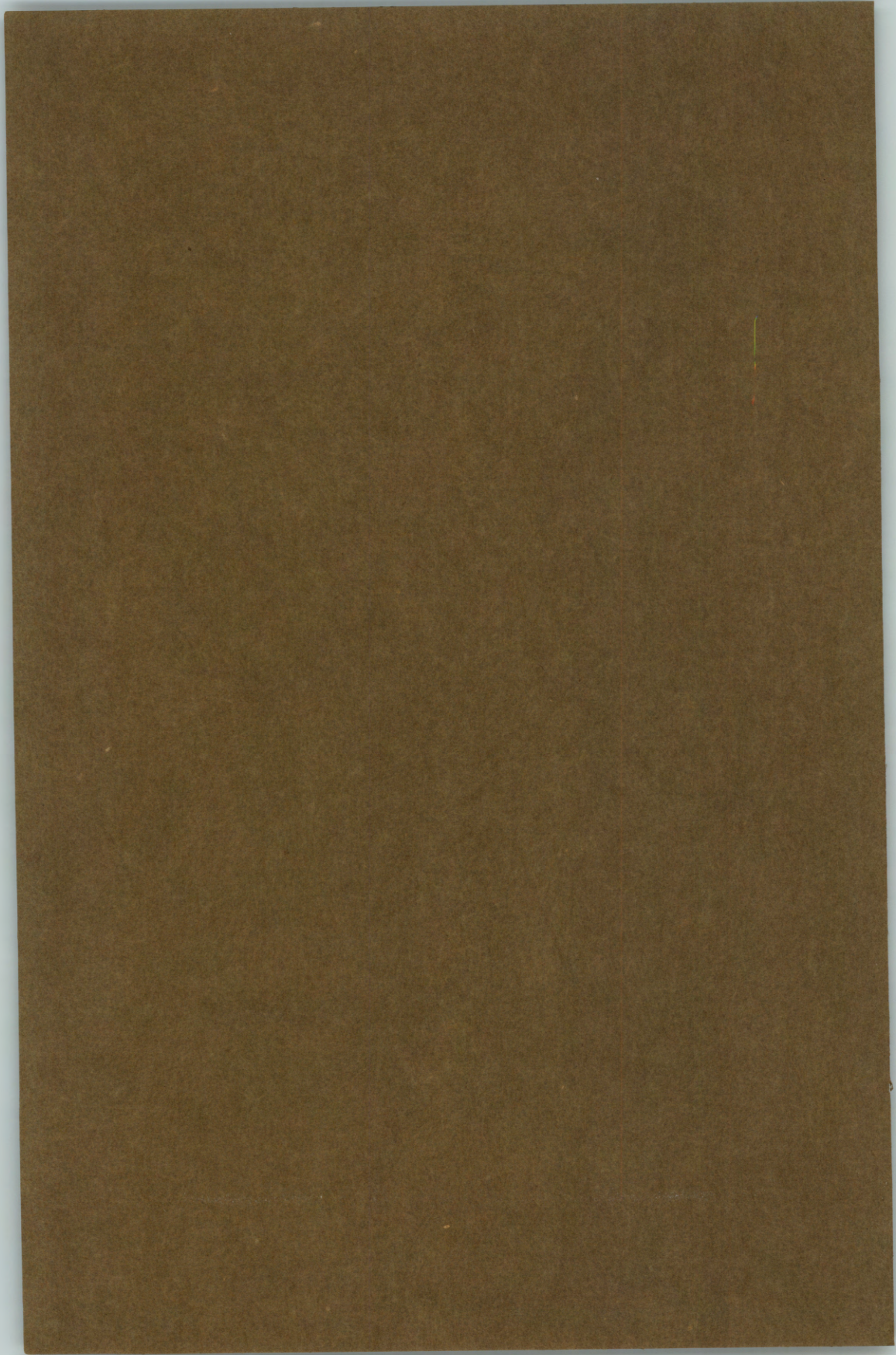


Twenty-Third Annual Report  
OF THE  
**Public Library Commission**  
OF  
**NEW JERSEY**

