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LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library;

Herewith is respectfully submitted my report of the work of the Lawrence Free Public Library during its twelfth fiscal year ending December 31, 1916.

In spite of the fact that the accessions of books have been far less than the average per year for the twelve years the free library has been in existence, the reference work has again practically doubled and the circulation has made a gain of 1118.

As the heaviest reference demands have been made on the periodical files, both bound and unbound, we have been able to meet them fairly well; though the number of times we have been obliged to check "do not have" against a list of modern reference books, has been discouraging to both librarians and library patrons.

As we are looking forward to no repairs from this year's maintenance fund, and an increased levy for next year, should our request to Mr. Carnegie for money for library extension be granted, the library staff works with a vision of joys to come.

Last year the deficit was due to extensive repairs on the basement, both inside and out; and this year to re-plumbing from start to finish, a new drinking fountain and the replacing of toilet fixtures, all necessary, but quite too heavy for a fund not even sufficient for the administering of a rapidly growing educational institution.

The only extension work done this year was the granting to country teachers the privilege of taking at one time, 10 vols. of juvenile non-fiction for use in their school rooms. This was granted to the city teachers a few years ago.

Because of the illness of a member of the library staff, the story hour and the talks to the High School students were discontinued. A story-teller has now been employed and beginning with the first of February stories will be told each week throughout the spring semester. The story-hour always arouses anew the interest of the attending children in the books of the juvenile department, with the result that the circulation promptly increases.

We have not felt the loss of the High School talks this

year as once before when they were omitted, as the freshmen class is now made up largely of girls and boys who for years have been patrons of the juvenile department, and the accustomedness is carried with them to the adult department.

The notable gifts of the year have been a large picture of the St. Gaudens statue of Lincoln, presented by Mr. C. H. Tucker of the Library Board; a picture of the survivors of the Quantrell Raid, taken at the time of the fiftieth anniversary of that event, together with a cloth bound copy of the book issued at that time by the Journal-World, both presented by Mr. W. C. Simons of the Journal-World; and the fine 2 vol. edition of Thayer's Life of John Hay, presented by Judge Norton.

On Jan. 1st. 1905 the new Free Public Library opened its doors to the public with 5483 vols. exclusive of public documents. From 1905 to 1916 inclusive, there have been added 11,127 vols., or an average of 927 $\frac{1}{4}$ each year. This should make the library number 16,610 vols. but unfortunately books will wear out, and occasionally the word "free" is misinterpreted, so that there have been, in the twelve years, 2,452 vols. taken from circulation, or an average of 204 $\frac{1}{3}$ a year, thus making the net gain per year 722 $\frac{11}{12}$ vols., or the total books now in circulation 14,158.

The total accessions for the year were 625, 538 by purchase and 87 by gift. Of those purchased 20 were from the Perkins Memorial fund.

The accessions distributed in the various classes are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult bound periodicals..... | 135 |
| Adult fiction | 232 |
| Adult non-fiction | 143 |
| Reference department | 18 |
| Juvenile fiction | 59 |
| Juvenile non-fiction | 25 |
| Juvenile bound periodicals | <u>13</u> |
| Total | 625 |

The number worn out and lost was 301, 179 adult and 122 juvenile, leaving a net gain of 324, or 398 $\frac{11}{12}$ less than the

average net gain.

The total accessions divided in classes are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Adult bound periodicals | 1730 |
| Adult fiction | 3463 |
| Adult non-fiction | 5642 |
| Reference department | 469 |
| German department | 392 |
| Juvenile fiction | 1192 |
| Juvenile non-fiction | 1126 |
| Juvenile bound periodicals | <u>144</u> |
| Total | 14158 |

The last volumes of the New International Encyclopaedia are just accessioned and the complete edition is now on the shelves of the reference room.

The list of donors of books is as follows: Mr. G. W. Kleihege, Dr. E. Bumgardner, Mrs. C. S. Finch, many books and pamphlets relating to the war from and by Sir Gilbert Parker, Miss Kate Stephens, Mrs. W. A. McKeever, Kansas City Star's Life of Wm. R. Nelson, Judge J. Q. A. Norton, Miss Alice S. Clark, Mr. Frank E. Ward, Japan Society, Pan-American Union, Mrs. L. E. Sayre, Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert, Mrs. F. E. Bryant, Mrs. R. B. Preuszner, Miss Prudentia Gowell, Mr. A. T. Walker and the authors and editors of various works, many of them truly desirable.

