

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

For years 1910-1914

When I was appointed to the position of Maine State Librarian by Governor Bert M. Fernald in June, 1910, many people in Augusta and also throughout the State thought that because I was a relative by marriage, he had displaced the previous Librarian to make a place for me. I am here setting down the facts for the record.

When Charles Hatch was elected the first State Auditor, among other things he found that the Librarian was several thousands of dollars indebted to the State. There were other conditions in the Library that were unsatisfactory to say the least.

No publicity was given these matters and it was a long time before the truth was known; even by others in the State House.

When I went to Augusta I talked with Councillor Kinsman and one or two others of the Council and was told that they wanted someone with business experience, who also had some executive ability, and would avoid publicity about what he found. And in addition the Library must soon be moved to the new wing and the constant and careful attention of the Librarian would be necessary. The salary was low and there was an implied promise that it would be increased but of course that was impossible as I got into the worst political

mix-up since the "count-out" of years ago. I served under four Governors, two Republican and two Democrats, alternately, without serving a full term under either.

When I took over the Library I found that Assistant Librarian, W. F. Livingston, was on vacation in Europe and that the Reference Librarian, Miss Knowles, was ill. I also found an empty desk. There was not an invoice, copy of an order, no letters on file, and not even a letter file. There was not a scrap of paper that would be of assistance in carrying on the business of the Library. The Night Watch informed me that the departing Librarian had spent a good part of the previous night in burning papers in the fireplace that was in the office at that time.

I purchased a steel letter file and inaugurated the custom of attaching a carbon copy of my reply to every communication received. The first letter on file in the Maine State Library will be found to have been filed by me.

To add to my difficulties the stenographer to the Librarian failed to show up on Monday of the second week. I was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Louise Gartley, who later became the wife of Robert A. Condy, who was at the time Congressman E. C. Burleigh's secretary, later becoming a Justice of the Maine Supreme Court. I then secured Miss Gartley's sister, Ida, who later became the wife of the movie magnate William Williamson. They were two very capable young women.

When it came time to move the Library I discovered that the architect knew little of the requirements of the Library. He had planned the large room as a reading room and outlets were provided

in the floor for lights for reading there. I asked what plan had been made to take care of the books and was informed that the room that I later called the Reference Room was to be the Stack Room.

Of course that was a ridiculous proposition as the two-deck stack would have taken care of only a small part of the books and would have been most inconvenient besides. Of course we had to put the stacks in the large room as best we could and I also had shelves put in all wall space in the Reference Room and also in the Librarian's office.

The book stacks had been made to fit the space in the West Wing in two decks and had to be torn down and repairs made. That was done by men furnished by the manufacturers. As the stacks were of various heights, lengths, and widths it was rather puzzling as to how to arrange them for utility and appearance. I decided to put tall ones in front to conceal so far as possible the irregularity in size of the others.

Before we were ready to move, Mr. Livingston and Miss Knowles had returned <sup>and</sup> there was a full library force ready and eager for work. Enough stacks had been cleared of books and set up in the new room for the law section and those books were moved first. Very fortunately for us two law book salesmen, Mr. Hildreth, representing a Chicago firm, and Mr. Brown of a Toronto firm, came to Augusta the day before we started to move and volunteered their services. Mr. Livingston and Mr. Brown loaded the trays that were used to carry the books from the old room and I and Mr. Hildreth placed them in the stacks as they arrived. The assistance of these

two gentlemen cut the time of moving and arranging the <sup>Law</sup>~~Law~~ Library in half, with no expense to the State.

The 20,000 volumes of the Reports of the various State Departments, duplicate copies of the laws, statutes and Maine Reports were carted to a basement on Water Street and dumped in one great mixed lot.

The Library staff was eager to get the miscellaneous books of the Library put in place and as soon as the stacks were ready the work began. The arrangement of that side of the room was in charge of Assistant Librarian Livingston and he was assisted by Mrs. Carver, Chief Cataloguer, her assistant, Miss Cochrane, Miss Knowles and a young lady who was hired to assist them.

It was quite a task to sort out the books from the piles on the floor, and the work was slowed down because of the fact that no lights had as yet been installed in the room. However, all were anxious to get things in order again, so the work progressed quite rapidly.

The duplicate reports, laws, etc. that had been stored on Water Street were brought up and dumped on the floor of the basement. Then <sup>re</sup> Mr. O. O. Stetson, shipping clerk, had charge of sorting and putting them on the shelves that had been put there. I hired several high school boys to assist him.

The room under the main room of the Library was filled with books in wooden stacks, and books also filled the space over the main entrance to the building. The Travelling Library Department had a room in the basement. The number of books in the Library, not including

duplicate laws and reports, and books in the Travelling Library Department, was about 110,000.

During the campaign of 1910, Mr. Oliver Otis, Democratic ~~was~~ horse and proprietor of the Rockland Opinion, told the public frequently that if elected to the Legislature he would see to it that the indecent books in the State Library were removed. It was reported that Mr. Otis used stronger words than "indecent" in his editorials. He was elected to the House and put on the Committee on Library.

When the Session opened that fall Mr. Otis visited the Library and I took pains to show him about and give him an estimate on the number of books in each department. After a careful investigation and a talk with me he was satisfied that reports that had been circulated were untrue. He commended my work, and on his own initiative introduced a resolve appropriating funds for shelving the room under the Library.

I became much interested in genealogy when I traced out my family history in joining the Society of Descendants of the Mayflower, and began to purchase all such <sup>books</sup> relating to any State of Maine family as fast as my appropriation would allow. This became noised abroad, and within a year or two, people often came to the Library from various sections of the State to look up their family history.

I also began the purchase of the town histories of New England that the Library did not already have. The newspaper clippings

accompanying this report will give an idea of the general interest aroused concerning the Library at that time.

Seemingly by unanimous agreement nothing was said or printed about this criminal act in the Library of all places, and as I could make no report which would not have to include the facts I thought best not to make one. However, I decided later that some time I would leave a report as a matter of history.

This brief, sketchy report would read as though covering a continuous period of time, but at the next election a Democrat, Fred Plaisted of Augusta, was elected Governor, and some time later Attorney Herbert E. Holmes of Lewiston was appointed Librarian. He served until after the next election when a Republican, Hon. William T. Haines of Waterville, was elected Governor. I was soon back in charge of the Library, and served until a short time after the next election when my business in Madison demanded my taking it over again.

It had been in some ways a pleasant experience, but politics were so hot at that time, with the Governorship alternating between the two parties for four years, that there were some rough, unpleasant times.

I received many congratulations on my work in moving and reorganizing the Library from patrons of the Library and others. The one however that I thought the best of all was a statement by the Assistant Librarian, Rev. Mr. Livingston, to a pastor friend, the Rev. Mr. Webber, who had been pastor of a church in Madison and was a good friend of mine. This was "that Mr. Prince was the best

Librarian that Maine had ever had." As Mr. Livingston was a highly educated gentleman, had served with three Librarians, and had a better knowledge of what the Library contained than any other man, I thought that this was the finest thing that could have been said of my work.

Harry Prince  
State Librarian.

# ARRANGING STATE LIBRARY

Maine's 110,000 Books and Pamphlets in New Quarters  
—Much Research Work at Augusta.

*Under the above heading the following was published by one of the State Daily:*

AUGUSTA, Me., May 20.—Noticeable among the departments installed in the new state house is the state library, which occupies a commanding position in the north wing on the rotunda floor and is easy of access to the thousands who visit the rooms in the course of a year. The apartment is directly under the house of representatives and is practically the same size. It is well lighted and ventilated. More stack room will be needed and this will be accomplished through the double stack system.

Librarian Henry C. Prince of Madison had occupied the position but a short time when the transfer from the old quarters was made. Through hard work and diligent attention he has brought order and system out of the confusion attending the change. All the books are conveniently arranged and accessible.

