

REPORT OF WAR WORK DONE BY THE PORTLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

War activities were manifested in all of the lines of the library work for months before our country was drawn into the conflict, and when the time came for the actual participation in the struggle, all of the members of the staff were stirred to a high point of patriotic enthusiasm. When in June of 1917 the A. L. A. inaugurated plans for the extension of library service into every branch of the government war service, it found the librarians of Oregon most willing coadjutors. Under the first plans for the work, the headquarters for the Northwest states were located in Portland, and our librarian, Miss Mary Frances Isom, was appointed distributor for the whole northwest. Books began to come in from all directions. The actual work of distributing them began with small collections sent to the men on guard at the bridges, tunnels and docks throughout the state. A number of stout wooden cases, fitted with shelves and having a capacity of approximately 60 books, were made for the double purpose of transporting the books safely and of serving as a bookcase in the camps to which they were sent. These cases have "Soldier's Library" stenciled on the cover, and, as their use has been extended greatly since the first days of the work, they may still be seen doing duty in many parts of the state.

First Distribution.

Early in July the first large collection of books, about one thousand in number, was made ready and was divided between Vancouver Barracks and the company on duty at Clackamas.

In September the first great drive for War Library funds was made and our part was carried out under the supervision of Mr. W. L. Brewster, as state director. In Portland, the librarians entered into the campaign with zest, feeling it a privilege to do work. The responsibility of organizing the campaign in the districts east of the river and in South Portland rested upon the branch librarians. Each district solved the problem in a little different way, by house-to-house canvass, by motion picture shows, by entertainments, and, in one case, by a "jiltney" dance in the school house. The house-to-house canvass was the most difficult plan, in some districts the response was most generous, but in others it was marked by great indifference. From the vantage ground of the present hearty acceptance of the value of books for the soldiers, it is of interest to look back to those first days of the work and to remember how many people had then to be convinced that books were a real need in the soldier's life. More than one worker met the old veteran of the Civil War who said that "such things were not provided for him when he was a soldier, why did these boys need them," or the person who knew that "the boys would be so excited that they would not want books and, if they did, would have no time to read them," or, stranger still, the old army officer who dreaded the "softening" effect of books and such pleasures upon boys who were to be fitted for the stern business of war. But eventually the drive was brought to a successful conclusion, the original sum of one million dollars asked of the nation at large being exceeded by \$500,000. And all this time the books had been coming in from all over the Northwest to the upper floor

of the Portland Public Library where they were carefully sorted and prepared for use in the camps by the volunteer work of the librarians in the evenings and on their half holidays. Grateful acknowledgement must also be made of the assistance given by volunteers from outside the library staff. When the books began to come in by the thousands, the volume of the work necessary in preparing them grew to large proportions, and it would have been difficult indeed to have kept it up without the assistance of these workers who gave regular days each week to the monotonous task of pasting labels and book pockets and of writing book cards.

Eight Forts Get Books.

By September, 1917, 22,000 books had been received and 14,000 were in the field, 9,000 of them being distributed among the eight forts of the Coast Artillery, the Navy Yard at Bremerton, the Barracks at Vancouver, and 5,000 at Camp Lewis.

After some time, the work increased so greatly that the larger district of the northwest was divided into smaller districts, with the state as the unit, and Miss Isom was appointed supervisor of Oregon, to which district was also added Vancouver Barracks and Forts Canby and Columbia because of their nearer proximity to Portland.

When the Spruce Production Division became an established department of the war service, with Vancouver Barracks as its distributing center, the opportunities for library service grew rapidly. Every effort was made not only to meet the demands for books as they came in, but also to anticipate the demands whenever possible by being constantly on the alert to learn of new squadrons, new hospital wards, and later of new spruce camps where books would be needed.

The work at Vancouver Barracks throughout nearly the whole period of our participation in the war has been very interesting. Good collections of books have been established and maintained in the three Y. M. C. A. huts, smaller collections have been furnished for use in the recreation rooms of various squadrons, and each hospital ward has been supplied with one of the small wall cases. The general supervision of the work in the "Y" huts was carried on for some months under the voluntary supervision of Miss Sadie Noyes, one of the assistants in the Order department. In addition to all the other work, on every Saturday afternoon for nearly a year's time, two or three members of the library staff have given their free half day to visiting the hospital wards. On these trips every ward was visited, books and magazines taken to all of the boys and each one was given the opportunity to ask for the book of his choice which was taken to him on the next trip. At the present time, the work in the Barracks has reached such proportions that the A. L. A. has deemed it of sufficient importance to erect a small building, which is now in process of construction, and to appoint a permanent librarian in the person of Miss Elizabeth J. Herrington, formerly librarian of the North Portland branch. It will still be necessary, however, because of the extent of the work, for the Portland librarians to give considerable volunteer service in repairing the books for the shelves, and later, when

the building is opened, in filling the schedule of open hours.

