

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

October 8, 1926

The meeting of the Council convened at two-thirty o'clock, President Belden presiding.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Our program again, as I see it, is a brief one, and I think it will not be necessary to hold you here very long.

First we are to have the recommendations of the Board of Education for Librarianship, presented by Mr. Adam Strohm.

... Mr. Strohm presented his prepared report ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: You have heard the report of Mr. Strohm and I hold here in my hand what I assume has been placed previously in your hands -- the second annual report of the Board of Education for Librarianship -- in which recommendation is made for the adoption of the minimum standard for curricula in school library work as presented on pages 62 and 64. What is your pleasure?

... It was moved, seconded, and carried, that the recommendations be adopted ...

MISS HOWE: In the first semester there are three hours and in the second only one. My experience running over a good many years of teaching in one-year library courses is that the student at the beginning of the year is not yet ready to take in book selection. She doesn't know well enough what

the whole thing is about. The students haven't the conception of the library as a whole and I feel if the emphasis is placed on book selection in the first term that they never will get the thing where it belongs. For the first month or six months, it is largely confusion. I hate to give them as heavy a course as three hours in book selection right at the start.

We have been working on these standards for quite some time through the headquarters' office, discussing the preparation of school librarians. The Educational Committee of the American Library Association, the School Library Section and the Library School are being sent preliminary material which was worked over into these final recommendations.

At Lake Placid last spring a meeting was called of the Board to which the school librarians and attendants at the New York State Library Association were invited, but the representatives of the School Library Section and the Educational Committee as well as the members of the special committee appointed by the National Educational Association went over all the materials. Then as you know, we have an official educational adviser for the whole American Library Association who has helped us decidedly in these matters and also have the valuable assistance of Professor Charters who is at hand in Chicago. Incidentally, we have also had aid from men who are not connected with our Association directly but who are very much interested in the educational field, for example, Professor Dura

at Harvard. These have been discussed from the school library standpoint. The library schools were given a copy and I think they have their chance to send in suggestions.

MR. RANCK: Is this going to be for high schools only or general schools also?

MISS HOWE: It is for school librarians wherever they are operating, whether high school or elementary school.

On page 72 is the curriculum which is suggested in the accredited library schools. These have all been approved by the Council previously. We simply start in with the requirements for admission to this particular curriculum. The recommendation of the three years work and two of college and university is not, as explained in the text which accompanies this, in any way to mean this course should be given only in a library school which requires that much college work. It simply makes for the protection of the student herself afterward, so she may be eligible for the best positions available. It does not mean this program might not be given junior undergraduate library schools. We are recommending a very definite program of work to be offered in all the library schools in preparation for school library work.

On pages 73 and 74, are the standards for the curricula which may be offered in other institutions than the accredited library schools. Starting there, we had to set up the whole machine again as we have in library schools.

On page 74, the requirements for admission to the curriculum have been left to the last because as you know there are normal schools which have less than four years' work and we do not want to bar any institution which is prepared to meet the other requirements just because it does not offer four years' college work or four years' work.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: As I understand this, the adoption of these simply means they are adopted, to be used as suggested -- a desirable standard not absolutely binding.

MISS HOWE: We could never make an institution adopt the standards. The only thing we could do would be to say, if the institution does not meet the standards it does not meet the approval of the Association.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Are there chairmen present of other committees who have at this time a report to present?

MR. BAILEY: I have a resolution I would like to present from the Committee on Federal Relations. The Committee has been working with Mr. Spencer and other people on the proposition of getting reduced rates for library books. After conferring with the Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, we had a meeting with the Joint Committee on postal affairs in April. The Committee, however, imagine this report did not include a special rate for library books, so that we concluded to ask Representative Moore who was interested to introduce a resolution in the house and Senator McCullough in the Senate.

So I would like to present this resolution for discussion and possibly adoption by the Council:

WHEREAS, public library advantages are just as essential for the millions of rural homes of America as those homes in the cities already so well supplied, and

WHEREAS, the equipment of local, county, state, and other libraries is being increased for world service in most States, and

WHEREAS, the use of the country mail service, the only possible daily means common to these homes for borrowing and returning books at will, is prevented because of the high parcel post rates, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge upon the Congress at the coming session the enactment of the postal rates for public library bills proposed by the Moore Bill, House Resolution 10313. (The proposed rates are for the first and second zones half of their present rates: One cent a pound in the first zone and two cents in the second and three cents in the third zone; that for the first and second zone is 50 per cent of the present rate, four cents for the coming and going of the book. For the third zone it is three-fifths of the present rate.)

