

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

J. L. WYER JR., PRESIDENT
E. BENJ. ANDREWS,
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
W. K. FOWLER,
STATE SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
LEE HERDMAN,
STATE LIBRARIAN
E. L. HALLER,
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDNA D. BULLOCK, SECRETARY

10 Mr.1904.

To the Club women of Nebraska:-

LINCOLN

The time of year for the passage of public library ordinances and tax levies by town boards is near at hand. If you are looking forward to the establishment of a public library this year, you have only until the last of May to organize public sentiment. To convince your town board that the taxpayers are willing, even anxious, to have an additional levy for library purposes is an important part of the work of establishing a library--especially when you have first to convince the taxpayers. Since the total levy allowable for library purposes is two mills, a little calculation will serve to convince even your heaviest taxpayer that his share of the library tax cannot be enough to impoverish him. If the cash value of his property is estimated at \$100,000 and the assessment value is the traditional one fifth of the cash value, then a two mill library levy would take \$40 a year from his pocket. Any public spirited man ought to be willing to support a library at the rate of 4 cents for every \$100 of his actual wealth. The women's clubs of Nebraska can certainly be depended upon to demonstrate to the most obdurate taxpayer that no one should be penurious enough to object to so small a tax in so good a cause. For every citizen who will admit to the assessor that his wealth equals a cash value of \$100,000, there will be several hundred whose modest holdings will not reach \$1000 or even \$500. You can easily demonstrate that no one will find a library tax burdensome.

It is gratifying to know that it may, shortly, be possible for library revenues to be somewhat increased, under the operation of our new revenue law. The expectation is that if the cash value of all taxable property in the state is brought to light, the assessment roll will be so greatly increased that a two mill levy may possibly bring

from once and a half to twice as much as at present. Be ready to see to it that, in any case, the city council is sufficiently enlightened as to regard two mills for library purposes as none too much.

I enclose herewith a traveling library application blank and circulars with the request that each club appoint a committee to find a community that would be benefitted by the use of a traveling library and do what may be done to induce residents of the community to make application for a library. I am especially anxious to send the libraries into the country, and this request is made after consultation with the chairman of the Library extension committee of the N.F.W.C. This is a practical form of library extension that all can help in.

Books loaned to clubs from this office should be returned as soon as you are through with them. Last year, several clubs were slow in attending to the matter. Clubs are asked to advise me, at the earliest possible time what they expect to call for in the way of books next year. I expect to prepare for distribution some simple study outlines with lists of our available books on the several subjects. The subjects of these outlines will probably be domestic science, child study, Russia and Japan, fine arts, English history and literature. Should a number of clubs indicate a preference for any special subject, I shall be glad to make an outline on that subject.

Sincerely,

Edna D. Bullock, Sec'y.