

# AMERICAN LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

### Association Aims to Furnish Reading for Greatest Number at Least Cost—Convention Will Last Until July Second.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright 1908 by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, D. C., June 25.—"The best reading for the greatest number at the least cost" is the motto of the American Library Association, which will assemble tomorrow at Minnetonka, Minn., this being the thirtieth annual meeting of that progressive body. The convention will last until July 2, and the discussions, led by men and women who have made a life work of library keeping, library building and education in general as exemplified in library work, will touch on every branch of the work—work that grows broader and more comprehensive every year. To secure the full realization of this aim its activities include state library commissions, library schools and training classes, library advertising, rooms for children and for the blind, cooperation with teachers, inter-library loans, library architecture and various other like interests pertaining to the development of the work.

Affiliated with the association in its active life are the league of library commissions, the National Association of State Librarians, and the American Association of Law Librarians. Two other associations that the association hopes to see affiliated with it soon are the Bibliographical Society of America and the American Association of Medical Librarians. Membership is open to library workers and to others interested in the work, the latest roster of members showing a little over 2,000, of whom 25 are not connected directly with libraries in any way. Permanent headquarters for the association were established in Boston in September, 1897. Public libraries have become one of the most important factors in the general educational movement of the country. Professor William F. Trent, Columbia, recently stated that four things support the nation—the church, the court of law, the school and the library. In the 22 years of its existence the American Library Association has done much to raise the educational standard of the nation. The association was one of the many progressive movements that found its beginning in the Philadelphia Centennial, 1876. It was organized as a result of a three-day conference of librarians. It stated its purpose to be the promotion of library interests, the interchange of experience and opinion, the obtaining of best results with the least expenditure of money and labor, and the advancement of the profession of librarians. Since the Centennial the association has, with the exception of two years, held annual meetings in various cities.

**Harvard Library.** The earliest libraries were those connected with educational institutions, Harvard establishing the first in 1878. Boston had a public library in 1700. It was not long after the opening of this one that a public library began its existence in North Carolina. The North Carolina general assembly, sitting in biennial session at the home of Captain Richard Saunders at Little River, in the winter of 1715-16, passed an act "for securing the public library belonging to St. Thomas parish in Pamlico." The first Harvard library was created especially in books, the number in the Pamlico library or the Charleston one, is unknown. These were the small beginnings, but from them and from the private libraries of early Americans has grown up the comprehensive free library of today. There are now about 7,000 public, society and school libraries of 1,000 volumes and over. These have over 55,000,000 volumes. This number is about 12,000 people, even when the village and traveling libraries are not included, and every group of 18 people may have a free library of 100 volumes. In the north Atlantic states there are 128 books to every 100 persons, and the proportion varies with the education, the wealth or the standard of literacy in each state.

**District of Columbia.** In the District of Columbia there are 25 books to every 100 persons. Massachusetts 25; in California 17 and in Florida and West Virginia only 15. The number of libraries shows as great a diversity of figures, the states being led by New York, which has nearly 1,000 libraries, one-seventh of all in the United States, about 10 in every 100 volumes, over a fifth of all the library books. Massachusetts ranks next with approximately 650 libraries and 3,000,000 volumes.

There were state libraries in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania in 1777.

### Do You Open Your Mouth

Like a young bird and gulp down whatever food or medicine may be offered you? Or, do you want to know something of the composition and character of that which you take into your stomach whether as food or medicine?

Most intelligent and sensible people now-a-days insist on knowing what they employ whether as food or as medicine. Dr. Pierce believes they have a perfect right to insist upon such knowledge. So he publishes, bound and on each bottle wrapper, what his medicines are made of and verifies it under seal. This he feels he can well afford to do because the more the ingredients of which his medicines are made are studied and understood the more will their superior curative virtues be appreciated.

but it was not until after the Revolution that there was any general tendency to have official libraries connected with state governments. Every state territory has now long had its own library, the support coming from appropriations by the respective legislatures. The first public library was established in Philadelphia in 1731. One hundred and sixty years later free libraries were ordered to be established throughout Philadelphia as public expense and under the direction of the board of education. Now the library districts distribute something like 1,900,000 volumes a year.

**The Free Library.** The free library as a municipal building in the south owes its beginning to Andrew Carnegie. There are no assurance of nations so cheap as the enlightenment of the people," he said once, and remembering the days when he read in the "Commonwealth" of the establishment of an institution established primarily for mill men far back in 1854 Carnegie decided to insure the nation by putting books in easy reach. In 1899 he gave his first library to the American people, and since then his benefactions ranging from a few thousand given some small struggling towns to \$500,000 given Washington. The conditions attending such bequests are that the city which is the beneficiary furnish the site and guarantee the annual income of at least 10 per cent of the gift. The majority of the Carnegie libraries go to newly settled districts, and many have found places in the south.

