

Twentieth and Twenty-first Annual Reports

OF THE

# Public Library Commission

OF

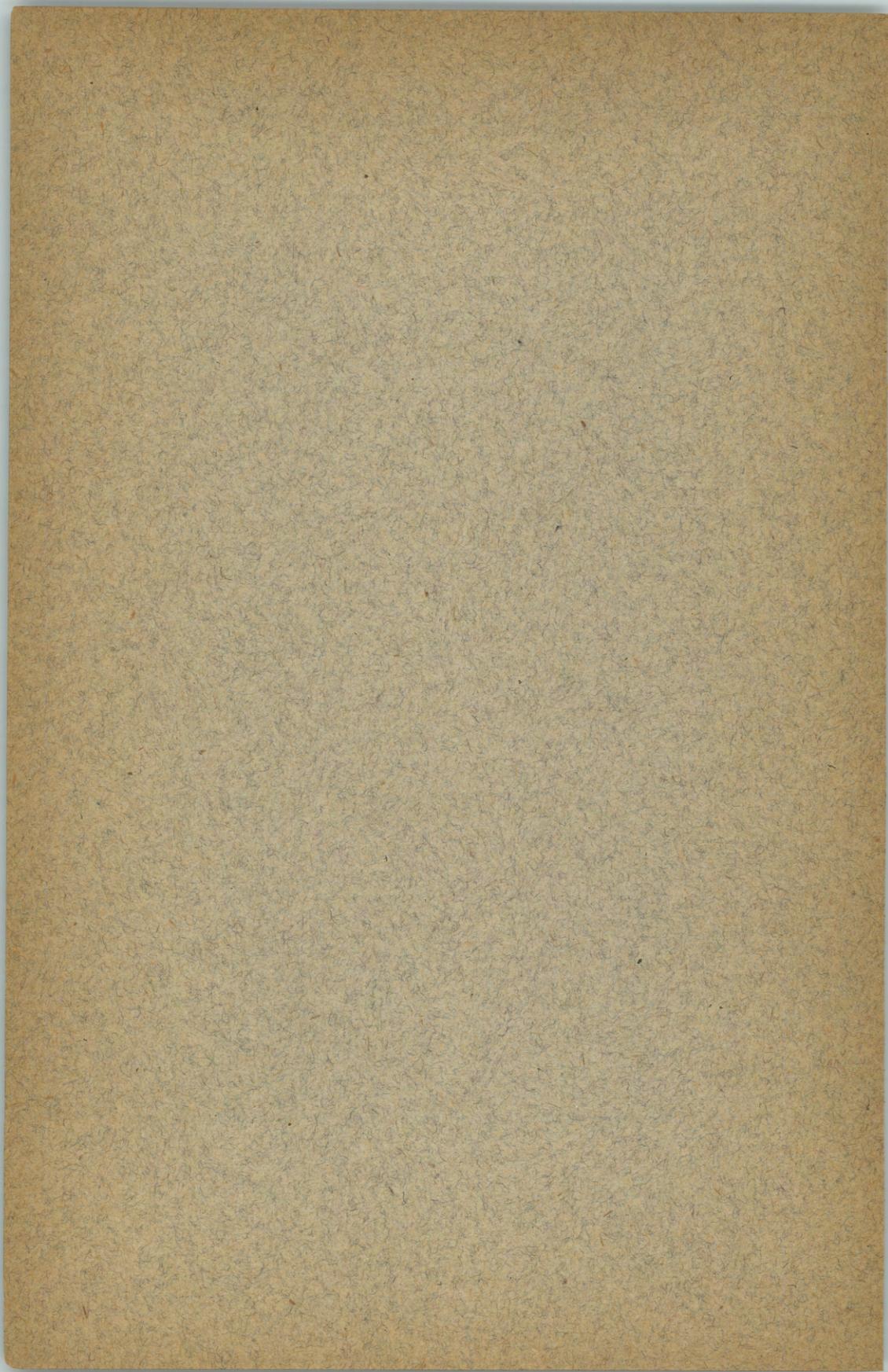
NEW JERSEY

For the Years Ending June 30th,

1919—1920

TRENTON, N. J.  
Published by the State  
1920

*New Jersey State Library*



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OF THE  
Public Library Commission  
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Twentieth Annual Report

