

## 12.—Summary Statistics of Public Libraries, by Provinces, 1935, with Totals for 1933 and 1931.

| Province.                 | Libraries. | Volumes.         | Circulation.      | Borrowers Registered at End of Year. | Expenditure on Books and Periodicals. |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                           | No.        | No.              | No.               | No.                                  | \$                                    |
| <b>Totals, 1931</b> ..... | <b>623</b> | <b>4,516,206</b> | <b>21,135,354</b> | <b>-</b>                             | <b>509,322</b>                        |
| <b>Totals, 1933</b> ..... | <b>638</b> | <b>4,770,981</b> | <b>22,376,340</b> | <b>1,114,201</b>                     | <b>421,142</b>                        |
| 1935.                     |            |                  |                   |                                      |                                       |
| Prince Edward Island..... | 1          | 37,960           | 261,029           | 21,918                               | 17,681                                |
| Nova Scotia.....          | 15         | 100,041          | 199,084           | 22,000                               | 3,465                                 |
| New Brunswick.....        | 8          | 89,440           | 272,550           | 21,182                               | 4,107                                 |
| Quebec.....               | 26         | 598,203          | 784,449           | 29,183                               | 28,795                                |
| Ontario.....              | 460        | 3,203,275        | 14,140,876        | 814,329                              | 284,884                               |
| Manitoba.....             | 31         | 114,740          | 810,485           | 61,825                               | 20,824                                |
| Saskatchewan.....         | 44         | 193,272          | 1,305,821         | 61,995                               | 21,572                                |
| Alberta.....              | 24         | 230,775          | 1,554,455         | 63,960                               | 27,282                                |
| British Columbia.....     | 30         | 266,974          | 1,797,153         | 103,034                              | 39,080                                |
| Yukon.....                | 3          | 14,113           | 12,000            | 389                                  | 561                                   |
| <b>Totals, 1935</b> ..... | <b>642</b> | <b>4,848,793</b> | <b>21,137,902</b> | <b>1,199,815</b>                     | <b>448,251</b>                        |

The cost of operating the libraries during the year was \$1,902,691. Of this sum the salaries of the librarians and their assistants accounted for \$951,895, and \$448,251 was spent on books, periodicals and book repairs. About 83 p.c. of the total sum expended was raised by means of taxes levied in the areas served by the libraries. The annual cost of public libraries per person in Canada was 18 cents and the circulation per person was 2 books. In the United States the corresponding figures were 38 cents and 3.7 books; in Great Britain about 26 cents and 4.5 books.

With few exceptions the public library in Canada has always been an urban institution. An attempt is made to provide the rural residents with partial library service through the medium of the "travelling library" and the "open shelf library". Within the past few years, however, experiments to extend an efficient library service beyond the range of individual cities and towns have been successful. In British Columbia, the Fraser Valley Union Library provides a library service for 42,000 people living in an area more than 100 miles in length and of varying widths. The library's book-van links the 125 library agencies into a network covering the whole region. Each municipality included in the scheme is assessed on a basis of 35 cents per capita. Similar regional libraries are being established in the Okanagan valley and on Vancouver island. A province-wide library system now provides free library service for everybody in Prince Edward Island. The 22 branches of the library system bring the library within the reach of 88,000 people scattered over an area of some 2,000 square miles. In some of the Ontario counties, notably Lambton and Middlesex, the existing public libraries have formed County Library Associations. These libraries pool their resources for the purchase of books and by various methods place the books at the disposal of all the libraries in the Association.

**Travelling Libraries.**—Statistics relating to public library service would not be complete without reference to the travelling libraries (boxes containing from 25 to 80 selected books), which circulate in every province of Canada. The object of travelling libraries is to supplement the book-stock of small public or school libraries and to provide some library service in communities otherwise without any. Three universities, Acadia, Dalhousie, and St. Francis Xavier conduct such a service in Nova Scotia, and McGill University circulates libraries in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Each of the five most westerly provinces operates a provincial system of travelling libraries with headquarters at the provincial capital. In Ontario and