For the Year Ending June 30th  
**1922**

TRENTON, N. J.  
Published by the State  
1922

New Jersey State Library



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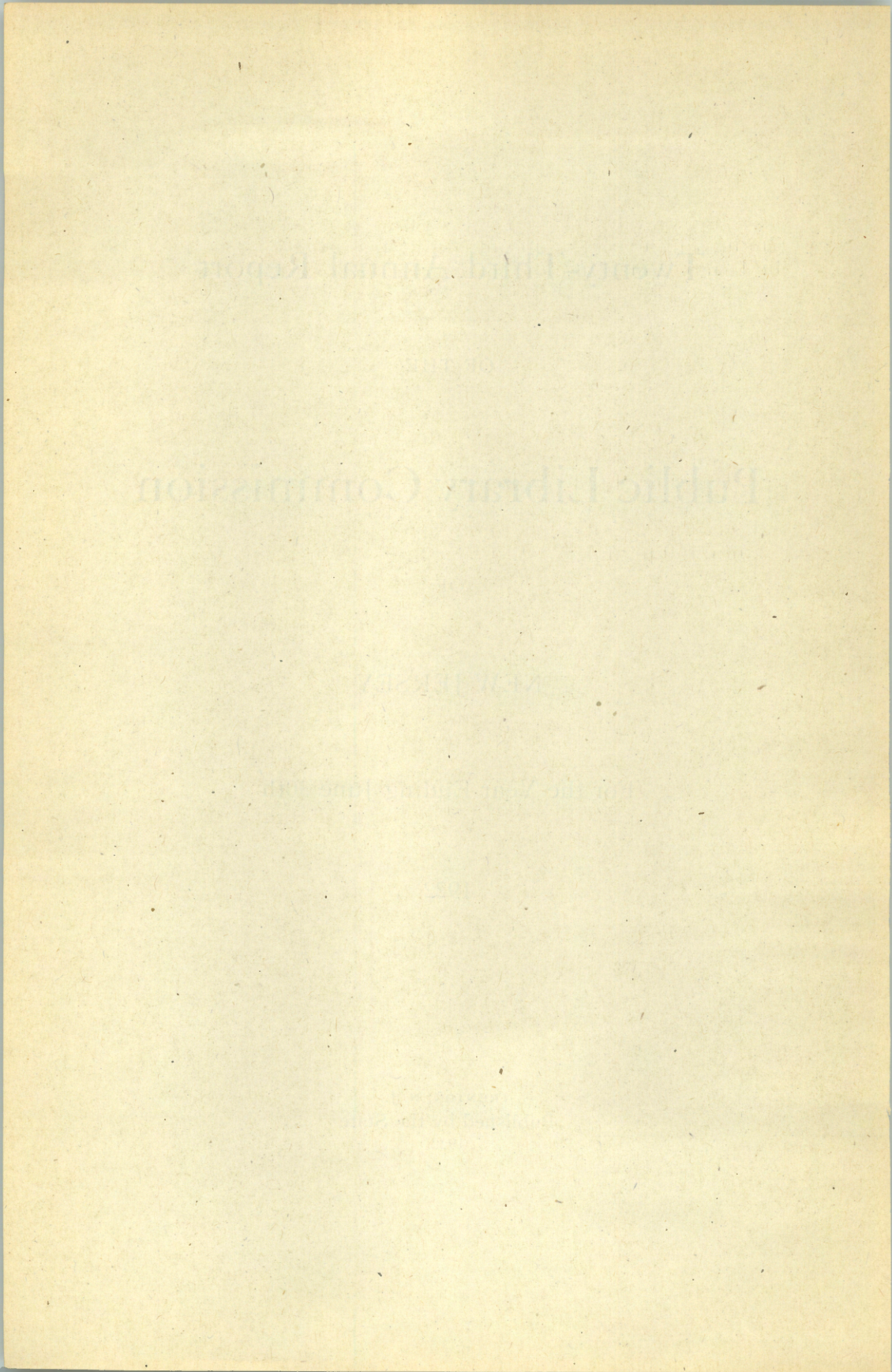
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PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

