

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

BEING THE

REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

**PUBLIC OFFICERS
DEPARTMENTS AND
INSTITUTIONS**

FOR THE TWO YEARS

JULY 1, 1930 - JUNE 30, 1932

STATE OF MAINE

Forty-First Report

OF THE

Librarian

OF THE

Maine State Library

FOR THE PERIOD

July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1932

TO THE

EIGHTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

1933



AUGUSTA, MAINE

Council Library Committee

FRED R. WALTON, Auburn
LEWIS O. BARROWS, Newport
GEORGE C. LORD, Wells

Librarian

HENRY E. DUNNACK

Staff

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Assistant Librarian

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In Charge of Clipping Bureau

MARGARET C. TURNER
Library Extension Assistant

RUTH A. CURRAN
In Charge of Circulation

JOHN B. KINGSBURY
Clerk

Augusta, Maine, July 1, 1932

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine:

In accordance with the law which requires the State Librarian to report biennially to the Legislature on or before February first, I herewith submit my report.

HENRY E. DUNNACK, *Librarian*

The years 1930-32 show substantial growth in the usefulness of the Maine State Library. The records also show a remarkable interest in library work throughout the state. New libraries have been established in three towns, East Corinth, Topsham and South Windham, and new buildings have been erected at Damariscotta Mills, Kingfield, Solon and Strong. Eight libraries have been remodelled. Nineteen libraries have received \$22,960 in gifts.

State-wide library service is the special function of the Maine State Library. It aids in establishing local libraries and in developing existing libraries. It supplements their book collections from its larger resources. It gives direct book service to communities, groups, and individuals. It advises school and institutional libraries. It sets up a program for library development in the state. Without such leadership, library progress would be slow and unsystematic. Consulting service is also given to established libraries. The field agent meets with library boards and civic organizations, and advises and aids the librarian with internal problems of library administration. Assistance is also extended through correspondence, through the publication of a bulletin, through comparative statistics of public libraries, and through library institutes or district meetings.

There is an increasing demand, especially among rural communities, for better library opportunities. The cities and large towns of Maine are favored with efficient library service. Beyond these, however, is the open country where, for the most part, there is a very limited library service. I think we have found methods by which we can provide adequate library service to all the people.

THE DISTRICT SYSTEM

In the West a system of county libraries, serving as centers for the distribution of books, has been established. In New England, where we have the town form of government, it is doubtful whether the county library system would work to such advantage as it does in the West. In Maine we have adopted an extension plan known as the District System, using the city or large town library as the center of a local area. An effort is being made to induce the surrounding towns to vote an appropriation to such a central library, in return for which the people of these towns are to have free use of the neighboring library and the services of the staff, and may also have collections of books sent to each community. Seven of these districts have been established and the results are far more satisfactory than were anticipated. We believe this system is a possible solution of the library problem where the town form of government prevails.

THE BOOKMOBILE AND LIBRARY EXTENSION

The second method is the use of a bookmobile. This takes the library direct to the people. It has been used in many places, and generally with success. Here in Maine the equipment is a Dodge ton-and-a-half truck with special body made to specifications, which will shelve six hundred volumes in such a way that they may be readily consulted on tables formed by lowering the doors on the sides and rear of the body.

We started this project in August, 1931, and the work was largely experimental. In the first place we made a careful survey of library conditions in every town in Maine (a summary of this survey was published in the Maine Library Bulletin of July and September, 1932) so that we knew the general conditions. In the second place, the bookmobile was out under the direction of a recent graduate of one of our Maine Colleges and Columbia University Library School, who knew Maine people and conditions. It was thought wise to devote the first year to a tour of inspection of all the small libraries in the state in preparation for taking up the work in detail. The bookmobile visited four hundred and thirty-four towns, traveled more than four thousand miles, thousands of books were lent to individuals, and one hundred and one traveling libraries placed in rural communities.

Our plan for 1932 was to do intensive work in three counties. We made a careful study of local needs, school facilities along book lines and club possibilities. Contact was made with all civic organizations and town officials. We expected to secure the cooperation of persons interested in promoting rural betterment. This plan was temporarily abandoned because we did not have sufficient money. We hope with the return of normal conditions to go on with the work.

THE FOUR-H CLUB PROJECT

The third method adopted in Maine is carried on through cooperation with the farm bureau and 4-H clubs. This plan has just been inaugurated. We are fortunate in having at the head of agricultural extension work in Maine a man who is intensely interested in library work, Mr. Arthur Deering of the University of Maine. Through the help of the county agents we are placing travelling libraries in the 4-H clubs and reading has become one of their projects. Clubs in four counties have been supplied with these collections. One of our extension workers meets with the club, explains the methods, talks about the authors and the books, and makes every effort to create an interest in the project. The libraries contain juvenile books, books about the home and garden, travel, biography, poetry and history.