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Public Library Commission

NEW YORK

for the Year Ending June 30, 1904

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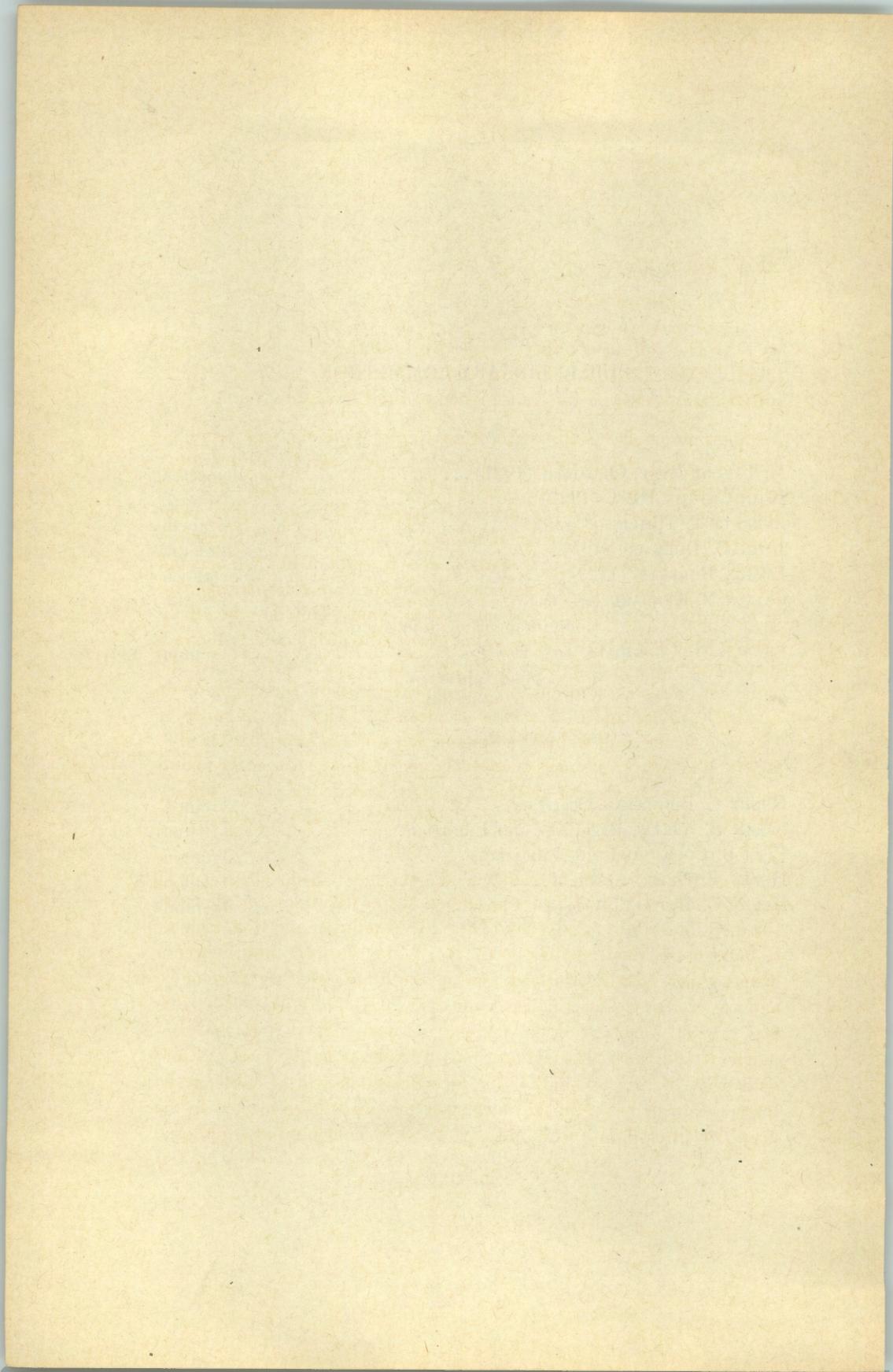
1905

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

M. TAYLOR PYNE, Chairman (1921).....Princeton  
JOHN COTTON DANA (1922).....Newark  
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON (1924).....Elizabeth  
JOHN P. DULLARD (1920).....Trenton  
EMMOR ROBERTS (1923).....Moorestown  
CALVIN N. KENDALL (ex-officio) .....Trenton  
Commissioner of Education  
FRANCIS E. CROASDALE (ex-officio).....Trenton  
State Librarian.

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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



HON. WILLIAM N. RUNYON:

Acting Governor of New Jersey.

SIR: The following report of the work of the New Jersey Public Library Commission for the year ending June 30th, 1919, is respectfully submitted to you for transmission to the Legislature:

Many things have militated against library work the past year, the greatest being the influenza epidemic, during which no traveling libraries were shipped and all traveling library stations, public libraries and schools were closed. The Victory Boys' and Victory Girls' campaign occupied the children's attention and people devoted themselves to war work in the early part of the year. In spite of this the demand for books and interest in libraries has shown not only a normal increase in many lines but an abnormal increase in some. This may be attributed to a more serious attitude on the part of the people and to the fact that the Library War Service has proved to the men in the army the value of books as a means of self-improvement, in increasing their earning capacity and as a source of pleasure. The large number of outside agencies with which the Commission workers have come in contact in War Work, the consequently larger and more varied acquaintance, and the number of people who have knowledge of the library service at their command, has also contributed to the growth of the work.

WAR WORK—In the United War Work Campaign the Chairman of the New Jersey Public Library Commission was Chairman for the State for the Library War Service, and Dr. E. T. Tomlinson and Hon. Emmor Roberts were Chairmen respectively of the Eastern and Southern districts and John P. Dullard was on the State Advisory Committee and was Mercer County Chairman for the K. of C. More than \$8,000,000 was raised. Members of the Commission staff took part in the campaign by soliciting subscriptions and speaking at public meetings and gatherings of various kinds. The meetings attended, the visits made, the speeches delivered in the interest of this work have reacted to the great benefit of library work in the State. Five communities established

libraries as a direct result of the campaign, and many people became interested in books and reading, and in libraries, who formerly considered them among the non-essentials. The Public Library Commission made an acquaintance and established a place for itself that will be lasting in its effects.

The Commission is still acting as the State Agent in New Jersey for the Library War Service in administering library work in the smaller camps, in maintaining supervision over hospital library work, and in gathering and distributing books and magazines. Eight hospitals have been constantly provided with current magazines through the efforts of New Jersey Librarians. As the number of men in these hospitals have totaled 14,000 and the request for magazines has been enormous, this has been no small work.

During the influenza epidemic the Commanding Officers at Camp Dix and Camp Merritt asked the camp librarians to provide at least forty tons of magazines for each camp for distribution to the men. Through the New Jersey libraries this was done. Three thousand magazines a week have been sent to Camp Dix for troop trains, and four thousand a week to Camp Merritt for a like purpose. Two thousand a week have been sent to the A. L. A. Dispatch Office at Hoboken for transport service.

