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Forestry and Lumbering in the Northwest*

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Georgene L. Miller, District Librarian, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon

In appearing before you today, I feel much as I imagine did the ant in the fable when summoned to appear before the elephant. Yet it has given me courage to remember that the ant was among those who were commended, by the elephant, for industry and similar virtues.

The library in which this busy "ant" has done most of her work during the past five years is a small one—the District library of the Forest service in Portland. It is in reality a branch of the Forest service library in Washington, D. C. The library in Portland has twenty-eight branches scattered throughout Oregon, Washington and Alaska, called Supervisors' libraries. The District library must keep in touch with the needs of these smaller libraries and loan to them, when wanted, such books as are not on their shelves. The District library, containing some four or five thousand books and pamphlets, is used by the fifty or more members of the Portland office—chiefs, assistants and clerks—and by the general public; while the Supervisors' libraries, containing from 150 to 200 books each, are for use of the supervisor, his assistants and rangers. Such, briefly, is our organization, and while it exists primarily for the benefit of members of the Forest service, it is also our aim to make it an educational center for forestry in the Northwest.

*Delivered at the Annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association, Berkeley, Cal., June 7-8, 1915.

In order to give you an idea of the field of opportunity for and the demands upon a librarian in such a position, and also because your co-operation is needed, I am going to tell you something about the profession of forestry. First, I want to emphasize the fact that the pioneer work in forestry in this country is done, and we now have a well-established national forest policy; but there is much educational work needed, and it is here that all librarians may help. You cannot help, however, if it is not clear to you that there are reasons why you should have a keen interest in the subject yourself. It would not be at all surprising if most of you confessed that you have a very vague idea of the meaning of the term "forestry." It has something to do with trees. Oh, yes; the word itself implies that much, and when you think of the forest are you not prone to recall the opening lines of Longfellow's "Prelude"?

"Pleasant it was when woods were green,
And winds were soft and low,
To lie amid some sylvan scene,
Where, the long drooping boughs between,
Shadows dark and sunlight sheen
Alternate come and go.

"Or where the denser grove receives
No sunlight from above,
But the dark foliage interweaves
In one unbroken roof of leaves,
Underneath whose sloping eaves
The shadows hardly move."

No doubt this is the picture which the forest brings to your mind, but do you real-

ize that the forest also means something of vital import to every man, woman and child in the United States?

When you think of forestry, does it convey to you a home and its furnishings, from bookcases to buttons, from tubs to tooth-picks? Does it mean the desks, chairs, tables, pencils which you use in your library? Does it mean the paper, made from wood pulp, in the books and magazines on your shelves? In the words of E. T. Allen, a well-known forester, does it mean "the food you eat crated in wooden boxes, transported in wooden vehicles, hauled over wooden ties, stored in wooden barns, grown in wooden-fenced fields?" In fact, sit down and make a list of all the things made of wood with which you come in contact daily, and then ask yourself: "Have I an interest in the forest which grows this wood?" It will be strange if the answer is not in the affirmative.

From this it may be plain to you that you are the consumer, and possibly it may suggest to you also why you should have an interest in the producer. The producer is none other than the forester who is working for the perpetuation of the forest. Perhaps you still think of him as armed with bow and arrow and clad in "Lincoln green," after the manner of Robin Hood or Roderick Dhu. To be sure, the modern forester must have Robin Hood's strong physique and love of outdoor life, but he must have far more than this. The first constructive step toward his career is a good technical education. This will teach him the science of the profession—the properties and uses of wood, the life history of a tree, the principles of tree growth, and even microscopic acquaintance with tree seeds. It will develop in him an aptitude for research and observation, and when he goes forth again to the woods, he looks at the trees with new eyes. He may have loved them before, but now they have become more than mere objects of beauty; they are potent factors in the economic wealth of the nation. Then, too, as soon as he puts his scientific knowledge to practical use, he awakes to a hundred things. He discovers that he must know something of soils and geology. He finds he must study the flow of streams and their relation to the forest; he must learn the inter-relation of forests and climate. He must make acquaintance with a hundred varieties of trees; he must know the light-demanding as well as the shade-enduring trees; he must know where the oak grows best, and where the maple is never to be found; he must know the habit of the eucalypts of the south and of the Alpine fir of the north; he must be able to distinguish the noble fir from the grand fir, the hickory from the pignut.