There are about 110,000 volumes and pamphlets in the library, which are catalogued in a comprehensive card index, nearly every card of the 100,000 or more being in the handwriting of Mrs. Mary L. Caryer, the chief cataloguer. Miss Jennie Cochrane of Waterville is assistant cataloguer. Rev. William F. Livingston of Hallowell, assistant librarian. Miss Abbie R. Knowles of this city, reference librarian. Miss Louise E. Gartley of Bangor stenographer, and Oberion O. Stetson document and shipping clerk.

Leading from the main library is a reference and reading room, in which are about 12,000 books, a feature greatly appreciated by those engaged in research. Across the hall is the office of Librarian Prince, in which apartment is also contained a valuable collection of state of Maine books and a history of the English counties, which has been in process of collecting for many years.

Directly below the library is a storage and document room and in another apartment on the first floor of the state house are the equipments for the

traveling libraries. About 800 books enter into this feature of the work, which is carried on under the auspices of the Maine library commission, of which Mrs. Kate C. Estabrook is president. As the state librarian is secretary ex-officio of this commission, the operation of the traveling libraries largely comes under his supervision. There are 150 traveling libraries, which go to towns, granges, high schools, academies and various other institutions in the course of a year.

In a vacant store on Water st. are stored 20,000 volumes, the accumulation of 50 years, many of which are duplicates. As soon as a place in the state house can be assigned for the work these books will be inspected with the view of retaining only the most valuable and then having some place set apart where the public can reach them conveniently. In this material are many valuable maps.

In a room under the Capitol dome are great piles of newspaper files, largely Maine publications dating back almost to the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, which have not yet found an accessible abiding place. These newspaper files are of much value at times, but at present can be consulted only with the greatest difficulty.

The law department is especially well equipped. There are between 18,000 and 20,000 legal volumes, covering reports and decisions of every state in the Union, and a number of foreign countries. Librarian Prince, in response to numerous requests, has strengthened the genealogical department since assuming the position. This library is the depository for the U. S. government publications sent to Maine.

While the state library is especially convenient to the attorneys in this city, Hallowell, Gardiner, Winthrop, and Waterville, many lawyers come from other parts of the state to consult its shelves. There are many other residents who take advantage of the library for purposes of research.

## THE STATE LIBRARY

### LIBRARIAN PRINCE REPLIES TO RECENT EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE SUN.

Editor The Sun,  
Lewiston, Maine.

Dear Sir:—

I have read with interest a recent editorial in The Sun on the State Library, and as it seems to me that wrong conclusions might be drawn from some parts of the article by those not acquainted with the law and the administration of the library, I would like to reply to it briefly. I quote from the editorial:

"Before the Legislature increases the State Library team it should work out a theory of what a State Library ought to be."

"Why should there be a State Library of any kind? What classes of books should it contain? Whom should the Library serve?"

"Something can be said for limiting it to books that belong in a comprehensive sense to history and theory of government."

The legislature endeavored to "work out" a theory of what the State Library should be a long time ago and gave an answer through the Statutes to all of the above questions. Section 2 of Chapter three, Revised Statutes, reads as follows:

Sec. 2. There shall be procured and kept in the library full and complete sets of digests, law reports, public laws and legislative documents of the United States and of the several states; a full set of English and Canadian law reports, digests and laws; the general works on elementary law and practice; histories of all countries, including those of this state, its counties and towns; works on the arts and sciences with special reference to agriculture, forestry, fishing, ship building and road making; maps, charts, plans and manuscripts, statistical and other publications relating to the financial, social, religious and educational condition of the world and more especially of this state, as fast as the means are furnished by the state; and all the printed documents of this state and reports of all departments, offices, institutions and towns, required by law, not distributed by the several departments, shall be kept in the Library.

This is the law which those who have had charge of the State Library have endeavored to carry out, each according to his best judgment. There is a difference of opinion as to just what the State Library should contain and it may be that the legislature will take the matter up at some future time, but as the law stands today the intention seems to be to make the State Library one, not only for the lawyers and legislature, but a reference library for all the people of the state, and it is a splendid one. I hardly think that the people of the State would agree with your conclusion that "the State Library should be a legislator's library."

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I do not know the reason for the following paragraph in your editorial, but I agree with it fully:

"The State ought not to provide fiction for the entertainment of members of the Legislature or their families. Nor for the State employes. Nor for the public of Augusta."

During the nearly four years that I have had charge of the State Library not a dollar of the State's money has been spent on current "popular" fiction for the State Library; and it ought to be needless to say that members of the legislature, employees and citizens of Augusta receive only the courtesies which are due them and which are granted to every citizen of the State. The State Librarian acting as Secretary of the Maine Library Commission, buys considerable fiction for the Travelling Library department, but that is entirely separate from the State Library.

It may be of interest to know that there are 68 steel and wooden stacks in the main library. Of these 50 are filled with files of State of Maine documents, the law library, U. S. govern-

ment documents and the documents of the other states of the Union. Approximately eight are filled with history and biography, three with the literature of this and other countries, two with reference works, catalogues, etc. leaving five for miscellaneous books which include general works, philosophy, religion, sociology, philology, natural science, useful arts and fine arts.

Many other states have organized or are organizing Legislative Reference Bureaus, appropriating from \$1,500 to \$40,000 for the work and it has seemed to many that Maine should not get too far behind in that work. If the legislature does not see fit to grant an appropriation at this time the State Library will continue to do what it can with its present funds and force but to some of those acquainted with the work of the legislature and the State Library it seems as if a small appropriation would be of great benefit.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space, I remain

Yours very truly,

H. C. Prince,  
State Librarian

### The Law Library

The largest section of the State Library was the Law Library, which was said to be one of the finest in New England. There were lacking the late editions of text books and digests, and I filled these in as fast as my appropriation permitted.

As stated under another heading there was but one complete set of Supreme Court Reports in the State House, and that was in the Library. I also found out that outside of the city libraries there was hardly a public library in the State that had a full set. There was also a shortage in several years of State Laws. There was an exchange of laws and court reports with Canada and its Provinces, and the Library also <sup>received</sup> ~~rescued~~ the Volumes of Parliamentary Debates as printed in England.

As there was not room in the Library for all of these books, they were stored in various places wherever room could be found.

I inaugurated the custom of binding a part of the Reports in buckram, an innovation which seemed to be pleasing to the attorneys of the State.

### The Cúrtesy List

When I took over the Library I found a list of names under the above title. Evidently the previous Librarian had been playing politics for the names were those of prominent Republican politicians in various sections of the State who were to receive copies of the laws, revised statutes, and court reports as published. One well known gentleman in one of our large cities was down for ten copies of each of their publications. I crossed them all off.

During the administration of Governor Plaisted, who was elected in November, 1910, a member of the Council sent to me an order for a complete set of Maine Court Reports to be sent to an attorney of his city. I paid no attention to it, which of course added a few more to my political enemies. If I had wanted to, it would have been impossible to fill the order, as there was but one complete set of the<sup>se</sup> reports in the Library, or even in the State House. There were supposed to be full sets of Reports, not only in the Library, but also in the Offices of the Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State, but many were missing from all of them.

### Travelling Library Department

The travelling libraries came within the province of the Maine Library Commission. The State Librarian was the executive member of the Commission and had full charge of buying the books, making up the libraries, shipping etc. Most of the boxes contained fifty books: 25 books of fiction, the balance books of travel, biography, history, etc.

There were about 140 of the libraries at that time. I found that ten of these had been out for a long time, and evidently little effort had been made to have them returned. After a long correspondence I was able to get them all back, with the exception of two which had been damaged by fire.

The bad condition of the boxes, the lack of new books, and the very bad condition of the books on hand showed very plainly that the appropriation for the department had not been used for its lawful purpose. I had the State House carpenters repair the old boxes, and make some new ones of the regular size, and also some to hold 25 books for special libraries for teachers and women's study clubs. A large slice of my appropriation went for repairs and the purchase of books, to replace the old worn-out ones and for some new special libraries. Purchased for the libraries in 1911 were: fiction 965; non-fiction 511; total 1476.

