

selection of the librarian can be devised which would secure the talent, training and experience which Chicago should demand for the head of her public library."

The press of the city thereupon endorsed and even demanded the right of way, not only for the movement to promote the efficiency and popular extension of the library service, but for the freest interpretation and application of the civil service law in securing the best librarian available.

The opportunity thus presented was promptly seized by the directors of the public library, who authorized the appointment of an advisory commission, to be nominated by the librarian of Congress and the presidents of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. The commission was appointed and the city civil service commissioner at once sought advice as to the best method of procedure under the civil service law to fill properly the vacant librarianship. He justly regards the Chicago system itself to be on trial as to its adequacy to fill such a position properly. He has recently been encouraged in his confidence that the law would prove to be suitable in this case, because of the notable success scored under the same measure in securing a man of academic standing and scientific attainment for another position imposing technical exactions. His own conviction is that the procedure under the law can be made so fair and flexible that it will be recognized as a personal honor as well as a professional advantage for any librarian to be admitted to the eligible list for this high appointment.

The outcome appears first in the following advertisement widely published throughout the United States:

Civil-Service Commission  
City of Chicago  
Notice of Examination

The Civil-Service Commission of the City of Chicago will hold an examination for librarian, Chicago Public Library, beginning Monday, August 16.

Scope: Special subject and experience.

Local residence will be waived in this examination.

Application should be filed at least ten days before the date set for examination, but may be filed up to twelve o'clock noon of August 14.

Detailed information concerning this examination may be had by calling in person at the office of the commission, 200 Randolph street, Chicago, or by addressing the secretary at the same address.

This interesting announcement is being supplemented by a letter of detailed instructions issued to all applicants for the examination (and those who should thereby be induced to become such), from which the following are extracts:

Candidates will not be assembled in this examination; they may prepare the necessary papers at their homes. The examination will consist of two parts: first, educational experience; second, the preparation of a paper on the best method for the development of the Chicago Public Library.

On the day set for the examination, each candidate will be furnished with details of the conditions surrounding the Chicago Public Library, its resources, equipment, and the field to be covered; also a statement of the local population and character of the same, with similar information calculated to place before him the problem which confronts Chicago in the development of its public library. From these data the candidate will be requested to reduce to writing a professional judgment of the proper administration of the library. This paper must be filed with the commission on or before September 16, 1909, and must be the original work of the applicant.

The names of those who file applications will not be made public, nor will the names of applicants who fail to qualify be divulged. In every instance the professional standing of an applicant will be protected.

The issue of this public-spirited attempt to secure the best possible service for the community will be awaited with keen interest throughout the continent. It is a situation which might well attract the very close attention