Spruce Camps Supplied.

As soon as the spruce camps were established in the woods, books were sent out to them in collections based on the general plan of supplying one book per man. These collections, like the ones supplied in the Barracks and other places, were composed in part of fiction and in part of books of history, travel, poetry, and on all technical subjects in which the men were interested. Dozens of books on logging, gas engines, electricity, railroad construction and other technical subjects were purchased and sent out from A. L. A. headquarters for inclusion in these collections. Books on the war and on military tactics were also supplied in response to the great demand, and later a dictionary, an atlas and a war map were included in every collection sent out. The war service file in our correspondence is the record of the measure in which these books were appreciated, containing as it does many grateful responses, ranging from the commanding officers who welcomed the books for their own use and as a means of control for their men, to the privates who used them for both recreation and study. Every effort has been made not only to send the one original collection to each camp, but also to respond promptly to the individual requests which have come in steadily from officers and privates.

Permission had been obtained from A. L. A. headquarters to give some library service to the L. L. L. L. camps, when requested, as it was desired to recognize the fact that they were working in accord with the ideals of the government. About 2,500 books had been sent out and plans for much more extended service made, but it was necessary to abandon these on the signing of the armistice and ending of the spruce work as a government project.

Emergency Fleet Remembered.

Library service for the ships of the Emergency Fleet is also an important item of the work. As soon as it is known that a ship is to be turned over to the Navy Department, a collection of fiction and technical books, based on the same plan as the ones sent to the spruce camps, is made up and sent to the dock, where it is put on board the ship just before it sails. The technical books in these collections are on subjects of interest to naval men, and include wireless telegraphy, marine engineering, and many other subjects of importance. Dictionaries and atlases are also included in these collections. All told, 33 ships, with crews ranging in number from 40 to 100 men, have been supplied with a total of 2,500 books.

In the early days of the work the troop trains passing through the city were also supplied with books and magazines, but later this need was met by the Y. M. C. A. centers at the points where the men entrained, and was no longer necessary as a part of our work. Only about 1,200 books were so distributed.

As has been partially indicated, the response to these demands has been possible through the large number of books coming in as gifts, and through those which it has been possible to purchase with the funds collected in the drives for money.

Impetus was given to the inflow of gift books by two book drives, one in March, 1918, the other in September, 1918. In both of these the response was most generous. Especial mention should be made of that part of each book campaign which was carried on by the high schools of the city. Systematic plans were made by capable leaders, and a splendid response obtained, Lincoln high school leading with a total of 5,566 books, and Jefferson second with a total of 3,651 books. All the smaller libraries of the state have done wonderful work, collecting a large number of books and, in nearly every case, sending these books in already prepared for the shelves of the various libraries, thus saving a large amount of work at headquarters. All these sources, taken in connection with the steady stream of books which comes in all the time from interested friends of the soldiers and sailors, have netted up to the present date, November 16, 1918, a total of 66,738 books.

The following table gives the approximate summary of the distribution of these books:

Spruce Production Division.	
To soldier camps.....	12,170
To L. L. L. L. camps.....	2,459
To Vancouver Barracks.....	11,981
Total.....	26,610
Places.	
To Bremerton.....	4,002
To Camp Lewis.....	17,084
To Coast Artillery forts.....	5,755
To miscellaneous places.....	2,374
To ships.....	2,511
Total.....	31,726
Grand total sent out to Nov. 16, 1918.....	58,336
Approximate number on hand 8,402.....	66,738

No mention has been made up to this point of the work with the magazines, because the magnitude of this has been so great as to make it deserving of special notice. From the beginning, the magazines came in in such quantities as to make their sorting and disposal an immense problem. Miss E. Ruth Rockwood, the reference librarian, has been in general charge of the work throughout the whole time, but in October, 1917, the volume became so great as to require assistance from outside the library. This was readily furnished by a committee from the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. This committee spends about one day a week at the work and up to the present date has sorted about 100 tons. After sorting, the current numbers were set aside for use in the forts, camps and other places, and the old numbers were sold, giving a source of revenue which has been used in the purchase of subscriptions to desirable magazines for the camps and for special numbers of other magazines.