Free. Library

Following is an account of an interview given by me to a reporter of one of the State daily papers:

## TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

HARRY C. PRINCE  
Of Augusta, Me.

### MAKES SELECTIONS OF BOOKS

LITTLE boxes of 50 books each are lying over the State of Maine all the time. They reach the populous cities and the remotest hamlets. They start the spark of education in the most barren places. They cultivate a taste for literature and put thousands of persons on the road to knowledge.

These traveling libraries disseminate much information in the course of the year and become a great help to people in the smaller communities and to various clubs and organizations in the cities.

The system has developed to such an extent that it is now found necessary to set apart a large room on the



HARRY C. PRINCE.

first floor of the State House at Augusta as a repository for the books and a place in which to carry on the clerical work and packing.

The traveling libraries are operated under the direction of the Maine Library Commission, of which Mrs. Kate C. Estabrook of Orono is president. The State Librarian is secretary ex officio and has immediate direction of the libraries. Upon him devolves some of the work in the selection of the libraries and the answering of a multitude of questions in relation to them in the course of a year.

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"It was a good thing when the traveling libraries were started," said State Librarian Harry C. Prince. "I believe they have been quite a factor in the education, or at least in starting a liking for education, particularly in some of the less thickly settled portions of the State. At the present time there are 110 of these libraries in different parts of Maine, and on the first of January there were about 172. From the first of October to about the middle of December these applications for these libraries are the most numerous.

"Of course there is considerable of a call for fiction, and about half the collection, or a little more, in each library is made up of this class of reading, the remainder being histories, books of science and volumes of useful information. The applicants are allowed to keep the libraries for six months at a time and are charged 5 cents for each book in the library for that period, the State paying the expressage both ways.

These libraries are received with

great delight in many communities, and the books are most eagerly read. In many places there are no public libraries or any possible way to get at books except by this process. My attention has been called at times to two or three places in Eastern Maine where not a single book has been found in a number of households, and it is in localities like these where the traveling libraries are especially welcome. Sometimes they go to places just on the edge of some lumber district, where they afford reading matter for a short time to many of the woodsmen, and at other times sailors and seamen take advantage of the books when they are located for a while in some seaport.

"There is a record kept of all books going out and there is just enough red tape on the other end to insure a careful supervision of the volumes, and it is astonishing, out of all these volumes that are constantly being shipped to and fro, how regularly they reach their destinations and how few are lost or destroyed. There have been one or two traveling libraries in places that were burned, and in a few localities the libraries have been destroyed where contagious diseases have been discovered.

"Occasionally some association has helped in this good work. The Colonial Dames awhile ago sent out 20 traveling libraries to isolated places in Maine and paid the expenses, the books for these libraries being selected under the direction of the State superintendent of schools.

"After the books become considerably worn they are taken out of the traveling libraries and sent to the State Prison and other institutions.

"A large lot of the traveling libraries goes to the granges and many to women's and teachers' associations. Occasionally they are shipped to individuals, but more generally to groups of people in the different communities. An effort is made at all times to send out only clean, wholesome fiction and good solid reading along educational lines.

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The greatest call is for books pertaining to the history of Maine, and at the earnest request of many we equip a whole library with this class of reading. We keep a number of libraries of this kind already made up, as the calls have been so regular.

Only recently, however, we have sent out a special library containing various volumes on Italy, one wholly on Africa, another on Australia, two libraries pertaining wholly to Egypt, two on China and one on Japan. There are also now out nine special traveling libraries of juvenile books, and in this respect the library is especially well equipped.

There are also many calls for traveling libraries wholly made up of agricultural works, and these are always found entertaining and instructive."

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## Traveling Libraries.

159 Traveling Libraries, at present date, Jan. 18, 1911, of which 128

are now out, leaving 31 on hand.

Present location as follows:

Towns: Lisbon, Troy, East Surrey, Danforth, South Hiram, New Portland, Winter Harbor, Unity, Millinocket, Limerick, Andover, Trenton, York Beach, Kezar Falls, Vanceboro, Pittsfield, Morrill, Dresden, Fryeburg, Winterport, Robbinston, Monmouth, Oxford, Oakland, Riverside, Canton Point, Jay, East Baldwin, Monticello, Presque Isle, Bingham, Island Falls, Smyrna Mills, Kennebunkport, North Jay, Kenduskeag, Hallowell, Dixmont, Athens, Swan's Island, Sebago Lake, Greenville, Orono, Bridgwater, Hampden Highlands, Walnut Hill, Frye, Cape Neddick, Cumberland Junction, Kittery Point, Brownville, Rockland, Locke's Mill, East Hiram, North Gorham, West Summer, North Bluehill, Corinna, Van Buren, Richmond, Holden, Cape Porpoise, Head Tide, Olamon, Staceyville, South Bluehill, Buckfield, Livermore Falls, Greenville, South Windham, Houlton, Gardiner, Phillips, Columbia Falls, Monmouth, Sebec, Winn, Auburn, Northeast Harbor, New Vineyard, Millinocket, Island Falls, Penobscot, Bowdoinham, Cornish, Vassalboro, Bridgton, Perry, Oxford, Owl's Head, Winterport, Lovell, Oakland, Limestone, Milo, Wellington, Poland, Phippsburg.

Every county represented.

Special libraries: Germany, England, Russia, China, Japan, Ireland, India, France, Sweden, Holland and Spain.  
Education, Agriculture, Art and Music.  
State of Maine  
American History  
United States

Juvenile Libraries, 10.

*Cornwall*

# Maine State Library

Law text books	1	1/2	stacks
Law reports(American, English, &c.)	15	1/2	"
U.S. government publications	8		"
States (Department documents)	13		"
General:			
Philosophy		1/4	"
Religion		3/4	"
Sociology(Political economy, &c.)	1	1/2	"
Philology		1/4	"
Natural science		1/2	"
Useful arts	1		"
Fine Arts		1/2	"
Literature(Poetry, fiction, essays)	1	1/2	"
History	3	1/2	"
Genealogies		1/4	"
Travel	1		"
Biography	1		"
	<u>50</u>		

Stored at Bindery in basement(documents formerly under old dome)  
of State House.

20,000 volumes, at least:

Public documents  
Legislative documents  
Department reports  
Niles' register  
Parliamentary Debates  
Miscellaneous French documents

Stored at Jackson St:  
Department reports

Accessions purchased for the Maine State Library.

1907-1908. Books, 2582. Pamphlets, 179. Total, 2761.

Classified ---

Biography, 75. Fine arts, 63. Genealogy, 15.  
History, 225. Law books, including text books,  
statutes, reports, digests and law periodicals, 1065.  
Literature, 381. Medicine and hygiene, 66.  
Periodicals, 187. Philosophy, 12. Political and  
social science, 212. Reference and miscellaneous  
books, 129. Religion, 36. Science, 7.  
Town histories, registers, etc., 41. Travels and  
out-door life, 66. Useful arts, 181. Total, 2761.

1909-1910. Books, 1923. Pamphlets, 121. Total, 2044.

Classified---

Biography, 66. Fine arts, 30. Genealogy, 16.  
History, 123. Law books, 827. Literature, 225.  
Medicine and hygiene, 27. Periodicals, 243.  
Philosophy, 15. Political and social science, 184.  
Reference and miscellaneous books, 111.  
Religion, 23. Science, 25. Town histories,  
registers, etc., 28. Travels, out-door life, 58.  
Useful arts, 43. Total, 2044.

Accessions.

By exchange.

1907-1908.

Books, 1175. Pamphlets, 1492.

Total, 2667.

