

Sent to 250 Super. & Prin.

Nebraska Public Library Commission

Lincoln, 18 Feb. 1902.

To the teachers of Nebraska:-

We invite your attention to, and ask for your co-operation in, the work of library extension. It is a subject that appeals most urgently to those who are educating the children of the state. There would soon come a time when an uneducated native Nebraskan would be hard to find, if, in addition to the good work our schools are doing, the people had some way of completing their own education. Let us lay the foundation for a system of universal self-education in Nebraska, and let us begin by starting libraries wherever there is any hope of maintaining them permanently. In order that children may know how to use books, enlarge your school libraries in accordance with some definite, well-planned policy. A school library cannot take the place of a public library, but it can be used to prepare children for entrance at the "people's university", as the public library has been aptly called.

It is the desire of this Commission to be helpful to the teachers. We expect some-time soon to send to every school room in the state, a carefully selected and graded list of books suitable for school libraries, with the prices and directions as to where to purchase the books. We invite you to make any demands you may desire to upon our time and energies, in the line of making this Commission useful to the schools.

Respectfully,

Edna D. Bullock, Secretary.

has been so administered in your community as to make it plain that it is an advantage to everybody to have access to a free public library, or to a portion of one as represented by a traveling library. If that has been done, you will have no trouble in having your town made one of the permanent traveling library stations of this Commission. Our proposition is to make any community that will give us a traveling library a permanent station for a period of five years. Since the libraries remain three months, a station will receive about four libraries a year. Our libraries contain 40 volumes, and the average cost of the kind of books that we buy is \$1 a volume. We have two such stations now; can you not make an effort to help your town to help itself in this way?

You may have to meet some objections, as what undertaking does not? Let it be understood that members of this Commission went east at their own expense and investigated the methods of other library commissions, and then, with the best knowledge to be gained, inaugurated the present policy of work. The Wisconsin free library commission has an annual \$7500 appropriation as compared with our annual \$2000, and they have found it best in Wisconsin to spend the entire sum upon administration. They have never spent a dollar of state funds for traveling libraries. They devote much of their energy to securing gifts of traveling libraries, in which undertaking they have been very successful.

May we not hear that your community has caught the spirit of the policy that has been inaugurated, and wishes to be made a permanent traveling library station?

Sincerely,

Edna D. Bullock, Sec'y.