This may suggest to you that the forester needs books, not only upon forestry proper, but upon many allied subjects, such as botany, geology, climatology, meteorology, soils, hydrography, topography, etc. This is all a

part of the technical education of the modern forester. To cater to this need, the Forest service library has not only a complete file of Forest service publications, but all government publications, especially those of the Geological survey, that have any bearing upon forest work, all forest publications of the various states, and all books upon forestry published in this country and many from abroad. It is probable that your libraries may contain many of these books, but it may not have occurred to you that they are of value to the forester.

Library service to the forester does not end, however, with the technical side of his work. The modern forester is a very versatile individual. He combines much of what is required in a botanist, a geologist, a surveyor and a lumberman. The practical side of his work may mean a variety of occupations. It may mean land classification on the national forests, timber cruising on an Indian reservation, fire prevention on state forests, topographic surveying on a private forested estate, or it may mean a lumbering operation on any one of them. The scope of this paper will not permit me to go into details in regard to national forest, state or private work, but I do want to elaborate somewhat upon the forester's work as a lumberman, for that is the most important branch of the forest work, and it is along this line that your help is particularly needed.

The progressive lumberman calls his work "applied forestry." To succeed as a lumberman, the forester must know the lumber business and the value of wood for specific purposes. This phase of his work brings the forester in contact with his fellow men, and it is here that he needs all the characteristics that go to make a big, broad-minded man. He must be able to urge the conservative lumberman out of his rut, equally able to hold back the reckless lumberman, and convince both with facts and figures. He must talk to the buyer on the basis of supply, and with the seller on the basis of demand. He must know the lumber market, the sawmill business, the factory needs, the manufacturer's point of view. In fact, the lumberman stands between the forester as a producer and you as a consumer. The lumberman is the middleman, and inasmuch as the lumber industry ranks fourth in the United States, you will see that the lumberman is a very important middleman.

Now, why should we know so much less about the lumberman than we do about the farmer? When you sit down to lunch and partake of a fine baked potato, few of you but could tell the history of that potato. Yet when you use a pencil, how many of you could picture the process through which that wood has gone before it reaches you in that particular form? Do you picture "ships at sea, laden trains, busy mills, ringing axes, log-strewn rivers, marvellous ma-

chinery?" What a contrast between our knowledge of agriculture and our ignorance of lumbering! Does not this suggest to you the need of educational work in forestry and all its branches?

I do not want to give you the impression that little work has been done of an educational nature, for that is not so. A great deal has been done by federal, state and private organizations. Especially is this true in the Northwest, where a splendid propaganda has made forestry a live subject. The public mind is beginning to question, and the result is a demand for information in regard to forestry in all its phases. The Forest service library has felt the pulse of this awakening, and the demand from all classes of people, especially school teachers and school children, has been delightfully encouraging.

The demand, however, which has given the most concern and which has been the most difficult to meet, comes from the old-time lumberman himself. The time is past when he is willing to say: "I know how to cut timber and that is all I want to know." He has awakened to the fact that the possession of forest wealth carries with it a responsibility beyond the cutting of timber and the running of a sawmill for his own personal needs. He now knows—for the forester has taught him—that he is dealing with one of the nation's chief resources, and it behooves him to handle that resource wisely, economically, and for posterity. Hence, he is seeking all the information at hand upon the subject of forestry as applied to lumbering. The books upon lumbering are lamentably few. The chief medium at present through which the lumberman may gain the help of facts and figures is that of the lumber journals—some twenty in number—published in this country.

The Forest service library has on file seven of these journals, and it is the practice of the librarian to index all articles in them that are of importance to the forester in his lumbering work. This has been done for about five years. The past two years have shown a marked increase in the demand for just such information as the lumber journals contain. The public libraries of the larger cities of Oregon and Washington have had similar calls upon them, and have appealed to the Forest service library. Thus our library had its first opportunity to serve the lumberman, not only directly, but through the various public libraries of the Northwest. It is here that the indexing of the lumber journals has proven worth the time and effort. In fact, so pronounced has been the satisfaction of those who have availed themselves of our index, that it occurred to the librarian that an index, covering all the principal lumber journals, and accessible to the lumber industry at large, would be a very good thing. How was this to be brought about?