Of the above we received from other states 1924, of which 347 were law books (session laws, revised statutes and court reports) and 1577 were miscellaneous public documents; from libraries 96; schools, colleges and universities 312; from other countries 250, of which 13 were law books and 237 were miscellaneous public documents; from various other sources, as institutions and individuals we received 85.

1909-1910.

Books, 2002. Pamphlets, 2415.

Total, 4417.

Of the above we received from other states 3344, of which 546 were law books (session laws, revised statutes and court reports) and 2798 were miscellaneous public documents; from libraries 173; from schools, colleges and universities 541; from other countries 214, of which 26 were law books and 188 were miscellaneous public documents; from various other sources we received 145.

Accessions. From counties and towns of Maine.

1907-1908. Financial statements of counties 18.

Town reports, 236.

1909-1910. Financial statements of counties 8.

Town reports, 593.

Accessions. U.S. Government publications.

1907-1908. Books, 535. Pamphlets, 1672.

Topographical maps, 271 sheets.

1909-1910. Books, 982. Pamphlets, 2898.

Topographical maps, 145 sheets.

Accessions. Donations from various individuals and  
institutions.

1907-1908. Books, 123. Pamphlets, 547. Total, 670.

1909-1910. Books, 300. Pamphlets, 600. Total, 900.

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Sum total of all accessions, Jan.1, 1907-Dec.31, 1908.

4415 vol. 4144 pam. = 8559.

" " " " "

Jan.1, 1909-Dec.31, 1910.

5207 vol. 6635 pam.- 11842

Books purchased for travelling libraries.

1907-1908.            2923, of which 2224 were fiction and 699  
were non-fiction.

1909-1910.           2667, of which 2281 were fiction and 386  
were non-fiction.

Purchases for the Maine State Library in 1911.

Books, 1128. Pamphlets, 43. Total, 1171.

By classes,

Biography, 32; fine arts, 14; genealogy, 84;  
history, 82; law books, 401; literature, 110; periodicals, 256;  
philosophy, 13; political and social science, 49; reference  
and miscellaneous, 79; religion, 22; science, 9; town  
histories, 4; travels and outdoor life, 12; useful arts, 4.

Total, 1171.

Purchases for Traveling Libraries in 1911.

Fiction, 965. Non-fiction, 511. Total, 1476.

State Library. Miscellaneous donations, 37 vol.; 271 pamphlets;  
total, 358.

For Traveling Libraries, 9 volumes were donated.

Received from United States government,

282 volumes; 1416 pamphlets; 103 topographical maps.

Received by exchange in 1911,

601 volumes; 854 pamphlets; Total, 1455.

From the following sources,

Laws of other states, 222.

Public documents of other states, 802.

Publications of schools and colleges, 203.

" of public libraries, 82.

Laws of other countries, 9.

Public documents from other countries, 51.

From miscellaneous sources, 86.

Total, 1455.

Number of town reports received in 1911, 278.

" " county " " " 21.

To the Legislature of Maine:

In the performance of the duty imposed by the statutes of Maine upon the State Librarian, I have the honor to submit to your Honorable body the following report of the Maine State Library in full for the period of time which I have been Librarian, namely, from February 23, 1912 to January 1st, 1913, and in part, or in other words as well as I can make a report for the preceding year of 1911.

The law requires that the State Librarian shall submit a report to the Legislature biennially during the month of January, but no report has been made under this statute since the year 1906.

#### Introductory Remarks.

The State Library is in a good and sound condition, both from the point of view of usefulness and from the financial point of view. The appropriation which has been given to it for its maintenance and increase during the last few years seems to be about what is needed. It seems to be ample without being extravagant or being so large as to tempt the Librarian to make extravagant purchases of books which however interesting and valuable they might appear would yet be out of place in a large public library such as the State Library is intended to be. The State Library may be roughly divided into two libraries. First, a law library. Second, a general library corresponding to a fairly large and well-balanced public library. Its department of law library is well equipped and I may safely say is the largest, most useful and best selected law library in the State. It contains all of the reports of the highest courts of all the states of the Union, including the United States reports

and the reports of the highest Canadian and British courts. This is as it should be and as is expected by law. In the matter of law text books, it is the settled policy of the library to keep well up-to-date in purchasing all of the best and most authoritative text books without being extravagant and attempting to purchase every text book upon every conceivable subject published. The lawyers of the State knowing the policy of the State Library look to this Library for the privilege of borrowing the many text books that they cannot afford to buy, and that in fact would be unwise for them to buy and to keep in their offices. This policy in regard to keeping up with the publications of law text books seems to be almost inevitable in this state as it has become the policy of the various county law libraries to purchase almost entirely the court reports rather than the text books. I am pleased to be able to say that within the last few weeks one of the most capable and best-informed law-book men in the country has looked over the law library of the State Library and has pronounced it to be in nearly as perfect state as a law library could be expected to be. He considers it well-balanced and well-equipped and easily the peer of any other law library in the country with the exception of a very few in the largest cities.

In regard to the general department of the Library, which as I have stated has become in the course of years a large public library, it may be safely conceded that it will also compare favorably with any other public library in New England. As I shall point out a little further on when writing of another subject, it doubtless was not the intention of the law-makers when they originally founded the Maine State Library, that it should become a large

public library, but the fact remains that gradually through the policies of my predecessors in this office the library has grown along this line. At the same time I think it may also be said that it has not departed from its original purpose in so far as the purchase and accumulation of books, pamphlets and documents is concerned.

The Library since the completion of the additions to the State House occupies a large room in one wing of the State House to itself, and is so well arranged that all of the books on the shelves are easily accessible to the public who desire to use the library. I may say at this point, however, that considering the rapid growth of the Library it will be but a short time when it will become necessary either to take out all of the present stacks and book shelves and put in new ones double-decking the library as it were, that is to say superimposing a series of stacks on top of the first tier of stacks, or it will become necessary for the State to erect a library building for the accomodation of the State Library, because already the new quarters are becoming cramped for space.

It is the custom and practice to permit the public who desire to use the State Library to go among the stacks and book shelves and look over the books and make their own selections on the spot of what books they desire either to read in the State Library or to borrow and take out under the rules and regulations governing the Library. This is a very desirable way of conducting a public library whenever it is possible, as it is more or less of an inconvenience to honest and sincere students when conducting their researches to be obliged to continually ask assistants to go to the stacks and bring them

books. On the other hand it is of course something of a temptation to those few persons whose desire to possess some particular book is stronger than their sense of right and wrong. But we can say that it has been the experience in the past, as well as now that very few persons have ever abused this privilege. A few books are lost from time to time. Whether they are actually stolen or whether they are merely borrowed without being charged, and then are mislaid and lost, no one can say, but it is my opinion that the great advantage of allowing to students the opportunity to go among the books and make their own selections so vastly outweighs the little expense of replacing a few books in the course of a year that are lost by reason of the abuse of that privilege, that it would be very unwise to repeal the privilege and forbid patrons of the library entering among the stacks.

Additions to the Library in the year 1911.

Jan. 1, 1911 to Dec. 31, 1911.

Purchased.....	1193 volumes and pamphlets.
By exchange.....	1694
Donated.....	355
From United States.....	<u>1688</u>
Total.....	4930

Purchased for Traveling Libraries in 1911, 1495 volumes.

Additions to the Library in the year 1912.

Jan. 1, 1912 to Dec. 31, 1912.

Purchased.....	1988 volumes and pamphlets.
By exchange.....	2079

Donated.....361

From United States.....1998

Total..... 6426

Percentages showing Use of Library.

