

books treating as many subjects as convenient, and, at the same time, meeting the individual needs of all classes, i. e., adults, young people, and children. Each case should be numbered and contain a different set of books. The Province might be divided into about sixty districts; if fifty different libraries were started in each district, it would require over twelve years to complete the circuit. As the books would remain the property of the Government they could be changed and improved upon from time to time.

"It would probably be most convenient to make rural Post Masters the librarians and custodians of the cases. Each rural Post Office or neighborhood should have one case at a time, and towns and villages where no public libraries or Mechanics' Institutes exist, two or more, according to the population and the interest manifested. Each case should remain in one place for three months; all should be changed on a named date quarterly. Individuals or families might purchase library tickets for three months at twenty-five cents, or annual tickets for one dollar. Individual ticket holders would draw one book at a time, family tickets where the names of the individual members of the family appear on the tickets,—age qualification being required,—would draw three or four books at a time. No book should be kept out for more than fourteen days without being renewed, and all books should be in the librarians' hands at least three days before the quarterly change date. This could be regulated by the imposing of fines. Each family according to this plan may have access to

twenty-four or more books every three months, or ninety-six or more books each year.

"The cost of putting this scheme into operation would not be very great. Aside from the cost of supervision, there would be an outlay for the books and cases, the remuneration to the librarians, the expense of freight and moving, together with a certain amount of advertising. The books would doubtless be obtained for 50 cents each, and the cases for about three dollars each. The income would range very close to twenty-five dollars a year from each neighborhood, or over \$75,000 annually from the Province.

"This scheme would supplement and strengthen the work of the public and high school systems, it would give the rural communities the library advantages of the cities, and would greatly stimulate intellectual activity in all directions. It would also bring the Provincial Government into the closest possible touch with the people."

A year later the Minister of Education decided to place the matter before the Legislature. He asked for \$1200 to provide books for the entire rural population of the Province. He was criticised by the members of the Opposition for making the appropriation so small. The libraries, instead of being sent to the farming districts as was intended, were placed in the lumber and mining camps of New Ontario. There is no question regarding the need of these communities, but why should the farmers of Ontario be everlastingly side-tracked?

In the Speech from the Throne delivered at the opening of the Legisla-

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