While the librarian was studying this problem, a sample copy of the Industrial arts index, published by the H. W. Wilson co., came to the Forest service library. It was apparent at once that this was an ideal index to which to add the lumber journals. The next question was how to persuade the Wilson co. to include them. We felt that we needed the support of the lumber industry, and straightway interviewed representative men in the Northwest. They all agreed at once to write to the Wilson co. and urge the inclusion of the lumber journals in their index. Mr. George Cornwall, editor of the *Timberman*, and Mr. R. B. Allen, editor of the *West Coast lumberman*, also agreed to furnish a copy of their respective magazines for the purpose. Mr. H. D. Langille, manager for the James D. Lacey co. in Portland, expressed much enthusiasm, and said that if the indexing became an accomplished fact, he would turn his journals—he takes them all, by the way—over to the Portland public library, in order that they might be accessible to all local lumbermen. Mr. E. T. Allen, Forester for the Western forestry and conservation association, Portland, and Mr. Thorpe Babcock, Secretary of the West Coast lumber manufacturers' association, Tacoma, both showed much interest and promised their co-operation in whatever way needed, the latter taking up the subject with the Puget Sound libraries. In fact, it was apparent that the need of a lumber index is keenly felt by every progressive lumberman and forester. But to each and all of those who appealed to the Wilson co., the answer was the same: "The matter rests with our subscribers."

The subscribers, as you know, are the libraries upon whose shelves are copies of the Industrial arts index. Hence, it is to you that an appeal must be made for aid in securing the indexing of the lumber journals. The co-operation of several libraries in the Northwest has already been assured, but it must be apparent to you that the help of librarians all over the country, especially in the lumber centers, is needed. While we of the Northwest, particularly in a city which leads the world in the production of lumber, realize the need of this index, we appreciate the fact that you may want to be convinced of that need in your own locality. If the librarians in such cities as Louisville, Nashville, New Orleans, St. Louis, Kansas City, New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Spokane, San Francisco, will get in touch with the leading lumbermen of those cities, I feel sure that most of them will be ready to co-operate with the librarians in this matter. In fact, I can name, offhand, several such men who will need but little persuasion to give you whatever facts you need to show you the extent of the lumber industry in their locality. This you will find true of Mr. E. C. Hole, Editor of the *American lumberman*, and Mr. James D. Lacey, both of Chicago; of Capt. J. B. White, of Kansas City; of Mr.

C. I. Millard, of St. Louis; of Mr. J. E. Rhodes, Secretary of the Southern pine association, New Orleans.

If you are in a position to do so and will study the lumbermen's needs a little, perhaps by the time the year is past and the Wilson co. list is again submitted to you, you may be able to vote for the inclusion in their Index of some, if not all, of the lumber journals.

In conclusion, perhaps a word of explanation will not be amiss. Forestry is a big subject, and I have merely touched upon it. Should I attempt to do more than this, I feel that I would be in much the same position as Willie's pet hen. Doubtless you have

heard the story, but it is so apropos that I shall risk its repetition: One day little Willie placed his pet hen upon three dozen eggs. A day or two later Willie's mother happened in the barn, saw the unusual exhibition, and exclaimed, "Why, Willie, that hen can't hatch out all those eggs!" To this Willie replied, "I know she can't, but I wanted to see the old thing spread herself." Should I attempt to tell you all the interesting things possible about forestry, I would be spreading myself over considerable territory, and I hardly think I am equal to it; but if I have said sufficient to awaken in you a new interest in forestry and its branches, then I have not spoken in vain.

Municipal Information and Research in the Pacific Northwest*

By Herman G. A. Brauer, Director, Bureau of Municipal Research,
University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

Owing to the short notice on which this paper was undertaken and the many interruptions during its preparation, I have been obliged to restrict its scope both topically and territorially. Instead of "Special libraries," as announced on the program, I shall discuss only "Municipal information and research"; and instead of attempting to cover the entire Pacific coast, I shall speak only of our own and our neighboring state, Washington and Oregon, leaving others to speak for California, who are nearer the work in that state and know more about it.

What do we know about municipal affairs in the Pacific northwest? About as much, or as little, as anywhere else in the country,—according to the standard of comparison applied to any particular case.

To begin with, we have in the northwest an abounding mass of unrecorded, unofficial knowledge of municipal affairs, slumbering peacefully in the minds of our individual citizens, which on sufficient provocation is freely, widely and effectively disseminated through the columns of the press and other channels of public information. In this brief paper however I will confine myself to what may be called the professional or institutional agencies through which municipal information in our part of the country is obtained, diffused and applied.

As regards libraries and burcaus of municipal information and research, the states

of Washington and Oregon are fairly abreast of the times. In addition to well-equipped and well-managed law and general libraries maintained by the state and its various educational institutions, or by its large cities, bureaus of municipal information and research have been established at the State universities of both Washington and Oregon, where students may pursue advanced studies in municipal government, and where authentic information on the thousand and one subjects of municipal concern may be had for the asking. Through these bureaus of municipal information and research all the resources of the state university, including its libraries and the personal knowledge and proficiency of the various specialists on the university faculties, so far as they relate to problems of municipal government, are made freely and promptly available to city officials as well as to civic organizations and other responsible parties interested in municipal affairs. These bureaus also undertake to give assistance in the preparation and drafting of municipal ordinances of all kinds.