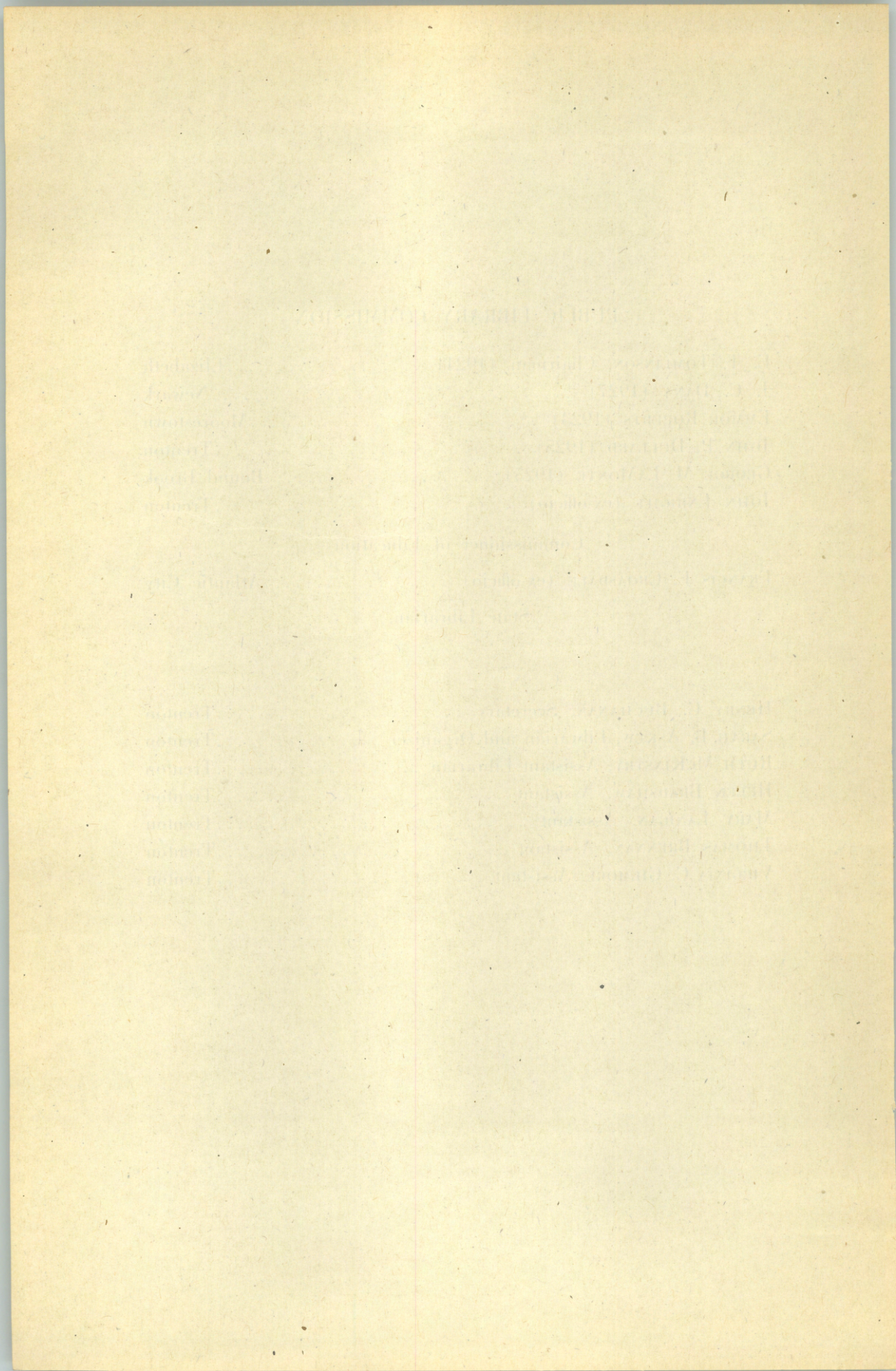
E. T. TOMLINSON, Chairman (1924) .....Elizabeth  
J. C. DANA (1927) .....Newark  
EMMOR ROBERTS (1923) .....Moorestown  
JOHN P. DULLARD (1925) .....Trenton  
GEORGE M. LAMONTE (1925) .....Bound Brook  
JOHN ENRIGHT (ex-officio) .....Trenton

Commissioner of Education

FRANCIS E. CROASDALE (ex-officio) .....Atlantic City  
State Librarian.

