

# NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

## STATE FAIR CIRCULAR.

LINCOLN, Sept. 1, 1902.

After ten months of active work, the Commission can report to the people of Nebraska. The work of equipping an office and establishing a new department of the state's activities has gone forward vigorously, and the results of our efforts have exceeded the most sanguine hopes of the friends of the movement.

### Need of a Library Commission

In proof of the need of a library commission, we have already had correspondence and inquiries that call out all of the activities contemplated by the law creating this commission. We have been consulted on almost every detail of library administration, such as buildings and furniture, cataloging and classification, loan systems, regulations for readers, organization of library boards, selection and purchase of books, etc. Twenty or more cities and villages have written or sent in for advice as to establishing libraries or reading rooms where none exist. Some of them want to know how to organize library associations, others want to know the library laws of the state and forms for ordinances establishing libraries. School people ask us to select books for their school libraries, and we have made a special effort to help them spend their money wisely. The members and secretary of the commission have traveled nearly 2,000 miles in the state doing work called for by the people.

### Traveling Libraries

The traveling libraries have proven our most effectual means of awakening interest in libraries and reading. We now have twenty-three collections of forty volumes each, traveling about the state and remaining three months in a place, at the end of which time, they return to Lincoln to be sent elsewhere. These libraries have been circulated from barber shops, drug stores, post offices, school houses, dwellings and small public libraries. Twenty-eight different places have already been visited by these beneficent travelers. The testimony as to their usefulness is universal. Every place that has had one wants another.

### Permanent Traveling Library Stations

From the very first day the demand for traveling libraries has been greater than our ability to supply them, and we decided to follow the example of the Wisconsin and other library commissions, and ask the people to help themselves by giving us money to purchase traveling libraries. Wherever our traveling libraries have gone, we have been obliged to say that we could not send a second library to a place while we had any unsatisfied applications from communities that had not received the first library. If, however, a community will give us the forty dollars necessary to purchase one traveling library, we agree to make that place a permanent traveling station for five years, sending a fresh library once in three months. The libraries purchased with the money so given have appropriate book plates which tell how we acquired the books, and are known on our records by the names of the places giving them. Osceola, Harvard and Valley are permanent stations. Why not make an effort to have your town or neighborhood put on our list of stations? Do not let the fact that we have already more applicants than we have libraries deter you from applying for one. The greater the demand, the more reason we will have for asking for a more generous fund for purchasing books. Then, if we have to keep you waiting, use the interval to secure the money which will insure you a succession of traveling libraries for five years.

### Library Extension

The work of establishing libraries where none exist is of especial importance. If such a movement is on foot anywhere in the state, we wish to know of it. Make it part of your business as a good citizen to keep us posted, and if you see a chance for us to help, write to us. We are equally interested in the improvement of libraries already established. If you need any help about library buildings, or administration, we will be glad to send you the latest and best helps that are in print, or to come to your community to help your librarian if requested to.

We have the following pamphlets for distribution when applied for:—

- Suggestive list of books for a small library.
- Hand book of library organization.
- How to start a public library.
- Why do we need a public library?
- List of books for school libraries.
- Relation between the public school and the library.

We will be glad to correspond with any resident of Nebraska concerning our work.

Address

EDNA D. BULLOCK, Secretary.

Nebraska Public Library Commission,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.