As in other up-to-date communities, the public libraries of all the large cities in the Pacific northwest, notably Seattle, Portland, Spokane and Tacoma, do municipal reference work to the extent of their means and equipment.

In Seattle the Reference department is well equipped to give help on questions of municipal government. The work is not conducted by a separate staff, but as a

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branch of general information service. Besides the usual collection of reference books and magazines and public documents of states and cities, the Department possesses a considerable collection of classified pamphlet material arranged in vertical files, also newspaper clippings, type-written bibliographies and other miscellaneous material likewise arranged in vertical files.

The Library prepares lists of subjects suggested by city officials or by civic organizations or individuals interested in municipal affairs and civic improvements, and tries whenever possible to collect and arrange the material in advance of actual calls for the same. Lists of references on topics of current discussion or proposed legislation are sent to the mayor, the members of the City council and to other city officials. There is cordial cooperation with the Library of the University of Washington, as a result of which we have a union list of periodicals in both libraries, which contains over a thousand titles. This obviously strengthens the resources of both institutions.

Following is a typical list of subjects dealt with from time to time by the municipal reference department:--

Municipal auditoriums; Billboard regulation; Municipal budgets; Central purchase of supplies; City charters; City manager plan; New sources of city revenue; City work for unemployed; Municipal civil service; Commission government; City and county consolidation; Public defender; Elevator regulations; Employment agencies; Municipal inspection of gas; Housing problems; Jails, workhouses, and municipal farms; Free legal aid; Limitation of building height; Public markets; Motor buses; Moving picture theatre regulation; Public baths; Municipal advertising; Municipal farms; Municipal home rule; Municipal lodging houses; City milk supply; City ownership of street railways; Municipal research bureaus; Suppression of noise; Paving materials; Municipal service pensions; Public comfort stations; State or municipal regulation of public service corporations; Remedial loans; Social centers; Social evil; Valuation of street railways; Street traffic regulations; Taxicab regulations; Telephone rates; Excess condemnation; Price of gas; Street railway franchises; jitney bus.

In Spokane the Public library likewise conducts a Reference department, which gives special attention to the needs of the schools, colleges and civic organizations. Whenever a special commission is appointed or municipal activity is proposed the Library seeks to anticipate calls for special information and proceeds to collect the material and prepares reading lists, copies of which are served on the interested parties. Its public document collection is

notably good, and the Library maintains an unusually large periodical list.

In Tacoma the Public library presents a good example of cooperation with other educational agencies of the city, notably with the School board and the teachers in the various schools. The superintendent of schools is a member of the Library board, and the School board joins with the Library board in naming the high school Librarians. A special feature in the Tacoma Public library is the good collection of works on industrial chemistry and architecture. Efforts to acquaint the public with the resources of the Library have taken the form of printed articles, booklets, postal card notices to individuals, exhibits of special book collections and pictures, and talks by the Librarian and members of the staff before clubs and business organizations.

A random selection from among the many reference lists compiled might include: Manufacture of Buttons, Fuller's Earth, Window Boxes for City Streets, Church and Rural Problems, Business Books, Country Life Problems, Nitrogen from the Air, etc.

Other public libraries in the larger cities of Washington conduct reference departments to the extent of their means and equipment. Among these should be named the State libraries at Olympia, the State college library at Pullman, and the Municipal reference library of Whitman College at Walla Walla.

In the state of Oregon the libraries and educational institutions are similarly wide awake to the needs of their respective communities. In Portland there is a Municipal reference library in the City hall, which is an integral part of the city government and is used as much by the employees as by the City commissioners. The Librarian always attends Council meetings and scours the country for material on the subjects under consideration. Books from the main Library can be brought to the City hall branch in ten minutes. The statistical compilations on municipal music, housing and financial conditions of Portland, prepared by the Librarian for this meeting, will serve as specimens of the careful and helpful work done for that city.

Reference has already been made to the Municipal research bureau established at the University of Oregon, which is doing an excellent work for the cities of that state, and mention should also be made of the Oregon State library at Salem, and of the Public libraries at Albany, Medford and other cities. Doubtless Oregonians present at this meeting can give further details from personal knowledge of the work in that state.