Besides the money campaign during the year, two book campaigns have been held—one for new fiction for the hospitals as a Christmas gift from the people of New Jersey, and one in April for books for transport service. The books collected in these campaigns totaled 51,000 selected volumes.

During the war and reconstruction period, 621,000 books have been given by New Jersey people through the libraries, and distributed to camps, to transports and to men overseas. The Commission has acted as central agent for this collection and distribution. Service has been maintained at forty-six camps, posts and stations in New Jersey.

The Commission co-operated with the government in the Liberty Loan and Victory Loan campaigns by having members of the staff address meetings and take subscriptions. Until the United States Food Administration and the United States Boys' Working Reserve ceased, the Commission acted as the library agent in New Jersey—distributing their literature and giving lectures.

BOOK COLLECTION—During the year 12,715 books and pamphlets have been bought at a cost of \$9,500, an average of seventy-five cents

each. These have been distributed between the different classes as follows:

Useful Arts.....	25 per cent.
History and travel.....	12 per cent.
Fine Arts.....	1 per cent.
Biography .....	8 per cent.
Sociology .....	12 per cent.
Philosophy and religion.....	2 per cent.
Science and nature.....	5 per cent.
Literature .....	9 per cent.
Total (non-fiction) .....	74 per cent.
Total (fiction) .....	26 per cent.
Juvenile 35 per cent. of the whole.	

The price of books increased in the past year, but publishers have notified us that most of their books will be again advanced from fifteen to as high as forty per cent. during the coming year. This means a cutting of the buying possibilities of the book appropriation to the extent the price of books is raised.

There have been discarded 1,102 books during the year. These have been sent to the Y. M. C. A. boys' camps, Y. W. C. A. girls' camps, prison road camps, State Prison, Phillipsburg, Columbia and Califon.

The Commission now owns 56,716 books.

**BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**—Books in eleven different languages have been requested in quantities during the past year. To meet this demand a thousand foreign language books have been bought and five hundred have been borrowed from other libraries.

**STATE INSTITUTIONS**—A special loan system has been established with State institutions and is working well. Money is appropriated by the State to these institutions for library purposes and an effort is being made by the Commission to aid them in building up good collections, by aiding them in book selection and book buying. All lists from the State Prison are submitted to the Commission for approval before purchase is made, and the same arrangement has been made with the Rahway Reformatory and the Jamesburg Home for Boys. The State Prison library has been reorganized under the supervision of the Public Library Commission and a new catalogue is being printed which can be distributed to the prisoners.

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES**—The Influenza epidemic and the Victory Boys'

and Victory Girls' campaign for money very largely affected school libraries but in spite of this more applications have been received during the past year than in any previous year. The rules and regulations governing the application for money for school libraries from the State have been revised and simplified, as they were found cumbersome and almost impossible to observe. A new form of application blank has been devised which complies with the State law and is yet simple and easy to fill out. The lists sent in for approval during the past year have shown much improvement in the choice of books.

Upon invitation of Dr. Savitz, a lecture was given to the girls at the State Normal School on school libraries and instruction in book selection and securing State aid. With the co-operation of the helping teachers one hundred and thirteen rural schools have been visited and talks made to the children on the subject of books. The libraries in seventeen high schools have been examined and talks made to the boys and girls. More than two thousand lists of children's books have been distributed during the year, and all teachers are advised that they may have lists free upon application.

**SUMMER SCHOOL**—The last four weeks of the Summer School of 1918 come within the province of this report. Thirty-five pupils were in attendance during those weeks, and 137 people visited the school. An unusual feature was the day spent at the Newark Library, where the class was entertained by the library. Thirty-seven librarians joined the class for this visit. The success of this, the first course held in the State House at Trenton, was made possible by the hearty co-operation of the State Library and its personnel, and the Custodian of the State House and his assistants.

**CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES**—The Commission has actively co-operated during the past year with the State Department of Education, State Museum, State Department of Agriculture, State College of Agriculture, Department of Institutions and Agencies, State Young Men's Christian Association, State Young Women's Christian Association, Federation of Women's Clubs, State Chamber of Commerce, Department of Labor, Women's Division of National Council of Defense, Committee on Americanization, and the State Grange.

At most of the county and local farmers' and teachers' institutes there has been a library speaker. Stress has been laid upon the value of ownership of books as well as upon the service rendered by the Public Library Commission. This has entailed forty-three visits. A repre-

sentative of the Commission was invited to attend and address the county meetings held to prepare for the National Conference of Social Workers held at Atlantic City upon the invitation of the State of New Jersey. These meetings were an unusual opportunity, in that they brought together such varied and influential people from such widely scattered communities.

EXHIBITS—Book exhibits were held at the Interstate Fair, the State Board of Agriculture meetings, Mothers' Congress, National Conference of Social Workers, Federation of Women's Clubs, State Grange, and during Farmers' Week at New Brunswick.

SPECIAL LOANS—During the year 35,479 special loans have been sent out upon individual requests. This number is phenomenal and can not be counted as normal growth, being due to unusual conditions. Local libraries have not had so much money to spend for books and have borrowed more freely. Because of extraordinary events and unusual times people have been more interested in study. The large majority of these requests have been for books on technology, useful arts, sociology and history. This system of special loans enables persons in the most remote districts to keep in touch with the questions of the day, and gives them latest information upon their work. The figures show how eagerly they avail themselves of the privilege. With money for books and administration and for acquainting the people of New Jersey with the service that is theirs for the asking, the number of books sent out in this way during the past year could be tripled even in normal times.

