

COUNCIL MEETINGS  
of the  
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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October 4 - 9, 1926  
Hotel Chelsea  
Atlantic City



MONDAY MORNING SESSION

October 4, 1926

The Council Meeting of the American Library Association, convened in the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N.J., at ten a.m., President Belden presiding.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: The meeting of the Council will kindly come to order. I would like to suggest if there are any members of the Council present who are not at present occupying seats near the front, to please come forward.

The program of the morning need not necessarily be a long one. There are just four subjects to be considered. The first subject is the recommendations of the Commission on Library and Adult Education. That will be presented by Mr. Judson T. Jennings, Chairman.

MR. JUDSON T. JENNINGS: Mr. President and Members of the American Library Association Council: The Commission on the Library and Adult Education has, as you know, been at work now for two years on the general survey of what libraries might do as their contribution toward adult education. We are here this morning merely to present the results of our study.

We are sorry that there was so much delay in getting the report to you. We hope to have it mailed from headquarters at least one month before this meeting, but things that we could not control prevented that. It was mailed nine

days before this meeting to all of the members of the Council. We hope that you have had time, at least, to glance through it. The report is being issued in three editions: The paper edition which was mailed to members of the Council; the Anniversary edition which appears in this form (indicating) to go with other publications in that same series; and then the Macmillan edition, which is published in this form, in green cloth. Five thousand copies have been printed. Twenty-five hundred of those are published by the American Library Association; six hundred and sixty are in this Anniversary edition which goes to those who have made generous contribution toward the Anniversary fund; and in the paper edition there were eighteen hundred and forty copies. Those went to the Council, to certain journals and institutional members, to associations and individuals who have aided the Commission in its study.

Then there are twenty-five hundred copies of the Macmillan edition.

Because of the delay in getting this report to you, we have printed a two-page report which you have in your hands that gives the parts that will be necessary for you to consider in taking action this morning. On the second page or the third column of this report, you will find the resolution we wish to present this morning.

... Mr. Jennings then read the resolutions ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: You have heard the recommenda-



tions of the Commission. The motion and discussion at present is confined to paragraph I, that the report of the Commission be accepted and that the Commission be discharged. Is there any further comment?

... The motion was seconded and the recommendation adopted ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: The second recommendation is now before you.

MR. JENNINGS: I move the adoption of the second resolution which has been read.

MR. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me very unwise to allow this investigation of the subject of adult education to lapse at the present time and it seems to me that the best way of insuring it shall go on is to create this board that the proposition advises. I have been very much interested in the work and report of the present Board and although I don't agree with everything they have done, I am especially doubtful about the advisability of going any further in the matter of test in credits for adult education work, but still it is not proposed, as I understand it, by the permanent Board to do anything more than investigate and report and it seems to me very desirable such investigation should go forward.

Therefore, it gives me very great pleasure to second the resolution as presented.

MISS MARY DOWNEY: If the Council at any time

should consider the work was completed would we have to be so institutionalized we would continue that Board indefinitely, or would the Council withdraw the Board?

PRESIDENT BELDEN: I understand the Council by action could properly put an end to the Board.

MR. WALTER: In the second section is one sentence which I think the Council should look at carefully, "Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled by the Executive Board." Does that mean if the person should resign within three months, the appointee should serve four years and three-quarters, or until the next regular Council meeting. We ought to consider that so we know what we are adopting.

MR. JENNINGS: I think it was the feeling of the Commission that since the Executive Board appointed the members of this Board anyway, that they might as well appoint for the full unexpired term.

MR. WALTER: The policies of the Executive Board change with the new Board. The question is whether you want to tie up three or four succeeding Boards. I think we ought to know the policy we are adopting.

MR. JENNINGS: Under the present outline, five members of the permanent Board are appointed by the Council, or rather, by the Executive Board I mean. The Executive Board will appoint only one member each year to serve five years. It seems to the Commission since the Executive Board has that power,

they should have power to fill vacancies for the remainder of the unexpired term. I know it came up in the Executive Board and it seems to me we ought to decide now rather than fight about it at the next meeting.

