphlet entitled "A list of books for patriotic Americans" was sent to each library in the State. Many lists on a variety of subjects were sent to individuals and libraries, and lists of books for boys and girls have been distributed at the New Jersey Congress of Mothers, New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, at Farmers' Institutes, Teachers' meetings and local meetings of Parent Teachers' Associations and Clubs.

LIBRARY EXTENSION.—Libraries have been started in the



past year in Lincoln Park, Glen Gardner, West Long Branch, Magnolia, Stirling, Pottersville, Titusville, Salem, Laurelton, Wildwood and Port Elizabeth. Eight libraries have been re-organized and six have been re-catalogued.

The libraries in Long Branch, Bogota and Hopewell became tax-supported at the November elections. New buildings given by the Carnegie Corporation are being erected in Lakewood, Collingswood, Caldwell, Little Falls, Verona and Jersey City, Haddonfield raised by popular subscription the money for its new building, and Camden and Glen Ridge have new buildings given by individual citizens. More buildings have been erected during the past year than during any previous year since the Commission has been in existence.

Two hundred and ninety-seven visits have been made at an expense of \$632.28. Many talks have been given before local audiences of varying sizes in the interests of new libraries and the re-organization and wider use of old ones.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—The ninth session of the Summer School was held, as usual, in the Asbury Park Public Library, the use of the building and library being given by the city of Asbury Park. Twenty students were enrolled from the following libraries: Camden, Trenton, Bayonne, Montclair, Bogota, Edgewater, Asbury Park, Moorestown, West Caldwell, South Orange, Eatontown, Oradell, Newark, Englewood, and Perth Amboy. There were four special students which, with sixty-four librarians and trustees who came for one or more lectures during the week of special lectures, made a total attendance of eighty-eight.

The usual course in elementary library science approved by the A. L. A. was given, with special lectures on various phases of library work by Miss Edna Phillips, of Edgewater; Miss H. A. Schooley, of Passaic; Miss Jessie Brainerd, of Newark; Miss Alice Blanchard, of Newark; Miss Mary Sutcliffe, of the New York Public Library School; Miss Margaret Jackson, of the H. W. Wilson Co.; Miss Theresa Hitchler, of Brooklyn; Miss Clara W. Hunt, of Brooklyn; and Miss Blanche Gardner, of Newark. The usual exhibits of library tools and appliances and literature were on view.



ROUND TABLES.—Round tables were held in Hackensack, Edgewater, Rahway, Pompton Lakes, Millington, Chatham, Princeton and Haddonfield, with a total attendance of 201 librarians, trustees and teachers. At these meetings informal discussions of library affairs and talks by visiting lecturers interested many people and contributed to the professional spirit in the State.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.—War conditions have increased the demand for French books, and since this same condition makes it impossible to borrow these books, more of them must be bought. The demand for books in other languages continues, especially from those prison camps within the State in which interested people are looking after the reading of the men.

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES.—State institutions continue to use the traveling libraries made up from books especially held for this purpose. Advice in books selection has been given to some institutions receiving direct State aid for their libraries, and discarded books are sent to road camps.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—The improvement in the selection of books in school libraries and the more general interest in the whole subject is gratifying and can be attributed in part to the stress being laid upon these things in Normal schools, and to the efforts of State, County and district school superintendents in calling attention to the School Libraries Department of the Commission and its available lists and advice. The office work necessitated by the examination of many lists of proposed purchases increases each year. Calls for visits to schools for the examination and re-organization of their libraries, and requests for talks to teachers and parents, grow in number and there is every indication that this work is now established on a safe basis and will each year show normal growth.

LIBRARIES AND THE WAR.—Shortly after war was declared, requests began to come from various camps for books for the soldiers. These requests were filled by sending from the Com-



mission shelves books that could be spared or were sufficiently worn to warrant discarding. When the requests came so rapidly that the Commission could not longer fill them, a request was printed in the newspapers and immediate response was made by many people.

The New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, when this was called to their attention, co-operated with the Department of Public Instruction and the Commission in sending to every school, federated club, and library in the State a letter asking for books for the soldiers. These books were deposited at the local Y. M. C. A. and forwarded from there to the camps. About 22,000 books and a very large number of magazines were thus collected. The collection and forwarding of books given locally is now carried on by the libraries.

The Commission co-operated with the National and State Library War Councils in the campaign for "a million dollars for a million books for a million soldiers." It is gratifying to note that a large response to the appeal for funds has come from libraries in the smaller towns and Traveling Library stations with which the Commission has worked for so many years. Many of these towns have more than subscribed their quotas.

The Commission has done its part toward the conservation of food, military training and loyalty to the government, by the collection and distribution and advertising of a large number of pamphlets and booklets on these subjects.

On the first of October the Commission accepted with regret the resignation of Miss Edna B. Pratt, one of the organizers of the Commission, and who has accepted the librarianship of the Passaic Free Public Library. A minute was adopted by the Commission expressing its appreciation of "Miss Pratt's splendid work during the more than eight years she has been connected with the Commission, and of the intelligent, faithful service she has given.

In the future there will be but one Organizer, Miss Askew, and the staff will be enlarged by the addition of an expert cataloguer, who will be sent upon request to libraries needing



instruction in the mechanics of library science. This will relieve the Organizer's position of much of the clerical detail with which it has long been encumbered.

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