It has been possible to furnish books on these special requests only because of the exceedingly liberal policy of the Newark Public Library, the New York Public Library, the East Orange Public Library, the Trenton Free Public Library and the State Library of New Jersey in lending books to the Commission for other communities and individuals. The Library of Congress has also aided by furnishing for research books too expensive to be owned by public libraries.

For the coming year, because of the high prices of books, the Commission has asked all of the libraries of the State to join this interloan system, so that the unused books on the shelves of one library may be available for other communities.

FREE DISTRIBUTION—The pamphlets of the Federal Vocational Board, the United States Food Administration, the War Garden Com-

mission, the Monographs of the State Department of Education, and the "Bookshelf for Boys and Girls," have been sent to every library.

Pamphlets and circulars on books and libraries and lists of books have been given out freely at Farmers' Institutes, Granges, Teachers' Institutes, community meetings. Federation of Women's Clubs, Mothers' Congress and other State meetings. Besides government publications which have been sent out in enormous quantities, more than 12,000 pamphlets, lists and circulars have been distributed.

*Bulletin:* During war and reconstruction times the Bulletin has enabled the Commission to keep every library in touch with national and State library movements for public welfare and to keep them informed about methods of accomplishing work which had been found effective. Three notable book lists and one excellent syllabus have been published in the Bulletin this year. A list of "Patriotic Drama," by Miss Josephine Thorpe; a list of "Technical books for a small library," by Donald Hendry; a list under the heading "What is patriotism?" and a syllabus on "Co-operation between librarian and teacher," by the Cleveland Public Library. There has been great demand for extra copies of the numbers containing these, not only from our own State but from many others, as mention was made of them in H. W. Wilson's list of good bibliographies. Four requests to be allowed to reprint Miss Thorpe's list have been received.

**LIBRARY EXTENSION**—Fourteen libraries have been established and organized during the year, at Pitman, Cresskill, Beachwood, Westwood, Clayton, Pennsgrove, Belvidere, Cape May, Atlantic Highlands, Sayreville, Gloucester, Phillipsburg, Highlands and Columbus. Pleasantville and Pennington have become municipal libraries. Twenty-two libraries have been aided in reorganization. Thirty-two library meetings have been attended and addresses made. Sixteen meetings have been held with library boards. Twenty-five public meetings have been addressed. Three hundred and sixty-seven visits have been made at a cost of \$882. The cost of traveling has greatly increased because of higher railroad rates, automobile hire and hotel rates; however, no other method keeps librarians so interested, libraries working so smoothly, or people of the State so awake to the value of books and libraries, as these visits.

**TRAVELING LIBRARIES**—Sixty-two new traveling library centers have been opened, making 623 now in operation. To these stations have been sent 1,275 libraries containing 73,750 books. The average circu-

lation of a book at a station is four times, this making a State circulation from the traveling libraries of approximately 295,000.

The problem of packing and shipping these libraries has been a most difficult one. The Commission had only part of the time of one man to do the work of packing and wrapping. The Legislature has relieved this situation by authorizing the employment of a person to do this work, beginning with July, 1919.

The express situation has been past the comprehension of anyone not closely associated with such work. We were notified in the Autumn that the express company was so crowded with business and so short of men that it could not call for shipments, therefore libraries had to be carted to the express station by a local expressman who was often too busy to call for several days. Matters became so complicated that for four months as many as possible of the libraries were broken into small groups and sent by parcels post.

The difficulties of transportation made it desirable more and more to resort to the plan of having a central station in remote sections, at which traveling libraries in certain districts can be exchanged without returning them to headquarters. From four to eight stations are served from each point. Seventeen such centers are now in operation in Sussex, Cape May, Warren, Ocean and Salem counties. This results in saving of express charges and the time of office assistants, and gives the public much quicker service. The libraries are only returned to headquarters when they have been used by each of the points served from the central station.