In the north, where public schools were almost contemporaneous with the library, the public libraries soon became a necessity. In the south the public library came twenty-five years after the public school. The association is traceable to the influence of the press, of women's clubs, the Southern Library Association, and the Southern Educational Association.

**Planters' Libraries.** In older days, when a sort of feudal system was in vogue, and the southern man the best reader of his times, the planter had his own private libraries, his tutors and governesses, and there was no need for public provision of these. Colonel William Byrd of Westover had, in the early eighteenth century, the finest American library, about 4,000 volumes in all. Jefferson's library of 4,000 volumes became, when purchased by congress, the foundation for the famous Library of Congress. The southern novelist Simms had a library of 12,000 volumes, and in South Carolina alone there were thirty-three private collections of books of considerable size before the Civil war. These and other southern libraries suffered from the vandalism that followed the heels of war. Rare books were burned, carried away or torn up to furnish pictures for the decoration of negro cabins, many were sold to northern libraries by impoverished owners, so that the best Southern American literature is to be found now in the British Museum or among English state papers. The southern planter of colonial and revolutionary days had his English factor set aside ten dollars from every cargo of tobacco to buy books for his private library. Now the purchases that count are made by the public libraries, the past two years each averaging about \$500 a year for North Carolina, \$1,000 for Massachusetts, \$13,000 for California, and \$26,000 for New York.

**To Uplift People.** The aim of the libraries is to reach and uplift all people. One third of the books issued are for children, so there arises the need of placing before them the right material, so that the reading may supplement the school work, that it may be elevating to home life, that picture books capable of awakening an interest in art are given, that fairy tales keep alive the dream world, and that nature books and hero tales are plentiful. The modern library that has not its children's room is rare. Special work, as recently done in various public libraries of the land, includes the development of state archives in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas; state bibliographical work in Connecticut; domestic collecting in Oregon and Vermont; traveling libraries in Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin; and books for the blind in Colorado. The library has long been noted for its folklore collection and the Public Library of Boston for its Shakespearean literature. The Washington State library has several branches of work including a summer library school and women's study clubs.

The libraries have been of untold aid to the blind. They have not only put books in their hands, but they have taught them to read. They have indirectly responsible for the opening of schools for them, and are now even going to the expense of setting out braille for them. In Braille. Led by the Free Library of Philadelphia nearly a score of libraries are doing special work for the blind. It is the great hope of the public libraries to reach all the people of the nation.

**Slowest in South.** Among the poor whites of the south the work is slowest, for even when illiteracy has been overcome, the Anglo-Saxon conservatism and opposition to materialism in any form have not been so easy to overcome. Those are now being reached by traveling libraries. The system of traveling libraries was born of the fertile brain of Melvil Dewey of the State Library of New York, and had its beginning in that state in 1892. The first state library commissions the library workers hope eventually to place libraries in reach of the members of rural communities as well as those of the city and town.

The work of the public libraries in social and moral as well as intellectual betterment is considerable. In those leading thinkers point for a help in solving the "Sunday problem." All in the world, the world, the 470 volumes bought from Jefferson have increased to a million and a half, and the building designed by the nation's leading architects, built of its most beautiful stones and marbles, and decorated by its leading artists, stands as a monument to the progress of the nation.

# ASHLAND PLANS CITY AND RAIL LINE BOTH SAFE

### Southern Oregon City Arranging Attractive Features for Day. Council Passes Mount Hood Franchise Ordinance—Differences Settled.

Ashland is preparing to celebrate the Fourth of July with a program so attractive that all southern Oregon will join in the festivities. The men at the head of the undertaking are vigorously at work and President E. T. Staples of the Ashland Commercial club is in Portland to engage special features for the entertainment.

The Ashland Commercial club has general charge of the preparations, and is sparing no expense to present a list of attractions that will please the public. Grants Pass, Medford, Jacksonville, Central Point and several of northern California are expected to join in the celebration.

Among the show features will be a balloon ascension and parachute leap by Professor Virgil Moore of San Francisco, who has been engaged at an expense of \$500. Mr. Staples has just closed contracts that will take a selected company of vaudeville artists from Portland theatres to Ashland theatre July 3 and 4.

The Southern Pacific company has agreed to furnish a special train to accommodate the crowds that will go from Grants Pass and points south. Crop conditions in southern Oregon are excellent, and the fruit crop is good, notwithstanding a slight touch of early frost, which did no damage. Orchard owners have been busy for several weeks thinning fruit on the trees, showing that there will be a good crop of peaches, apples and pears. Mr. Staples said:

"It is not at all improbable that within a very short time an excursion will be organized of Portland business men to Ashland, including a trip up the wonderful Ashland canyon to the summit of Ashland Butte. The Butte has an elevation of 5,000 feet, and one may stand on its summit in a bank of snow on the hottest summer day, and see all the prominent peaks within hundreds of miles."