SECRETARY MILAM: I haven't the training board charter here but I think it is the appointing power that would have power to fill the vacancy.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Is there further comment or discussion on the point raised by Mr. Walter?

... The motion was put to a vote and carried ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: We will now hear the recommendations from Mr. C. B. Lester, Chairman of the Library Extension Work.

MR. C. B. LESTER: Mr. President, Members of the Council: I wish to take a few moments to recall to your minds the background for the work which has been required of this Committee. At the mid-winter meeting, less than two years ago now, the subject was the lack of library service in many parts of the country and was forcibly presented. I think it was perhaps more generally realized by the Council as a body than it had been formerly and definite action was taken asking that a standing committee consider the subject and report back to the American Library Association as to what might be done by the American Library Association itself in that matter of lack of library service.

The committee was organized in 1925, and reported at Seattle that before a program could be suggested, there must be a knowledge of the field in which that program should work. That required more of a study than had ever been made, a bringing together of facts which while somewhat available in part, had never been brought together. At Seattle, that report was approved and provision was made for the study. Only last Fall, less than a year ago, the Committee was able to take up that part of its work.

It now presents to the Council a committee report which is found in the printed Committee Reports, beginning at the bottom of page 41 and accompanies that with a more extended presentation of the subject matter originally referred to in the Seattle report, namely, the actual facts as to the need of library service, recommendation to the American Library Association as to what it might do to remedy those lacks.

The Committee feels that it has phrased again in a part of its report on page 42 of the annual reports, merely something that the American Library Association has felt and expressed many times before, namely, that one of the goals of this Association as a professional body is adequate public library service within easy reach of everyone in the United States and Canada. It feels that the avenues through which that service may be realized may be expressed as basically a public opinion educated as to the value of libraries. I say that basically and fundamentally and then building on that

the public library of the cities, the large unit libraries which cover the rural sections and State leadership.

Both experience of the past and the study by the Committee of what it could gather from that experience and its best judgment as to the future lead us to those conclusions. To reach that goal, meaning that part perhaps, I might say, of the American Library Association motto, "Best reading for the greatest number at the least cost" expressed in the second part of that statement -- "for the greatest number" -- is the part of our motto which this Committee feels itself aiming toward.

The whole field has been presented to you in another one of the reports which I will just call to your attention, if they have not previously been brought to your attention. This is the paper edition corresponding to the paper edition which Mr. Jennings showed you of the adult board, the report in special binding and finally the cloth edition.

The background in other words of what we are recommending for action by the American Library Association is contained in that volume, is summarized in very brief form in the report presented in the group of annual reports and is offered for your action in a resolution at the bottom of page 42 of those reports. I will read that resolution briefly and I would call your attention to the fact that beyond the preamble, beyond the introductory paragraph, the resolution itself expresses what you will find in the summary of our report

which has been distributed to members of the Council, beginning with the words "Organized effort" and running through heading No. 8, halfway down the next page.

This Committee was formed as a standing committee and we suggest that the direction of the work of the American Library Association in this field may best be continued through committee organization. Therefore, we offer the following resolution:

... Mr. Lester read the resolution ...

MR. LESTER: Mr. President, I move the adoption by the Council of that resolution.

... The motion was seconded ...

MISS ALICE TYLER: Might I comment a little bit on this? It is a matter very near to my heart because I have felt that Library extension was the vital thing that we were unable to undertake in the American Library Association during the past years but that we all felt it must be one of the forward steps.

I am very happy to hear this report and to note the splendid progress that this Committee has made. I think it is a notable contribution and those of us who have in past years been associated with extension work in the various States are especially happy to see that as a National, and I might say, Continental body, we are now entering upon practical and accurate extension work.

M. J. BLACK (Canada): Speaking as the representative of the Canadian members of the Association on this committee, it is with great pleasure that I express my complete endorsement of the entire scheme. Sometimes we on this continent can't say that our problems, north and south of the line, are very diverse. At other times, we realize they are practically one, and it is very delightful indeed that I am able to feel that in this problem of library extension we can speak of it as our problem, the problem of the North American Continent.