The Committee seems quite in approval of the efforts made. Dr. Meyer appeared for the American Library Association, Dr. Morgan for the National Educational Associa-

tion, and representatives from the Federation of Women's Clubs appeared at the hearing. However, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Moses, did not seem very favorable. Three or four of the other members did. There is a possibility something may be done through the resolution of Congress. The only possibility we have then is to urge and work with the Congress to get the Moore Bill through and force the hands of the Committee.

... The resolution, upon motion duly made and seconded, was adopted ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: Any other chairmen of any committees present who have a report to present? There would seem to be two committees whose work has been completed and a motion is in order for the discharge of the Committee of the Evans Bibliography and the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee.

... Upon motion duly made and seconded, the two committees were discharged with the thanks of the Association ...

PRESIDENT BELDEN: The question has been asked by a number of the members of the Council as to when it would seem desirable to hold the next Council meeting. The question has been asked whether it would seem to be necessary to hold a Council meeting at the end of December, at the mid-winter meeting as is customary or whether in view of the fact that that time is so short a distance ahead, perhaps it might not be

left to the President in his judgment to call a meeting when and where necessary. I am sure that the incoming President and the Executive Board would be very glad to have an expression of opinion on the part of the Council in respect to the next Council meeting.

MR. UTLEY: In order to bring the matter before us, I beg to move the time and place of the next meeting of the Council be left to the discretion of the President.

... The motion was seconded ...

MR. RANCK: That might mean that we wouldn't have any at all or for an indefinite period.

MR. MILAM: The Constitution says there should be one meeting annually; the by-laws say two annually. We have complied with both this year.

MR. RANCK: I think the Secretary would know what is in the offing, or the possibility of business to come.

MR. MILAM: I recall two things on the docket for the mid-winter Council Meeting if it is held: The final report of the Committee on the Classification of Library Personnel and some new and more specific recommendations from the Committee on salaries with reference to retiring annuities and pensions.

MR. RATHBONE: Also I should like to add to that, the Committee on Library Service are ready to present not absolutely a final report but it proposes to present a fairly

final report, because I don't think it can be in print long enough until it has been under criticism.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: It might be if these three matters and others came to the attention of the President at the time of the usual mid-winter meeting or later, it would be within his discretion to call a meeting as soon as he saw fit.

MISS TYLER: Might I suggestion this fact? Some of the affiliated organizations are likely to want to meet in mid-winter. I think there are certain regional conferences that just naturally meet in Chicago at that time. I have a feeling that the people who live in the Middle West very much like to foregather at that time. That doesn't mean all the people from the Pacific to the Atlantic have to try to come. I do have a feeling the Middle West people very much enjoy that meeting. I don't know.

PRESIDENT BELDEN: We are beginning to secure from the members as a Council just that expression of opinion which we desire so that the President may be properly guided.

MR. MEYER: Might I ask if the whole question of the mid-winter meeting hinges on whether there is to be a Council meeting or not? It seems to me it would be fitting to leave it to the President.

MR. MILAM: As far as I can recall, it is simply a matter of precedent and tradition that the Secretary arranges for the mid-winter conference apart from the meetings of the

Executive Board and Council. Several of the groups which meet at the mid-winter season usually have no official status with the American Library Association but their programs are sought, arrangements made through the Secretary's office. Presumably that could be done in the same manner this year regardless of whether a Council meeting was held.

MR. RANCK: One phase of this mid-winter meeting hasn't been referred to and that is, as a rule, we are not nearly so crowded with other meetings and in the last eight or ten years that I have attended these meetings (not always as a member of the Council) the best meetings of the Council so far as discussion is concerned have been at Chicago, with a much better attendance than we get at the annual meeting here and the three questions that the Secretary already referred to are questions of very great importance to the Association, two of them at least, and we ought to have a very full and careful discussion.

MR. UNTLEY: I might add one more topic that will come before us at the next meeting of the Council. I think the Committee will be ready to report which was appointed to consider the advisability of a Section of Business Librarians. Therefore, I move that the place and time of the next meeting of the Council be left to the discretion of the President.

... The motion was seconded and carried ...

... There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at three-thirty o'clock.