

# The University of British Columbia

THE LIBRARY



REPORT OF

The Library Committee

TO

The Senate



VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
SEPTEMBER, 1930



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

12th September, 1930.

L. S. Klinck, Esq., M.S.A., D.Sc., LL.D.,  
President,  
Chairman of the Senate,  
The University of British Columbia.

Sir:—

The Library Committee presents herewith, in accordance with instructions contained in the Senate's resolution of December 15th, 1926, a Report made by the Librarian, and considered and approved at a meeting of the Committee held on Thursday, September 11th, 1930. It serves to bring up to date the information as to the development of the Library and its activities.

The Committee takes this opportunity of adding a brief account of its work and of the two main problems with which it has had to deal—Finance and Discipline.

The question of Finance comes before the Committee when it has to approve the annual estimates submitted by the Librarian to the President, i.e., when it has to ask the Board of Governors for money. No issue of policy has arisen except as to the amount of money which should be made available for the purchase of periodicals and of new books. The Committee has based the request on an estimate prepared with the help of the teaching and research departments, showing (1) the annual appropriation necessary to enable them to keep pace with the growth of the bodies of knowledge with which they are concerned, (2) the annual appropriations to enable them to catch up in five years to the point they would have reached had the appropriations of recent years been adequate. The Committee has then checked the total estimate with the expenditure of other libraries on a per capita basis. The Committee is only too well aware that this method of calculation makes no provision whatever for the needs of a University library in fields not at present covered by the work of teaching or research departments. Examples are: Art, music, military history, Canadiana.

This part of the Committee's work is easy and pleasant. The difficulties begin when it has to apportion between the teaching and research departments the money actually voted. The vote for the year 1930-31 will serve as an illustration:

The Committee asked for \$24,400, or, after omitting \$9,000 asked for to make good ground lost by low appropriations in past years, \$15,400.

The amount made available for the year commencing 1st April, 1930, was \$5,500. Of this about \$300 was needed to make good the loss of books in the previous year (theft, wear and tear, etc.); \$4,900 was required to keep up subscriptions to periodicals, annuals and continuations; about \$300 for catalogues. Nothing whatever was left for new books.

Fortunately, a special vote had been made at the end of the year ending 31st March, 1930, and this money (\$4,500) has been apportioned between the Departments for the purchase of books during the year 1930-31. Special votes of this sort have not been unusual, but it is important to notice: (1) that they are contingent on the University having a surplus at the end of its financial year, (2) that they have ceased to be "windfalls," to be devoted to special purposes and have become the sole revenue for the purchase of new books, (3) that this amount is far below that calculated or requested by the Committee ( $\$24,400 - \$5,500 = \$18,900$ ).

The result is that the largest departments have received \$405 out of an estimated requirement of \$1,000 (disregarding a further \$1,000 needed to catch up arrears) and the smaller departments roughly in proportion, while the Committee holds a small sum in reserve for contingencies.

A very serious attempt was made by the Committee to reduce its expenditure on periodicals. In every case teaching and research departments were consulted and asked to weigh periodicals against new books. The Committee has made reductions of about \$60 a year, and has replaced some inferior publications by others which add to the permanent value of the Library. A rather more drastic cut would have been made if *all* non-technical periodicals had been eliminated, but the teaching departments were, on the whole, opposed to this policy.

There seems to be a faint responsibility of doing something for fields not covered by teaching and research departments if the Committee can, out of the funds held by it in reserve, match dollar for dollar the donations of societies or clubs, e.g., the Art Study Club gave \$15.00 on these terms. But this development is on a very small scale as yet.

In attempting to explain its financial difficulties the Committee is acting in the hope that when various plans involving the expenditure of money are urged on the Board of Governors (or approved by the Senate or Faculties) it will be borne in mind that expansion in other directions, which perhaps does not directly affect the Library, makes it more difficult to find funds for books, and that consideration will be given to the question of relative urgency; are other needs more or are they less urgent than the provision of books?