As far as Canada is concerned, I feel that there are great possibilities for the extension committee doing a great work there. Our population is small; our percentage of non-library recipients of service is perhaps not much greater than it is on this side. We have no traditions to fight against and generally speaking, we are receptive of the ideas that we get when we come over to the American side to see our American cousins and learn of your splendid methods.

It was a very great honor to feel I was put on this Committee because I knew I was bringing practically nothing to you that you did not already know, but I do feel that I can go back to Canada and give stimulus and inspiration I never would have got if I hadn't had the pleasure of being with you.

(Applause)

... The motion was put to a vote and carried ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Mr. Arthur A. Bostwick of the

St. Louis Public Library will present a resolution from the Committee on Classification of Library Personnel.

... Dr. Bostwick presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

... The motion was seconded by W. J. Hamilton...

MR. G. F. BOWERMAN: May I say one additional word? I suggest that members of the Association at large and the Council do this additional to passing the resolution, that you get into touch with your members of Congress that you know best, particularly, the members of the appropriation committees, that you get them to back this thing up. I suggest that the President of the Association talk with Representative Luce, that Mr. Roden see Martin B. Madden, the great chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and get him personally interested in the matter, and that all the rest of you talk with the members of Congress that you know best, to show that this isn't a formal, perfunctory action on the part of the Council but that we one and all heartily back this resolution up and that we want to have action.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: I approve most heartily of the suggestion of Dr. Bowerman and may I not express the hope that each and every member of the Council will do his and her part to have this resolution receive the attention which it should.

DR. RANEY: Mr. President and Members of the Council: I should like to suggest that when you come to take

a vote upon this particular resolution that it be modified at least to the extent of saying that the Bulletin should be expanded. Let's insert the word "should" before the word "be". I merely mean at this time to direct your thoughts to the advisability of the Association's having a Bulletin, a medium of expression that will be more fully representative of the work of the Association and of its contributing members than any organ we now have.

It took thirty years for the Association to kick off its swaddling clothes and reach the point of its beginning the issue of its own conference proceedings. It is now a half century and we have not yet reached the point where we have an organ of discussion that we can call our own. We are rather proud of recent National contacts the Association has been able to make. We wish ourselves to be classified as among the organizations that are called learned or scientific in the country. We have in our efforts at the National Legislation in Washington found ourselves not merely joined by these various organizations but in certain questions acknowledged as their leader. It occurred to me as interesting to examine what the output of these several organizations is as compared with that of the American Library Association at the present time.

With two exceptions in the entire list of fourteen or fifteen, there is not one of these organizations with which we like to have ourselves compared that is at the present

time so circumscribed in its mode of expression as our own organizations. The one that you would quite naturally think of as being most akin to us is the National Education Association, but it has not only its annual volume of addresses and proceedings that correspond to the big convention number of our Bulletin and the number which is like our handbook, but it operates no less than six other serials -- two for the entire organization, the Journal and the Research Bulletin -- and four for big, specific sections, and those sections are continually coming forward year after year with the need demonstrated of an organ of expression of their own and those organs, whether quarterly or annual, are not merely newsbulletins but a series of contributions, signed contributions by members of the profession, with an editorial policy established by their Association.

The American Council on Education, which because it is merely a national body of advisory character might be supposed to be stopped from having an organ of its own, still publishes regularly the educational record since 1920, and that contains signed contributions, discussions in addition to reporting the annual findings of conferences.

The American Economic Association issues not merely as two supplements its papers and proceedings and its handbook, but the main body of its contributions come out in the American Economic Review which allows one at quarterly

intervals to send into an editor his own contributions to his profession.

The American Historical Association issues an annual report through the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute at the Government Printing Office a volume that corresponds to ours. They send out the American Historical Review which while published by the Macmillan Company is edited by a board named by the American Historical Association.

The American Political Science Association has its proceedings issued as a supplement to the American Political Science Review. The American Chemical Society not merely has its annual volume such as ours, but issues "Chemical Abstracts," "Industrial Engineering", "Chemistry" and cooperates in the issue of the "Physiological Abstracts."