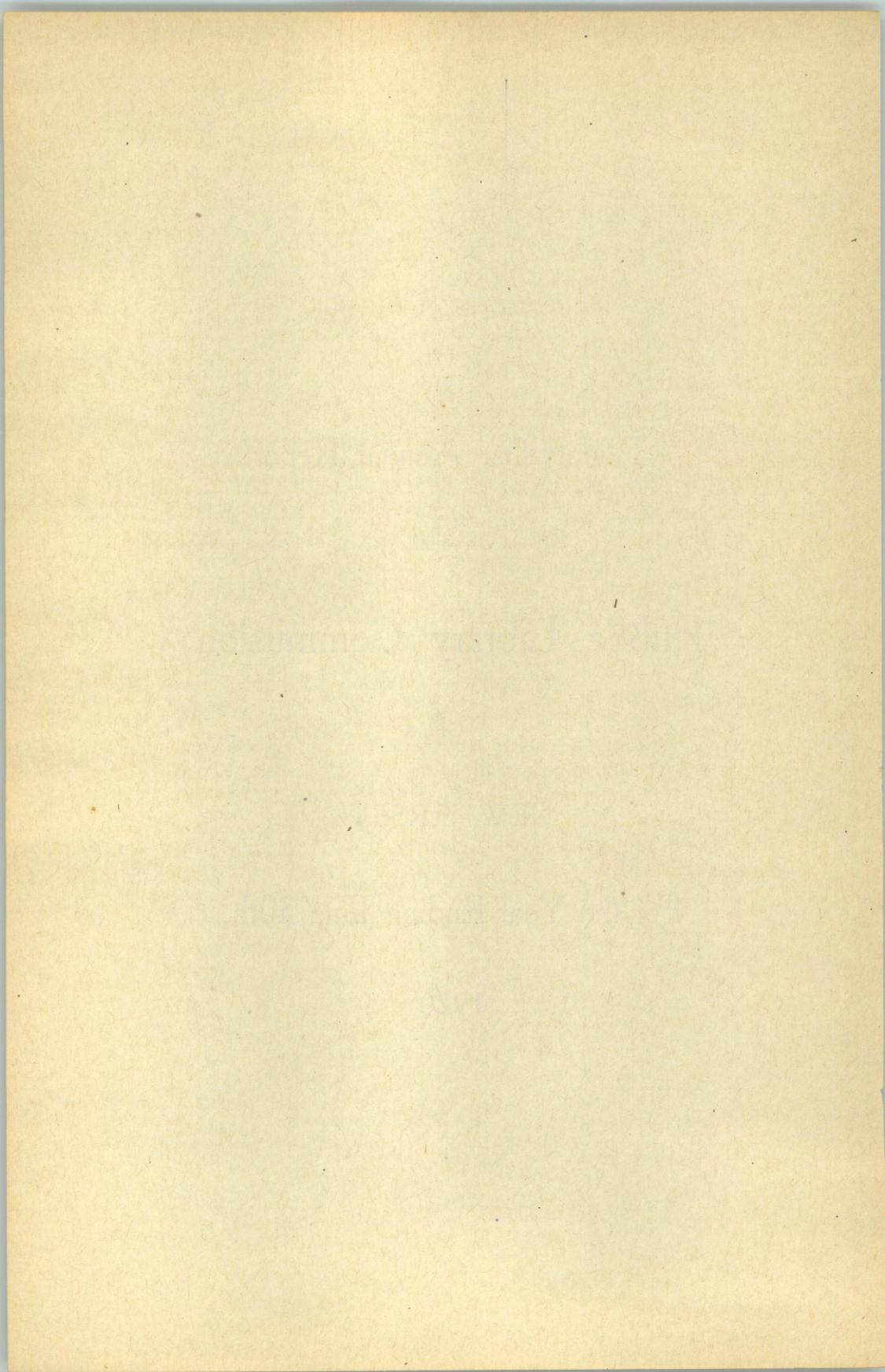
In the more rural counties the co-operation of all county agents has been sought in order that even the most widely scattered of the population might have books. In Sussex, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties the County Farm Demonstrator takes with him in his wagon a collection of books as he goes from farm to farm. In Morris County the County Home Economics Demonstrator takes a traveling library with her upon her rounds and stops at each house, so that books may be exchanged. In Burlington, Cumberland, Cape May, Salem and Warren Counties the helping teachers take books with them in their cars for exchange as they go from point to point. In this way not only are the people better served, but the local collections are kept fresh without necessitating rapid exchange at headquarters. These two methods of service lower the number of libraries sent out from the central office and make a seemingly smaller circulation but add greatly to the efficiency of the service.

The demand for traveling libraries has been as unusual as the demand for special loans. The centers are serving many more people and the number of new stations established is limited only by funds.

*New Buildings:* The \$150,000 building given to Camden by the Victor Talking Machine Company has been completed and is now occupied. A new community house and library has been built at Navesink, and the new Carnegie building at Long Branch, so long deferred by the war, is now under construction. As a memorial to its men in the World War the town of Chatham has purchased a site for a park, city playground, stadium and library. The library will occupy the building now on the site until a new building can be erected.

*Acknowledgments:* The Commission wishes to thank the New York Public Library, the East Orange Public Library, Trenton Free Public Library, Passaic Public Library, Newark Public Library, Plainfield Public Library, New Jersey State Library and Library of Congress for the books furnished for special work, and the libraries of the State for their hearty and unfailing co-operation in war work; and to express its appreciation to the Federation of Women's Clubs of New Jersey, Women's Division Council for National Defense, State Museum, State Department of Agriculture, and State Department of Public Instruction, for their cheerful co-operation and aid, and to the State Custodian for assistance given during the Summer School and in packing and shipping books.

Twenty-first Annual Report  
OF THE  
Public Library Commission  
OF  
NEW JERSEY  
For the Year Ending June 30th,  
1920



PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

M. TAYLOR PYNE, Chairman (1921).....Princeton  
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CALVIN N. KENDALL (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  
ELLA B. COOK, Assistant Librarian.....Trenton  
HELEN BRADSHAW, Assistant.....Trenton  
MARY LANIGAN, Assistant.....Trenton  
THOMAS BRENNAN, Assistant.....Trenton



HONORABLE EDWARD I. EDWARDS,  
Governor of New Jersey,

SIR: The following report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, is respectfully submitted by the New Jersey Public Library Commission.

The year has been an unusual one in the library history of New Jersey, in that the increase in the circulation is more than a million over that of 1917, which is chosen as representative rather than 1918, with the influenza and coal famine, in which so many libraries were closed. Since the cessation of war activities libraries have thrown themselves with renewed zest into improving and increasing their service, and have been met more than half way by the people. This added use has brought to attention the inadequacy of library appropriations. In addition to the increased use of libraries has come the desire on the part of an unusual number of communities to establish libraries. The American Legion has been a great factor in this awakening, having formed a group in each town which has been the nucleus for library development. The Library War Service turned over to the New Jersey Library Commission five thousand books of the number returned from France. These have been used as an aid in this library development, and wherever the American Legion has been willing to aid in the establishment of libraries, a few hundred books have been turned over to it as the beginning of such a library.