The question of Discipline is peculiarly difficult. Roughly, the facts seem to be that losses of books through theft and negligence, which are about \$300 a year, are smaller than in comparable libraries, though, in the opinion of the Committee, disgracefully large; that students frequently enter the stacks without permits and resent being turned out; that there is constant conversation in the reading room, though far less intense near the Loan Desk than in the remoter corners. Very few students are reported for disciplinary action.

The prime difficulty is that no one has been directly responsible for Library discipline. The students are unwilling to maintain discipline because their "honour system" precludes punishments except in serious cases. The staff consists largely of student assistants who are generally unwilling to act as police. In any case, the other duties of the staff preclude its exercising constant supervision. Penalties, e.g., exclusion, are not easy to enforce, as a friend of the offender can borrow books for him. Finally, opinions differ widely as to the standard of discipline which is appropriate. From a distance, it is not easy to distinguish borrowing a pen from making a date; one cannot in practice be prevented unless the other is, too, and both students and others disagreed as to whether both are reprehensible.

Collective punishments, such as closing the Library (or the

stacks) in protest, have been considered but not inflicted. The Committee is an advisory body and has itself no disciplinary power. It plays the unhappy part of a buffer between students, student organization, the Library staff, the administration and the governing bodies. The present rather mediocre level of library discipline cannot, in its opinion, be seriously improved until some definite person is given adequate power of action, and made fully responsible for discipline in the Library.

After discussion with the President, an attempt has been made to set up a better system by making one member of the Library staff directly responsible to the Committee for discipline and freeing him from much of his other work. It is understood that the Committee will itself exercise some disciplinary functions and will refer serious cases to the Faculty Council.

A description of the work of the Committee is, of necessity, a chronicle of effort rather than of achievement. For a picture of the progress which the Library has actually made, the Senate must look to the report of the Librarian which follows.

Very truly yours,

H. F. ANGUS,

Chairman.

Professor H. F. Angus,  
Chairman, Library Committee,  
The University of British Columbia.

Sir:—

I present herewith, for your information and that of the Library Committee, a Report of the University Library as from October, 1929, to September, 1930.

The Board of Governors granted me three months' leave of absence to enable me to superintend (at the request of the Carnegie Corporation of New York) a survey of library conditions in Canada during the summer vacation; and I left on June 19th. Accordingly, statistics have been brought up to date by the Acting Librarian.

BOOK COLLECTION: IMPORTANT PURCHASES  
DURING THE YEAR

The Library's book collection now numbers 76,367 volumes—an increase of 7,997 volumes during the period under review. The accessioned volumes number 72,686, and duplicates, 3,681.

The following table represents the increases in the last two years:

	YEAR ENDING		
	Sept. 11, 1930	Sept. 30, 1929	Sept. 30, 1928
New volumes .....	7,997	4,211	4,373
Total vol's accessioned....	72,686	68,900	64,689
Duplicates .....	3,681	3,400	3,400
	<u>76,367</u>	<u>72,300</u>	<u>68,089</u>

Among the more interesting and valuable accessions have been the following:

	VOLS.	COST
American Shorthorn Herd Books.....	118	\$ 60.00
Calhoun; Social History of the American Family .....	3	35.00
Kaysers Bücherlexicon .....	42	500.00
Revue des études grecques, vol. 34-40	7	35.00
American Journal of Anatomy.....	27	200.00
Revue Internationale de Sociologie....	14	50.00
Gt. Brit. Historical Manuscripts Commission .....	185	170.00
Fraser, Sir J. G. Publii Ovidii Nasonis .....	5	30.00
Romanic Review .....	15	45.00
Mineralogical Society of Gt. Britain and Ireland. Complete file to date .....		£15.5.6d
Handbuch der Organischen Chemie (Beilstein) v. 12.....		\$ 62.50
Grove: Dictionary of Music and Musicians .....	5 and Supp.	31.50

	VOLS.	COST
Encyclopaedia Britannica, 14th edition	24	119.50
Van Marle, R. Development of the Italian Schools of Painting.....	4	39.00
Engineering Index .....	2	110.00
Botanisches Centralblatt .....	24	100.00
American Journal of Archaeology.....	14	45.00
Paris. Bibliothèque nationale. Cata- logue générale .....	96	460.00

