

PROCEEDINGS
CONFERENCE
with
MEXICAN DELEGATION

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

May 26-27, 1928
West Baden, Indiana



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May 26, 1928

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SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

May 26, 1928

At ten-fifteen o'clock, Saturday morning, May 26, an informal meeting of the Executive Board, the Committee on Library Cooperation with the Hispanic Peoples and the Committee on International Relations was held with the Mexican delegates representing the libraries of Mexico at the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the American Library Association. Mr. Carl B. Roden, of Chicago, presided.

There were present:

Senorita Esperanza Velazquez Bringas
Head of Library Department, Ministry of
Education, Mexico City

Senor Joaquin Méndez Rivas,
Director, National Library of Mexico,
Mexico City

Senor Rafael Heliodoro Valle,
Library Department, Ministry of Education,
Mexico City

Senor Joaquin Diaz Mercado,
Librarian, Library of the Ministry of Education,
Mexico City

Senor Rafael Aguilar y Santillán,
Perpetual Secretary, Sociedad Científica
"Antonio Alzate," Mexico City

Senor Tobias Chávez,
Director, University of Mexico Libraries,
Mexico City

Carl B. Roden, President, A. L. A.
Charles H. Compton, First Vice-President, A.L.A.
Charles E. Rush, Second Vice-President, A.L.A.
Matthew S. Dudgeon, Treasurer, A.L.A.
Carl H. Milam, Secretary, A.L.A.
Sarah C. N. Bogle, Assistant Secretary, A.L.A.

C. E. Babcock
Ernest C. Richardson
William W. Bishop
John T. Vance
A. F. P. Greer
D. Rowden
Maud D. Sullivan
C. C. Williamson
Harriet A. Wood
L. L. Dickerson
Julia W. Merrill
Alicia Malvido
Anita M. Hostetter
Margaret B. Martin
Herbert S. Hirshberg
Mrs. Herbert S. Hirshberg
Marjorie Zinkie

PRESIDENT RODEN: Ladies and Gentlemen: This morning we are taking advantage of the presence of our guests to institute a very informal conference on subjects of common interest, particularly such as pertain to a discussion of the library resources and the library movement in our respective countries. There is no program of a formal sort, there is no occasion for introductory remarks; it will be an entirely free interchange of opinions in the nature of informal conversation.

Let me say only one thing, in all frankness, that if any of our guests from Mexico prefer to use their own tongue, we hope they will do so.

I should like to call upon Senorita Velazquez Bringas to introduce the delegates.

SENORITA ESPERANZA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We have some propositions to present to the American Library

Association. We should like to see an exchange of bibliographical work; we are especially interested in discussing the possibilities of exchanging students of library work; we have not at present a library school, and therefore we would be very interested in having American librarians give lectures in our libraries. We have other problems that we should like to discuss, one of which is comparative work for translations of books, especially for our children's library. If we might profit by the experience that the American libraries have attained, we should like to have some of the selections of children's books here translated for our children's library. Possibly when we go back to Mexico we can arrange through our editorial department of the Ministry of Education for some of these books to be translated.

Another thing we can discuss is the exchange of historical books. Sometimes we have several copies of a book of world interest; sometimes we do not have copies of some of the books of which American libraries have duplicates.

Of course, none of us is authorized to arrange definitely any of the points we present here, but all of these propositions must be submitted to the consideration of our Minister of Education, who assures us that he will be glad to do this work, which is really comparative work with the American Library Association.

We should also like to translate all the

booklets you use for advertising books. I have found here very interesting booklets of suggestions on what kind of reading people should do. That could be very, very useful to us in our libraries.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Do you mean publications of single libraries?

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: I mean booklets like "Reading with a Purpose," making the book interesting for the reader.

We can establish the exchange of all the publications of the Ministry with the publications of the American Library Association and American libraries. We are sure we can arrange that. We have a lot of books on education, history, and research in educational work.

PRESIDENT RODEN: I was referring more to the books that you were publishing for the use of readers in the small libraries -- popular books. We received a collection from you.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: Those publications can be exchanged with books of the American libraries and the American Library Association.

PRESIDENT RODEN: With reference to the exchange of bibliographical work, that does not refer, I presume, merely to the exchange of bibliographies already in print, but to cooperation in the production of them.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: Yes, the production, and research.

MR. BABCOCK: I suppose you are all aware of the movement that is now in the course of development for the creation of a large bibliographic commission, which, of course, would include Mexico as one of the outstanding countries, and each of the countries will have quite an elaborate machinery for the production of bibliographies.

MR. BISHOP: Is this an official proposal through the government?

MR. BABCOCK: That is right. I thought you had more or less information about it. It is called the Inter-American Commission of Technical Bibliographies, and it is divided into units of the Commission for each country. These local advisory boards will draft agendas which will be considered by a central board in Washington, and out of which one large agenda for a large Inter-American conference will be formed, probably to be held in 1930. The place is not yet decided, nor is the date. It is just tentative for 1930 -- it may be later. It is quite an ambitious undertaking.

Miss Velazquez Bringas made a statement that appealed to me very much. I just make this suggestion as an idea that passed through my mind while she was talking. It might be very appropriate if the American Library Association passed a resolution of some sort commending the creation of

this Inter-American bibliographic work.

MR. BISHOP: I should like to inquire of Mr. Babcock what machinery is being set up.

MR. BABCOCK: An advisory committee of some six or seven has been created. They have held one meeting in Washington and now are doing preliminary work required for this agenda. The committee to represent the United States has not yet been selected. Neither have the committees of the other governments; they will be selected by the home governments. The committee has been created as an advisory committee to assist in developing an agenda and to appoint a place and a time for the larger conference several years in the future.

MR. BISHOP: It is handled by the Pan-American Union, is it not?

MR. BABCOCK: Yes. Through the Sixth Conference at Havana, a resolution created this organization or the skeleton for it, laying upon the Pan-American Union the responsibility of bringing it into actual existence.

SENOR RAFAEL HELIODORO VALLE: So far as I know, Mexico has not received any information on this proposition.

MR. BABCOCK: It is too new.

SENOR RAFAEL HELIODORO VALLE: I read some few months ago that this work was going to be started. We are planning to present some resolutions to the Pan-American Union for bibliographical cooperation between Mexico and the

United States.

MR. BABCOCK: This is very new, Mr. Chairman. It was only about four weeks ago that the governing board of the Pan-American Union authorized the respective ministers to ask their home governments to name their committee members, which, of course, involves considerable correspondence. Eventually they will be named, probably in two months or so. It is all new, and all in the course of formation, but it is going forward, there is no question about that; in fact, it has gone forward very well.

MR. RICHARDSON: Inasmuch as most of our American librarians are a little vague, I believe, as to what the proposition has been with respect to the resolution of the Cuban meeting, I think it would be helpful if we had spread on our minutes here a statement of what the actual purpose of the Havana meeting was and what it actually authorized the Pan-American Union to do in organizing this bibliographic conference. Would you make some statement to spread on the minutes?

MR. BABCOCK: Yes. I was assuming too much, I see, when I assumed everyone knew about this. I don't like carrying coals to Newcastle.

"The Sixth International Conference of American States resolves:

- "1. To recognize that the organization of a



Continental Bibliography is a much felt necessity for the intellectual progress of America, for the knowledge and proper appreciation of all those who labor on the Continent for that purpose, and for the solidarity of thought which must create one of the strongest bonds of union between all the nations of America.

"2. To recommend the meeting of a Technical Commission made up of expert bibliographers selected from the various American countries.