Magazines Sent.

From October, 1917, to July, 1918, a box of current magazines was sent to Forts Flagler, Worden, Casey, Whitman, Stevens, Columbia and Canby. In September the Washington forts were taken from our list and monthly boxes have been sent to the remaining three forts. Beginning with this fall, a plan was worked out where by a box of current numbers has been sent monthly to each of the Y. M. C. A. centers for the work with the spruce camps, from these centers they have been distributed by the Y. M. C. A. men to the

neighboring camps. Individual packages have been sent to camps not in the vicinity of the Y. M. C. A. centers. The need for some magazines not received at all or not received in sufficient numbers was very soon evident and in January plans were made for subscriptions in the permanent places, especially for the more popular technical periodicals. Eighty-six subscriptions have been sent to the following places: Fort Stevens, Bremerton, Fort Worden, Fort Columbia, Fort Casey, Fort Flagler, Pt. Townsend, Fort Whitman, Y. M. C. A. at Newport, camp at South Beach, Y. M. C. A. at Toledo and at Waldport, and to the Soldiers' and Sailors' club in this city. The periodicals sent have been generally Popular Mechanics, Scientific American, Scientific American Supplement, Electrical World and Timberman with some changes where there were special requests. Some subscriptions have also been sent to the committee for use as needed. With the change due to the end of the war, magazines are purchased as needed. In September, an order from the Postmaster General was obtained by which we are given part of the magazines sent to the camps with the one cent postage. Mr. Myers had been very kind before in letting us have uncalled for magazines, and both have helped us out very much. The rest of the magazines have been given to us by the people of the city, large quantities being collected by the high schools and by the grade schools with the cooperation of the Parent-Teacher association.

Part of the money received from the magazines has been spent for scrap-books for the hospitals. Two thousand six hundred have been ordered, 1,250 have been sent out, 750 to hospitals at Vancouver, Fort Stevens, Fort Canby, Fort Columbia and Newport, and Base Hospital Unit No. 46 took 500 of them to France. Fifty are sent regularly every two months to Fort Stevens, at the request of Major Finch.

In addition to this regularly planned work, a box of magazines has been sent with every collection of books sent out from the Portland headquarters.

Financial Report.

The following table gives the details of the result of the work of the magazine committees:

RECEIPTS.	
Sale of old magazines.....	\$455.81
Sale of scrap-books.....	31.08
Discount.....	2.35
Postage.....	.16
Total.....	\$489.41
EXPENDITURES.	
Subscriptions.....	\$232.49
Magazines bought.....	19.20
Scrap-books.....	99.67
Pictures for Y. M. C. A.-Vancouver.....	22.73
Twine.....	30.97
Postage.....	8.09
Binding Youth's Companion for Vancouver.....	10.50
Miscellaneous expenses.....	10.89
Balance.....	\$434.54
Total.....	\$489.41

It is earnestly hoped that the gifts of books and magazines will continue to come into the library, as there will be great need for all of them at the barracks and the forts during the process of demobilization.

When the history of the war is

written, the work of the libraries must, in justice, be given much attention in connection with the other welfare work. As a welfare agency the library's work falls into two classes, recreational and educational. Much has been written of both of these phases of the work in the camp libraries and overseas. Up to the present time, however, little has been said of the value of the work which has been done in our own state. The educational side of the work has been touched upon slightly in this report. At the present time, so soon after the signing of the armistice, we are already made aware of the change in the demands for books. Already the boys are coming to the various Y. M. C. A. centers and asking for books on farming, and other things which will help to re-establish them in the world to which they are returning. Orders have been telegraphed to headquarters for collections of books on all these vocational subjects and they are now on their way out to us, and the work will be continued until the last phases of demobilization are ended.

Keeping Up Morale.