The Library of the late Mr. E. A. Haggren was also acquired from the administrators of the estate for the price of \$50.00. It contains some books, but the main part comprises broken (but valuable) files of periodicals, in some cases running through many years, dealing with mining and metallurgy. In addition, there is a large collection of government pamphlets from practically every country in the world possessing these publications. Many of these are now out of print and unobtainable. The whole collection is a valuable addition to the resources of the Library in the mining and metallurgical fields, though it will take a great deal of effort and considerable money to bring the files to completion.

Another valuable addition to the ethnological resources of the Library was the purchase of part of the valuable collection of the late Mr. James Teit, of Spences Bridge.

### PERIODICALS

A number of new periodical subscriptions have been placed since the last Report. Among the most important are:

- (a) Periodicals of which the Library has complete files or which it is at present completing; Chemical Review; Dalhousie Review; Journal of General Physiology; Genetics; Shakespeare Association of America, Bulletin; Speculum.
- (b) New Periodicals: Annotated Bibliography of Economic Geology; Canadian Journal of Research; Education Index; Engineering and Mining World; Journal of Modern History.



- (c) Subscriptions specially requested by Departments: Aviation; Tramway and Railway World; Zeitschrift für Physiologische Chemie; Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Photographie.
- (d) The creation of the new courses leading to the degree of Bachelor of Commerce necessitated the following subscriptions: Accountant; Canadian Chartered Accountant; Journal of Accountancy; Railway Library.
- (e) The newly-broadened Sociology Section of the Economics Department led to subscriptions to The Family; Playground and Recreation; Social Forces; Social Service Review; Sociology; Social Research.

Subscriptions to two periodicals were dropped during the year. The present efforts of the Library Committee to reduce the high cost of subscriptions are dealt with in another part of this Report.

Among well-known periodicals, the Edinburgh Review and the Dial ceased publication during the past year. The former was first published in 1802 and completed its 250th volume, while the Dial (born in 1880) completed its 86th volume. The Library has a complete file of the Review, but only from Vol. 50 of the Dial.

Owing to lack of funds, only fair progress was made in the matter of filling in gaps and early files of periodicals subscribed to by the Library. Most of those procured were only small runs. Of longer files may be listed:

The Accountant; Vol. 62-80.

Dalhousie Review; Vol. 1-9.

Journal of Accountancy; Vol. 17-44.

Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics; Vol. 32-37, 39-40.

Journal of General Physiology; Vol. 1-12.

The Library's file of the Mining and Industrial Record has been almost completely filled, largely from copies included in the Haggan Collection, elsewhere referred to. This periodical began in Victoria in 1895. There is probably only one complete file in existence—that of the Library of Congress in Washington.

## GIFTS OF BOOKS

Gifts valued at \$634.00 approximately have been received during the year. Special mention should be made of Mr. Christopher Spencer's *The British Warblers* by H. Eliot Howard, a rare work in two volumes; Mr. E. C. Knight's set of the Transactions of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; The Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, part of a valuable set, from Mr. Hugh Sharman, of West Summerland; and, through the kindness of the British Trade Commissioner and the United States Trade Commissioner, monthly contributions of various technical and trade periodicals.

## ANNUAL CHECK OF THE BOOK COLLECTION

The annual check of the Library took place, as usual, in May. The book losses for the year were found to be 114 volumes, as compared with 134 for the year 1928-29. From ten to twenty per cent. of the book losses at the Spring check are usually found during vacation. For instance, 20 volumes of the 134 lost a year ago were found before the printing of last year's Report in October. If the same percentage is maintained in the present instance, the Librarian hopes that, by the time this Report is presented to the Senate, the nett losses for the nine months under review will be less than 100.

As pointed out in previous reports, the book losses of the Library are much smaller than those of most university libraries with approximately equal book circulation.