It seemed to me that it might be interesting and useful to know what use the public are making of the State Library. Therefore, I have selected the four months, September, October, November and December, 1912, as an average period of four months in the last two years, and have had the Reference Librarian compile from her records of books borrowed from the Library the percentages on a 100 percent basis which will show how the various divisions and departments of the Library are being used by the public and which departments or divisions are the most popular, and therefore most borrowed and read. It is as follows:

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
, General Works..	.10	.075	.01	.02
Philosophy.	.01	.01	.01	.01
Religion.	.02	.01	.01	
Sociology.	.03	.05	.06	.02
Philology.	.01		.01	.02
Science.	.04	.03	.01	.025
Useful arts...	.02	.025	.02	.01
Fine arts.	.05	.02	.01	.01
Literature.	.02	.025	.02	.05
History and Travel.	.03	.05	.05	.10
Biography.	.02	.02	.01	.025
Standard Fiction.	.10	.10	.09	.10
Fiction.	.55	.585	.69	.81

This table of percentages is not absolutely correct. Our records do not and can not in the nature of things show how many books are used and read here in the library by persons who come in and spend the whole day and often several days working and reading from many different books right in the library, and not taking out from the library a single book. Such patrons of the library are of course not charged with any books and we have no way of knowing how many books they read nor even what the books are, unless we should rather impertinently ask them what they were doing. This applies of course most extensively to lawyers who come from near and far and spend a day or more in the State Library studying up special subjects and using the law library for that purpose. But it also applies to other people using other departments of the Library as well as the law department.

From the foregoing list it will be seen that the department of fiction is the most popular among the borrowers from the Library. Next after fiction standard fiction and general works seem to come. Comparing these figures with the reports made by public libraries in cities and towns one would naturally expect to find works of history, travel and biography to come next after fiction in popularity but such is not the fact here according to the figures of this library.

#### Maine Public and Legislative Documents.

Since the State Library has been removed to its new rooms in the enlarged State House, it has been possible to know just what Maine documents are in possession of the library. Owing to the crowded condition of the old rooms and the fact that a con-

siderable number of the documents had been necessarily in storage for many years, it was impracticable to make a systematic inventory of the earliest State publications and the duplicates, but during the process of removal and rearrangement they have been carefully listed and classified.

At the January session of the Legislature, 1833, the year after the removal of the seat of government from Portland, and the occupation of the State House, at Augusta, it was provided by resolve that the clerk of the House of Representatives, during each session of the Legislature, retain twenty copies of every document printed by order of either branch of the Legislature, and at the end of each session cause the same to be bound for the use of the Legislature. Under this resolve, the first volume appeared in 1833, and contained the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives, 1833, Governor's Message, 1833, State Treasurer's report, 1832, Adjutant General's report, 1832, Land Agent's report, 1832, Bank Commissioners' report, 1832, State Prison report, 1832, and the Senate and House bills and committee reports, ordered printed, of the Legislature, 1833. From this first volume, under the resolve of 1833, there is no break in the continuity of the volumes of collected documents down to the year 1867 inclusive, and the same is true since that date to the present time, but it should be noted that beginning with 1868, the reports of the public officers and institutions are collected and bound each year under the title of Public Documents, while the bills and reports of committees emanating from either branch of the Legislature have been bound into a separate group under the title of Legislative Documents or Senate and House Bills and Documents. The volumes of the

collected documents, 1833-1867, differed in title, in the original binding, being called Public Documents, sometimes Legislative Documents, and at other times simply Documents. The State Library has just had a set of this group substantially rebound, in half morocco, for reference use, giving to each volume its proper title, so that instead of various titles in the set, there is a uniform one, namely, Public and Legislative Documents, which designates the contents more exactly.

The question naturally arises what Maine publications were printed from 1820 to 1831, while Portland was the seat of government. It would appear that no annual reports were published before 1822, the only authorized printing being that of the public notices and the laws and statutes, the Governor's Message being made a part of the Acts and Resolves. The State Treasurer was, by Act of January 30, 1822, required to lay annually before the Legislature a printed detailed account of the treasury, but the earliest printed copy of such report, in the State Library, is that for 1827. The earliest Land Agent's report, in the State Library, is that for 1832, but copies of the Land Agent's report for 1825 and 1828 are said to be in the Harvard University Library. In the State Library are a collection of Maine documents for the period 1828-1830, which were brought together by the Secretary of State before 1833, or later by the clerk of the House of Representatives under the impulse of the Resolve of 1833. There are, however, no department reports for the years 1830 and 1831, and it is not improbable that the long political struggle in Maine between federalists and republicans, during these years, had a bearing on the non-appearance or the disappearance of the documents of this time,

which would have been collected in 1831 and 1832.

An index to the contents of the Maine Public and Legislative Documents, 1828-1867, prepared at the State Library, has brought to light, in this earliest group of state publications, historical and statistical materials of importance which it is believed will constitute a useful addition to the resources of information relating to the State. By aid of the index, it is possible to trace, through the successive official reports of the different departments, the development of state affairs, and also, through Legislative bills and committee reports, public sentiment and action on such questions as the settlement of the northeastern boundary dispute, abolition of slavery, prohibition of the liquor traffic, etc.

It is earnestly hoped that as many as possible of the reports now missing in the State Library may be secured, and it is for this reason that the following list is given.

Maine Reports Missing from the Maine State Library.

Adjutant General: 1822-1831.

Attorney General: 1822-1839, 1841-1858.

Bank Commissioners: 1830-1831.

Indian Agent: 1863.

Passamaquoddy Agent: 1864-1866, 1868-1872, 1889, 1893.

Penobscot Agent: 1868-1871, 1893.

Land Agent: 1824-1831, 1833.

Liquor Commissioner: 1875-1884, 1887-1891, 1893-1900.

Military and Naval Orphan Asylum: 1870.

School: 1830-1836, 1841-1846.

State Prison: 1830-1831.

Steamboat Inspectors: 1875-1888, 1892-1893.

State Treasurer: 1822-1826, 1830-1831.

In addition to the set of Public and Legislative Documents which we have gotten together as above stated we have got together as complete a list as is possible of all the year books and Maine Registers published from the beginning down to the present time.

Editions of the Early Laws and Reports of Commissioners  
On Revisions.

From the prefatory note written by John A. Morrill to the Revised Statutes of 1903, I quote the following words:

"By a resolve of the Legislature of Maine, approved June 15, 1820, a board of jurisprudence was established 'to consist of three men learned in the law, who shall be appointed by the Governor with advice of Council, and whose duty it shall be to select, arrange and prepare, with suitable indices, a compilation or digest of all the statutes of the Colony, Province and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, now in force in this State and to report the same to the Legislature at the next session for acceptance.' On November 20, 1820, Hon. Prentiss Mellen, Chief Justice, Hon. William Pitt Preble and Hon. Nathan Weston, Junior, Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, were appointed a board of jurisprudence under that resolve, and the Laws of the State of Maine, arranged in one hundred seventy-nine acts, each approved March 19, 1821, and a repealing act, approved March 21, 1821, were prepared by them.

"The first revision of the Public Laws of Maine was authorized by a resolve approved February 28, 1837.

The report of the commissioners was submitted to the Legislature at the January session, 1840, and was referred to a joint select committee, consisting of seven members of the senate and twenty members of the House of Representatives. The committee having been authorized to sit during the recess of the Legislature, met on the fourth day of June, 1840, and after a session of fifty-six days, submitted their report to the Legislature at an adjourned session, September 17, 1840. On October 21, 1840, the Legislature passed an Act entitled, 'An Act for revising, arranging and amending the public laws of the State,' which was approved October 22, 1840. This act was to take effect from and after the first day of April, 1841. By an act approved March 31, 1841, the operation of the act of October 22, 1840, was suspended until after July 31, 1841. By a resolve, approved October 22, 1840, the supervision of the publication of the revised statutes was committed to Philip Eastman, on the part of the Senate and Ebenezer Everett, on the part of the House of Representatives.