"The Pan-American Union is charged with taking up with the associations, organizations and individuals interested in bibliographical work, the means of giving effect to the present resolution.

"The Pan-American Union is further charged with the duty of formulating the program of the meeting and of undertaking the necessary preparatory work.

"The Governing Board of the Pan-American Union will fix the place and date at which this Commission of expert bibliographers will meet.

"The Pan-American Union is further charged with the duty of putting into effect the plan of inter-American cooperation that may be suggested by the Technical Commission provided for by this resolution."

Now the Pan-American Union has asked an advisory committee of six or seven to cooperate with it in

fixing the agenda and the date and the place as provided for in this resolution.

The governing board has authorized the various ambassadors and ministers to request their governments to appoint their local committees. The tentative agenda as prepared by the advisory board in Washington will be sent to each of the governments, and they in turn will submit it to their local advisory boards, who will criticize it and make additions and changes, if necessary, and return the data to Washington where this advisory committee will again go over and coordinate all the material. Out of that will come the agenda for a conference, and we expect that whatever there is of bibliographic nature will be pretty thoroughly covered in that agenda.

That will take time. We all appreciate that it means a lapse of considerable time through the mails, not so much for the period of compiling as for the actual days required for mail to pass from one city to another and to return.

In connection with Miss Velazquez Bringas' suggestion as to some bibliographic movement from this meeting this morning, while she was speaking it seemed to me most appropriate that the American Library Association should go on record as endorsing and being in favor of such a move.

MR. RICHARDSON: I should like to ask Mr. Babcock if he thinks there would be any delicacy in reading

into the minutes of this meeting this resolution of the governing board of the Pan-American Union which is given in very complete resumé here. Do you think there would be any objection if that were read into the minutes?

MR. BABCOCK: No, I think not.

"Resolution on Bibliographical Cooperation
Adopted by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union,
May 2, 1928.

"1. The Special Committee appointed by the Governing Board shall continue as a Permanent Committee entrusted with carrying out the plan of organization of cooperation in bibliographical matters, which is recommended in the present report.

"2. The Permanent Committee shall request the governments of the states, members of the Pan-American Union, through their respective representatives on the Governing Board, to appoint a Technical Cooperating Committee in each of the countries, to be composed of outstanding bibliographers, including the Director of the National Library and the Director of the National Archives.

"3. The Technical Cooperating Committee shall be asked to prepare a survey of the bibliographical situation in each country. This survey shall include all work done in bibliographical matters up to the present. Although this survey is to be a kind of inventory of the existing sources of

bibliography in each country, it may also include suggestions with respect to what is to be done in the future. The Director General of the Pan-American Union shall be authorized to keep in constant communication with the Technical Cooperating Committees.

"4. The Director General of the Pan-American Union is authorized to consult with technical experts in bibliographical work and ask their advice on the preparation of a memorandum pointing out the subjects to be covered by the survey of national bibliographical situations in the countries of America which is to be requested from the national committees.

"5. The Director General is authorized to take all the necessary steps for the preparation of the meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Expert Bibliographers. The first step will be the drafting of the agenda, which will be done with the advice of the technical experts referred to in Paragraph 4, and with the collaboration of the Technical Cooperating Committees which will be invited to make suggestions. When the agenda of the meeting of the Commission has been approved by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union, the Governing Board will fix the place and the time for the meeting."

If you noticed the date of that resolution, May 2, I am sure you all appreciate why you have not seen much publicity regarding it.

PRESIDENT RODEN: You say the indications are that the first conference will be in 1930?

MR. BABCOCK: Roughly, judging from other conferences we have to handle. I do not want to enter that as a date in the record, however, because it is entirely too tentative.

PRESIDENT RODEN: It is interesting in connection with the international conference in Rome next year.

MR. BISHOP: This is a report of a meeting of the executive committee of the Commission to prepare plans.

MR. VANCE: While it seems the meeting of the Technical Commission is very important, it is going to postpone the question of bibliography too long for our Mexican-American relations. I would favor discussion looking to a rapprochement between Mexico and the United States and Canada as a part of our Association.

I think Mr. Valle probably has some very excellent ideas to offer. He, as you know, is one of the foremost bibliographers of Mexico and of all South America. He not only contributes to the Mexican-South American journals, but the Hispanic-American Review, of which he is one of the editors. I think we might get right down to brass tacks, as it were, and talk about something that we can do right away that will be beneficial to libraries, American, Canadian, and Mexican.

Of course, anything that is done toward that end now will facilitate the work of the Technical Commission. I am sure Mr. Babcock can throw a great deal of light on this question. It seems to me we could have sent up from Mexico monthly lists of everything published there, arranged possibly through the Department of Education, through the National Library, through the Department of Foreign Relations. They have the advantage over us in Mexico of having two departments of the government that are very much interested in bibliography. The Sub-Secretary of Foreign Relations at present is and for some time will be Acting Secretary, Mr. Genaro Estrada, and he is one of the foremost bibliographers of this hemisphere. He is a bibliophile of the first water. I think diplomacy is more or less a side issue with him. He is intensely interested in any movement of the kind, and he will do everything possible to further it.

Senor Puig Cassauranc of the Department of Education is not only an educator but an author. He is very much interested personally as well as officially.

Of course, the works of the National Librarian speak for themselves.

The Mexican ambassador to the United States is very much interested in this meeting, and appreciated very deeply the invitation that was sent to him from the American Library Association Headquarters. He regretted very much

that he could not accept or send a substitute on account of the time nearing for the close of the season in Washington and the great many engagements at that time. To show his appreciation, he offers a reception in honor of the District Library Association. Of course, it is known that the reception is given to meet the Mexican delegates, but he wished to call it particularly to the attention of librarians in the A.L.A. and the District Library Association.

PRESIDENT RODEN: I am very glad to have Mr. Vance's suggestions. It was most timely to have the projects of the Pan-American Union for bibliographical cooperation included in our records. That being on the record, we are still as much disposed as ever to inquire into what practical cooperative methods we can institute this morning for immediate effectiveness. Perhaps Mr. Valle will speak.

SENOR RAFAEL HELIODORO VALLE: It seems to me that the work we are going to do in Mexico in this bibliographical cooperation need not interfere with the Pan-American Union work. I think the exchange of this bibliographical information would be a fine start for that Inter-American work.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: I would suggest that the Library Department and the Minister of Foreign Relations provide monthly a bibliographical list to be sent to the American Library Association in order to establish a regular exchange. We can do that.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Of what would such a list consist?

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: Publications of Mexico. Mr. Valle is in charge of our bibliographical section of the Library Department, and I think he can explain what he can do.

SENOR VALLE: We should like to know what the American bibliographers would like to have from us. We are ready to serve them. What do they need?

PRESIDENT RODEN: Mr. Richardson, have you some suggestions?

MR. RICHARDSON: I should have hard work to talk on a subject so wide as that. We want everything; we want all information about Mexico that we can have that will put us in sympathetic touch with your literature and will enable us to direct our scholars and our users to your literature. Possibly after we have heard the various proposals and suggestions that you have, some of us may be able to make concrete suggestions as to the way we could receive some of these things. You have already made one concrete suggestion which we could take up in the form of a definite resolution at the end.

I should prefer not to speak at this moment on what my own impressions are of what we might do.

I understand that what Dr. Babcock has done in introducing this matter of the general relations of all the

American continent is simply a matter of information to inform this conference of what is proposed and the way it may be able to help out some of the things you are to work on today. Today you are to work on something very concrete, that is to say our relations with Mexico. In all its career the American Library Association has acted as an international association with Canada; we never think of separate nations. The geographical situation calls for a similar extension toward Mexico so far as the circumstances of language and things of that sort will allow.

