

The National Union Catalogue lists approximately 7,500,000 volumes in 159 important government, university and public libraries in all provinces. New accessions are reported regularly by the libraries and a systematic program of expansion provides for the addition of the contents of more libraries as facilities permit. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, the Reference Division was asked to locate 9,691 titles, and requests for other information brought the total number of inquiries to 10,711, as compared with 9,096 in 1958-59. Inquiries on scientific and technical subjects are in the lead, and 80 p.c. of the titles requested in 1959-60 were published since 1925.

Publications of the National Library, besides *Canadiana*, include the annual accumulation of the *Canadian Index to Periodicals and Documentary Films*, *Canadiana Selections*, and a *Bibliography of Canadian Bibliographies*.

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 includes reference collections for business and industry, reading clubs, lecture series, art displays and services to schools which supplement the basic reference and circulation collections for children and adults in these larger centres.

A trend toward regional and co-operative library service is apparent as more effective forms of organization are sought to meet the library needs of both urban and rural populations. In 1959, 54 of the larger municipal public libraries reported extension of services beyond municipal boundaries, either by formal contract with neighbouring municipalities or by informal arrangement with non-residents. The establishment and growth of regional libraries in all provinces except Quebec is stimulated and encouraged by grants from provincial government agencies, and during the 1950's the number of regional libraries in Canada rose from 16 to 34. These libraries bring together the resources of a number of small communities within a specified area to provide funds, quarters, stock and staff of a higher standard than each could maintain by itself. Bookmobiles and other forms of mobile service bring skilled librarians and good books for children and adults to depots in schools and other convenient centres in the participating communities. The Public Library Commission of Quebec, set up in December 1959, is studying the library needs of the province with a view to regional organization and regional libraries are being planned for the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Provincial public library services, operated on a province-wide basis by provincial government authorities, serve sparsely populated areas by bookmobile, 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.

All public libraries in Canada are experiencing increased demands for their services, especially from children of five to 14 years of age who, representing 20 p.c. of the population, borrowed 46 p.c. of all the books circulated in 1959. Stocks of books, pamphlets and periodicals are increasing, and new buildings, extensions and remodellings are being planned, although expansion is limited by a shortage of professional librarians.

DBS surveys of libraries for the year 1959 covered provincial public library services, regional and co-operative libraries and public libraries in centres with over 10,000 population. The data thus secured were supplemented by information from provincial officials on libraries in smaller centres. Table 1 represents estimates for all public libraries in Canada.