"The second revision of the public laws of the state was authorized by resolves approved March 12, 1855. The final report of the commission was laid before the Legislature February 13, 1856, and was referred to the joint standing committee on the judiciary. That committee reported resolves, which were approved April 1, 1856, committing the further revision of the public and general laws of the State to Hon. Ether Shepley, and directing him to prepare his report in print on or before November 15, 1856. In accordance with the resolves, the report of Judge Shepley was printed and distributed to the members elect of the Legislature of 1857, and on January 15, 1857, was referred to a joint select

committee, consisting of nine members of the senate and sixteen members of the House of Representatives, which committee reported the revision of 1857 and the same was enacted April 16, 1857, approved April 17, 1857, and took effect from and after January 1, 1858.

"The third revision of the public laws of the State was authorized by resolves approved March 12, 1869, authorizing the Governor and Council to cause all the general and public laws of the state to be faithfully revised, collated and consolidated. January 6, 1871, Governor Perham, in a special message, submitted to the Legislature a printed copy of the statutes and the same were enacted January 25, 1871, approved January 25, 1871, and took effect <sup>from</sup> and after February 1, 1871.

"The fourth revision of the public laws of the State was authorized by resolves approved March 8, 1881, appointing Charles W. Goddard, of Portland, 'a commissioner to revise, collate, arrange and consolidate the general and public laws of the State.' His report was submitted to the Legislature January 3, 1883, and by a resolve approved March 15, 1883, he was appointed 'a commissioner to complete the revision of the general laws of the State,' by the incorporation of the public laws of that session, to prepare the same for printing, and to superintend the printing thereof. This work was performed under the supervision of a joint select committee of the Legislature consisting to two members of the Senate and eight members of the House of Representatives, who were constituted a commission to sit during the recess of the Legislature. This revision was finally submitted to the Legislature at an adjourned session August 29, 1883, and was enacted and approved on that date, and took effect January 1, 1884.

The fifth revision of the public laws of the state was authorized by resolves approved March 21, 1901, appointing John A. Morrill, of Auburn, 'a commissioner to revise, collate, arrange and consolidate the general and public laws of the state.' His report was submitted to the Legislature January 7, 1903, and by a resolve approved March 4, 1903, he was appointed 'a commissioner to complete the revision of the general and public laws of the state.' This work has been performed under the supervision of a joint select committee of the Legislature consisting of three members of the senate and seven members of the House of Representatives, who were constituted a commission to sit during the recess of the Legislature. This revision was finally submitted to the Legislature at an adjourned session, September 1, 1903, and was enacted and approved on that date, and takes effect January 1, 1904."

In the State Library now we have collected and set apart in a section of a case by itself as complete a set of all the early laws and reports of the commissioners on revision and revisions of the statutes as described in the foregoing prefatory note as we have been able to find and get together.

#### Summer Library School.

Each summer for the last few years there has been conducted by the Maine Library Commission a Summer School of three weeks, under a competent instructor for the purpose of aiding those engaged in library work, especially in the smaller libraries who have not had the benefit of a course in a regular library school. The purpose of this summer school is not to train, equip and send forth librarians or library workers, and no certificate of proficiency is given to

any student who takes this three weeks' course, as naturally it would not be possible in a course of three weeks to teach the whole science of library work to a beginner. The purpose of the school is merely as above stated, to furnish assistance to those who already are engaged in library work or have positions secured.

During the last summer, 1912, from August 6 to 22, the Summer Library School was conducted in the room of the Judiciary Committee at the State House. The instructor was Mrs. Belle Holcomb Johnson of Hartford, Conn. who is the visitor of the public libraries of Connecticut.

This matter comes more properly under the province of the Library Commission and is doubtless reported in full in the report of the Commission, but as the school was conducted last summer in the State House it seemed to me well that mention should be made of the fact in this report.

#### Exhibits of Rare and Curious Books relating to Maine.

During the past year I discovered early in the course of my term in this office that the State Library possessed a number of interesting and rare books and documents pertaining to the history of the State of Maine, but before this time scattered about in various places in the State Library, in drawers, in desks and locked up in safes. It seemed to me that it was not only wise to preserve these objects, but also that they should be made available for use and should be exhibited in some way for the pleasure of being viewed by visitors to the Library. I, therefore, by the courtesy of the Superintendent of Public Buildings

obtained a glass show-case and have had it set upon a counter in a prominent place in the library, and have put in this show-case all of the before mentioned rare and curious books, papers, and documents which we possessed which have a bearing upon the history of our State, so that they are now accessible to the public and may be seen and read. And also as it seemed to me the very fact of having these on exhibition will be the means of bringing more of such books, papers, and documents into the State Library to be preserved for future generations. My confidence in this respect was early justified by the fact that immediately two or three well wishers of the library and loyal sons of Maine donated to this exhibit a few other papers of interest.

It would be too long a list to publish of all the books and documents which are in this case, but two very rare purchases which we have made and added to the exhibit deserve attention as they will prove to be of great interest to all students who are engaged in working upon the history of Maine. They are the following:

1. An early Portland imprint: "A narrative of the Extraordinary Sufferings of Mr. Robert Forbes, His Wife and Five Children, during an Unfortunate Journey through the Wilderness from Canada to Kennebec River, in the year 1784; in which three of their children were starved to death. Taken partly from their own mouths and partly from an imperfect Journal; and compiled at their request. By Arthur Bradman, Portland: Printed at Thomas Baker Wait's Office, 1791." Full crushes levant morocco by Sanford.

2. A detail of some particular services performed in America, during the years 1776, 1777, 1778 and 1779. Compiled from Journals and original papers supposed to be chiefly taken

from the journal kept on board the ship Rainbow, commanded by Sir George Collier, while on the American Station during that period: giving a minute account of many important attacks on towns and places, expeditions sent up rivers, skirmishes, negotiations, etc., some of which are nowhere else correctly represented, and many others not as minutely described in the histories of that period. Printed for Ithiel Town, from a manuscript obtained by him, while in London, in the summer of 1830. New York, 1835.

Among the exhibits in this case the following deserve particular mention.

World's Columbian Exposition Medal, 1893.

Paris Exposition Medal. 1900.

Original edition of the proceedings of the Maine Constitutional Convention, 1819, with autograph of Governor Enoch Lincoln on the title-page.

Sullivan's History of the District of Maine, with map, 1795.

Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack, 1792.

Fleet's Almanack and Massachusetts Register, 1793.

Massachusetts Register, 1809.

Maine Register, 1820.

Autograph letters by James Sullivan, 1806; William D. Williamson, 1824; General Henry Dearborn, 1813; William Pitt Fessenden, 1848.

Captain Daniel Taylor's commission from Governor Jonathan Belcher, 1737.

Captain Zachariah Gibbons commission from Governor Robert Dunlap, 1834. (Donated by Mr. E. P. Morton.)

Captain John Phinney's commission from Governor Thomas Pownall, 1758.

Glanvil on Witches. Saducismus Triumphatus; Or, Full and Plain evidence concerning Witches and Apparitions. In two parts. The first treating of their possibility; The second of their real existence. By Joseph Glanvil, late Chaplain in ordinary to His Majesty, and fellow of the Royal Society. London, 1689.

#### Traveling Libraries.

The department of traveling libraries belongs particularly and especially under the charge of the Maine Library Commission, and a report in full in regard to the work of this Commission is made by the Chairman of the Commission. But as the State Librarian is ex-officio Secretary of the Maine Library Commission, and by reason of that fact is required to do the work of keeping up the traveling libraries and attending to the loaning and circulation of the libraries, it is fitting that a few words should now be written in regard to the present condition of the traveling library department of the State Library. It may be confidently said that the traveling libraries have proved to be a great blessing especially to out-of-the way communities in the State, and have amply justified the wisdom of the Legislature in originally enacting a law establishing the traveling libraries and providing for their circulation. In many a little town and village far removed from the centers of cultivation, book-making and book learning, these little libraries of fifty books each have come like a heaven-sent

blessing. The many letters which we have received, and which are on file in the office of the State Librarian attest this fact. They are not only educative in their purpose and their accomplishment, but they are also by reason of the wise provision of law in providing that each library should contain thirty books of fiction and twenty books of other works, a great boon to the people in the small communities who get works of fiction only with great difficulty. Many of those communities have not only no library of their own, but have no book store where any book at all can be bought. Than all that is necessary for them to do is to write to the State Library and they receive a number of sample lists of traveling libraries which are on hand at present and a blank application for a library. They then select from those lists the library that they want and sign the application blank and remail it to the State Library together with the fee required by law to cover the transportation charges, which is \$2.50. At once, then, the traveling library that has been selected is shipped by express to the town where it is wanted and the members who applied for it may keep it six months, and if, as usually happens they have organized a reading club, by circulating the fifty books among themselves they are fairly well provided with reading matter for the whole six months.