The recreational side of the work in our state bears an importance that is probably not exceeded in other localities. We have heard much about the necessity for keeping up the morale of the soldier. To the casual observer it would seem that this might not have been so difficult a matter in a well organized military camp, where every agency co-operated to bring about the desired effect, and where the boys had before them the incentive of advanced military service overseas, with all of its opportunity for glory and adventure. But in the spruce divisions, keeping up the morale has been an entirely different matter. The work has been hard and uninteresting, many of the boys were sent into it through no decision of their own, and many of them frankly owned that they hated it. The majority of them wanted to go to France, but, except for a short time, very few of them ever felt that there was any chance of their being sent over. One of them expressed it thus, "After the war is over, all the fellows will be asking us where we were in France, and we will have to say we weren't there at all." And, he added, "Nothing could be worse than that." Under such conditions, keeping up the morale of these groups of men was no easy task and needed every bit of assistance that could be given to these isolated camps. That it has been kept up is attested by the outcome of the work of the Spruce Production Division, and that the books which have been sent out by the A. L. A. through the volunteer work of the librarians of Oregon played their part in this result, is shown by the many reports coming in from the commanding officers of the camps and from the Y. M. C. A. men, who have so willingly co-operated with us in every way.

It only remains to complete the account of the war work of the staff up-to-date, to add the fact of the departure of our librarian, Miss Mary Frances Isom, on October 30, for six months' war library service with the A. L. A. in France. This is decidedly in the nature of volunteer work, as the only remuneration she receives is the payment of her expenses.

ZULEMA KASTUNLATSKY,
Assistant Librarian.

Auction Sale

ON THE OLD HURLBURT PLACE
About 2 miles east of Springdale and 2 miles South of Corbett, Ore.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
Beginning at 10 o'clock a. m.

9 Head of Cattle

COW, Holstein, 8 years old, fresh six weeks ago. COW, Jersey, 4 years old, will freshen April 10th. HEIFER, Holstein, 3 years old, bred October 8th. 2 HEIFERS, Jersey-Holstein, 1 year, 9 months, will freshen May 18th, 1919. HEIFER, Holstein-Guernsey, 1 year old. HEIFER, Jersey-Durham, 9 months old. STEER, Holstein-Guernsey, 9 months old. BULL, Holstein-Guernsey, 1 year, six months old. (All Cows Tuberculin Tested)

4 Horses

GRAY HORSE, 9 years old, weight about 900 pounds. BAY HORSE, 10 years old, about 900 pounds. SORREL MARE, 12 years old, about 1400 pounds. IRON-GRAY HORSE, 12 years old, about 1400 pounds.

Sow with litter of 8 Pigs.
6 tons Baled Clover Hay.

Double Set Harness. Single Set Harness. Buggy. Hack. Light Wagon. Mower, in good shape. Household Goods and other articles too numerous to mention.

TERMS—All sums under \$20, Cash; \$20 or over, six months' time on approved note bearing 8 per cent interest.

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Make This a Real Christmas

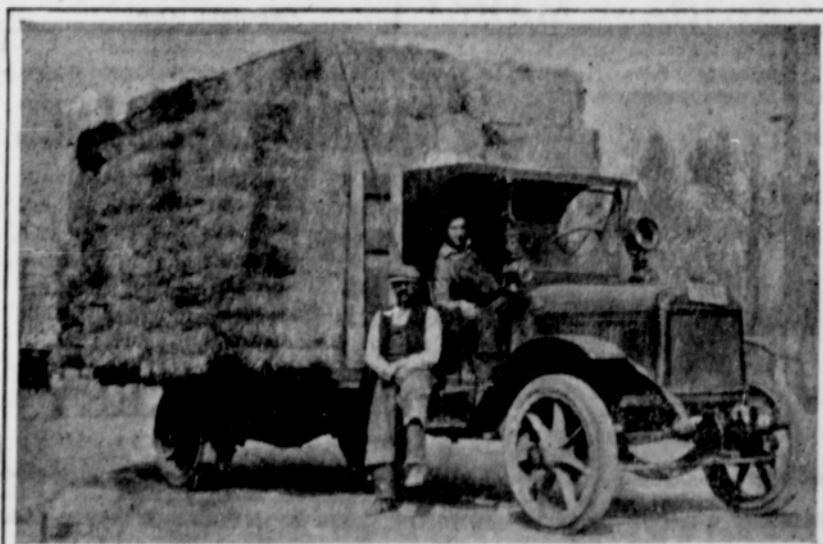
SOME USEFUL HINTS

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| GIVE | Sewing Machine | Smoothing Iron or |
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| This Year | Washing Machine | Drying Comb in one |
| | Floor, Table and | Vibrator |
| | Desk Lamps | Heating Pad |
| | Chaffing-Dish | Radiator |
| | Toaster | Portable Stove and |
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