What I gather out of this is that our visit to Mexico and your visit here is to try to develop a direct connection through the Association to make all the North American libraries which are by geographical position able to do so, cooperate, and what I as an individual bibliographer would look for out of this would be largely the ability to depend upon you for Latin-American information in general in these matters, you being in the position to act as an intermediary between them. If our scholars wish anything relating to the Latin-American affairs, we should like to be able to refer directly to your National Library, to your University libraries, so that they would feel a certain responsibility, and we a mutual responsibility in regard to our affairs. That is the way I visualize the idea. We should make an international unit of the North American libraries and take practical

steps to do something concrete.

PRESIDENT RODEN: I think we should hear from the National Library, represented by its Director, Mr. Méndez Rivas.

SENOR MÉNDEZ RIVAS: First, Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend you an invitation to send to Mexico one of your librarians to see what kind of work we are doing there, and whether or not it is right. I don't know that we can make the invitation as broad as yours, but we would try to do as well as you have done. This Commission from Mexico to the United States has derived very great profit from its visit to the libraries. My country would be glad to receive the person you might send. We should like to receive him not only as a visitor to our libraries, but we should like to have some conferences with him and to hear his advice as to whether the work we are doing is good or not good.

My second suggestion is with respect to cataloging rules, with which we have great difficulty. I think it would be a good idea to have a committee of some of your people and some from Mexico who could exchange ideas in an effort to get unification of the rules of cataloging.

Third: Very often at the National Library I am asked for books relating to your history and resources. We have a great many books in Spanish about the country, but not as many as we need to meet the call we have for such books

as I have mentioned.

Two years ago the Argentine Republic gave us a lot of books relating to Argentine. We made a section of those books, we catalogued them and put them in a special place in the National Library where they form an Argentine section.

In order to bring such books to the American citizens who are living in Mexico and have no other library to which they can go, I should be glad if you would consider my suggestion with respect to an American section of our National Library.

Fourth: In order to strengthen our friendly feelings, we should like to exchange some exhibits on historical and social work. For instance, we might have a special day for an American exhibit. I was very grateful to Mr. Bostwick to find when we went to St. Louis that he had prepared a small exhibit of the books and engravings he has about Mexico. We could send you many books, some of them autographed and very rare; you could do the same, and of course we could return them to you. Because of the difference in language, it is sometimes very difficult to reach the soul of the other country, and I think these exhibits would help to overcome that difficulty.

Fifth: We are not as close to the American Library Association as is Canada. In view of the fact that we

do not speak the same language, I would ask your permission to translate into Spanish the books, pamphlets or literature regarding the library work that you do. We have received many interesting pamphlets that are copyrighted, so it is necessary for us to read them in English. Some of my countrymen do not speak or read English. If we could translate those publications they would be of great value to us.

Sixth: The National Library some years ago had a very large body of bibliographers composing the Instituto Nacional de Bibliografia. That is not in existence now, but we hope to start it again, perhaps with the assistance of Genaro Estrada. Our staff is very small, and it is necessary to do so many other things that we have not come to that yet, but probably within the next year it will be done. I think it would be a very good idea if we in Mexico had a bibliographical commission which could work with a bibliographical commission you might appoint here.

SECRETARY MILAM: In order to produce your national bibliography?

SENOR MÉNDEZ RIVAS: That is it.

MR. VANCE: We have with us the Dean of Librarians of Mexico, who is one of the foremost bibliographers of his country, Professor Aguilar y Santillán. I am sure he can give us a great deal of assistance in this matter.

SENOR AGUILAR Y SANTILLÁN (Interpreter: Mr. Vance):

I have occupied myself with bibliography since my early connection with the Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate. I published in the early part of my work a bibliography of mineralogy, but later I took up geology and published a bibliography concerning geology. My bibliography of mining and geology was published in 1918 and contained 5000 titles; I hope to bring it completely up to date.

SECRETARY MILAM: In all languages?

SEÑOR AGUILAR Y SANTILLÁN: In all languages. Especially it will contain reviews of magazines, and so forth. The same volume I gave you I have sent out to all the American libraries.

I have also published a bibliography of cartography concerning Mexico, not only of Mexican authors and Mexican cartographers, but foreigners' works concerning Mexico, containing not only maps of the country, but plans of the municipalities and different sections, survey maps, soil maps, and so on.

I should like very much to receive all the publications of the different libraries represented in the American Library Association. I send out the publications of my Society to all the American libraries, and I would be very much interested in the cards that are published by the several libraries in scientific publications.

I am very willing to cooperate in every way to

bring about an exchange of bibliographical information. I will cooperate with my compatriots in making the monthly lists and sending them to some central point where they may be distributed to the several libraries.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Mr. Vance, will you ask Senor Aguilar y Santillán if his own institution now receives any considerable number of such publications?

SENOR AGUILAR Y SANTILLÁN (Interpreter: Mr. Vance): Yes, but not so much from libraries as from scientific institutions. I exchange with 175 learned institutions in the United States.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Then the interchange of bibliographical publications of libraries is a very important feature.

SENOR AGUILAR Y SANTILLÁN: Yes, indeed, that would be very important. My library is also open to the public.

SENOR MÉNDEZ RIVAS: I suggested the translation of your publications into Spanish. I intended to say also that the same thing pertaining to Spanish pamphlets and booklets translated into English might be valuable. If the American institutions would be interested in translating into English there would be no difficulty about that.

PRESIDENT RODEN: There surely would be no difficulty in making translations into Spanish of anything that is copyrighted by the American Library Association.

SECRETARY MILAM: Not only that, but the American Library Association would be interested in having in Spanish some of its publications which would be useful in Latin-America for distribution or sale in the other Latin-American Republics. We frequently have calls for such material. One of the suggestions made recently by Mr. Babcock was that some of our publications be translated into Spanish for use throughout Latin-America. Perhaps that would fit in also with the suggestion of Senor Méndez Rivas for the unification of cataloging rules; if we could combine with that basic material and have a set of catalog rules, which we would adopt, or similar to our own, in Spanish, then we could go on from that to perhaps other material.

MR. BABCOCK: I might say in parenthesis that since the meeting of the committee in which suggestions were made regarding these translations into Spanish, I have corresponded with Madrid, Santiago, Chile, and Buenos Aires, asking for a blanket order to send us anything which they might have that had to do with library science. In Madrid they had a few pamphlets; in Buenos Aires they had nothing except an abridged Dewey translated; in Santiago nothing. In Mexico City there is Miss Velazquez Bringas' work, and then there is that tract about endowment that Mr. Milam called attention to at the last meeting, of which they told me they had distributed 4500 copies free to all Latin-America. I thought

that was rather ambitious.

MR. BISHOP: There are very well known publications in Spanish published in Madrid by the Committee for the Encouragement of Historical Studies which has been of much service in university libraries for some time past. The same thing is true of certain publications emanating from the Argentine which have been appearing recently, some of which are very well done and some of which are very badly done, I think reflecting the libraries in which the men have worked. One of the most recent things is a publication coming from the Argentine purporting to give a list of all libraries that have more than 100 incunabula. The list is very good so far as it goes, but it omits a large number of libraries in the United States which have far more than that. We know Mr. Huntington's library has over 5,000 and the Newberry Library has 1500 or 2000. Still there is available in print and well known to our university libraries of this country, quite a body of bibliographic information and information on library practice in the Spanish language. I would not say, however, that it is material which is likely to be of practical service in the type of problem which we have in mind, because it is directed almost wholly to the problems of institutions chiefly concerned with archival material and with old and rare books, and not to the more popular type of library which we are more likely to be concerned with in this hemisphere.