A number of Kansas documents, both pamphlets and volumes, have been added to the files now located in the basement. When the stack room is enlarged these will all be brought to the first floor and made of greater use, because more conveniently located.

The circulation statistics are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Adult fiction | 32053 |
| Adult non-fiction | 9359 |
| Juvenile fiction | 7578 |
| Juvenile non-fiction | <u>3097</u> |
| Total | 52087 |

The total circulation for 1915 was 50,969, making a gain of 1118 for 1916.

The comparative statistics for the two years are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Adult fiction, 1916 | 32,053 | | |
| Adult non-fiction 1915 | <u>31,009</u> | | |
| Gain 1916 | 1,044 | | 1044 |
| Adult non-fiction 1916 | 29,359 | | |
| Adult non-fiction 1915 | <u>28,726</u> | | |
| Gain 1916 | 633 | | 633 |
| Juvenile fiction 1915 | 8,686 | | |
| Juvenile fiction 1916 | <u>7,578</u> | | |
| Loss 1916 | 1,108 | | 1108 |
| Juvenile non-fiction 1916 | 3,097 | | |
| Juvenile non-fiction 1915 | <u>2,548</u> | | |
| Gain 1916 | 549 | | <u>549</u> |
| | | | 2,226 1108 |
| Gain 1916 | 2,226 | | |
| Loss 1916 | <u>1,108</u> | | |
| Net gain 1916 | 1,118 | | |

The largest monthly circulation was in March and numbered 5,334; the smallest was in August and numbered 3,238. The average daily circulation was 147.1.

In July 1915 we duplicated for circulation six of the best magazines: Atlantic, Bookman, Century, Harper's, National Geographic, World's Work and North American Review, the latter donated by Mr. Tucker. That this extension has been appreciated by the library patrons is evidenced in the circulation, 1188 in the present year and 424 in the six months of 1915. When the magazines are bound in volumes they are put in circulation with the general collection.

In 1905 there were 49 periodicals on our list. Now there are 105, exclusive of the circulating duplicates.

The sixth biennial registration of borrowers cards now numbers 3,787 adult and 784 juvenile, a total of 4,571, an addition of 1,767 during the year. This exceeds by 369 the fifth registration at the corresponding time.

There were 546 volumes rebound and 148 volumes of periodicals

bound. This is the largest number of periodicals we have ever bound at one time. The larger magazines have been filed in the basement, but the almost constant use of them makes binding a necessity in order to preserve them intact. As the binding of these large volumes is quite expensive, we are working back at the rate of only about 30 vols. a year.

And so with almost nothing to spend there have been gains all along the line, so small at times, that seemingly we were only marking time, but nevertheless each step brought us a slight degree in advance.

If we can do this on "nothing a year" what might ~~we~~ not be our progress on a more adequate appropriation.

And this brings us to our vision of the future. The Library Board and the City Commissioners are co-operating with Mr. Charles S. Gleed in an effort to secure funds from the Carnegie Corporation for the much needed library extension. That we have gained ~~in~~ a hearing through Mr. Gleed is evidenced by the fact that requests for statistics of various kinds have been received from the Corporation. These have been promptly supplied through the treasurer of the Board and the library architect. While the plans are not complete, the thought is the enlargement of the reference, stack and children's rooms. This ~~was~~ would mean more basement room for work shop and storage also the doing over into attractive form the assembly room, which could then be used for meetings of various kinds as opportunity presented.

We fully expect Mr. Carnegie will give us the necessary money for these improvements, but should he not, we will turn to the City Commission in perfect faith that the needs of a growing educational institution such as their Public Library, will be gladly met.

For the co-operation of the Library Board, a Board ever ready to give its helpful council and interest, the librarian is deeply grateful.

Respectfully submitted

Ellie G. Beatty
Librarian.