In last year's report mention was made of the unprecedented and almost abnormal demand during 1918 and 1919 upon the Commission for special books. This was ascribed to unusual conditions and the demand was not expected to continue. It has not only continued but has increased materially, as has the demand for traveling libraries. The outlook is that the demand will grow. This is gratifying except that as the desire for books grows the purchasing power of the appropriation made to the Commission is steadily diminished by the great increase in the prices of books and materials and the cost of travel. With the utmost economy and the greatest possible use of the inter-loan system and dependence upon the co-operation of others, the appropriation for the coming year must prove entirely inadequate to meet the demand. The Legislature has been liberal and appreciative of the work of the Commission in the past, and has given a nominal increase for the coming year, but this does little to alleviate the situation.

BOOK COLLECTION—With the \$11,000 available for the purchase of books 11,869 volumes were added to the collection during the year. The average cost per book for 1919-20 was 91 cents, as against 75 cents for 1918-19. The average was kept this low only by the utmost care in the year, before the second increase in book prices. It was not possible to obtain the entire year's supply in this way, as to keep the collection timely and equal to supplying the demand it is necessary to buy from month to month as books are issued.

Prices have advanced during the past year from fifty to one hundred and fifty per cent. on different classes of books. Novels of the kind formerly priced at \$1.25 are now \$2.00.

Technical books have more than doubled in price, and to be of service they must be replaced at least once in two years, as that is the one class in which the date of publication is an important factor. The Commission has taken advantage of every book sale, searched out every possible source from which slightly used books may be obtained, and has been fortunate in securing the co-operation of various dealers to assist; nevertheless, the rise in book prices is greatly limiting the purchasing power of our book appropriation. We are advised of still further advances all along the line. These advances in price are not only on newly published books but will apply to books which have been out for years.

With the curtailing of the book supply the most important phases of our work are crippled. The appropriation for the year 1920-21 will not suffice for the purchase of books for current needs and provides for no replacements or extension of work. In actual purchasing power it does not equal the \$7,000 allowed for books in 1914. In order to keep the work up to the present standard and provide for meeting the increased demand we must ask double the present book appropriation for the year 1921-22.

The books added to the collection were divided among the different classes as follows:

Useful Arts .....	26 per cent.
History and travel.....	13 " "
Fine Arts .....	1 " "
Biography .....	9 " "
Sociology .....	9 " "
Philosophy and Religion.....	1 " "
Science and Nature.....	5 " "

Literature .....	9 per cent.
Total non-fiction .....	73 " "
Total fiction .....	27 " "
Juvenile, 38 per cent. of the whole.	

During the past year 5,321 books have been discarded, making the total gain 6,548. The discarded books were sent to prison road camps, boys' and girls' camps, isolation wards in hospitals, and to Traveling Library stations to be given away after being circulated a few times. There are now 65,264 books in the Commissions' collection.

STATE INSTITUTIONS—Upon the invitation of the State Board of Institutions and Agencies the Public Library Commission is acting for the State Institutions in a supervisory capacity in library matters. All of the institutions need more books. Through the interest of Mrs. H. Otto Wittpenn a fund of \$800 was provided for foreign books for the State Prison. Through the kindness of various libraries and clubs over four thousand books in excellent condition have been distributed among these institutions. The Rahway Reformatory, State Home for Girls, and State Home for Boys are provided with traveling libraries from a special collection to augment their general collections. The State Hospital at Trenton has a trained librarian. Discarded books are sent to the prison road camps and there given to the men.

LIBRARY CLASSES—A departure from the regular Summer School during the past year proved highly successful. Library classes were held in different parts of the State. The course planned called for one day a week for eight weeks. The total enrollment was 107. These classes will be continued during the coming year, as they reached many librarians who could not take six weeks for a summer school. Three of the courses were elementary and the fourth was a special course of ten weeks given for the Commission by the Newark Public Library for librarians who desired such instruction.

INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES—Growth of the demand for technical books has led to a number of public libraries specializing in industrial subjects; a step farther has been the installation of such libraries by industrial plants. Five plants have co-operated in establishing libraries for the communities dependent upon them. The Department of Labor, upon request, has been provided with an exhibit of books for the Museum of Safety. These cover accident prevention, hygiene and sanitation,

first aid, housing, factory construction, illuminating engineering and ventilation, as well as manufacturing processes.

**SPECIAL LOANS**—There has never been so great a call for special books as during the past year when 37,737 were sent out, covering a great variety of subjects. Selecting and finding these books entails a considerable amount of reference work. Occasionally the subject is so specialized that resort to an expert is necessary in order to secure the desired information or bibliography. The greatest demand has been for technical books, and books on Americanization.

The inter-loan system among libraries has been extended more widely this year and has made available for all the State many expensive and much needed books. Without the aid of the larger libraries of this State and the New York Public Library, the special loan system as now conducted would be impossible; as through their courtesy the Commission is saved several thousand dollars in the purchase of books and enabled to secure them in time to meet urgent demands. Every county in the State is represented in these special requests; there is no part of the State, however far from the railroad, that is not reached by them. Letters telling of more money earned, better bread baked, high school prizes taken, civil service examinations passed, a broader outlook established, communities cleaned up, better sermons preached, more efficient school methods adopted—make a more telling record of the value of this service than does the number of thousands of books sent out in answer to appeals.

**TRAVELING LIBRARIES**—Traveling library circulation is limited only by the number of books available. There are always requests ahead which cannot be filled. These come without advertising. There are now 691 stations from which books are circulated, 68 having been added during the past year. From the central office 98,600 books have been sent to these stations in 1,572 libraries. The total circulation from the stations is approximately 354,400.

The interest of the librarians of the traveling libraries and the special loan system is enabling the service to be something more than a mere circulation of books. The grade of books most called for today is of much higher average than that of ten years ago. It is only necessary to get in touch with the people to have them ask for better books.

