

P.C. 1786 of Apr. 8, 1949, established a Royal Commission to examine and make recommendations upon:—

- (1) The principles upon which the policy of Canada should be based in the fields of radio and television broadcasting.
- (2) Such agencies and activities of the Government of Canada as the National Film Board, the National Gallery, the National Museum, the Public Archives and the care and custody of public records, the Library of Parliament; methods by which research is aided including grants for scholarships through various Federal Government agencies; the eventual character and scope of the National Library; the scope or activities of these agencies, the manner in which they should be conducted, financed and controlled, and other matters relevant thereto.
- (3) Methods by which the relations of Canada with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with other organizations operating in this field should be conducted.
- (4) Relations of the Government of Canada and any of its agencies with various national voluntary bodies operating in the field with which this inquiry will be concerned.

Public hearings were held at Ottawa from Aug. 3 to Sept. 8, 1949, and briefs were heard relating to all matters included in the terms of reference from about thirty national organizations or representatives of government agencies.

From Oct. 11 to Nov. 5, 1949, the Commission's schedule called for hearings in Western Canada. The remainder of November was reserved for hearings at Toronto and Montreal; and from Jan. 10 to Jan. 29, 1950, sessions were arranged for Quebec City and the Maritime Provinces.

Section 5.—Public Libraries

The statistical survey of the public libraries of Canada for 1946-48 shows record expenditures for public library service for 1947 amounting to \$3,931,000, as compared with \$2,890,000 for 1945 and \$2,041,000 for 1937. Expenditures for reading material advanced from \$584,000 in 1945 to \$812,000 in 1947 and the number of volumes available for circulation increased 475,000 to a peak of 6,431,000. Provincial grants increased 56 p.c. compared with 1945 largely due to legislation in Ontario which provided for grants based on salaries paid and book stock.

Book circulation dropped almost to the level of 1937, a feature common to the library service of other countries at the time, but also due in part to the fact that the library services of Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were undergoing considerable re-organization which delayed the normal progression of circulation statistics for Canada.

To counteract the decrease in recorded loans of reading material, the libraries reported progress in their auxiliary services such as the loans of films, musical records, and art reproductions. As a comparatively new public library service, almost 100 of the 680 public libraries reported films, on deposit or owned, available for loan to the public. Returns from 40 libraries reported 4,000 films available for loans (2,996 on deposit), 22,682 showings, and a total audience of 2,199,342 people.

There was an increase in the number of regional libraries and in specialized services for children. In Ontario, 12 county library co-operatives and 6 township libraries were organized, one additional in each group since 1945; Nova Scotia organized the Annapolis Valley library and was working on other groups as were the three Prairie Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Services for children and teen-agers in the cities recorded a circulation of 36 books per reader for