

THE LIBRARY COLUMN.

*** In future this will be a regular feature of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER and will contain the latest information of value to libraries.

CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS IN TORONTO.

At the first meeting of the Ontario Library Association, held in Toronto on April 8 and 9 at the Education Department, the following were present: James Bain, Toronto Public Library; H. H. Langton, University of Toronto Library; R. J. Blackwell, London Public Library; E. A. Hardy, Lindsay Public Library; A. B. Macallum, Canadian Institute, Toronto; R. T. Lancefield, Hamilton Public Library; W. Tytler, Guelph Public Library; W. Geo Eakins, Osgoode Hall Library; Wm. MacWilliam, Knox College Library; E. W. McCallum, Toronto Junction Library; Carrie A. Rowe, Brockville Public Library; Lois Saunders, Queen's University Library; Hy. Robertson and Frank B. Gregory, Collingwood Public Library; R. Neilson, Ayr Public Library; W. P. Robertson, St. Catharines Public Library; E. Egerton Ryerson, Toronto Public Library; W. J. Kelly, Brantford Public Library; J. F. McLaughlin and L. Horning, Victoria University; Florence White, McMaster University Library; Sarah D. Willis, Uxbridge Public Library; Effie A. Schmidt, Berlin Public Library, and others.

MR. LANCEFIELD'S PAPER.

Mr. R. T. Lancefield read a paper on "Modern Library Methods and Appliances for Small Libraries." After giving an interesting discourse on the development and advantage of free libraries, he gave his opinion as to what an ideal library would be, as to the arrangement of books, rooms, etc., and discussed the different methods of classification of books employed. The arrangement of the papers, magazines, etc., was also touched upon.

In the discussion following, the wisdom of opening the shelves to the public was a subject that all appeared interested in. The general impression was that all but the fiction and juvenile shelves should be open to all. One speaker said that it was not always best to buy from local dealers. They could only get those books cheap that were not worth buying.

In the absence of Mr. W. H. Keller, of Uxbridge, Mr. Nutting, secretary of that library, read his paper on the "Character of Books for a Small Library." He went through each of the classes, religious, scientific, humorous, fiction, etc., giving a

number of authors of each, and pointing out the difficulty in selecting books for each class.

A number of speakers were heard on the paper. It was agreed by all that either a monthly or quarterly list should be regularly published of the books that would be best for the libraries. Mr. James Bain was of the opinion that it was the Government's duty to distribute such a list. Mr. R. J. Blackwell thought it should be published in THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER which went to all the libraries as well as to the local dealers. The difficulty in getting the right books was often caused by unqualified members of the library board being sent to the cities to select books.

MR. BAIN'S ADDRESS.

In the evening, Mr. James Bain, jr., delivered an admirably practical address on the basis, extent and methods of library work in Ontario. This Province, he showed, possessed 459 libraries. Of these 118 are supported by the municipalities; 253 depend on fees. The books number 918,022 volumes. In 1900 the issue of books was approximately 2,376,237, or more than one volume per head of population. The total expenditure was \$178,642. The smaller libraries, numbering 360, represented an average expenditure during 1900 of about \$387 per library, of which \$100 might be taken to represent the average Government grant. Of these, 103 had under 1,000 volumes, 128 from 1,000 to 2,000 and 115 from 2,000 to 5,000. Mr. Bain pointed out the extremely narrow financial basis on which these institutions were at present conducted and the difficulty of proper management under existing circumstances. He threw out one or two suggestions for discussion. One was that the county might take over the libraries within its boundaries and that a trained young lady librarian could inspect them regularly and introduce all the newer methods. Another plan was that the Provincial Government should cease aiding the smallest libraries and devote the money to travelling libraries of 100 or 200 books, thus insuring to localities three or four times a year a supply of new books. The proper method of shelving, cataloguing and binding the volumes, the question of periodical literature, reference libraries, library extension, were stated to be some of the problems confronting librarians. Mr. Bain concluded with reiterating his belief that the present moment, at the opening of a new century, and with the inspiring example of Mr. Carnegie before the eyes of the public, was most opportune and propitious for establishing public libraries on a stable and efficient working basis.

Papers on "Canadian History," by Mr. Langton, "The Influence of Scenery on National Character and Literature," by Mrs. S. Frances Harrison, and "Canadian Poets and Early Editions of Their Works," by Mr. C. C. James were read.

On Tuesday, April 9, the meeting re-assembled, and the following programme was discussed: "The Needs of a Small Library," by Miss M.C. Budge, Port Hope; "Travelling Libraries," by Prof. A. B. Macallum; "An Outline Programme of the Work of the Ontario Library Association," by Mr. E. A. Hardy, B.A., Lindsay, "The Library and the School," by Mr. A. H. Gibbard, B.A., Whitby.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The officers for the year were then elected: President, James Bain, jr., Toronto; 1st Vice-President, H. H. Langton, B.A., Toronto; 2nd Vice President, R. J. Blackwell, London; Secretary, E. A. Hardy, B.A., Lindsay; Treasurer, A. B. Macallum, M.A., Ph.D., Toronto; Councilors, W. Tytler, B.A., Guelph; R. T. Lancefield, Hamilton; Avern Pardoe, Toronto; Judge Macdonald, Brockville; Henry Robertson, Collingwood.

NEW MUSIC.

According to the Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association, Toronto, six of the most popular pieces of music just now are:

- "His Majesty the King," by St. Quentin.
- "Heroes and Gentlemen," by Peskett.
- "Violets," by Ellen Wright.
- "Toys," by Gerald Lane.
- "A Frangese," march, by Costa.
- "Marche Electrique," by Berger.

Whaley, Royce & Co., Toronto, report the following as among the best sellers:

- "In a Garden of Roses," waltz, by Arthur Wellesley.
 - "The Resurrection," song, by Harry Rowe Shelly.
 - "Hosanna," song, by Jules Granier.
- General Easter Church Music.
New Songs of the University of Toronto.
Royal Crown Folio of Music.

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