

In accordance with Order in Council dated June 14, 1957, the Council established the National Commission for UNESCO and named 26 members and 30 organizations with "co-operating body status".

### Section 5.—Library Services

**The National Library.**—The National Library of Canada, authorized by the National Library Act of June 18, 1952 (RSC 1952, c. 330), came into existence formally on Jan. 1, 1953. The Act provides for the establishment of an Advisory Council of 15 members, including at least one representative from each of the ten provinces together with the appointment of a National Librarian, an Assistant Librarian and other personnel. The duties of the National Librarian include the establishment of a National Union Catalogue listing the books in every important collection in Canada; the purchasing of book stock; and the publication of a National Bibliography listing books published in Canada, written by Canadians, or of special interest to Canadians.

Since its establishment, the Library has continued to expand its activities in temporary quarters while awaiting the erection of a new building. The first stage of the *National Union Catalogue*, which lists the holdings of larger public reference, government, university and special libraries, was completed in November 1958. Included were data covering two libraries in Newfoundland, two in Prince Edward Island, 19 in Nova Scotia, 5 in New Brunswick, 14 in Quebec, 73 in Ontario, 4 in Manitoba, 3 in Saskatchewan, 4 in Alberta and 10 in British Columbia. Statistics on interlibrary loans facilitated by the Catalogue demonstrate its usefulness to scholars and research workers across the country. Approximately 1,000 requests are being filled each month, about half of which are received from university libraries, one-quarter from public libraries and the remainder from special libraries and other sources. *Canadiana*, issued monthly, provides an up-to-date inclusive bibliography of materials of Canadian origin and interest for the use of libraries, the publishing trade and others. Altogether, 9,230 items were listed in 1959.

In addition to Canadian books, the National Library is acquiring material in other subject fields, especially in the humanities, music and the social sciences.

**Public Libraries.**—Library service is provided for the Canadian public through several types of organization, depending on the population density of the area.

The majority of Canadians live in urban municipalities and are served by free tax-supported libraries, some with extensive branch systems. A few of the larger centres and many of the smaller municipalities are served by non-profit association public libraries, privately controlled and operated. A wide range of special services, from reference collections for business and industry, reading clubs, lecture series, art displays and services to schools supplement the basic reference and circulation collections for children and adults in these larger centres.

Regional and co-operative libraries are organized in all provinces except Quebec to centralize and strengthen the efforts of small communities to provide adequate library service for their people. Quebec late in 1959 introduced legislation providing for a study of public library needs in the province with a view to regional library organization. Regional libraries in Canada have pioneered in the use of mobile libraries to bring books to suburban and rural communities and to small libraries in need of replenishment.

Provincial public library services, operated on a province-wide basis by provincial government authorities, serve sparsely populated areas by rail, boat and aircraft. Travelling libraries, consisting of boxed collections of books for all ages, are sent out to small groups on request, books dealing with specific subjects are sent out to individuals on request and other forms of library service are tailored to the needs of certain areas. In Ontario the provincial government operates and finances a public library service at Moose Factory which is intended to be the beginning of service to the whole James Bay area. In Quebec, the McLennan Travelling Library at Macdonald College, financed through endowment and the provincial government, brings books by bookmobile to seven small communities in the Eastern Townships, and also distributes travelling collections. In British Columbia, the Provincial Library Commission maintains three branch depots in remote areas to service small local libraries.