Among the serious losses are:

Cambridge Modern History; v. 1-2.....	\$14.00
Englische Studien; Bd. 60.....	4.00
Arabian Nights (Burton); t. 7.....	15.00
Racine. Oeuvres Completes; v. 3.....	7.00
Moulton. Library of Literary Criticism; v. 7.....	10.00
Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft. Berichte 1886:2	15.00
Geological Society of London; v. 7, 11, 16, 17.....	25.00
Dellinger. Lefax Radio Handbook.....	3.50

## REGISTRATION OF READERS

The total number of students taking out Library cards during the Winter session of 1929-1930 was 1835. This number includes registrations of students enrolled in the University for short courses in Agriculture, as well as the registrations from the students in regular attendance. There were also registered 267 Summer school students.

## EXTRA MURAL READERS

The Library continues to give appreciated service to engineers, teachers and general research students. The regulation of the Senate prescribes that all extra-mural readers shall pay a fee of \$1.00 per calendar year. In 1929, 86 availed themselves of this privilege. At the time of making this Report, 68 extra mural students are enrolled for 1930.

The Report presented in October, 1929, pointed out that, in addition to those who pay fees and are enrolled as extra mural readers, the Library gives service to a number of institutions, the staffs of which find the University's book collection of assistance in their work.

The names of such institutions were given in last year's Report. Special additions have been made to this list during the period under review, while greater use has been made of the University's book collection by the older patrons. This class of loan has averaged about 15 per month.

## INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

Previous reports have pointed out that the University's book collection is, in many directions, inadequate to give the necessary assistance to members of faculty and students doing research work. The limitations of the University Library are partially met by loans from the libraries of other institutions. These inter-library loans have, during the past twelve months, been more numerous than at any previous period. The details in connection with the application to other libraries, the distribution to the applicant, the careful check-

ing to see that the loan does not exceed the specified period, the packing and return of the volumes, and other postal and customs details, take a large part of the time of the Reference Librarian. The work, which is efficiently done, is greatly appreciated by those on whose behalf it is undertaken.

The thanks of the Library are due to the librarians of other institutions for the promptness with which, sometimes at considerable inconvenience, loans have been made during the past year. In appreciating the courtesy of these librarians, it should be remembered that American library officials are greatly inconvenienced by customs regulations that require signed declarations before their own books can be returned to them from Canada without payment of customs duty.

Among the libraries to which we are under obligation are:

University of Toronto;  
McGill University;  
University of Western Ontario;  
Manitoba University;  
Toronto Public Library;  
Vancouver Public Library;  
Legislative Library, Victoria;  
Legislative Library, Toronto;  
Legislative Library, Winnipeg;  
United States—  
Library of Congress;  
Harvard University;  
Yale University;  
University of Washington;  
University of California;  
Leland Stanford Junior University;  
University of Illinois;  
University of Minnesota;  
New York Public Library;  
Portland Public Library, Oregon.

## CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL CIRCULATION—

September, 1929 .....	1,543
October .....	5,048
November .....	4,676
December .....	2,348
January, 1930 .....	4,410
February .....	4,509
March .....	4,717
April .....	2,655
May .....	1,354
June .....	749
July .....	1,626
August .....	1,271
Total, January-December, 1929.....	34,246
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Total, January-August, 1930.....	21,291
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## RESERVED BOOK LOANS—

September, 1929 .....	241
October .....	6,372
November .....	8,345
December .....	3,582
January, 1930 .....	5,764
February .....	7,059
March .....	9,016
April .....	5,740
Total, September-April, 1929-1930.....	46,119
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Monthly Average .....	5,765
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Extra-mural Registration, 1930.....	68
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## ORDINARY LOANS

	1928	1929	1930
January .....	4,264	4,152	4,410
February .....	4,404	4,387	4,509
March .....	4,487	3,806	4,717
April .....	2,464	2,652	2,655
May .....	755	1,291	1,354
June .....	583	723	749
July .....	1,323	1,944	1,626
August .....	1,184	1,676	1,271
September .....	1,009	1,543	—
October .....	4,825	5,048	—
November .....	4,457	4,676	—
December .....	2,310	2,348	—
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	32,065	34,246	21,291
Average Monthly Circulation .....	2,675	2,854	(8 months) 2,442

