

June 14-16. Delegates representing every phase of administrative and professional responsibility within the Canadian library scene were present. A Constitution was adopted and representative executive officers were elected including a full-time National Secretary.

The proposed program of activities for the Association includes projects of national interest in the field of public-library service; improvement of the professional qualifications of librarians with a corresponding improvement in salary schedules; promotion of recommendations for the adoption of modern methods of community library service and extra-curricular activities for libraries; co-operation with the Dominion Government on such matters as distribution of government publications and participation in the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Public Libraries.—Public libraries in Canada are primarily urban institutions. In cities of over 10,000 population about 92 p.c. of the people have some measure of library service; in smaller urban centres the proportion is 42 p.c. While only 5 p.c. of the rural population is at present provided with library service, the recent interest being shown in rural library service provided by regional and travelling libraries promises to alter this situation in the near future. In interpreting the provincial statistics of public libraries, it should be kept in mind that in the predominantly rural provinces like the Maritimes and the Prairie Provinces urban libraries cannot serve more than one-third of the population, while in the more urban provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia it is possible for them to serve nearly double that number. Other types of library service, figures for which are not included with those of public libraries, provide more of the public's reading material in some provinces than in others. For instance, church or parish libraries, are known to be fairly numerous and commercial lending libraries are an important source of reading, especially of fiction, though no statistical information has been collected for these since the Census of 1931. Consideration should also be given to private libraries of the home and, since no record of them is possible, it is necessary to consider the statistics of public libraries as the record of a certain type of institution rather than as a complete record of the libraries to which the public has access. Individual libraries for 1945 may be classified by the following population units, according to the returns of the 1941 Census.

1.—Distribution of Public Libraries by Population Unit, 1945

Population Unit	Cities and Towns	Towns and Villages	Rural ¹
	No.	No.	No.
Under 1,000	—	201	4
1,000—4,999	—	176	19
5,000—9,999	—	46	221
10,000—19,999	27	—	—
20,000—39,999	20	—	—
40,000—99,999	8	—	—
100,000 or over	13	—	—

¹ Size of unit based on the Annual Report of the Ontario Department of Education and of the British Columbia Library Commission.