I think Mr. Babcock has put his finger on the thing which I wanted to speak about, and with which I think we can get help from our colleagues in Mexico; that is the extreme difficulty which librarians in the United States encounter in securing books by purchase in your country and other countries. I don't mean exchange. One of the most practical difficulties that confronts us is our trouble in actually buying from countries to the south of us in this hemisphere. I can buy much more safely in Paris and in Madrid and in The Hague books published in Mexico and Chile and Argentine than I can buy in those countries, simply because we do not have the correspondents in those countries that we should have.

I am speaking now of actual experience, not of anything theoretical. If I am called upon to buy certain medical works published in La Paz, there is absolutely no means whereby I can get those from the dealer in that interior country in South America. The names of dealers in international book sellers' lists do us no good whatever. We don't get any response when we send letters to them. We write to them in the best Spanish of which we are capable, and I think it is intelligible enough to pass muster, but the letters have no answer. We endeavor to place subscriptions in Havana (that is pretty close to us) for medical journals, and sometimes we get them and sometimes we don't get them. Really one of the

greatest obstacles to the free intercourse of ideas between the United States, Canada, and the countries lying south of the Rio Grande is this great difficulty in actual purchase of books that we would like to buy. I do not know how librarians can necessarily help that, but they can at least tell us where they buy. We know the books that you get into your libraries you must get somewhere. If we could know where you get them, it would help us very much to order from the same sources.

In our medical library at the University, for example (and I have no doubt the same thing is true at Columbia University, Dr. Williamson will probably bear me out in this), the medical faculty are extremely anxious to secure journals in the field of pathology, anatomy, microbiology, and tropical medicine, which are published in South America, some of them journals of great note in Spanish and Portuguese. I do not think that any single branch of the work of the order department of most of the university libraries and other medical libraries of the United States has been so great and so difficult. There are very poor agencies of distribution. If there is any firm there which takes subscriptions, you would be giving me one of the most vital bits of assistance and cooperation if you would tell me what it is.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: The Library Department through our Bibliographical Section will give you all kinds of advice. We can answer all questions of that kind,

and not only that, but we can send the full lists and names and publishers whom we generally ask for those books.

MR. BISHOP: Is that the Library Department of the Ministry of Education?

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: Yes.

MR. BISHOP: If, for example, I should say to you that I have certain lists which I should like to buy, and could send you the list, could you send the books? Would that be an imposition?

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: No. We can do that perfectly well. We can get the books for the universities or for the American Library Association or for any American library. Or we can just send you the publisher's name and the price and all the details.

MR. BISHOP: That information might come out of this bibliography that we propose.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We have that section of bibliography already established. We have the service to answer all questions respecting books. We can make an extension of that service in order to give full information to the American libraries about the purchasing of books and about the books we have in Spanish in our libraries.

MR. BISHOP: It would be one of the most useful things that could come out of this conference.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We can consider

that service as already established. I don't need a special organization, because I already have the organization for the bibliographical service. This can be just an extension of that.

SENOR MENDOZA RIVAS: It is really very hard to get books from the Latin-American countries. My personal feeling is that it is on account of the competition between the native and the foreign publishers. For instance, I have published five books. I used to give three, four or five copies to the dealers; they would never give me a cent. When some friends asked where they could buy my books, I told them to go to such-and-such a place; they went there and were told that they did not have the books. Meanwhile they put in their windows other books which I am sure were not worth any more than some of our own, but just because they came from Spain or France or Italy they put them in their windows.

We can provide such information as you ask at the National Library. We very often tell people where they can get books, and sometimes we send the order. Sometimes when people have wanted to get very rare books, we have put them in touch with the proper dealers. Dr. Cajori of the University of California wrote me a letter asking me where he could find the Arithmetic of Paez, which is believed to be the first published in America. We did not have it in our library, but I found who had the only copy in Mexico, Professor Laon. I

wrote Professor Laon, and put him in connection with Dr. Cajori. I suppose Dr. Cajori got all the information he wanted, because he wrote me a letter thanking me for my assistance.

Our Minister of Education, Dr. Puig Cassauranc, has just established a research cabinet at the National Library where any kind of facilities will be given to inquirers, particularly with respect to technical works.

There are some books that can only be procured from the National Library. The League of Nations wrote me last year inquiring if, for instance, they wanted to have a photostatic copy of any documents or books or manuscripts, whether we could do it. We got permission from Miss Bringas to make special rates to the people who wanted copies, just the same as the Supreme Court supplies transcripts.

I think Dr. Bishop's idea about securing catalogs is very excellent. When I return to Mexico perhaps I can arrange it so if you send the money to us we can buy the book and send it to you. You would be absolutely secure in that way. Sometimes you send money to the dealer or you write to the dealer and never get a reply. Miss Bringas or I could appoint one special person to handle this for you; that person could make the purchase and mail the book to you.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Does that refer to new books too?

SENOR MÉNDEZ RIVAS: Yes. Mr. Bishop said that

he sometimes has to pay more for the books. Sometimes there is a demand for two or three or five thousand copies of Mexican books, and the Mexican government has only 1,000. How can you secure the other 2,000, for instance? There is no way. But there can be a second printing or a second run made. If the A. L. A. advised us that they wanted a thousand copies of a book, we could arrange to have a second printing at the same cost or at a reduced cost perhaps.

MR. BISHOP: I was not referring to the prices. That is not our difficulty. Our difficulty is getting the material.

So long as Dr. Laon's name has been introduced, I want to mention his patience and kindness in answering questions of a bibliographical nature over twenty-five years. I have sent him letter after letter, and I have uniformly received not only courteous but exact and most informative replies. I only wish I could have done anything in those years to give him the same kind of service. Not only myself but many of my colleagues are under great indebtedness to him for bibliographic information over a quarter of a century.

PRESIDENT RODEN: The difficulty that Dr. Bishop refers to in securing books or getting information from the dealers applies with equal force to the popular library in the small field of belles-lettres in which we are interested. We frankly buy our Mexican books in Madrid. We don't know a place

to buy them in Mexico.

MR. VANCE: I can solve that question, with the agreement of the Mexican delegation, very easily, because since I went to Mexico in 1924 and made contacts with Robredo and Borrua, we have had no difficulty in getting any modern book that is published. The question is to find out where they are published.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We can do that. Our bibliographical section can give you all that information.

MR. VANCE: Recently I found a complete set of laws in the state of Vera Cruz published in 1927. We knew nothing about that at all. I have never seen them advertised in the lists or in the catalogs. I receive most catalogs of old material, but that is new material that is being published from day to day, and we want to know about that. Of course when we do, we know we can get it through those book stores, with the assistance of Miss Velazquez Bringas or Mr. Rivas.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We can send you all the catalogs of the book stores.

MR. VANCE: If we could get a monthly list of all the publications, it would be very valuable.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We can supply that.

SENOR VALLE: The Department of Libraries of Mexico will send a monthly list of the recent Mexican books and pamphlets to all the main libraries in the United States in

exchange for similar lists from those libraries naming all their publications. I should like to offer that as a resolution.

MR. BISHOP: I think we should go very much further than that. We should be perfectly prepared to subscribe to any such lists if we were given the opportunity. We would be glad to pay for them.