No method of approach we have tried promises greater success than the 4-H club project. It takes us to the very center of the rural problem; it brings us into contact with the most interested person in the community — the club leader; it brings us with the books into personal relation with the alert boys and girls of the locality.

In Maine we hope to have a box of good books in each of the 4-H clubs. Out of these clubs in many instances will develop libraries; from among these young people will come men and women who will support libraries; and more important than all else, there will come a generation of intelligent readers, who, if country life is saved, will be the leaders in that achievement.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1932

Salaries and Clerk Hire

Appropriations.....		\$33,500.00	
Transfer from appropriation for Maintenance.....			123.00
Expenditures.....	\$32,152.99		
Unexpended balance.....	1,470.01		
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		\$33,623.00	\$33,623.00

Maintenance

Appropriations.....		\$17,000.00	
Credit by postage and other refunds.....			1,096.85
Credit from contingent fund for mailing Revised Statutes.....			400.00
Expenditures.....	\$17,892.70		
Transfer to appropriation for Salaries	123.00		
Unexpended balance.....	481.15		
		<hr/>	
		\$18,496.85	\$18,496.85

Traveling Libraries

Appropriations.....		\$13,000.00	
Credit by refunds.....			2,124.14
Credit from contingent fund on account of Bookmobile.....			800.00
Expenditures.....	\$14,335.29		
Unexpended balance.....	1,588.85		
		<hr/>	
		\$15,924.14	\$15,924.14

Stipend for Free Public Libraries

Appropriations.....		\$30,000.00	
Expenditures.....	\$28,484.44		
Unexpended balance.....	1,515.56		
		<hr/>	
		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00

Donations for Founding Free Public Libraries

Appropriations.....		\$400.00
Expenditures.....	\$300.07	
Unexpended balance.....	99.93	
	<hr/>	
	\$400.00	\$400.00

Reports of Judicial Decisions

Appropriations.....		\$5,000.00
Expenditures.....	\$4,840.00	
Unexpended balances.....	160.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Publication of Ancient Vital Statistics

Appropriations.....		\$5,000.00
Expenditures.....	\$4,988.96	
Unexpended balances.....	11.04	
	<hr/>	
	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Expenses of State Historian

Appropriation.....		\$500.00
Expenditures.....	\$ 11.40	
Unexpended balance.....	488.60	
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	\$500.00	\$500.00

ACCESSIONS

The table which follows shows the number of items added to the library for the periods July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1932.

	Books	Pamphlets	Total
By purchase			
1930-32	1,695	41	1,736
By exchange			
1930-32	1,264	4,116	5,380
By gift			
1930-32	422	595	1,017

From U. S. Government			
1930-32	516	3,060	3,576
Total accessions.....			11,709
Withdrawals.....			394
Total number of volumes in State Library.....			205,105

LOCALITIES SERVED

During the years 1930-32 loans were made to individuals in four hundred and seventy-three localities.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

The circulation of the State Library loan service is steadily increasing. In the past two years, 1930-32, the number of books lent was 64,840; for the preceding two years, 1928-30, the figures are 54,554. The increase in circulation for the past two years over the previous two years is 10,286.

BINDING

During the years 1930-32, 1,395 books were rebound and repaired, and 146 volumes of current newspapers and 422 volumes of current magazines were bound for the permanent files.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1, 1930--JUNE 30, 1932

	<i>No. Rec'd</i>
State department reports.....	9,877
Administrative code, pamphlets.....	4,030
Bulletins.....	23,806
Laws of Maine 1930; 1931.....	2,090
Legislative Record 1931; 1932.....	700
Maine State Bar Ass'n. report V. 27.....	100
Maine Reports 129; 130.....	1,599
Revised Statutes of Maine 1930.....	1,569
Roster of Maine in the World War 2 v.....	600
 Total.....	 44,371

BOOKS PURCHASED BY LEGISLATIVE ORDER

Bibliography of Maine imprints to 1820. Noyes, R. W.	71
History of Dresden. Allen, C. E.....	200
Maine province and court records V. 2.	200
Pioneers on Maine rivers. Spencer, W. D.....	50
Topsham vital records V. 2	500
History of York. Banks, C. E.....	25
Total.....	1,046

SHIPPING DEPARTMENT

All state publications for distribution are sent out by the state library. During the years 1930-1932 the number of packages handled by mail and express was 67,856.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The Legislative Reference Bureau serves the legislature and general public on matters of legislative interest. The Bureau collects and has available material and information on questions before the public and the legislatures. Material will be gathered on request and lent to any citizen of the state. The Bureau answers questions on the status of legislation proposed, passed, or before the Maine Legislature or that of other states. An Index to the Private and Special Laws and Resolves of Maine is kept from 1820 to date. The records of the legislature, the laws of Maine, bills of the various Maine legislatures and court reports are on file at the library. The law division of the Maine State Library constitutes the most complete law library in the state.