A most hopeful symptom for continual improvement in municipal government throughout this country is the active inter-

est in matters of government shown by professional and civic organizations of various kinds, such as municipal and civil service leagues, chambers of commerce, commercial clubs, civic clubs, mothers' clubs, improvement clubs, home-owners' and taxpayers' associations and similar bodies. Of these extra-governmental agencies of improvement and reform the Pacific northwest has its share. In Washington and Oregon there are leagues of municipalities, with headquarters in the bureaus of municipal research of the respective state universities already referred to, and a third similar league has headquarters at Whitman College.

Of the civic organizations confined to a single city, probably the largest and most active is the Seattle municipal league, which has a paid secretary, maintains an office and office force, holds weekly meetings and publishes a weekly paper, the "Seattle municipal news." During the year just closed the League had twenty-six standing and seven special committees, nearly all of which have some definite accomplishment to their credit for the year. The faithful work of the two hundred twenty-six men serving on these committees is a tribute not only to their own enlightened citizenship, but to the usefulness and effectiveness of such organizations in any large city.

As with similar bodies in other cities, one of the important functions of the Seattle municipal league is to investigate municipal questions of current interest and publish correct information for the benefit of voters. During the past year no less than thirty-eight committee reports were presented and

acted upon by the League, thirty-three of which were published in its weekly paper. Thus far the League's committees have uniformly met courteous treatment at the hands of city officials, and its recommendations and suggestions have always been carefully considered.

Among the unfinished projects inaugurated by the League are the following:— The establishment of an independent bureau of municipal research for the city of Seattle; the establishment of a bureau of municipal affairs at the national capital; a complete re-classification of the city's civil service; campaigns for fire prevention, for better moving pictures, and for trees in parking strips; more public comfort stations in the business district, made necessary by the abolition of saloons after January, 1916; and numerous other projects of exclusively local concern.

I will conclude this brief sketch by naming a few subjects for open discussion in this connection:—

(1) The need of a national bureau of municipal affairs.

(2) The advantages and disadvantages of placing the municipal reference department of a public library in the City hall, where the general library is some distance away. To what extent is the advantage of close proximity off-set by a division of the library's resources? (Suggested by Mr. Compton, Reference librarian, Seattle Public library).

(3) Possibilities of cooperation between public libraries and bureaus of municipal research (suggested by Mr. Kaiser, Librarian, Tacoma Public library).

Report of the Committee on a National Center for Municipal Information*

By Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Chairman

At the Washington meeting of the Special libraries association (held May 27-28, 1914) Mr. Robert A. Campbell of New York city presented the following resolution:—

"Whereas it is the concensus of opinion of the membership of the Special libraries association that there is a strong and growing demand for more work and efficient cooperation among those engaged in municipal reference work; and

"Whereas a national center for municipal information seems best fitted to meet the demand; and

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"Whereas there is no agreement as to where this work can be most advantageously done;

"Now therefore be it resolved that the President appoint a committee of five to investigate and make recommendations on the subject on or before the next meeting of the Association, as to the existing sources of information and the condition under which this information may be obtained, and if it appears desirable to establish a central organization, to report as to the location, support, organization and management of such national center for municipal information."

This resolution was adopted after discussion and the chair appointed a Committee consisting of John Cotton Dana, of Newark, Chairman; Dr. Horace E. Flack, Baltimore; John A. Lapp, Indianapolis; Samuel H. Ranck, Grand Rapids, and Robert A. Campbell, New York city. Subsequently Mr. Dana retired as Chairman, and Clinton Rogers Woodruff of Philadelphia was appointed in his stead. This substitution took place too late in the year to enable the preparation of a report for submission to all the members of the Committee, so the views herein set forth are those of the Chairman, and are presented first, as a basis for discussion at the Oakland meeting, and second, as a basis for action during the year upon which we are entering.

In addition to the Special libraries association, the National municipal league is giving attention to this question through a Committee consisting of Dr. C. C. Williamsen, Municipal reference librarian of New York, Chairman, and Messrs. Flack, Lapp, Ranck and Dana. The League's Committee is actively at work in the prosecution of its work and it is expected will have a report ready for presentation to the Dayton meeting in November. In addition the League has appointed a Committee on a national civic bibliography, composed of Miss Adelaide R. Hassé of New York, Chairman; Hon. Thomas Lynch Montgomery, State librarian, Harrisburg; Joseph Wright, Harvard University; Andrew Linn Bostwick, St. Louis; James McKirdy, Harrisburg. This latter Committee, however, has to do with the preparation of a bibliography and not with the establishment of closer working relationship between the legislative and municipal reference libraries and bureaus.