SENOR VALLE: We can send you federal, state, and private publications -- everything published.

MR. BABCOCK: Everything published, or selected?

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: Published.

SENOR VALLE: This work is very important to us because the Foreign Minister is going to publish our bibliographical annual; we can send those lists to you for your main libraries.

MRS. SULLIVAN: In sending lists for books to the book dealers in Mexico (which I have been doing for eighteen years), you will send for possibly fifty titles, and after quite a long while you will get two, but you will get no letter as to whether the other titles are ever going to be sent to you or not. If the Ministry could undertake to tell us whether those books are in existence or whether we may ever receive them, it would be a great help. If we could send a duplicate list of our order to the Ministry and have you check up for us, it would be a great assistance.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We can take care of that for you through my department. If you send a duplicate of the order, we can see that you get the books.

MRS. SULLIVAN: There is an absolute silence which never has been broken.

MR. VANCE: Have you corresponded with Robredo?

MRS. SULLIVAN: Yes, with all of them, and I have never had a response.

MR. VANCE: We have been much more lax in the Library of Congress in our relations with Robredo than he has been with us.

MRS. SULLIVAN: Of course I mean the more popular reading in modern books. I can get very ancient things.

SENOR MÉNDEZ RIVAS: It is necessary for the Mexicans to make very few books of each edition, otherwise they would have so many on hands. For instance, Dr. Gonzales Martinez used to furnish copies of his books of poetry; in Argentine and in Madrid he makes 5,000 copies of the same books. That is just because the branches are spread all over the world.

MISS ALICIA MALVIDO: Being a Mexican and having lived in the United States, I suggest that all you who have visited here do some missionary work among the publishers in Mexico and tell them that this is serious business, that really the United States libraries mean to buy things if they

can get them, but it is very annoying to have happen such things as Mrs. Sullivan has just mentioned. You send an order for fifty books and you get two, and no word or explanation, after very patient waiting on the part of the American libraries. If you would go to the publishers, Miss Valezquez Bringas, and tell them to cooperate with your department and your bibliographical section, they might do some serious work about this. You see, American libraries are very anxious to buy, and buy means money, and in that way you may be able to spread more good Mexican literature and worthwhile things on this side.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: The department can take care of the order if they receive a duplicate. We certainly can arrange for the publishers to send those books to the American libraries. We have some publishers like Robredo and Loera y Chavez who handle the best Mexican publications, and I am sure American libraries will not have any trouble with these people if we receive duplicates. We will do that service with much pleasure.

MISS MALVIDO: You don't want all libraries to send you duplicates of their orders.

MR. VANCE: I should think that would be a terrible job for them to assume.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We have a special section devoted to bibliographical information and the

answering of such questions. We have a number of people who handle that. We have people who make lists of our own purchases, so it would not be difficult.

MR. BISHOP: There would be no difficulty at any time in saying that it has become too big a job. Your book sellers themselves, if they saw the opportunity to make those sales, I am sure would look after it. Our trouble is more with scientific literature than with anything else. The amount of money that we spend individually for small things is little, but when it comes to large public libraries who wish to buy in quantity, it would be unquestionably to the advantage of the dealers.

SENOR VALLE: The American books, as is true with all foreign books coming into Mexico, pay very high tariffs. I mentioned this to the manager of the Bobbs Merrill Company at Indianapolis yesterday, and he told me that was an obstacle in the way of their business in Mexico. The American book costs fifty per cent more in Mexico than it does in the States.

MR. BISHOP: Is that because of the customs duty?

SENOR VALLE: Yes. They gave me a copy of a book yesterday at Indianapolis that costs \$5 here and that costs 15 pesos in Mexico, or \$7.50.

PRESIDENT RODEN: We should like to hear from

Senor Mercado.

MR. VANCE: Senor Diaz Mercado says that almost all of the questions he had to bring up have already been discussed.

PRESIDENT RODEN: I will read the proposals offered by Mr. Mercado:

"That by common accord the American Library Association and the Society of Mexican Librarians and Friends of the Mexican Libraries make it possible that there be established in the libraries, even the juvenile and traveling libraries of their respective countries, a group of works relative to the history of the neighboring countries; to obtain better results, allotments of entertaining works could be made that would be conducive to this end. Following is a list of books relative to Mexico, chosen at random, that when well translated will help to realize this objective in the United States." Then follows the list.

"Similar lists can be formed regularly. Other lists can be formed of works of greater importance, according to the kind of public for which they are destined. In accord with this tendency there should be established between the beforementioned societies by means of their permanent committees, a constant correspondence interchanging bibliographies of the most recent books published about each country, in this way strengthening the contact between them.

"That to enable this interchange to efficaciously fulfil the proposed purpose, it be made possible that when publishing the bibliographies dispassionate criticisms be made, indicating to the reader the confidence the work deserves, at the same time making notations in respect to those that are written in a hostile spirit or with prejudice against the United States or Mexico."

Is there any discussion of these proposals? The A. L. A. Booklist, of course, fulfils part of that function very well already.

MISS MALVIDO: I should like to know from Miss Velazquez Bringas what has been done in the line of children's libraries in Mexico with which we could cooperate. Having been very much interested in children's work in the United States, I know that very many wonderful books have been published here. The Mexican government is pushing that too, isn't it?

SEÑORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: In Mexico we have established a library for children after the style of your libraries here, but not nearly so nice, of course. The Minister has printed some special books for children. We have two finely illustrated volumes of the classics for children. Those are selected stories from literature and history. The technical department made a fine selection of the most interesting poems; one part was from India, another from Europe, another from

points in Asia, and some American literature. The classics for children, as we call it, contains the most selected parts of the world's literature.

The Ministry also published a Spanish edition of the book by Amicis, the world known Corazon. It was done in a cheap edition in order that our poor children could buy it. We had 50,000 copies made to sell for twenty-five to thirty cents a copy.

In my speech at the general session I will give in detail what we have been doing for the children's libraries.

MR. BISHOP: Would this be the proper place and time to take up one or two aspects of more general international relations? If you prefer to have that deferred, I should like to speak about five minutes on some points that have been raised here.

SECRETARY MILAM: Before you do that, may I read into the minutes some further suggestions from Mr. Diaz Mercado which were overlooked a moment ago:

"That under the patronage of both institutions some works of popularized history and science and above all of juvenile literature be translated, and that the Mexican institutions by means of the Department of Library, make efforts to arrange for the exemption of duty for such works, at least when they are destined for libraries, educational or cultural institutions, and that this exemption include the duties on

catalogs of the same class.

"That undoubtedly the greatest facility for an interchange of this nature can be had by unifying as far as possible the organizations of the interested institutions, and that this can be obtained by putting in practice the following means:

"That there be sent a Mexican librarian of sufficient experience to observe and train himself for at least a year in a North American library, sustained by the Mexican government and patronized by the A. L. A., and that the latter institution send to Mexico an expert of the same qualification to study our library organization and make the suggestions he deems necessary to our Library Department.

"That the practice now initiated of inviting librarian delegates to the different assemblies or congresses that are held in the United States and Mexico be continued, and that the delegates take part in the discussions. It is indispensable that there be established a constant interchange of general records and general documentations that would be impossible or difficult to acquire in either of the two countries. This work would be carried out by means of the respective consuls.

"That all the conclusions approved in all meetings similar to this be published in English and Spanish and be freely distributed.

"That for all the effects of the resolutions taken, the A. L. A. and the Society of Mexican Librarians be considered as mutual correspondents and that the formation of groups of this kind upon the same basis be suggested to the other Latin-American countries."