The State Library also makes up special libraries upon special subjects such as history, or American History, or English History, Agriculture, or libraries suited to teachers, and so on, upon almost every common subject upon which books have been written. By reason of the fact that the law requires that the traveling libraries shall contain thirty books of late and standard fiction and the other

twenty books of general literature it becomes necessary that the State Librarian should, <sup>being</sup> as above noted Secretary ex-officio of the Library Commission, purchase a large number of the latest popular fiction. From one point of view this might be considered by some people who are interested in libraries, and have the good of libraries at heart as a misfortune, in that, as they would say, it is almost unthinkable that the public moneies should be wasted in buying the latest popular fiction which is as ephemeral as the sunshine of an April day. But however true it is that such books have no lasting value, rapidly going to the scrap heap, and are dead and forgotten within two years of the time when they are written, yet because of the fact that the patrons of the traveling libraries who live in out of the way communities cannot easily purchase books of fiction and would rather not have a traveling library at all unless it did contain some of the latest popular fiction, it is apparent that that provision of law, allowing thirty books to be late and standard fiction, is not only a wise provision but one absolutely necessary.

At the present time there are belonging to the State of Maine 176 traveling libraries. The total number of volumes in the traveling library department is estimated at 10,000. The total number of volumes selected and packed in groups of fifty already to make up a traveling library is 8,500.

During the month of December 1912, the average number of traveling libraries out and in use was 98. The average number of traveling libraries in the State Library not called for was 78. From November 1st, 1911 to November 1st, 1912, a period of one year, our records show that 228 traveling libraries were applied for and sent

out. The libraries upon special subjects which appear to be most popular with students, clubs, and groups of students, are those relating to History and Literature, chiefly English history, American History and the History of Maine. And principally English Literature, although some interest also has been shown in the history and literature of Spain. I annex hereto a copy of a list of one of the general traveling libraries as a sample of the average of the traveling libraries. This list will show as well as a dozen lists about how the average traveling library is made up and of what books composed.

Traveling Library No. 340-E.

- 1 Morocco. S. L. Benson.
- 2 In the time of the Pharaohs. Alexandre Moret.
- 3 American ideals. Theo. Roosevelt.
- 4 John Quincy Adams. J. T. Morse.
- 5 The true Thomas Jefferson. H. E. Curtis.
- 6 Wild flowers. Chas. Bradford.
- 7 Side-lights, on the Georgian period. Geo. Patson.
- 8 Land of riddles; Russia of today. Hugo Ganz.
- 9 Cotton. C. W. Burkett.
- 10 Frederick Douglass. Booker Washington.
- 11 Literary landmarks of London. Laurence Hutton.
- 12 Modern political institutions. Simeon E. Baldwin.
- 13 Danish life in town and country. Jessie Brochner.
- 14 Impostors and adventurers. H. W. Fuller.
- 15 The mind of the master. John Watson.
- 16 Mayfair, Belgravia and Bayswater. G. E. Mitton and others.
- 17 Eye spy. Wm. Hamilton Gibson.
- 18 Battle for the Pacific.
- 19 Sea-beach at ebb tide. Augusta Foote Arnold.
- 20 Sebastian Rale. John F. Sprague.
- 21 Street called Straight. Basil King.
- 22 Hoosier chronicle. Meredith Nicholson.
- 23 Blue wall. Richard W. Child.
- 24 Lighted way. E. P. Oppenheim.
- 25 Postmaster. Jos. Lincoln.
- 26 The turnstile. A. E. W. Mason.
- 27 Recording angel. Corra Harris.
- 28 White shield. Myrtle Reed.
- 29 Their yesterdays. Harold Bell Wright.
- 30 Red lane. Holman Day.
- 31 Redeve. H. Rider Haggard.
- 32 Fran. John B. Ellis.
- 33 Guests of Hercules. C. H. & A. M. Williamson.
- 34 John Rawn. Emerson Hough.
- 35 The moth. Wm. Dana Orcutt.
- 36 My lady's garter. Jacques Futrelle.
- 37 The guardian. F. O. Bartlett.
- 38 Wilhelmina changes her mind. Florence H. Kingsley.
- 39 The bandbox. Louis J. Vance.
- 40 Polly of the Hospital staff. Emma C. Dowd.
- 41 Red cross girl. Richard Harding Davis.
- 42 Charge it. Irving Bacheller.
- 43 Secret of Lonesome Cove. S. H. Adams.
- 44 Man in lonely land. Kate D. Bosher.
- 45 Where there's a will. Mary Roberts Rinehart.
- 46 The oldnest. Rupert Hughes.
- 47 Caviare. Grant Richards.
- 48 Castle of doubt. H. J. Whitson.
- 49 Just and the unjust. Vaughan Kester.
- 50 Sign at six. Stewart E. White.

### State Library Bulletin.

The law governing the State Library requires that it shall keep in touch with the work of other State Libraries and other large libraries through the United States, and that it shall also keep in touch and aid the various public libraries in Maine. A most efficient means for both of the above offices is by publishing a quarterly Library Bulletin for exchange and distribution as is the practice in other states. In the year 1911 one bulletin had been published but since February 1912 the Bulletins have been published regularly each three months. This Bulletin is especially helpful to the smaller libraries in Maine as it keeps them informed of what the State Library is doing and what books it is purchasing, and what it can do to help the smaller libraries. This Bulletin is about the size of the average of the largest State Libraries in the country and is exchanged for the bulletins of all the other libraries throughout the country, and is also sent to all the public libraries in Maine, and to all persons in the State who we think are interested in library work.

Last fall we succeeded in having the post-office department admit the bulletin to the mails as second-class matter, so that now the expense of mailing the Bulletin is so very small as to be almost a negligible consideration.

The only expense therefore of getting out the bulletin is the cost of printing it which averages about \$15.00 once each three months and is an excellent investment for the State Library.

### Legislative Reference Bureau.

When the Maine State Library was originally created by law

the intention of the Legislature was plainly that the State Library should be a library for the Legislature, and should be so built up as to be of direct assistance to the Legislature, its members and committees in the business of law making. This doubtless was the object in the founding of most state libraries throughout the country, but as time went on the State Library grew until it became a large law library and a large general public library. It still of course contained a great deal of material useful to the Legislature, but it had completely outgrown its original object.

Within the last ten or twelve years a number of the states have taken hold of the proposition of making their state libraries once again of direct assistance to the Legislature, and more efficiently and scientifically than ever before. Wisconsin started with the establishment of a Legislative Reference Bureau and it is today considered the best equipped Legislative Reference Bureau in the country.

The Congress has considered the matter of a Congressional Reference Bureau to be a department of the Library of Congress, and the Librarian of Congress has strongly recommended it, but beyond some hearings no action has yet been taken by Congress. But the example of Wisconsin has been followed by ten or twelve states and it is a well known fact that no state that has ever created a Legislative Reference Bureau has afterwards abolished it, and each state has increased its appropriation for its Legislative Reference Bureau at each session.

The object of the Bureau is to collect and collate material and information necessary or useful to the Legislature, its

members and its committees to keep at work at that business during the long vacation between sessions, so that when the session begins material will be available and ready at hand to meet almost every imaginable call that can be made on the Bureau by members or committees of the Legislature.