During the year, the Public affairs information service, established under the direction of John A. Lapp of your Committee, by the H. W. Wilson company of White Plains, N. Y., has prosecuted the work assigned to it and in the judgment of those who have subscribed for the service has measurably met expectations. A considerable part of the work done by this Service has been in the nature of having reports sent to various members, in this way insuring to subscribers the receipt of important documents bearing on public affairs. How fully this particular work has been accomplished we have no present information.

In an address on "The correlation of municipal information," delivered at the Joint meeting of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Library associations in Atlantic City in the month of March (which is being published in the June, 1915, issue of the Library journal), I described in some detail the growth of publications dealing with municipal questions, calling attention to those

issued by federal, state and municipal bureaus and commissions, and to those issued by voluntary organizations of a general and specific character, as well as the special reports issued by propaganda organizations. In that address it was pointed out that the municipal reference libraries were being organized at a satisfactory rate of progress, but that their very multiplication increased the difficulties of the problem and emphasized the need for national and state centers for municipal information. Therefore I advocated the establishment in each state of a state bureau or department of municipal affairs to be a center for state information, this to be correlated by a federal bureau or department. In this plan the local municipal and legislative reference libraries would be the outlying stations for the receipt of inquiries and the gathering of information, this to be referred to the state center which would be the depository for reports and the home of a comprehensive bibliography, these state centers in turn to be in touch with the federal bureau or department.

The state center should bear the same relation to the federal bureau that the federal reserve bank centers bear to the treasury department. For this simile I am indebted to Mr. Dana, who in commenting on the matter declares that in his judgment the Public affairs information service does more than any other agency toward this end at present, a conclusion in which for one I am prepared to join. From the very nature of the information and from the very rapid increase in the mass of information that is being gathered and published, it is manifestly impossible for any private concern, no matter how well managed or how well financed, to cope with the situation. Therefore it is my own judgment that the function to be discharged is a governmental one, and that the sooner librarians begin to urge this view the better.

As a matter of information it will interest the members of the Special libraries association to learn that a bill providing for a State municipal bureau was drafted and introduced into the recent Pennsylvania legislature. That body, however, took no action upon the matter as there was no public opinion backing the measure up. In fact, there were three propositions before the legislature, one to establish an independent bureau, another to establish a bureau in connection with the Department of internal affairs, and a third to establish a section in connection with the Legislative reference library. All three however failed of enactment simply because of lack of information. Steps are now on foot to formulate a plan for a federal bureau, and as soon as the present pressure of international affairs is over the matter will be taken up with the President, who has ex-

pressed some interest in the matter. It is not thought wise, however, to press the matter at this time, in view of the very great burdens resting on him in connection with our international relations.

It will no doubt interest the members of the Association to learn that D. Appleton and company have asked the National municipal league to supervise, and its secretary to edit, a Municipal encyclopaedia in two volumes with a limit of 900,000 words, this to be the forerunner of a series of municipal year books. This encyclopaedia will serve as one way of promoting the end we all have in view of correlating information on municipal affairs, and the cooperation of the members of the Association is most earnestly solicited by the editor.

This report is in the nature of a report of progress and of information, and it is suggested either that the committee be continued as at present constituted, or a new one authorized to continue the study of the question, to formulate or draft bills providing for national and state bureaus of municipal affairs, and to engage in such propaganda in their behalf as may seem to be necessary.

The Chairman renews the statement made earlier in this report that the views herein expressed are individual ones, although he has no reason to believe that the members of the Committee differs seriously from him. It is a matter of great regret that the circumstances were such as to make consultation impossible.

Progress Report of the Committee Investigating the Use and Methods of Handling and Filing Newspaper Clippings*

By Jesse Cunningham, Chairman

The first report of this committee made at the Katterskill meeting of the Association was confined to a digest of information collected from thirty-three libraries and institutions using clippings. The following conclusions are based upon the information and data presented at that time:—

1. This investigation shows that the chief source of clippings is independent reading and clipping by the institutions themselves. The service of the clipping bureau seldom meets the needs and for scientific purposes is almost valueless. The needs of each institution are better satisfied when the clipping and collecting is done by the institution's staff who are thoroughly familiar with the demands to be met.

2. The Dewey decimal classification and its various expansions is most widely used. The alphabetical arrangement by subjects following the headings of the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature ranks along side the Dewey and has many advocates.

3. The manila and cardboard mounts with the clippings pasted on them in such a way as to allow binding and shelving with other material on the same subject seems a satisfactory method of filing. Large and valuable pieces are bound as books. Vertical files have their advocates and are used extensively.