SENOR DIAZ MERCADO (Interpreter: Mr. Vance): The matter of the exchange of books and catalogs I consider very important, and I wish to state that for this reason that at the exposition that I had in Mexico I received a number of presents from the American libraries for which I had the misfortune to have to pay some seven pesos for about fifty catalogs of publishers.

With reference to the exchange of bibliographical material, I think it would be well not only to take into account what the Department of Education can do, but that the assistance of other libraries and societies, such as the "Antonio Alzate," could be included so that it would be as large and as comprehensive as possible.

The library has such an important role in public life that the question of the selection of books is a most important thing. So many books are written that reflect upon the country and cause hard feelings between nations and that do not reflect the real spirit of the country nor portray the real character and the soul of the people. I think, therefore, that it would be well not only to send lists to one another,

but that these lists should be accompanied by suggestions as to what books are the best ones to reflect the true spirit of the country and the people.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: I think that should also include that we have an American section in our National Library and in some of our other libraries, so that we may have that information to give to our own people.

SENOR MERCADO (Interpreter: Mr. Vance): I should like to know what notation can be made to show the class of books.

SECRETARY MILAM: A few libraries paste that notation on the inside of the cover.

MR. DUDGEON: I should like to know if such an invitation would be welcome to our Mexican friends if the American Library Association should invite them to make an exhibit at the next American Library Association meeting, including pictures of their rural libraries, samples of their illustrated children's books, possibly some exposition of their loan method, and everything else. It seems to me that would sell, as we say in America, the Mexican idea to our libraries. If our 2,000 libraries that might attend the meeting could see something of what the Mexican libraries are doing, it might be very helpful. I should like to ask, if such an exhibit were invited, whether it would be possible for them to respond.

SENOR VALLE: My paper on bibliographical

cooperation, to be read at the general session, makes the suggestion that the Mexican government make such an exhibit of Mexican books as soon as possible.

SECRETARY MILAM: Senor Méndez Rivas has also made the suggestion that there be an exchange of cultural exhibits, including library work, exhibits of books, pictures, and so forth.

PRESIDENT RODEN: We have not yet heard from the University libraries. I wonder if Dr. Chávez will give us something on that subject.

SENOR TOBIAS CHÁVEZ (Interpreter: Miss Malvido): I suggest that there be a committee formed of all the university librarians that are interested in technical matter or information that comes from universities, representing all the Americas, South, Central, and North, and that the members of that committee be in constant correspondence in order to understand their own problems and give each other the information for which they are looking.

I also suggest that there be a central office where there can be an exchange of all catalogs between these countries, and that periodically a catalog of all these catalogs be made, giving bibliographical information about them, to be published both in Spanish and in English, and that the catalog be an author catalog with an index of subjects.

I should like the books for the universities

to be interchangeable, and I should like the exchange of theses. It is most important that that catalog be published both in English and in Spanish, and that it follow one form, especially in the scientific work, so the universities will have no difficulty.

MR. BISHOP: Are you referring to the catalogs of publications or to the catalogs of universities? Do you mean the list of courses to be given or the publications?

MISS MALVIDO: He really means lists of works, lists of authors and publications.

SEÑORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: According to the suggestion of one of the gentlemen here, I wonder if we can make an exhibit of the books we brought. It would give an idea of what we are doing, of the booklets we have published about the federal libraries. The booklets contain photographs of our rural and city libraries.

PRESIDENT RODEN: If you will take that up with the Secretary, Mr. Milam, I am sure that can be very easily arranged.

Miss Malvido, from your double standpoint have you some observations to add to this discussion?

MISS MALVIDO: I hope very much that some day we will have in Mexico a system of libraries as perfectly carried out as America has. I have had a chance to work in four of the large libraries in the United States and to see

the perfect cooperation between them, following one set of rules or one idea. That is what has made them so great. I realize that in Mexico we are handicapped by the lack of trained librarians. I think a library school established in Mexico would be a very excellent thing. I hope some day to do library work in my country and use all I have learned in America.

I think the American Library Association can do a great deal for Mexico, as Mr. Méndez Rivas suggested, by sending two or three trained librarians there to tell them how to solve their problems. We have the material in Mexico and we have the willingness, but there are great problems. The wonderful system in the libraries in America is too great to learn just by a visit like there; there must be somebody to go down there and work with them for a length of time.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: I should like to tell Miss Malvido that in Mexico we have some people who were trained in the United States. On our staff we have a person who was a field worker of the New York Public Library in the library school. She attended the school there and got all her knowledge from the American libraries. She is at present working with us. We also have Miss Domingez, who had some training in the United States. Some of our other library works have visited the American libraries. We knew many, many things about the American libraries before our visit. Of

course, we don't expect that from this short visit we will be able to do as many things as we should like to do, but we will be interested in sending some of our other workers in library work to get more knowledge.

MR. BISHOP: I wish merely to preface what I have to say by asking whether Mexico has given its addition to the International Library Committee which was organized at Edinburgh last year. At the time of the meeting of the committee in Rome on the 31st of March, no word had come from Mexico to the president. I do not know whether all our friends know that at that meeting of the Library Associations at Edinburgh in October there was such a committee formed.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: We received an invitation to the meeting, but we did not receive an invitation to the committee. It was just an invitation extended to the Mexican government to send a delegate to the conference in Edinburgh, but we did not receive anything in regard to the committee.

MR. BISHOP: Then we should like to have you know that at Edinburgh there was formed a voluntary committee consisting partly of representatives of library associations and partly of representatives of governments. We have both types of representation. Fifteen countries have joined this committee. Twelve of them were represented at a meeting in Rome on the 31st of March, and it certainly would be a great step

forward if we might have definite participation of the Mexican librarians in this international organization which has just started or which is just beginning.

Several of the matters which have been brought up here I think in a concrete way will go far to assist in the solution of certain problems which are being considered by this International Library Committee.

This Committee has appointed a number of sub-committees to study various subjects and to make recommendations. It is particularly desired by the members of those sub-committees not to indulge in theorizing only, but to have practical and concrete cases to report as examples of what may be done.

Among the committees thus appointed is one on the exchange of personnel, that is, of assistants in libraries, exchange of students and exchange of teachers. You have been speaking here today of the possible exchange of students between the various countries, the possible exchange of persons who teach librarianship, and sending people to work in libraries by way of exchange with different countries.

That has been begun in a small way informally here and there. There are American librarians actually working in one or two libraries in Europe. There are European librarians working under various conditions in libraries in America. We should like very much to be able to report a year from next

month that there are Mexican librarians working in some one or two libraries of the United States, and perhaps librarians from the United States actually engaged in work on an exchange basis.

I regard this as a very important thing, and I happen to be chairman of the committee that has this in hand; that is why I am particularly anxious to see something done. We can say that this is not all talk, this is not theoretical; we have actually begun. In my own library I have working at the present time a librarian from Norway. We are paying her just as we would pay any of our own people, but she comes from a fellowship of the Scandinavian-American Foundation. Last year I had in the same library in the same section, it happens, a librarian from France who is now this year working in the Detroit Public Library. I think such exchange of people between the libraries of the different countries is a very admirable international cooperation.

We have requests before this committee to further the exchange of persons to teach in library schools in different countries, and active correspondence has already developed between Italy and the United States in that matter. I think that we are going to divert that to correspondence between Italy and Great Britain where people are nearer at hand and the distance is not so great. But the exchange of librarians and the exchange of students and the exchange of teachers seems to

me to be one of the most practical means of cooperation.