Library meetings and library talks, visits to the Granges, Farmers' Institutes, country churches and clubs, always result in improved read-

ing. Farm demonstrators, county club leaders, domestic science demonstrators, helping teachers, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. leaders are continuing to aid in the distribution of books.

The communities served aggregate about 217,300 population. With all that has been done, the work is just in its beginning, as there are 500,000 people in New Jersey living outside of incorporated places, besides many hundreds of small towns.

Improved conditions of living, more contentment, better understanding of citizenship, better knowledge of work and wholesome pleasure which the people themselves attribute to books, make it imperative that ways be devised to reach the people who are not being served.

**NEW BUILDINGS**—Spring Lake has been given a \$150,000 community building and library by Mr. O. H. Brown. Mr. Meeker has given a handsome library building to the Borough of Rumson in memory of his son who was killed in France. The library and historical building erected by the Town of Haddonfield has been completed and is now occupied.

**BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**—There has been a constant and in increasing demand for books in foreign languages about America, its government, history, customs and great men. It has come chiefly from Italians, Hebrews, Bohemians, Greeks and Hungarians. As many as possible of these have been secured;—the supply is exceedingly limited. These books are now being circulated in forty-one communities.

There have been more than the usual number of requests for books in foreign languages for the adults of our foreign colonies, and 1027 have been bought during the year. Foreign books have increased in price to an even greater extent than books printed in this country. The book which was formerly 25 cents in paper cover is now \$2.50 in paper cover and cannot be obtained bound. To bind these books costs 90 cents each in addition to the purchase price.

**EXHIBITS**—A large exhibit was made at the annual meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Another extensive exhibit was made during farming week in Trenton, to show that books can help to raise better stock, grow better produce, and make more money. In addition, exhibits have been made at special meetings of the Federation of Women's Clubs, Parent-Teachers' Associations, at Americanization meetings, School Institutes, and in co-operation with the Department of Labor on business and industrial lines.

BULLETIN—The bulletin has been used this year chiefly for listing the best new books, as a medium for exchange of publicity and efficiency, and economy ideas and methods;—and to put before the libraries for the New Jersey Library Association the matter of increased appropriations. However, special lists to meet special demands have been published. The list compiled by the Newark library on “Care of Children and Hygiene,” and the list compiled for children by the Childrens Bureau on Hygiene proved so popular that it was necessary to reprint them in quantities.

The other special lists published during the year were the supplement to the list of Patriotic Drama, compiled by Miss Josephine Thorp, and the list for boys and girls called “Reading for Citizenship,” by Miss Corinne Bacon. The first has been adopted for national use by the Drama Committee of the Literature Department of the Women’s Federation of Clubs, and the second has been republished by permission in the H. W. Wilson Bulletin issued especially for schools. It was also necessary to reprint Miss Bacon’s list to meet the demand.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES—With the cessation of the many demands upon the schools and the children made during the war and demobilization, has come increased interest in school libraries. The number of applications made for State aid was greater than ever before and the grade of books listed in the applications was better. In cooperation with helping teachers, county school superintendents and school supervisors, 127 rural schools have been visited, their libraries examined and talks made to the boys and girls. Nineteen of these were high schools.

In Cape May County 32 out of 41 rural schools are provided with small but well-selected libraries. In Camden County every school is provided with a good, if small, library. In towns where there are public libraries the Commission advises that the money for school libraries be turned over to the public library and the management of school libraries be vested in the public library. In the majority of cases this has been done.

The number of schools in which library instruction is being given to the children is increasing. One country high school has included in its curriculum the approved library course for high schools as given in the Passaic High School—this being given by the librarian from a library in the vicinity. Over four thousand lists have been distributed to the schools, and debate material for the interscholastic debates was furnished to 21 rural high schools. Parent-Teachers Associations and Home and School Leagues have had much to do with the increase of

school libraries and interest in reading. In many cases they have raised the money for the initial purchase of books. They are making the libraries a special feature of their programs for the coming year.

FREE DISTRIBUTION—Besides the book lists sent to schools, over 8,000 lists have been distributed through the Federation of Women's Clubs, Granges, American Legion, Boards of Agriculture, Farmer's Institutes, Boards of Trade, Department of Labor, and upon application of individuals. To the medium sized and small libraries there have been given "1000 Books for a Small Library," and "Best Books of 1919". To all the libraries were sent a copy of "Bookshelf for Boys and Girls," "Check Lists of State Laws," and "New Jersey a Progressive State." Mailing lists have been given to each department of the State issuing documents, with the request that all documents of popular interest be sent to all libraries. A check has been kept upon this to see that compliance is made with the request.

To all of the Women's Clubs of the State there have been sent a Bibliography of the Pilgrims, compiled by Miss Cook; bibliographies on Americanization work and on civil government. The reprint of the list on "Reading for Citizenship," together with the reprint of the list on "Care and Training of Children" and the list for children on "Hygiene" were sent out in large numbers through the Mothers' Congress. The two lists on hygiene are being largely used by public health nurses. Public Health pamphlets and materials are sent in quantity to the Commission by the National Public Health Organization, and applicants are referred to it for material. This entails much free distribution to many organizations and people. A study is made of all free material that comes to the office and a recommended list is published in each Bulletin so that libraries may secure the pamphlets for themselves. Lists of libraries have been furnished to national organizations making free distribution so that such material may reach each library in time to be of service, and without expense to the Commission. These include, amongst others, the Federal Vocational Board, National Red Cross, National War Garden and Children's Bureau.