The Geological Society of America and the American Physiological Association, issue publications on the order of ours.

The American Physical Society issues a bulletin, cooperates in the issue of "Science Abstracts" and publishes the Physical Review.

The Archaeological Institute of America publishes its annual reports with minutes of the Council and the Directors' meetings and the Bulletin, but also an American Journal of Archaeology. Even the College Art Association of America has the National Art Bulletin.

The American Association of University Professors issues eight times a year a bulletin, not a news bulletin as ours is but it is a bulletin of discussion containing, every one of them, signed articles by university professors. The Association of American Colleges similarly has a bulletin which is one of discussion, and finally, the Association of Urban Universities issues a proceedings like our own, so that of this entire group of learned and scientific organizations with which we like to be compared, there are but a small number that are confined to the narrow mode of expression that characterizes our organization.

We have not only reached the point when we wish to be counted one of the serious contributing organizations to the science, education, and scholarship of America, but we have definite campaigns forward for recruiting to our profession, and what we are always trying to do in getting the attention of our groups is to implant the idea that now here is at last a profession that will offer the opportunity for the same sort of both action and thinking that the other learned organizations have.

We have just seen the Carnegie organization give a munificent sum of a million some odd thousand dollars for the establishment of a post graduate school leading to advanced degrees only with another post graduate school, leading to lower degrees at Columbia. In any advanced educational in-

stitution, the basis of an appointment at least in higher grades is almost certain to be that of the ability of the man to contribute to the literature of his subject. If we are going to have our post graduate school raised to the rank of existing departments in similar universities, those men are not going to be content with writing brief articles of two or three pages to a commercial organ no matter how high grade those commercial organs are. They will want the opportunity of making extended studies in their favorite fields and of expecting that there shall be regularly open to them in our own field organs that that will publish contributions at length.

I have myself in the prosecution of two national campaigns (one of them still with us) felt the acute need of having the opportunity of presenting to the profession extended studies in the subject of the tariff formerly.

Realizing this is a matter of legislation on which we can't expect opportunity to present more than brief findings in existing organs, the temptation and danger is always to say the striking thing that will get the attention of the professional rather than to take the longer way around and to state the case in its historical and much more convincing background. That leads to misunderstandings and likewise tends to have the danger of leading to a profession that will vote without having had thorough knowledge of the background of

the discussion on important questions. It seems to me, therefore, for these and other reasons that it is highly desirable that the Association begin to cast about for the mode of financing an adequate organ that will allow the thinkers of the profession who do not want to content themselves merely with the details of administration, to have adequate opportunity of presenting their views and studies in an organ of honor in the country. May I then ask that you give your adhesion to the sentiment that the Bulletin should be expanded into a complete journal of discussion, adequate under competent editorial direction to accommodate the major contributions and give its committee studies regular presentation.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: You have heard Dr. Raney's recommendation; what is your pleasure?

MR. MEYER: Do you need a second to that? I would like to second that. Some of the members know I have been an engineer and even twenty-five years ago when I left the engineering profession, the tendency of the larger engineering societies was to create a journal to represent a profession giving opportunity for free discussion and thorough discussion on the subjects they were interested in. For that reason, I would like to see the American Library Association adopt this resolution which merely expresses the desirability at this moment of expanding our bulletin into a regular journal.

MR. BISHOP: It seems to me those of us who have

for a number of years past endeavored to find a place of publication for an article running beyond four or five printed papers must agree with Dr. Raney's sentiment. I think an article which I contributed to the proceedings of the American Library Association at Narragansett was the last long contribution to appear in the proceedings. Since then they have all be cut down to a reasonable size, probably to the advantage of the reader, but at the same time, it is a matter of sincere embarrassment to know where one may publish a historical discussion, a discussion on points of library practice which involve more than the mere brief statement and I think that we must all realize the truth of Dr. Raney's remark as to the danger that lies in being overbrief.