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HENRY C. BUCHANAN, Secretary .....Trenton  
SARAH B. ASKEW, Librarian and Organizer .....Trenton  
RUTH MCKINSTRY, Assistant Librarian .....Trenton  
HELEN BRADSHAW, Assistant .....Trenton  
MARY LANIGAN, Assistant .....Trenton  
THOMAS BRENNAN, Assistant .....Trenton  
VIRGINIA C. GILMORE, Assistant .....Trenton



HON. EDWARD I. EDWARDS,

*Governor of New Jersey:*

The New Jersey Public Library Commission respectfully submits the following report of its activities for the year ending June 30th, 1922:

Last year was the high-water-mark reached by the Commission in every phase of the work, 1922 has shown a still greater advance. In 1921 seventy-one new traveling library stations were established, in 1922 198 new stations were established; there has been an increase in general book circulation of more than 200,000; the special loan work has shown an increase of more than 2000 volumes; the attendance at library classes has increased by 42; two new County Libraries have been established as well as two new township libraries and twenty new public libraries which serve a larger population than the 26 public libraries and one County Library established in 1921. The added appropriation was not sufficient, even with the greatest economy, to meet more than half of the demands for new Traveling Library stations.

**LIBRARY CLASSES**— Three courses of advanced work in reference and book selection, to supplement the elementary courses of last year, have been given. Through exchange the Commission was able to secure instructors from the New York Public Library School for these classes, thus enabling the pupils to get credit toward a degree for the work done. A short elementary course was also given. The total attendance was 172.

**COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS**— Two County Library Associations have been formed, one in Monmouth and one in Warren. Two meetings of the Monmouth County Library Association have been held. At one meeting every library in the county was represented, and at the other only one was missing. At the Warren County meeting every library in the county, was represented.

**INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES**— Advice in the selection of books and organizing of industrial libraries has been given, upon request, to twenty-two manufacturing plants.

**GIFTS**— Gifts from patrons in communities to the value of more than \$100 each in money, furniture and books, were received by 197

libraries in the State. Three libraries regularly publish lists of the more expensive books they need and ask for them as gifts from their patrons. The result has been exceedingly good collections of reference books and non-fiction. The Oceanic Memorial Library, at Rumson, has specialized on gift books from residents of the borough and, through a letter from Mr. Meeker to the authors, have added a unique feature. In almost every book by a living author has been pasted a card bearing the author's autograph as a gift to the library; this is in addition to the plate giving the name of the donor of the book. The letters enclosing the autographed cards have been bound together and are in themselves a valuable possession.

**BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**—The Commission substitutes books in English for books in foreign languages whenever possible. There are, however, many adult foreigners in the State who are beyond the age when it is possible to learn to read with ease in the English language. Foreign books are supplied for these to a limited extent. Books on America and about America in foreign languages are bought as far as it is possible to get them. There is a steady demand for books in Hungarian, Italian and Russian. Newark, Passaic and Trenton lend to the Commission books in foreign languages for the use of other libraries and for those communities having no libraries.

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES**—During the year 312 schools have been visited. Every high school in the State that is not already provided with them is buying the basic reference books included in the list compiled at the request of the Department of Public Instruction. There are librarians in 27 of the High Schools of the State. The increase in number of applications for library aid was 201; of these 73 had to be held over until the new appropriation was available.

In Hunterdon County eleven meetings were held in school districts previous to the school elections in February, and at each one of these representatives of the Commission presented the matter of school libraries, so that money might be included in the budget for this purpose, with the result that each of these eleven districts has begun library service in the schools.

Book lists were distributed to every school in the State. Seventy-six rural schools report a reading table, and a "book hour" each week. Three hundred and ten schools celebrated Children's Book Week.

**BOOK COLLECTION**—There have been purchased during the past year 25,461 books, at a cost of \$21,999.35, making an average of 89 cents and a fraction. The decline in book prices is but slight. The price of the average novel is still \$1.90, as against \$1.35 before the war. Non-fiction runs still higher. Children's books are especially high,

the price of the average book in the regular edition being \$1.75, as against 75 cents in 1916. The Commission has adopted the policy of buying children's books, whenever possible, in educational editions. They are not quite so attractive in appearance but are much cheaper in price and last longer. Binding and paper continue to be poor, with the result that the books must be replaced more frequently.