## RESERVED LOANS

	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30
October .....	5,468	5,241	6,372
November .....	9,543	7,289	8,345
December .....	4,518	3,709	3,582
January .....	3,053	3,421	5,764
February .....	5,877	4,781	7,059
March .....	8,304	6,820	9,016
April .....	4,517	5,052	5,740
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	41,280	36,314	45,878
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Monthly average .....	5,897	5,188	6,554

## SUMMER SESSION RESERVE

	1928	1929	1930
July .....	885	809	1,355
August .....	1,008	678	1,162
	<u>1,893</u>	<u>1,487</u>	<u>2,517</u>
Monthly average .....	946	744	1,258

The Library was kept open in the evenings during the months of July and August. The attendance was:

	Attendance	Ev'gs Open	Average
July .....	340	21	16
August .....	386	16	24
	<u>726</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>20</u>
Total .....	726	37	20

## EVENING ATTENDANCE

Month—	Attendance	Ev'gs Open	Average
September .....	15	1	15
October .....	910	26	35
November .....	2,154	24	90
December .....	1,619	15	108
January .....	855	23	37
February .....	1,628	24	68
March .....	4,073	26	157
April .....	3,628	21	173
	<u>14,882</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>93</u>

## BOOK APPROPRIATIONS

For the University year 1929-30 a total of \$16,497.60 was available for the purchase of books and periodicals. This sum was made up of main and supplementary appropriations for general or special purposes recommended by the President and authorized by

the Board of Governors, and, in some cases, of transfers from sums appropriated by the Board to the Teaching Departments, the transfer of part of which was requested by the Head of the Department concerned and approved by the President and the Board.

The details of these appropriations are as follows:

Balance carried forward from 1928-29.....	\$7,047.60
(a) Unspent departmental book app'ns.....	\$1,443.02
(b) Provision for orders outstanding.....	2,164.65
(c) Unspent balances from other library funds .....	3,439.93
Budget, 1929-30 .....	6,000.00
Special grant for Kayser's Bucherlexicon.....	500.00
History—Transfer, November 26, 1929.....	500.00
Mathematics—Transfer, October 29, 1929.....	200.00
Moderns—Transfer, October 29, 1929.....	700.00
Special grant, Commerce.....	1,200.00
Transfer from Supplies and Expense to cover approxi- mate cost of Postage.....	350.00
	\$16,497.60

In the Report presented in October, 1929, the Librarian stated that, for undergraduate work alone, a University library should contain 100 volumes per student. On this basis the University of British Columbia should have a book collection of almost 200,000 volumes. Over and beyond this are the books required for graduate work and for special research. The present book collection is, therefore, only about one-third its required size, when judged by the standards prescribed by the Committee of the National Education Association, which investigated this matter. It is, therefore, obvious that much money must be spent and much work done before this Library can adequately fulfil its recognized obligations to students and to faculty.

In making these observations, the Librarian recognizes the interest of the President and the Board in the Library, the constant care they have for its development, and the appropriations (liberal when considered in conjunction with many competitive claims) that



have been made for its upbuilding. The Library of the University of British Columbia still keeps its rank as sixth among Canadian universities. McGill and Toronto universities have each more than 300,000 books; Laval and Queen's each in excess of 200,000; the University of Montreal has 140,000. Moreover, there is everywhere a keener realization of the very important part that the Library must play in the work of any institution of learning. Every year more liberal book appropriations are being made by Canadian universities. Unless larger appropriations for book purchases are forthcoming, there is every prospect that, within two or three years, the book collection of this University will drop to eighth or ninth place.

### BINDING

The Binding appropriation for the year under review was the same as for several previous years—\$3,000.00. The expenditure was \$3,138.27:

Binding (periodicals, sets, etc.), \$2,622.67; 1,337 volumes at \$1.96 average.

Repairing, \$497.30; 467 volumes at \$1.06 average.