In the present day, the abstract seems much more in favor than the extended article, but I do not believe there is anything fanciful or misconceived. The need is a real need and speaking as one who hopes to train students to express themselves carefully and fully on matters connected with librarian service, I think the time has come when this subject cannot be ignored. We have no place at the present time, so far as I am aware, in which a subject may be presented extensively except by the advice of a continued number or serial publications thru several articles. I think no one can misunderstand our feeling in the matter but I am quite sure that unless we do find such means, the embarrassment will be much more keen in the future

than it is now.

MISS DOWNEY: I also wish to express my appreciation of this sentiment. I would like to ask is the mechanism provided to expand it rather than supplement it by another issue?

MR. RANEY: Certainly, the end desired is to have an organ for extended discussion. It is secondary as to what form the organ shall be, whether it shall be in the form of a quarterly supplement of extended form to the Bulletin, or whether it shall be an organ standing on its own feet. I should like to see the latter. It is easier to get an expansion of an existing organ than to set up another one. It makes no difference how it comes as long as it comes.

MR. RANCK: I don't see that there is in this motion sufficient directions for putting it into effect. Who is to expand and how, the present Bulletin? It seems to me all those details ought to be carefully thought out unless we simply vote to turn it over to the Secretary or some committee with power to act. It seems to me all of that is involved in this and I think that we ought to know just what we are doing and pretty definitely how the thing is to work out. I would like to have such a statement from Mr. Raney.

MR. LARKIN: We are talking of ourselves as educators. We are saying we are strong for institutional education. The people turn to us and say, "Where is the organ

to represent your institution?" It means what the Bishop says, "We have to go to others to get publication like the Fortnightly Review. Those papers will say, "We can't stand but one library article once a year. We have to distribute ourselves among our constituency."

We come back again to even such a small association as the American Philological Association. I took it to mean this, "Did the Association feel it needed to have an organ of public opinion in regard to the higher parts of our work, the real educational value of our work?" If we felt that, we could sit down and plot the whole thing out. The plotting or organization of it is a simple matter once the idea gets abroad that the idea is worthwhile.

MISS TYLER: I would like to ask if it would seem to fit in that a committee of the Council should be appointed to consider the matter further? If such an amendment to the resolution will fit in properly with it, I would move to so amend it.

MR. RANEY: The function of the Council is to establish a policy. All I am asking that the Council should do is that it express this as its sentiment, that we should have an adequate organ of expression. When it comes to execution, that is not the Council's business. The Council may appoint a committee that would look into the method of executing this sentiment but does not that fall under the Executive Board? All

we should do is to have the Council report itself with as much unanimity as possible as favorable to the establishment of an adequate organ of expression.

MISS TYLER: May I add further, I feel that the Council of the American Library Association is to define policies of the Association? That is my understanding. I consider it a real departure, a matter of policy. I feel, therefore, that it is a matter for the Council at this juncture and not the Executive Board and I feel that if the Council feels favorably toward the project in a general way, it should ask for very careful study before committing itself absolutely to a recommendation to the Executive Board to proceed with it. I feel it is a matter of policy.

MR. BOSTWICK: It seems to me that this whole matter will be adequately taken care of presumably after the resolution and the Executive Board is requested to take appropriate action. That gives connection between this resolution and the action of the Executive Board and requests action should be taken without stating what the action should be.

Therefore, my amendment is to add to Mr. Raney's resolution, "and the Executive Board is requested to take appropriate action."

MR. RANEY: Then the full resolution as amended will read: That the Bulletin should be expanded into a complete journal of discussion adequate under competent editorial direc-

tion to accommodate the major contributions from the profession and give its committee studies regular presentation, and that the Executive Board be requested to take appropriate action carrying out the resolution.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Does that wording have the approval of the Council?

... The motion was put to a vote and carried ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: This concludes the regular program of the morning unless there is some other business that properly comes before the Council at this time. Personally, I should like to say to the members of the Council just a word. We are the hosts this week of a distinguished company of visitors from other lands. We have a Reception Committee whose duties are to pay particular attention to these guests, but I should like to ask that each and every member of the Council do his part, as occasion may arise, in making our guests feel at home among us.

... The Council adjourned at eleven o'clock ...

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