Such a Bureau keeps in touch with the work of the Legislature in the other States and in Canada and England so that it is able to inform members of the Legislature as to what legislation has been enacted and what has been proposed upon every subject which is of material interest to the people at the moment. In addition these Legislative Reference Bureaus send letters to the newly elected members of each Legislature informing them that the Bureau is at their service to supply material and information upon any subject which a member of the Legislature may be considering for the purpose of proposing legislation at the coming session.

In addition most of the Bureaus in the different states have in their corps of assistants an expert drafter who is trained in the law and who is able to embody the views of any member of the Legislature upon any proposed subject of legislation in the correct and legal form of a draft of a bill.

No such Bureau has of course ever been established in Maine, although there has been some talk of it in the past. The present State Librarian felt that the State Library contained enough material on its shelves so that if attention should be given to the matter a fairly good Legislative Reference Bureau could be put in operation at this session of the Legislature; at least in an experimental stage, and even without a special appropriation.

As much work on that line has been done during the last few months as was possible with the lack of an organization and with

the lack of an appropriation. All the members of the Legislature were informed that if they would communicate with the State Librarian informing him as to what matters of proposed legislation they had in mind, the State Library would send them as soon as possible briefs of information as to what had been done and what had been proposed in other states in the country. That offer was accepted by quite a number of the newly elected members of the Legislature and we think that so far as the work has gone it has been satisfactory to those members who asked for information, and that they are pleased with the service.

During the session of the Legislature one member of the staff of the Library will devote practically all her time and attention, under the direction of the State Librarian, to collect and collate material upon various subjects of public interest which may be of assistance to members and committees of the Legislature. In addition the State Library has made arrangements with most of the other states in which their legislatures are in session to exchange printed copies of bills and reports of a public nature, so that we expect that from day to day we will receive at the State Library printed copies of bills and reports that have been introduced in most of the other Legislatures which are in session this winter. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will see the advantage of having a permanent Legislative Reference Bureau established as a department of the State Library to continue and increase the work, and that it will enact a law to that effect giving a reasonable appropriation for the purpose of carrying on the work during the vacation between sessions. The fact that the Legislative Reference Bureau of the State Library would draft bills for any and all members

of the Legislature who desired to have it done, would alone be enough to justify an appropriation for the creation and carrying on of such a Bureau.

Scarce Books in the Maine State Library.

The following is a list of law books possessed by the State of Maine which are known to be very scarce throughout the country and are very valuable. I publish the list here so that it will be preserved for future reference as it is worth while to know it.

Cranch U. S. Supreme Court Reports. 9 vols.

United States Court of Claims. 1 to 24.

United States Attorney General's Opinions. 1 to 16.

Arkansas. 1 to 42.

Connecticut. Kirby, Root and Day. 8 vols.

Alabama. All to Vol. 124.

Delaware. All.

District of Columbia. Appeals.

Florida. 1 to 31.

New Hampshire. Vol. 6, 10, 21, 45, 46, 47.

New York <sup>U</sup>Serrogate.

North Carolina Chancery.

South Carolina. All to Vol. 20, new series.

Vermont. N. Chipman, D. Chipman, Brayton, Aiken and

Vols. 59 to 70 inclusive.

What the State Library is Doing for the Cause of Education  
in the State of Maine.

1st. Preserves and makes accessible to students the histories of towns and counties, and books and manuscripts relating to the history of Maine.

2nd. Provides a reference library for the free use of every student in the State.

3rd. Aids the work of study clubs, by advice upon the matter of the courses of study, and by providing and sending to such clubs special libraries on the subjects being studied.

4th. Sends traveling libraries made up of books selected with great care to all communities applying for them, regardless of how out-of-the-way the community may be.

5th. Supplements the resources of all local libraries, by sending them books which they have not, and often cannot afford to purchase on account of their cost.

6th. Advises and assists librarians of the smaller libraries whenever requested.

7th. Under the direction of the Maine Library Commission, but out of the funds appropriated by the State for the maintenance of traveling libraries, conducts a Summer Library School of three weeks, with a competent instructor for the instructing and assisting of library workers, which course of instruction is entirely free and without expense to the students.

Financial Statement of the State Library for the Years  
1911 and 1912.

For 1911.	Amt. Appropriated.	Expended.
Maintenance, Increase and General expenses, \$11,735.00		7,395.34
Free Public Libraries.....	7,000.00	6,784.19
Donation for Founding Free Pub. Libraries.	700.00	300.00
Traveling Libraries.....	2,500.00	1,704.10
Salary of Librarian.....	1,200.00	1,200.00
Salary of Lib'n as Sec. to Lib. Commission..	300.00	300.00
Salary of Assistant Librarian.....	1,200.00	1,200.00

For 1912.

Maintenance, Increase and General Expenses,	11,735.00	11,128.51
Free Public Libraries.....	7,000.00	6,678.92
Donation for Founding Free Pub. Libraries.....	700.00	000.00
Traveling Libraries.....	2,500.00	1,614.45
Salary of Librarian.....	1,200.00	1,200.00
Salary of Lib'n as Sec. to Library Commission..	300.00	300.00
Salary of Assistant Librarian.....	1,200.00	1,200.00

General Remarks and Suggestions.

In closing I desire to say that no institution, however desirable it may be, is perfect or ever can become perfect but can only continually aim higher and steadily higher towards perfection, so although the State Library is now a most admirable library and compares favorably with the State Libraries of any state in the

country and is better than some states whose population is larger than that of Maine, yet there are some improvements that are needed to make it still a more useful institution to the government and the public of the state. As I have suggested before the time is rapidly approaching when either the state must give its library a modern up-to-date building to itself, or must spend from \$15,000 to \$25,000 on rearranging the shelves so that by means of what may be called a double-decking arrangement nearly as many books again can be put into the main library room as are at present in it.

It is not merely the fact that the library has almost \$12,000 a year to spend upon its maintenance and increase, but it is also that by means of its exchanges with other states and countries the library receives so many books each month that its normal rate of increase is much larger than the other public libraries. This increase must of course be taken care of by proper shelving room because a library whose book stacks and shelves are so poorly arranged that its patrons cannot easily and conveniently get at the books they want is worse than useless for it is an aggravation and an exasperation to know from the catalogues that useful books are in the library and to be unable to find them or to get at them easily because from lack of shelving room they are stored away or packed in dark corners or laid flat on the floor. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will see the wisdom of appropriating sufficient money to build a modern up-to-date State Library building which will be a matter of pride to the people of Maine for years to come.

I would also suggest that since the state considers the matter of libraries and library instruction important enough to hire a high salaried instructor for three weeks in summer and to maintain a free library school for that period for its library workers in different

parts of the state it would only be a short step and a very wise step further to employ permanently throughout the year an instructor as <sup>one</sup> is employed for three weeks only in summer and to require that that instructor be also a visitor and director of public libraries throughout the State which receives state aid.

Such a permanent instructor and visiting director would easily earn his or her salary in the great good that he would accomplish in the different parts of the state. I have already suggested in the special division in which I discussed the matter of a Legislative Reference Bureau that the time is certainly ripe for the creation of such a Bureau as a department of the State Library. All the advanced and progressive states of the Union either have already established such a Bureau or are establishing it. Maine ought not to be behind hand in this very important movement. To consider for a moment the little matter of the expense of it and to let the little matter of the expense stand in the way of this valuable and much needed improvement is nothing less than "Penny wise and pound foolish." I would suggest and strongly recommend that future State Librarians continue to publish the State Library Bulletin regularly in the future as in the past and that the little exhibit of rare and curious books, papers and documents pertaining to the history of the State of Maine be preserved and kept together and fostered so that it will increase and form the basis of a State Library Archives of the history of Maine. And that a proper case be provided for its exhibition and, for its maintenance and increase.

Respectfully submitted,

January 1, 1913.

*Herbert E. Holmes*  
State Librarian