CLIPPING BUREAU

The newspaper clipping bureau continues to be an important source of current reference material on all matters pertaining to the life of the state,—industries, education, agriculture, historical events, stories of towns, places, institutions, biographical and personal sketches of Maine people who have achieved, both at home and elsewhere. A newspaper item thus clipped and filed in a special file is especially valuable as often it is the only

information to be had on a local subject or one that is comparatively new.

From the newspaper material currently filed a series of books has been started which give the material in a more permanent form and supply some gaps which have been felt by searchers for Maine information. Among these books are one volume on "Early History of Aviation in Maine"; two on "Maine Industries"; and single volumes on "Sailing Ships of Maine," "Maine Academies," "Maine Highway Bridges," "Old Maine Taverns," "Historic Maine Houses," "Maine Railroads." These are loose leaf books and are supplemented as additional material is found. Others are contemplated or in preparation.

APPRENTICE COURSE

Our apprentice course has become an established part of the library. After its very uncertain start with one student for a short period of time, it is now in the eighth year and a class of four regular students has been maintained each year for the past three years. While no position after completion of the course is guaranteed, we have found that our students have been absorbed into their various lines of work and study with none left unprovided for at this time.

There is no cost to the student except for room and board nor is there any remuneration in connection with the course. Students are given training in all divisions of the library, including legislative reference, Maine and general reference, cataloguing, extension work, care of public documents, routine of all types with especial emphasis on accuracy and reliability in detail of work. Those completing the course invariably state that they feel they have gained something which will be of value to them in whatever line of work they may choose to follow.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES

The State Library has served through its traveling library system 483 of the 520 cities, towns, and plantations of the state. The circulation of traveling library sets is steadily increasing each year with a marked sign of progress in the adult non-fiction. According to our records more extensive use of the adult sets has been made by people in remote communities. Juvenile collec-

tions are in great demand and requests for special libraries seem to be increasing.

During the past year there have been sent to secondary schools alone, 3,500 volumes in traveling library collections. This does not take into account the quantity of individual loan material sent out for the use of students in debate work, prize speaking, essay writing, and special study. The traveling library books are for the most part general reading, supplementary to literature and history courses, and general science.

Circulation of traveling libraries, 1930-32	157,368
Circulation of traveling libraries, 1928-30	149,474
Increase	7,894

Six new towns have been added to the list using traveling libraries.

DISCARDED BOOKS

Each year several hundred books are discarded from the traveling libraries in the Bureau of Library Extension. The books which are not too badly worn and soiled are singled out and distributed to State Institutions and rural districts where they still continue to serve individuals who long for good books. Two thousand, sixty-four books have been discarded for the periods 1930-32.

NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GIFTS

New library buildings have been erected, or old buildings remodelled, in the following places: Camden, Damariscotta Mills, East Corinth, Kingfield, North Monmouth, South Windham, Topsham. Additions have been made to the following libraries: A children's room at the Lithgow Public Library, Augusta; a children's room at the Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Kennebunkport. The Naples Library has moved into the old post office which has been remodeled. The Dixfield Library has moved to larger quarters on the same street. To the Belfast Library has been added a new wing which is known as the Gammans Reading Room. The Portland Public Library has been remodelled extensively and the Nathan & Henry B. Cleaves Law Library, also of Portland, has been remodeled.

In addition to these buildings, nineteen libraries have received in gifts \$22,960.

FIELD AND ORGANIZATION WORK
1930—1932

Visits (aid in organization work).....	53
Letters sent out.....	7,115
Bookmobile letters sent out.....	378
Bookmobile posters sent out.....	270
Booklists compiled on various subjects, for libraries, individuals, schools, including advice on purchase of books of reference, etc.....	39
Illustrated Juvenile editions lent to libraries and schools for Book Week.....	467
Exhibits and Dedications.....	5
Round Tables.....	2
Miscellaneous questions.....	151