

is happy and I think this particular sleeping dog had better be allowed to lie.

Oddly enough, in view of the general state of apparent chaos, I find the Minutes and Cash Books more meticulously kept than is usual. Even fines recorded as to date, amount, and who paid them.

After I had seen the library, Miss Milligan took me for a drive, which included every street in the village (the drive being paid for, by the way by Mr. Woodley at 5 cents a mile) and pointed out to me every house in which there was a user of the library, with suitable and pointed comments as to the kind of books taken.

A most unique and amusing situation.

#### BOND HEAD

November 3, 1938

This has been a day of marked and somewhat perplexing contrast.

The Bond Head library is also in the stern end of a store, but it is in a separate room, quite spacious by comparison with that of Tottenham, and fairly well lighted by electricity. The books are on good shelves. They are readily accessible, in splendid physical condition, and represent a selection which is simply miles above that which is usually encountered in a library of this size. There is an interested library Board, five members of which were present to meet me. Of these five, two are clergymen, one Church of England, and the other United. I have no hesitation in saying that this is an infinitely better and much more keenly interested library Board than I am accustomed to meeting.

From the foregoing it might be expected that the next statement would be "good book circulation". It isn't. The population of the village, although shown at 200, for the sake of conservatism, is actually more nearly 400. The surrounding country is sightly, and the farms show every evidence of being successful. And yet the circulation from this excellent little library is only 700 books per year.

This brings to a head a problem about which I have been backing and filling ever since I became inspector. I have quite frankly approached the rural situation in the frame of mind of a town librarian. By this I mean to say that I have assumed as a starting point that people will use books, and good books, if they are put before them in an intelligent manner. This is axiomatic, but I must be honest enough with myself to admit now that I have, from time to time had doubts about the truth of the axiom as supplied to the country people. I felt these doubts in Waterloo County and I felt them again to-day in Simcoe County, and I cannot help asking myself now whether it is true that the present adult generation in rural Ontario, generally, do want book service, whether they know what to do with it, whether the radio and Maclean's magazine are not as much as they can assimilate?

The answer is not yet by any means clear to me, but Bond Head has quite certainly given me food for pondering. It would be really bad if I were on the wrong track altogether in my approach to rural service. On the other hand, it may still be true, what I have been preaching, that the answer to the use, or non-use of books depends in the country, as in a city or town, to a very large extent upon the librarianship which is offered. In the case of Bond Head there is a new librarian (sick). I do not know what the former man was like but the present one is a

splendid fellow who does not appear to know anything whatever about books and who is interested in people who come to his store because they are customers, not because they are people with any kind of intellectual existence. I would like to have a chance to definitely settle this question about the country people of the province as readers, and Bond Head would undoubtedly supply evidence. I would like, for a stated length of time, to put into that library some thoroughly competent person, and then to await results.

But how do it? The income of the library is \$79.90 per year. Again a brick wall.

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BRADFORD.

November 7, 1938.

Met Mrs. Day the librarian, Mr. Evans and Mr. Cooke, board members.

This library is in a room over Mr. Evans' office. Actually the space is donated by Mr. Evans for library purposes. It is quite a good room and fairly well lighted, although not at all attractively arranged or decorated. It has one thing, though, that I have not before encountered in a public library, and that is a carpet on the floor. Shabby, but a carpet. There is an adequate reading table.

The shelving in the adult section follows the usual practice of being half a mile too high, but at least there are no stacks cluttering up the place. There is a pay-shelf of newer books and a good table of book jackets. The children's books are arranged on shelves, the like of which I have never seen. A pigeon-hole for each book. It has the appearance of something out of a museum and I suspect that if the children want to use the library very much they would have a good deal of difficulty in getting the books out.

The books, speaking generally, contain a good many of the customary "has-beens". But there is also a larger proportion than usual of newer titles. For the most part they are in fair condition although there are quite a number of backless and decrepid ones which ought to be discarded. The children's books are of a much poorer quality than the adult, which undoubtedly accounts for the fact that only 373 (and of these only 8 Non-fiction) went out from the children's department in 1937.

I had a long talk with the three people mentioned above about the possibilities of a County Association, and found them most interested and willing to cooperate. They all asked intelligent questions and I feel that I left them pretty well convinced of the need and practicability of such an organization in Simcoe County. Mrs. Day, the librarian, is an elderly lady, but struck me as being keen and interested in books and people. She would benefit greatly if she were to attend one of our institute classes in primary librarianship. The total circulation of Bradford is only 5000, or about 5 books per capita. The annual income is \$138, of which \$25 comes from the village. The librarian's salary is \$37.53, and about \$50 are spent for books.

#### COOKSTOWN

November 7, 1938.

Here we have a library which is simply dead on its feet in spite of the fact that they do show a small circulation of 1800 books. The total income of this library in 1937 was \$52.65. The librarian's salary was \$20.06. The amount spent on books was 85 cents.

The library is in the front part of the librarian's Gift Shop. It is an extremely neat

Place Bond Head

Report 1937

Pop. 200

Approp. Asscn.

per cap

Books 3

per cap

Circ. 3.7

per cap

Librarian J.H. Robertson

Sal.  
Trained  
Age  
Serv.

\$31.25

Business college

3 yrs.

Assistants

Board members met

4

Board meets 2nd Tues. in each month

\$17.79

Nov. 3/38

3:30 P.M.

SIMCOE

Place     Bradford     Report     1937 ✓

Pop.   1000 ✓

Approp.   Association     per cap ✓

Books     2.9     per cap

Circ.     5     per cap

Librarian   Mrs. Ida Day Smith ✓

Sal.     \$37.53 ✓

Trained   Macdonald Inst., Guelph. ✓

Age

Serv.     3 Yrs. ✓

Assistants   Mrs. W.H. Day ✓

Board members met   4 times

Board meets     At call of Chairman

\$26.60 ✓

Nov. 7/38

1:00 P.M.

SIMCOE