4. The Dewey decimal system of classification provides its own relative index. The alphabetical arrangement by subjects is self-indexing and there is the Readers' Guide in addition. Full cataloging of clippings is ideal, but expensive.

5. The 'ephemeral character of the material requires constant elimination.

6. Clippings may be used the same as books and are often required to supplement printed books which are out of date as soon as published. For debate work and legislative reference they have great value.

7. The advantages claimed for clippings are their up-to-dateness, timeliness, small cost, convenience to send by post, flexibility, compactness, and they are very frequently the only material to be had on a subject when it is alive. A leading disadvantage is, the material is not entirely reliable, often being found inaccurate and sometimes entirely wrong and misleading. The labor and cost of arranging is great. They are difficult to index and the tendency is to accumulate too much dead material.

The discussion which followed this report and paper by Honorable Robert Luce of the Luce Press Clipping Bureau on "The Clipping Bureau and the Library" showed the need of making a wider investigation of the subject among users of clippings as well as the clipping bureaus themselves.

This committee has made an effort to learn something of the clipping service ren-

*Delivered at the Annual meeting of the Special libraries association, Berkeley, Cal., June 7-3, 1915.

dered by the bureaus by means of the following inquiry:—

CLIPPING BUREAU INVESTIGATION

Please give a detailed description of the operations in your bureau from the receipt of papers to the mailing of clippings to subscribers.

Does the reader mark the subject as for a territory or docs she know the customer and mark the customer's name?.....

In case you have several orders for the same clipping, how do you manage?.....

..... Do conflicting orders trouble you?.....

How do you classify or sort papers and assign them to readers?.....

How many papers do you read?.....

Larger, more important papers.....

Smaller papers.....

Weekly journals, etc.....

Have you tested the efficiency of readers?.....

What per cent of assigned matter does your reader mark?.....

Your poorest reader?.....

In sorting clippings, how do you divide them?.....

What is your scheme of classification?.....

What are your rates?

Piece.....

Month.....

Week.....

Do you receive orders from other bureaus for special matter or matter from certain sections of the country?.....

Do you give orders to other bureaus?.....

Do you read technical publications?.....

Do you supply matter of a technical or scientific nature?.....

The following clipping bureaus were addressed:—

American Press Information Bureau, 106 Fulton St., N. Y.

Argus Press Clipping Bureau, 352 Third Ave., N. Y.

Bureau of National Literature, 341 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Burrelle Press Clipping Bureau, 45 Lafayette St., N. Y.

Luce Press Clipping Bureau, 66 Park Place, N. Y.

Manhattan Press Clipping Bureau, 5th Ave. and 33d St., N. Y.

Pan Press Bureau, 21 Park Row, N. Y.

Consolidated Press Clipping Co., 607, 162 State, Chicago.

International Press Clipping Bureau, 378 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

Twentieth Century Press Clipping Bureau, 1015, 77 Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

U. S. Press Clipping Bureau, 1309, 153 LaSalle St., Chicago.

General Press Cutting Assn., Ltd., Lenox House, Norfolk St., London, W. C.

Fullers Press Clipping Bureau, Pacific Bldg., Seattle.

Searchlight Information Library, 341 Seventh Ave., N. Y.

Walter Hyams & Co., 38 West 3d St., N. Y.

New England Press Clipping Bureau, 146 Franklin St., Boston.

Henry Romeike, 33 Union Square, N. Y.

Very full and detailed reports have been received from Luce's Press Clipping Bureau, Argus Press Clipping Bureau, Henry Romeike, Searchlight Information Library, General Press Cutting Assn., and Fuller's Press Clipping Bureau. Other bureaus addressed have failed to reply or have indicated that they do not wish to furnish the information desired.

The committee proposes to extend the investigation over the field of all users of clippings and present a final report based on data so collected and the information now in hand.

Memorandum Concerning the Directory of Sources of Information in the District of Columbia*

By H. H. B. Meyer, Chief Bibliographer, Library of Congress

When I told your President that I would give him a Memorandum on the Directory of sources of information in the District of Columbia I had no idea that it was going to figure in the program. However, he has

had the grace to call it a "Memorandum" and a memorandum it shall be.

