

were not heard in public. The largest single group of briefs was concerned with radio matters although the majority of briefs did not deal with one subject only but dealt with several matters within the Terms of Reference of the inquiry.

The Commission expects to have its Report printed and ready for the general public by the end of January, 1951 (details of this Report, if published by the time of going to press, will be given in an Appendix to this volume).

### Section 5.—Public Libraries

The biennial survey of public libraries in Canada, 1946-48, covered 680 municipal and association libraries, the regional libraries of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia and the county library co-operatives of Ontario.

The number of volumes reported exceeded all previous records and the classification of reading material showed some change in the decade. Adult fiction in 1937 represented 34 p.c. of the classified volumes; in 1947 the proportion was 29 p.c. Non-fiction increased from 48 p.c. in 1937 to 51 p.c. in 1947; and juvenile books from 18 p.c. to 20 p.c.

In the 1937-47 period, current expenditures also increased considerably, the amount spent on salaries and wages in 1947 being more than double that in 1937. This increase was accounted for by improved individual salaries as well as by an increase in number of employees from 1,200, including part-time workers, in 1937 to 1,990 in 1947. The median salaries of professional libraries advanced about 50 p.c. in the period and the average salary for all employees increased by over 25 p.c.

Local taxes in 1947 accounted for 82 p.c. of current receipts and provincial grants-in-aid over 9 p.c. In pre-war years municipal grants represented 92 p.c. of the income and provincial aid just under 4 p.c.

**Regional Libraries.**—More significant of the progress of library work in Canada is the growth of regional library service. In almost all provinces including Newfoundland some form of regional service is in operation. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nova Scotia this form of service is comparatively recent. At least three new regional libraries have been established. In Saskatchewan one is in operation at Prince Albert, and in Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley and Cape Breton each have such services. Alberta and Manitoba have passed permissive legislation and are organizing such libraries.

The regional libraries established in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, and the Ontario County Co-operative libraries record considerable progress since 1937 as shown in the following statement.

<i>Item</i>	<i>1937</i>	<i>1947</i>
<b>Prince Edward Island—</b>		
Branches.....No.	24	24
Volumes....."	49,006	67,498
Circulation....."	252,732	221,133
Expenditures.....\$	16,062	21,907
<b>British Columbia (3 Union libraries)—</b>		
Agencies.....No.	285	428
Volumes....."	72,849	117,329
Circulation....."	465,430	608,686
Expenditures.....\$	32,258	84,928
<b>Ontario County Co-operatives—</b>		
Libraries.....No.	4	12
Volumes....."	8,537	43,173
Circulation....."	65,851	749,408
Expenditures.....\$	3,275	28,965