

Since its establishment in 1911, the Corporation has devoted but one-sixth of its total appropriations to library interests, and even during the past ten years, in which library affairs have been of particular concern to the Corporation, only one-seventh of its income has been made available to library enterprises. This is simply one way of saying that the American free public library and its academic counterpart are going concerns, with their own momentum and are not dependent upon philanthropic support.

Grants for Buildings, 1911-17

The development of the free public library, as was stated in the *Report of informal conferences on library interests* held in New York and in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1930-31, may be divided roughly into two stages, separated by the war of 1914-18. The Corporation has been intimately associated with both stages. In the first or pre-war stage, professional and popular interest was centered on the erection of library buildings and on the initial acquisition of book reservoirs. Mr. Carnegie, as an individual, provided nearly \$43,000,000 for buildings, and after 1911, through the Corporation, some \$13,000,000 more was distributed. A total of 2,507 buildings were erected; 1,900 of these were in the United States and Canada. Our library records of this period deal chiefly with pleas and plans for buildings, the levying of local taxes for support, and the fulfilment of agreements upon which gifts were conditioned. It soon began to appear—about 1914—that many pledges for revenue were not being kept, and that other significant conditions were arising. On November 18, 1915, the trustees of the Corporation authorized the employment of, as they termed it, “a man of high qualification to examine and report to the Corporation upon the results of the wide provision of public library buildings,” with such recommendations as his study might lead him to propose. Dr. Alvin S. Johnson, once professor of economics at Cornell and at Stanford, now director of the New