"The purpose of such an excursion would be to give greater publicity to the beauty of Ashland and the surrounding country, which is hardly appreciated by the residents of that section even, and but little known by the non-residents. When one recalls that there are natural hot water sulphur springs within the corporate limits of the town, and near by low bubbling soda springs, with a precipitous mountain stream bursting out of the canyon right into the center of the town, it must appeal to one's ideas of the beautiful."

**Two Assassins Captured.** (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Astoria, Or., June 25.—John Salmarjari and A. Krotti, two of the men who committed the murderous assault on Matt Waikutis last Saturday night, were arrested last evening and are now in jail awaiting their preliminary hearing. Ell Trovo, the third man implicated, is supposed to be in hiding in Portland.

There was not a dissenting vote among the councilmen yesterday when the Mount Hood Railway & Power company franchise came up, and from opinions expressed by the city officials yesterday all difficulties between the railway company and the city have been adjusted without the city losing any of its rights to the use of the water in Bull Run river.

All the councilmen give credit for the consummation of the negotiations to Councilmen Bennett and Callara, who arranged a meeting with President Clarke when he was in Portland several weeks ago, which led to a peaceful settlement of the differences existing between the city and company. Previous to the meeting alone had been started, which would have involved the city in nearly endless litigation.

After the way had been opened for the negotiations City Attorney Kavanaugh conducted the business for the city, and prepared the ordinance which was submitted to the water board and the members of the committee on judiciary and elections. After a few changes the measure was passed by the board.

The ordinance will protect the city's rights in every respect, according to the opinion of the councilmen and members of the water board.

**CLUB TROUBLED WITH TOO MANY OFFICIALS**  
Two Sets of Officers Elected in Warring Mount Scott Organization.

When is a club not a club? Answer: When it has two sets of officers. The Mount Scott Improvement club organized primarily for the promotion of good feeling on the part of Mount Scott residents is still promoting feeling, but good is not the appropriate adjective. Monday evening the club met for the annual election of officers. President Nagel was not present and Secretary Dobson left with the books of the club soon after the hall at Arleta began to fill up with members. Those who participated in the first election of officers say that Mr. Dobson saw faces that he knew were not friendly to his cause and decamped. About 15 old members of the club were present. These elected a tem-

porary chairman and secretary and went ahead with business. They first voted 50 new members into the club and then proceeded with the election of officers. Charles Stout of Firland was elected president, and Fred T. Marshall of Archer Place, secretary and treasurer. W. E. Spicer, Frank Cunningham and Fred T. Marshall were appointed a committee to wait upon "ex-Secretary" or "Secretary" Dobson and demand the books and moneys of the club. If these are not turned over to the committee partisans of this faction will take the matter into the courts, they say, and get possession of the books and money that way.

After the election of Stout and Marshall by the first faction of the club retainers of the old officers met and elected Ed T. Nagel and John Dobson as president and secretary, respectively. The club meets a week from next Monday evening and the question now arises, who shall preside, Nagel or Stout? Stout is the representative of the Annexationist party in the Mount Scott district and Nagel is an anti-annexationist. The question of annexation is the rock which has split up the district into inharmonious factions. There will be probably an interesting time at the next meeting.

# COURT RULING ECHO OF DEAD HOLIDAYS

Presiding Judge Gantenbein in the circuit court yesterday decided that as December 5, 6 and 7 were not proclaimed legal holidays by the governor, although the days preceding and following were so declared, a foreclosure suit filed after the expiration of the holiday period cannot be maintained. In other words, the court held that the suit should have been filed on the first judicial day, which would have been December 5.

It will be remembered that the governor stole a march on the public when he failed to proclaim three days in December legal holidays. Every one overlooked the fact that the regular proclamation had not appeared, and every one proceeded on the assumption that the holidays still were on. The case in which the decision was

rendered was a suit by J. R. Birch and others against L. Q. Swetland and others to foreclose a mortgage for \$3,000. The six months allowed by law for filing such papers expired during the holiday days, and expired before December 5, the first of the non-judicial days. A demurrer was entered against the complaint and this was sustained by Judge Gantenbein.

**Sailor Rescues Boy.** (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Astoria, Or., June 25.—While the crowd was on board the torpedo boats yesterday afternoon a boy named Mays fell overboard. His no sooner struck the water than a sailor jumped after him and had him on deck in a very few minutes. The sailor was vociferously cheered for his gallant act.

**Buckley's Arnica Salve Wins.** Tom Moore of Rural Route 1, Cochran, Georgia, writes: "I had a bad sore come on the instep of my foot and could find nothing that would heal it until I applied Buckley's Arnica Salve. Less than half of a 25 cent box won the day for me by affecting a perfect cure. Sold under guarantee at Skidmore Drug company's drug store."

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**GEVURTZ & SONS** **GEVURTZ BROS.**

No hypnotism in the name "Imperiales" to impel smokers to buy them—Nothing fancy about the package—But the tobacco in

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