Examination books, etc., \$18.30.

Most of our binding done in England is in leather, and the gain therefore in shipping there (since the freight both ways is paid by the Chivers firm) is accordingly far greater than the averages indicate:

Binding in England, \$1,111.77; 643 vols., \$1.73 average.

Binding done locally, \$1,510.90; 694 vols., \$2.18 average.

The repairing is done locally.

### THE CATALOGUE

During the year, 2,340 new entries, exclusive of pamphlets, have been classified and added. A list of new titles for inclusion in the first supplementary volume of the Union List of Serials has been prepared, and some hundreds of additional entries forwarded to the H. W. Wilson Company for inclusion in this invaluable bibliographical publication.

Progress has been made on the subject headings and cross reference files, but much work has to be done before this work can be completed.

More extensive analysis of individual volumes is highly desirable, but this is impossible at the present, as the Catalogue Department consists of only one member.

The Catalogue now contains more than 310,000 cards. Of these 200,784 are in the Main Public Catalogue; there are 53,400 in the Shelf List, and 60,960 in the Author List.

Overcrowding of cards in the Main Catalogue will necessitate an addition of eight new cabinets in the immediate future, and the redistribution and re-lettering of the cabinet drawers in the first half of the alphabet.

#### REFERENCE

For the present needs of the Library, the Reference collection is fairly adequate, the essential reference books, with the exception of foreign dictionaries, being equal to student requirements, though there are frequent enquiries from members of Faculty which the resources of the Reference collection cannot meet.

Among the outstanding purchases of the year in the Reference Department is the new edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica which, while it cannot be compared with the earlier editions for scholarship and dignity, is very useful as a popular up-to-date encyclopaedia. The old German encyclopaedia by Meyer is being replaced by the new edition of Brockhaus "Der Gross Brockhaus," four volumes of which have been received.

A new edition of Larousse "La Larousse du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle" is also in course of publication, and the first two volumes are on the shelves.

Most useful is the Dictionary of American Biography, a scholarly work which, when completed, will be the outstanding American biographical dictionary. Four volumes have been published.

Michel's "Histoire de l'Art" is now complete and the Art Reference Section has been strengthened by the addition of Benézit, "Dictionnaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Graveurs."

Seligman, "An Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences," is especially welcome, as there was no up-to-date reference book in this field.

Other notable editions are the Australian Encyclopaedia, Stieler's Hand Atlas, Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, and Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

### ACCOMMODATION OF LIBRARY

In the first year in which the Library building was opened, it was too small for its required purposes, and the congestion has been growing annually. No relief can be obtained until the first addition to the Library—the south wing, providing the Reserve Reading Room—is erected. There have been times on every day of the 1929-30 session when the Library has been overcrowded. Sometimes as many as 150 students could not find seats. Before examinations the congestion is very marked.

### LIBRARY STAFF

John Ridington, Librarian.  
Dorothy M. Jefferd, Cataloguer.  
Anne M. Smith, Reference.  
Mabel Lanning, Circulation.  
Roland Lanning, Periodicals.  
Lionel Haweis, Accessions and Government documents.  
Evelyn Hearsey, Orders and Secretary.  
Florence L. Ranking, Typist.  
George Mossop, Call Boy.

With great regret the Librarian reports the resignation of Miss Nora Bateson, whose good services and energetic efforts to improve discipline in the library are greatly appreciated.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Changes in the personnel of the Library Committee have been made during the year by vote of the Senate. It now consists of :

Dr. L. S. Klinck, President of the University (ex-officio).

Professor H. F. Angus, Chairman, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dr. W. L. MacDonald, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Professor F. H. Soward, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Professor H. N. Thomson, representing the Faculty of Applied Science.

Professor H. M. King, representing the Faculty of Agriculture.  
John Ridington, Secretary.

Regular meetings of the Committee are held monthly on the second Wednesday during the session, and special meetings as needs arise. In all, seven meetings have been held since the Report of October, 1929.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN RIDINGTON,

Librarian.

September 11th, 1930.