At this same meeting there was set up a committee on international code of cataloging rules. That is one of the things we have been talking about here. If the United States and Mexico can help each other in agreement on cataloging rules, it will be another step forward. The Anglo-American cataloging rules are one example of such international cooperation, arrived at after ten years of careful study begun in 1898 and completed in 1908. The libraries of Great Britain and the libraries of the United States now follow the same cataloging rules, with some minor modifications which tend to be less as the years go by. That code has been adopted officially with certain minor variations, by Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. It has been adopted officially by Czechoslovakia and Russia. It is approximated by the French code and by the Italian code.

I am going to report to the Catalog Section next week certain adaptations of the Anglo-American code and the Italian code which have been found very practical and necessary in the work of cataloging the Vatican library.

I see no reason why a code could not be evolved which could have certain modifications for local practice in Spanish-American countries, countries speaking Spanish in this hemisphere, that would follow these same rules. We are not committed to saying that you must take everything in the Anglo-American code and accept it. That is not our idea at all.

Our idea is that we can arrive at a practical code of cataloging rules which will make possible the free exchange of bibliographic information on catalog cards. I look forward to the day when we shall be able to buy catalog cards in various countries to use in all our libraries. We are doing it now. We are going to do it a great deal more. There is no reason that I can see why you people in Mexico should not buy printed cards in the Library of Congress or through that office, supplied by various American libraries, perhaps, for practically three-quarters of your cataloging that you have to do. The machinery already exists, and it is merely a question of taking advantage of it.

I think this international cataloging committee is going to fulfil a very great role in the near future. There will be efforts in that direction which I am sure will bear fruit.

One very practical thing has been brought out this morning with reference to the exchange of publications, not publications of libraries only, but other publications which are distributed through libraries. You have mentioned the duties which the books must pay and which you have unfortunately been obliged to pay on advertising material. I know that the international exchange service is slow, but it is sure, and there is no duty. Am I not right, Mr. Babcock, that things going through the Smithsonian Institution to libraries in the various countries, Latin-America, for instance, do not pay duty?

MR. BABCOCK: No, they don't pay duty, but the international exchange in the United States is merely a transportation agency, while in the Latin-American countries it is an exchange agency. The angle of the viewpoint for the use of it differs.

MR. BISHOP: Yes, but it is perfectly possible to use it. We do use it all the time. I think if one will accept the fact that it will take probably four to six months to get a book, he may be able to get these publications with less expense.

MR. BABCOCK: It is very slow.

MR. BISHOP: It is not so very bad. I sent publications three months ago to Europe, even to Italy, for which I have been getting acknowledgments.

The matter of the exchange of theses is likewise well worked out. All universities of the world are exchanging theses, more or less, among themselves. The French universities are the great exception. We get practically no doctoral theses from France, but we get them from other countries of Europe, and from a number of countries in America. The machinery is well set up for the exchange of doctoral theses. We should be very glad to extend it to Mexican universities.

MISS MALVIDO: They say they will be glad to do the same.

MR. BISHOP: We do send them to a number of

universities in Latin-America.

MISS MALVIDO: But not Mexico.

MR. BISHOP: Oh yes, it is merely a question of correspondence.

SENOR AGUILAR Y SANTILLÁN (Interpreter: Mr. Vance): I would permit myself to make the suggestion that all the scientific societies and libraries do as they formerly did when sending publications to me, and send a small catalog slip, which would be of great assistance. Unfortunately that has not been done for some years. The Geological Survey of the Smithsonian Institute formerly did that. The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Society of South Africa continue to do it.

SECRETARY MILAM: On the assumption that there will be an attempt during the course of the day to gather together the specific suggestions made, I should like to add one or two which seem not to have been specifically included. There is now being prepared at the Library of Congress a Union list of special collections in libraries of the United States. I think we would like to suggest from this group that if possible from both angles the special collections in Mexican libraries be included in that list.

Second, the American Library Association delegation to Mexico was privileged to visit the Lincoln Library of American books, which was dedicated by Colonel Lindbergh

and the American Ambassador as well as the officials of the Mexican government, which lacks children's books. I should like to have this group join with Mr. Vance and Mr. Van Patten and myself in suggesting to the children's librarians of America the assembling of a collection of American children's books which should be sent as a gift, with our compliments, together with a catalog of the collection, to the Lincoln Library.

I should like to suggest specifically what has come up two or three times already, the preparation of an annual buying list of Mexican books for the public libraries of the United States, a list of not to exceed twenty titles which would be useful to those libraries, particularly the smaller libraries which attempt to serve adult Mexicans who do not read the English language with sufficient ease to enable them to enjoy the library privileges without books in Spanish. Such a list I believe could be published once a year in the Booklist of the American Library Association as we now publish lists from France and occasionally from Italy, occasionally also from Germany.

I should like to suggest, Mr. President, that the next five minutes before twelve-thirty those members who have been sitting quietly and with interest in the back of the room, members of the American Library Association, be allowed to contribute additional suggestions for the consideration of

the committee during the recess.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Dr. Williamson, have you any suggestions to add?

DR. WILLIAMSON: It seems to me that everything has been amply covered that has occurred to me, and many things that had not occurred to me before.

PRESIDENT RODEN: I am very sure Mr. Compton will agree with me in our predicament in getting current books from Mexico and that what we do get we get directly from Spain. Isn't that your experience?

MR. COMPTON: Yes.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Before we adjourn, I should like to ask permission to appoint a committee to draw up a series of resolutions for us to consider at the next session this afternoon. Very many interesting and fruitful suggestions have come out of this discussion, and it seems to me they should be formulated into concise shape so that we can act on them expeditiously at the next session.

Dr. Bishop, will you act as Chairman of that committee?

MR. BISHOP: Mr. Vance would be better as Chairman. Unfortunately I do not speak Spanish.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Mr. Vance as Chairman and interpreter, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Richardson, Senorita Velazquez Bringas, and Senor Méndez Rivas. The committee will work in

the interim and report to the next session.

... The meeting adjourned at twelve twenty-five o'clock ...

SUNDAY EVENING SESSION

May 27, 1928

The meeting convened at eight forty-five o'clock, President Roden presiding.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Ladies and Gentlemen: This is the second conference called for consultation with our guests from Mexico. The first was held yesterday and was exceedingly interesting and fruitful. The final action taken was the appointment of a committee for the purpose of drafting resolutions to embody the conclusions that had been arrived at. Those resolutions will now be presented by Dr. Bishop.

MR. BISHOP: I am acting for Mr. Vance of the Library of Congress, who is Chairman of the committee, but who was obliged to leave yesterday and who fortunately will be back with us in a day or two.

As a substitute for Mr. Vance, I present the resolutions agreed upon by this group, in their English form. I have ventured, at the suggestion of the President and Secretary of the American Library Association, to substitute one or two words for those used, which in no sense change the meaning, but which do possibly render slightly clearer the actual meaning. Those changes are so slight that they will probably escape notice.

The resolutions are as follows:

"I. RESOLVED, That this group desires to

express its cordial and sincere gratification over the action at the Sixth International Conference of American States at Havana in January, 1928, establishing an Inter-American Technical Commission of Bibliography. It welcomes this as one more step toward practical cooperation in standardizing bibliographical and library methods and as offering a prospect of substantial cooperation between scholars and libraries throughout the Americas."