Various attempts have been made to list sources of information and in Boston and elsewhere indexes of sponsors of information are available in which are found names of individuals, libraries and other concerns

*Delivered at the Annual meeting of the Special libraries association, Berkeley, Cal., June 7-8, 1916.

who will undertake to be responsible for certain classes of knowledge. Probably no place could be found more suitable than Washington to try out the idea of a Directory of sources of information. Certainly no other community of its size in the world has so many important scientific sources of information. Congress appropriates hundreds of millions annually to carry on the work of over one hundred and fifty bureaus in every field of human interest and these bureaus employ the services of men of international scientific reputation. On the other hand, the inquirers, Members of Congress, administrative officials, men in other government bureaus, and scientific investigators from all over the country and even foreign countries, sometimes seem to us to be more than a match for the sources of information. The need of a guide which shall direct the inquirer by the shortest way to this information is felt on every hand, and by none more than special librarians of the various departments, and the Division of bibliography of the Library of Congress which has gradually developed into a general bureau of information. What more natural than that they should get together in a co-operative undertaking of this kind through the common meeting ground—the District of Columbia Library Association?

Without going too much into details of procedure, I may say that a committee of three was appointed to undertake this work, of which I, as Chief bibliographer of the Library of Congress, was Chairman. The Committee prepared a circular which set forth briefly the plan and scope of the Directory and by giving some specimen subject headings tried to show the form in which the information was desired. At the very beginning of the undertaking we were fortunate enough to enlist the interest of Mr. Davis, Chief engineer of the Reclamation service, who supplied us with a list of subjects on which the Reclamation service has valuable information. This list of subjects fills a page and a half of the circular, and covers every phase of the work of the Reclamation service.

We also indicated on the circular that we wished the names of any persons who were experts in any field of knowledge. The sample given in the circular appears under the head of "Paper" and indicates that Mr. F. P. Veitch, in charge of the Leather and paper laboratory of the Bureau of chemistry, has expert knowledge on this subject.

As you all know a mere circular is apt to be dropped into the waste basket without receiving much attention. We therefore left a conspicuous place on the front page to be filled in for each particular bureau or department with the most appropriate head-

ing, so that the official receiving the circular would have his attention arrested by not only the name of his department but the subject in which that department is most vitally interested. With each circular we sent a personal letter soliciting the interest of the person addressed and at the same time diminishing the likelihood of inattention to which a mere circular is almost invariably subjected. This, of course, has meant a great deal of work, but that our method of procedure in gathering the information is very nearly correct is indicated by the completeness with which government officials and others are covering the interests of their several offices. The examples drawn from the work of the Reclamation service have evidently been very closely scrutinized because I find that the material sent us needs comparatively little editing to make it conform to a uniform standard, so that we have found it possible to begin the preparation of copy at once, and we hope to have the whole matter in the hands of the printer about the first of July.

Copy is being prepared on standard library catalogue cards made of very thin stock. A card is devoted to each subject, the name of the subject being followed by the name of the bureau or the individual who has information on it. After these cards have been used as copy for the Directory they will be kept on file in the Division of bibliography to be added to and corrected from time to time and so furnish the basis for any future editions of the Directory which are sure to be called for. Probably our first edition will be far from complete but it will be the first form of a desk tool which, unless we fail utterly in our purpose, will be as often used as pen, ink and paper.

The final result will be a pamphlet volume of the size of the "Handbook of the libraries in the District of Columbia" which was published last year. The Directory will probably be somewhat thicker than the Handbook.

When we have completed our work we hope to be able to place in the hands of every Member of Congress, all the government officials, and visiting students and investigators, a guide which will help them all in their work by bringing them directly into touch with the best sources of information on the particular subject in which they may be interested, without pursuing a devious course of being referred from bureau to bureau and being reduced to the frame of mind of one inquirer who wrote to the Library of Congress for information and begged us most earnestly not to refer his request to the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

List of References on Government Aid to Farmers and Immigrants

(Compiled under the direction of H. H. B. Meyer, Chief Bibliographer, Library of Congress, with the co-operation of the state libraries and state legislative reference departments. Contributions were received from the Indiana State library and the New York State library.)

The following list is limited to material bearing on direct governmental aid to farmers and immigrants, such as grants of land, advances of money or supplies, state supervision of cooperative enterprises, etc. Literature relating to more indirect forms of state aid to agriculture, such as farmers' institutes, agricultural education, etc., is not included.

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Hungary: Government participation in agricultural organization: p. 125-126; Government aid to agriculture: p. 126-127. HG2041.A6
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- Casasus, Joaquin D.** Les institutions de crédit; étude sur leurs fonctions et leur organisation. Bruxelles; O. Schepens & Cie, 1900. 554 p.
"Les banques agricoles": p. 257-301. HG3726.C35
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"Litteratur": 6. 325.
Contents.—1. Deutschland.—2. Das Ausland.
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