LIBRARY EXTENSION—Libraries have been opened during the year at Glassboro, South River, Milltown, Fort Lee, North Bergen, Rumson, Frenchtown, Oxford, Yorkship, Noreg Village, Glen Rock, Swedesboro, Roebling, Ringwood, Hohokus, Spring Lake, Bordentown, Neshanic and Stirling, making nineteen in all. Neshanic Library takes in the surrounding country. The libraries at Salem, Haddon Heights and

Bergenfield have been taken over by the municipalities. This is the highwater mark for the number of libraries established in any one year since the establishment of the Commission. In addition, five subscription libraries have been made free and thoroughly overhauled. The money for this was given by public subscription.

Seven libraries are extending their services to the surrounding rural communities. In addition to aiding the newly established libraries to organize, assistance has been given to twenty others in reorganization. Talks have been made at thirty-three library meetings and consultations have been held with seventeen library boards. In the interest of library endowments, increased appropriations, better reading, publicity for books and libraries, addresses have been made and discussions led at forty-one public meetings. The Commission has not only campaigned for the establishment of libraries and for better support of libraries, but for private ownership of books, to encourage people to build up in their homes good libraries that will be a constant influence in home life and will make books so ever-present with children that they will regard them as a necessity.

With the campaigning for better and more books in the home has come a campaign for a better understanding and study of books and a more practical application of books to life. The adult is hard to reach, but children can be so educated that they will through life turn as naturally to books for information on the practical affairs of life, for instruction, and for entertainment, as they now demand food when hungry. No library movement can be successful and permanent unless it is founded upon such a process of education in the use and value of books. The present interest in books and libraries is not an accruing of the work of years in educating the people as to what books can do for them in every phase of life. It is a slow but sure growth.

"Better Book Week," was held throughout the State last fall. Book exhibits, book talks, articles in newspapers on books, posters and book specials in stores, combined to make it a success. In the work of inspecting, supervising and aiding libraries, encouraging the establishment of libraries, library extension and "encouragement of reading" 372 visits were made at a cost of \$1,014.

In spite of careful planning of visits, the greatest economy, the kindness of Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. secretaries, helping teachers, farm demonstrators, and friends in placing at the disposal of the Commission's representatives their cars, the average cost per town visited has risen greatly. Without the aid of these organizations not one-half of

the visits could have been made with the money at our command for this purpose. They in turn feel that they are the ones under obligation because of the aid given in their work through lectures and book service.

With the twenty per cent. advance in railroad fares, the enormous advance in hotel rates and the higher express charges, the same amount of work cannot be done the coming year. With the steady growth of demand for service has come the great depreciation in the purchasing value of the appropriation. As generous as the Legislature has been in giving moderate increases, the present appropriation is insufficient; to be in any way adequate a radical increase must be made for 1921. Many requests for lectures were from necessity refused during the past year, and a larger number must be refused during the coming year.

**WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION WORK**—Until November 15th the Commission continued to administer library service in camps and hospitals in the State. Upon that date the service was taken over by the Army and Navy, with the exception of one hospital which the Commission continues to serve. Upon the request of the United States Government the same privileges are extended to the army libraries as to public libraries. A representative of the Commission has served upon various Americanization committees, and active work has been done at meetings, upon advisory boards and in the distribution of books and pamphlets on America. Former service men in communities without libraries and in rural districts have been followed up and library privileges extended to them. The pamphlets of the Federal Vocational Board and the War Risk Insurance Board have been distributed freely and books sent to supplement their work with the disabled soldiers.

**TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY LIBRARIES**—With the increased cost of materials and the need for higher salaries many of the very small libraries are becoming conscious that alone they are not able to give the best service. A sentiment is growing in favor of uniting in township libraries, to be conducted as a large city system, with many branches and a central administration point with a trained librarian as a supervisor; the collection in each community to be a flexible, interchangeable one.

With the growing appreciation in the rural districts of the value of books has come an appreciation of trained supervision and the benefits of the services of a library specialist. From this is developing the County Library idea. The many county organizations that have aided in distributing books for the Commission and have been aided by the

Commission in their work, desire a county librarian to work with them. A county library law was passed at the last session of the Legislature, and in two counties efforts are being made to have the acceptance of the act submitted to popular vote.

CO-OPERATION—Through the Department of Agriculture, State and County Boards of Agriculture, State Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Department of Public Instruction, and the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Commission has been able to reach many in an effective manner. We have in return rendered them services in every way possible. Co-operation has also been established with the Department of Labor, Department of Public Health, State Museum, and the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT—For books furnished through the interloan system the Commission desires to express appreciation to all the libraries of the State, and especially to the Newark Public Library, Trenton Public Library, New Jersey State Library, East Orange Public Library, Passaic Public Library, and also to the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress. For lists furnished and reference work done thanks are due to the Newark Library, Pittsburgh Library, Pratt Institute Free Library, New York State Library, New York Public Library, Trenton Public Library. Acknowledgment is gratefully made to the libraries at Camden, Dover, and Asbury Park for the use of rooms and aid given in library class work, and to the Newark Public Library for planning and conducting one of the courses.

The success of the exhibit at the Library and Literature Department of the Federation of Women's Clubs, when the meetings were held in Newark, and at the Mothers' Congress when in Newark, is due to Miss Nancy Thompson, the librarian of that library, and to the generosity of the Normal School at Newark in lending books for both exhibits; to Miss Martha Burnet, of Dover, in taking charge of and explaining the exhibit during the Mothers' Congress; to the active co-operation and hard work of Miss Wright, of the Newark Public Library, and the generosity of that library in lending pictures and books.

To the Asbury Park Library is due the success of the exhibit for the annual meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

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