Next:

"II. RESOLVED, That this group favors the following:

"1. The interchange of library personnel, including students of library science, librarians and assistants in libraries, teachers of librarianship, and special lecturers upon topics of library work and bibliography, with provision for fellowships and scholarships to facilitate such exchange;

"2. The liberal exchange of publications through an enlargement of the service of the bureaus of international exchanges in our respective countries, and other existing agencies for exchange of books. We have in mind the exchange of documents, those of the federal governments, of the several states and of municipalities; the exchange of publications between institutions of learning, and the exchange of duplicates between libraries;

"3. The fullest exchange of bibliographical information. (The Mexican delegation states that they will undertake the publication of a monthly list of all government and private publications as a contribution to Mexican contemporary bibliography, through the Bibliographical Section of the Library Department of the Ministry of Education of Mexico.)

"4. The inclusion of Mexican libraries in the Library of Congress lists of special collections;

"5. A suggestion to the Librarian of Congress to extend the information service for scholars as to the location of books, to locations in Mexico of Mexican titles not to be found in the United States;

"6. The taking of steps looking toward the adoption of uniform catalog rules for all countries;

"7. The exchange between Mexico, the United States and Canada of exhibits illustrating the cultural development of the respective countries;

"8. Giving every possible encouragement to the translation into Spanish of library publications issued in the United States which are likely to be useful in Spanish-speaking countries;

"9. The preparation of brief lists of American books, especially children's books, for use in Mexican libraries and for translation into Spanish;

"10. A request that librarians of the United States give encouragement and aid in the development of the Department of the National Library of Mexico devoted to books about the United States of America;

"11. A request to the Children's Librarians Section of the American Library Association to form a collection of children's books published in the United States and to send it, completely cataloged, to the Lincoln Library in Mexico;

"12. The participation of Mexican librarians as members of the American Library Association in all the activities of the Association as a means of promoting professional progress and intellectual cooperation;

"13. The publication of the proceedings of the meeting of this group in both English and Spanish;

"14. In view of the opportunities for international cooperation revealed by this conference, we express the hope that future conferences may be held which will include representatives from the libraries of all the Americas."

We think that no point which was raised and on which substantial unanimity of opinion was reached at the Saturday morning conference has been omitted in these resolutions. I have pleasure in presenting them to you with the suggestion that they be formally adopted.

MR. SAMUEL H. RANCK: Do these resolutions go before the Council?

PRESIDENT RODEN: No. Let me explain that this conference is one between the delegates from Mexico and the Executive Board, the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Library Cooperation with the Hispanic Peoples. There is no provision for referring these to any other body; they are simply the expression of opinion of the members of this conference.

MR. BISHOP: May I say also for the benefit of certain members of the Association who were not present at the meeting Saturday morning, that these resemble in their general purport the type of resolution agreed upon by the meeting of the delegates from foreign countries with the Committee on International Relations at that time. They are in no sense official acts of the Association; they represent the opinion of the group which has met.

MR. RANCK: Mr. President, it would be desirable in the future to have something of this kind represent the official action of the Association and presented to the Council for adoption.

PRESIDENT RODEN: If it were presented to the Council I have no doubt that would be desirable. In the meantime this merely expresses the sentiments of a smaller group on the basis of such conference as it has had. I think it is perfectly in order to present similar resolutions to the Council.

MR. RANCK: That is what I had in mind, that it would come within the function of the Council to take action on them.

DR. FRANK P. HILL: As two or three times the American Library Association is mentioned in the resolutions, wouldn't it be very much better to have the Council take formal action, if you please, and adopt these or similar resolutions either now or a little later? There are at least implications which bring the Association before the conference.

If it is desirable, I should be willing to make a motion that the work of this conference be referred to the Council.

DR. RICHARDSON: I suppose as this involves two committees of the Association, it would be entirely proper that either or both of these committees send these resolutions to the Executive Board, which might in turn send them to the Council if it so chose.

MR. MATTHEW DUDGEON: I wish to add the suggestion that the resolutions be referred to the American Library Association Council for such action as will give force and effect. For example, there are some things that would require amendment of the Constitution of the American Library Association.

PRESIDENT RODEN: What would require amendment?

MR. DUDGEON: I understood that that was the

thought of the Board.

MR. BISHOP: I do not believe that is correct in any sense whatever. The only thing which brings in the Association as such is the suggestion that individual persons should join the Association as individual members. It does not require anything else.

DR. HILL: It would certainly give greater force to these resolutions, and effectiveness of them would be increased, if they could be submitted to the Council and approved by the Council.

There is one place there, it seems to me, in which the A. L. A. is brought in through the Children's Librarians Section which is asked to catalog books. It would be better, so far as being on the safe side is concerned, to get the support of the Council, which I am sure would be given, rather than have any feeling about it later.

MR. BISHOP: It seems to me in the natural course of events the agreement upon certain matters here comes perfectly well within the purview of the Council, assuming that the Chairmen of the committees so report, as suggested by Dr. Richardson, or by the President presiding here and taking cognizance of them. Certainly we are not anxious that this material should be kept hidden under a bushel but should be given the fullest possible discussion and publicity, not opposing any such action, but pointing out that what is an

informal conference at the present time may arrive at some results which can later be taken up and discussed by a wider group.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Could it be transmitted to the Council as a communication from this group of members?

MR. RANCK: The thought I had in mind was that this is a matter of great importance to the library interests of both the Americas and that we are particularly interested in it and should get the American Library Association back of it by having it formally presented. I think it would be adopted by the Council. It seems to me either the President or the Chairman of the committee that drew up these resolutions could present them to the Council and bring them before the members.

DR. PUTNAM: It seems to me this undertakes to express the consensus of opinion reached by a certain group. Before discussing what further is to be done with these resolutions, that group had better determine whether they are an expression of its opinion. Then it would be quite pertinent to suggest that this expression should also be communicated to the Council, with the hope that it would seem to have something within it that might deserve the support of the Council of the A. L. A.

It would seem to me that the only thing immediately in order is the adoption of these resolutions if they present the consensus of this group.

MR. BABCOCK: I move the adoption of the resolutions as the sense of this group.

... The motion was seconded by Senorita Velazquez Bringas ...

PRESIDENT RODEN: The motion has been made and seconded that these resolutions be adopted by the representatives of the groups who were called into this conference.

... The motion was carried and the resolutions were adopted ...

MR. BISHOP: All of our friends from Mexico have had these resolutions before them and have become familiar with them. I am quite certain, from conversation with them, that these resolutions express not only the views of those of us who put them into typewritten form, but all of the group that met at the time.

I should think that we might welcome at this time a word or two from one of the delegates from Mexico with reference to this group of resolutions as a whole, giving us some idea, more than a mere formal vote, of their adhesion to them.

SENORITA VELAZQUEZ BRINGAS: All of our party read English and they have studied these proposals of the Committee and agree with them.

DR. PUTNAM: Dr. Ranck might now suggest that these be communicated in some form to the Council as a matter

of information and interest and possible action by the Council.

PRESIDENT RODEN: May I regard that as a motion?

MR. RANCK: I think the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations should make that motion. I am not a member of this group.

DR. RICHARDSON: I make a motion that the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations shall present these to the Executive Board and the Council of the American Library Association.

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Babcock, put to a vote, and carried ...

MR. BABCOCK: I might say, Mr. President, that early Thursday morning the Committee on Relations with the Hispanic Peoples, of which Mr. Vance is Chairman, will hold a very informal meeting for the purpose of discussing Hispanic problems which any librarian feels he may have. At that time we rather think a fuller discussion may be given some of these points. That meeting will be at nine o'clock.

PRESIDENT RODEN: In the absence of any further business, I will declare this meeting adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at nine o'clock ...
