

Lincoln, 8 My. 1905.

To librarians of our traveling libraries:-

I give you herewith the greeting of the Commission. All efforts made by you to operate the libraries with "the spirit and the understanding" are appreciated, and we fully realize that to the faithful and intelligent work of most of you is due the splendid record of our libraries. It will interest you to know that the Nebraska traveling libraries have had a larger circulation than those of any of the states around us, as far as figures are attainable. We take a justifiable pride in the results of our traveling libraries. So good a work deserves the interest of all good citizens, and an abundant support from the state. Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to provide adequately for this Commission. This was partly due to ignorance of our work on the part of Legislators. It is the business of public spirited people to keep their Legislators informed. If they find our work a benefit to the state, they should make it known to the people who decide whether we may live and grow or not.

Owing to the constant growth of our work, and the failure of the Legislature to provide for it, we are obliged to ask every traveling library station that has not already made itself a permanent station by giving us a traveling library, to take the matter under advisement as soon as possible. Many of our libraries are in isolated places, or rural neighborhoods. These, we do not expect to have made permanent stations, though none need feel debarred from doing so if conditions seem to you favorable. To such villages as find the traveling library useful, and wish a permanent succession of libraries, we especially appeal. There were days last winter when we had as many as 6 places waiting for traveling libraries. Our rule is to supply new places in advance of old ones if there are not enough libraries to go round, except to our permanent stations. We have spent over \$1300 the past two years for books. For the current biennium, we have been able to set aside less than \$200. for books; consequently we shall not be able to keep up with the demand for traveling libraries unless our funds can be supplemented from outside. We shall continue to send libraries to all our old patrons, up to the limit of the supply, but during the indoor months, it is not probable that we shall be able to supply all the old places unless we can secure a number of new permanent stations. Aside from our need, it is also true that we value that which costs us some effort and our permanent stations usually show better returns in the way of circulation than other places. We shall be glad to learn that your effort to secure us one new permanent station is successful.

When we secure 10 permanent stations within 25 miles of some common point, we expect to establish a local circuit, if possible. Also, we shall hold an annual library institute at such a point, to which both librarians and patrons will be invited.

Our exhibit of library photographs at St. Louis was awarded a gold medal. We are anxious to add to our collection. We are particularly interested in having pictures of as many of our traveling library stations as possible. We may send the pictures to Portland soon. Please help to make the collection complete.

As fast as our old boxes come in, we are fastening a yellow poster to the inside of the box cover. Please read this poster, and profit by its admonitions. It's just as easy to do things right as to go at them helter-skelter. Be business-like, and live up to all our rules. Boxes coming in with no indication of where they are from on the shipping tag cause us much trouble. Failure to send all the books back in the box, and to prepay or send money for drayage also wastes our time.

Very truly,  
Edna D. Bullock, Sec'y.