The books purchased have been divided among the classes as below:

Useful Arts .....	20	per cent
History and travel .....	18	" "
Fine Arts .....	2	" "
Biography .....	10	" "
Sociology .....	10	" "
Philosophy and religion .....	4	" "
Science and nature .....	7	" "
Literature .....	6	" "
<hr/>		
Total non-fiction .....	77	" "
Fiction .....	23	" "

Children's books, 50 per cent of the whole.

**LIBRARY EXTENSION**—Twenty new libraries have been started during the year, besides the county libraries which take care of the entire counties of Morris and Camden not already served with libraries, and the township library in South Orange township. The new libraries are at Alpha, Hillside, Glen Rock, Fords, Island Heights, Stockton, Hampton, Demarest, White House, Middle Township (Cape May County), Spotswood, Highland Park, Milton, Towaco, Roselle Park, West Milford, Oldwick, Osbornville, Alpine and Adelpia. The library at Palisades Park has become a municipal library.

We have aided twenty libraries to reorganize their work during the year. Besides these public libraries, eleven high school libraries have been reorganized. Library boards in twenty-two towns have asked for conferences. Talks have been given at forty-eight library meetings and fifty-one public meetings. Four hundred and eighty-seven visits have been made, at a cost of \$1,587.22.

The cost of traveling has not decreased to any greater extent than the cost of books. It would be impossible to cover the State to such an extent as is done within the money allowed for this work, if it were not for the kindness of friends of the Commission in furnishing automobile transportation. These visits are not made to advertise the work of the Commission, but to persuade communities to establish

libraries of their own, and to furnish schools with books, to get more support for local libraries and create a desire to purchase and own books.

The program committees in charge of six State conferences asked for a representative of the Commission to speak. The celebration of Children's Book week was more widespread this year than ever before and seemed to accomplish greater results. Every educational agency in the community co-operated during this week.

**SPECIAL LOANS**—There has been steady growth in this department. The number of books thus loaned was 43,126. This is an increase of about two thousand over last year, in spite of the fact that the Burlington County Library now answers calls from the people of that county who were formerly dependent upon the Public Library Commission. The State Library, Trenton Public Library, Newark Public Library and New York Public Library have been generous in co-operating in this service. The Commission has borrowed more than fifteen thousand books during the year. The wrapping and shipping of this number of books is a great task in itself.

**TRAVELING LIBRARIES**—The establishment of the County Library in Burlington County has enabled the Commission to serve many communities that are without library facilities. One hundred and ninety-eight new stations were opened during the year. Deducting the twenty-seven previously served in Burlington County, this shows a gain of 171 for the year, making a total number of 932 Traveling Library stations, in addition to the small public libraries receiving service.

The number of traveling libraries sent out during the year was 2,796, containing 139,800 books. From the cards, the average circulation per book can be estimated at six times per year, giving a total circulation of 838,800 from Traveling Library stations. This does not represent, however, the total number of books read, as in the case of a popular book borrowed, every member of the family reads it before it is returned. The work of the Traveling Library can be better estimated by the letters received from the people using them than by the mere numbers.

We are able to circulate the Traveling Libraries at so small a cost of express charges by establishing exchange centers, and because of the co-operation of other educational and welfare agencies, such as the Helping Teachers, the Y. M. C. A., the County Farm Demonstrators, and the Home Economics Workers in exchanging libraries and circulating books.

Even with the increased appropriation it became necessary by January 1st to begin to refuse requests for Traveling Libraries. In all 182 requests were held over for the beginning of the new fiscal year.

**BULLETIN**—The School Library number of the Bulletin has been in great demand and was commended by the United States Bureau of Education as one of the most practical publications yet seen. Another number was devoted to certification of librarians in order to bring this subject before the librarians of the State, so that it might be intelligently discussed at the Atlantic City conference. The June number was largely devoted to reading lists for the fifth and sixth and the seventh and eighth grades. The demand for this issue has been so large that the supply was exhausted. Because of the fact that the Commission is sending the Bi-monthly Standard Catalog of new books to the small libraries the usual list of books was omitted from the last Bulletin. This met with such protest that it will be included in subsequent numbers.

**TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY LIBRARIES**—County Libraries were established in Morris and Camden Counties by a majority vote of the people at the November election. These libraries are organized on the same plan as the Burlington County Library. A central office is maintained at a convenient point in the county, and stations are placed in every community in the county from which libraries in the schools in the districts are served. The librarian visits each station and school once a month and also circulates books from the library car to people living more than a mile from a station. The existing libraries in districts under County Library jurisdiction are served with books from the County Library collection but retain complete independence.

A township library was established in South Orange township.

**LIBRARY BUILDINGS**—The Community Building and Library at Spring Lake is nearing completion. Ground has been broken for the new library building at West New York. The second branch building of the Jersey City library has been formally opened to the public. A new library building has been completed at Vincentown.

**STATE INSTITUTIONS**—A much closer co-operation has been established between the Public Library Commission and the libraries of the various State institutions through Dr. Doll, the chief of the Educational Division of the Department of Institutions and Agencies. Book lists are submitted to the Public Library Commission for approval and purchases are made through it. The library at the Home for

Feeble-Minded has been organized and the collection augmented by more than five hundred carefully selected books. The library at the Girls' Home has been greatly improved during the year and valuable reference books bought for it, in addition to an excellent list of books for girls and subscriptions for forty magazines. The State Prison circulated more than 44,000 books the past year and the library has had great use in connection with the prison school.

**LIBRARY LEGISLATION**— Two acts directly affecting libraries were passed. One permits the return to the library of all money paid in to the municipality by the library. An amendment to the school library law permits the money given as State aid to school libraries to be paid to the County Library when the County Library serves the school with books.

**EXHIBITS**—The exhibit held during Farmers' Week in Trenton created a great deal of interest. It represented the living room in a home and showed books that would help and give pleasure to every member of the family. Other exhibits were held at the meetings of the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Mothers' Congress, High School Teachers' Association, County Fairs, and Teachers' Institutes.

**BOOK LISTS AND PAMPHLETS**—State departments dealing with matters which are of interest to libraries have been asked to place all libraries in the State upon their free list. A general distribution to all libraries has been made of the Buying List for Small Libraries, Bookshelf for Boys and Girls, Best Books of 1921, Check list of Laws of 1922, and Basic Reference List of High Schools. The Commission is sending the Standard Bi-monthly Catalog of best new books to one hundred libraries of small income. In addition more than six thousand pamphlets and lists have been distributed to teachers, parents and others.

Seven bibliographies and courses of study were compiled for the Federation of Women's Clubs, and distributed through their library and literature department. A list of books for supplementary reading on United States History was compiled for the schools. Lists for reading circles in the grades have been compiled and are being published.

**CO-OPERATION**— It would not be possible to find a more ready spirit of co-operation with the Public Library Commission than that which exists among the State departments in New Jersey. Other organizations in the State have with equal readiness been most helpful. This co-operation has been a great factor in the advancement of library work. In addition the County agencies have frequently placed their resources at the services of this Commission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT—The New York Public Library especially, through Miss Mary Sutliff, Miss Corinne Bacon and Miss Margaret Jackson, gave most efficient aid in the classes in reference work and book selection held in the State during the year. The State Library, Trenton Public Library, Newark Public Library, New York Public Library, East Orange Public Library and Passaic Public Library have been generous in aiding with reference work and in the loan of books. The use of rooms in the Camden Public Library, Passaic Public Library, Navesink Library and Dover Public Library made the Library Classes possible. McDevitt-Wilson, Huntting, John Wanamaker and Clayton L. Traver have been generous in lending books for exhibit purposes. The Woman's Federation of Clubs, Mrs. Winifred Ayres Hope, and the Literature Committee of the Mothers' Congress have been of great aid in distributing literature. Aid in bibliographical work has been given by the New York Public Library School, Pratt Institute, Columbia College and the Helping Teachers. Acknowledgment is also gratefully made to the Farm Bureau, Home Economics Department, Y. M. C. A. and Helping Teachers for services in transportation and in the circulating of libraries and books.

E. T. TOMLINSON,

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