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Special Libraries

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The Special Libraries Association will meet in connection with the American Library Association at Mackinac Island, June 30 to July 6. Three sessions of the association will be held as follows:

First Session. Discussion of library bulletins, publicity and methods of keeping a special clientele informed concerning current literature of interest.

Second Session: Indexes to current literature. The project for a trades index and a public affairs index will be especially discussed.

Third Session: Reports of committees and general business of S. L. A. including election of officers. Reports will be presented by Secretary-treasurer and by Chairmen of Committees on Public Utilities Libraries, Public Affairs Libraries, Insurance Libraries, Technology Libraries, Sociology Libraries, Agricultural Libraries, report of committee on Membership,

report of Managing Editor of Special Libraries and discussion of the plan and scope of Special Libraries.

For each of the first two sessions, the discussion will be opened by a twenty minute address to be followed by a considerable number of five minute talks in discussion of the general theme and in description of the needs and methods of particular libraries.

The importance of this meeting should be apparent to all librarians interested in the development of co-operative methods. The special libraries association has indicated by its activities the possibilities of a co-operative plan through the publication of *Special Libraries*. With the experience gained by this new venture it will be possible to lay broad foundations for the future work of the association.

The purpose of the association being primarily co-operative there is needed the critical discussion necessary to make co-operative efforts most effective.

The plan for a co-operative trades index and a public affairs index will receive special attention. Many problems arise in this connection which will need to be viewed from every angle of experience. The general approval which has been given to the plan for a trades index and for a public affairs and newspaper index indicates that the special libraries association can do much to promote these desirable ends.

THE USEFUL ARTS DEPARTMENT OF THE WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Joseph L. Wheeler, Assistant Librarian

The industrial departments of the Providence, Newark and Pratt Institute libraries have been described in recent library periodicals. The work of the Useful Arts Department of the District of Columbia Public Library may be of similar interest to readers of *Special Libraries*. This aims to be an efficient department of a typical public library, i. e., one which would be of free and intimate service to every class of readers, and which would, so far as possible, take active steps to interest them in the library and its books.

Although this is a typical library, Washington is an exceptional city and not a typical one in its population, as are Newark and Providence. It is essentially residential and professional and non-manu-

facturing. In fact the idea of factories and of grimy workmen speaking in strange tongues is one which would be most distasteful to real Washingtonians. In so far as the library meets readers of technical literature, it naturally finds an overbalance of school trained specialists such as patent examiners, chemists, testing engineers, road, bridge, electrical, sanitary and other experts, nearly all of whom are connected with the federal government. This class of people, numerically and proportionally large, is partially served by the scores of department, bureau and laboratory libraries, which are well organized and supported.

Taking into account the very decidedly non-industrial character of the population and the existence of the special libraries, as well as the Library of Congress, it might appear at first sight that a public library industrial department would be scarcely necessary in the District. Yet the department may be called a typical one in every sense. It has won a heavy trade from the professional class just mentioned, owing in part to the fact that the government special libraries close at 4:30. Labor is well represented, especially in the printing and building trades, rather than the manufactures. The amount and quality of reference work done for the manufacturers and their employes in Newark and Providence corresponds to the work done here for architects and builders, and for employes of the Government Printing Office, carpenters and workmen generally. There is also the class of general readers which exists in every city—the school pupils and the wives and families of the government employes, store clerks, etc. The department furnishes them literature on the sciences, amateur mechanics, gardening, house planning, etc.

The room is well located and arranged to carry out its purpose. All of the working departments of the library (except the Children's) are on the main floor of the building, the issue desk facing the main entrance and very near it. The prevailing tone of the library is one of cordiality and helpfulness, and the arrangement of rooms and furniture is meant to aid this. The readers have access to every part of the Useful Arts room. With a total linear shelf space of 816 feet it is necessary to keep the books selected according to their usefulness, and old or foreign publications, seldom called for, are placed in the stacks. A small room adjoining the Useful Arts Room contains the overflow of recent unbound magazines—until the end of the year. The room contains about 7,000 books, arranged by the Expansive classification. Those in classes R, S and T have recently been changed from the sixth to

the seventh system. The book cases are five feet high, thus bringing all of the books within easy sight. The cases extend around the room, and an extra case runs parallel to one wall with a passageway between. There are no cross cases, no cases higher than the eyes, and no cases between the attendant and any person who may be in the room. While the shelf space is limited, and a continual weeding out of comparatively useless books is necessary, the result is very satisfactory to all. The trade catalogs are placed in the least accessible corner of the room, where they will not be unduly handled by the curious. Technical handbooks, such as Kent's and Supplee's, are on two shelves behind the attendant's desk, provided with locked glass fronts. This is the only thing in the room in the way of restriction. As an example of the freedom shown, it is interesting to relate that a drawing board, T square and triangle have been safely left on a table in the room for three months.

The usual eight foot tables, with table lights are provided for readers. A filing cabinet stands near the attendant's desk. In this are kept the following: Subject index of trade catalogs; firm index of trade catalogs; charging record for unbound magazines; file of indexes of unbound magazines; (It may be explained here that owing to lack of money, only fifteen of the 216 magazines are bound. These bound magazines are not allowed to circulate); file of pamphlet bibliographies and special reading lists, file of clippings and pamphlets useful in reference work, (no regular clipping is done).

Much attention is paid to the selection of books, with special emphasis on securing books which people request, whether new books are duplicate copies of older works. Such regular lists as Publishers Weekly, Van Nostrand's Record, and the U. S. catalog of copyright entries, are regularly checked. Any one who is acquainted with industrial literature knows that a great number of valuable books are never listed in the first two of these, and even the regular copyright catalog fails to include everything. The monthly catalog of pamphlet copyrights is the most valuable aid in running down small miscellaneous material, which often proves indispensable to readers. The standards applied to books on general literature cannot be applied to technical books, especially that of publisher's name. A book with a queer title, brought forth by an unheard of publisher and sold for fifty cents, is as worthy of notice as a more pretentious work published by Macmillan or Wiley. All of the most essential books are not published, as the best fiction is, by a few stand-

ard houses. The trade and engineering magazines are examined for book notices and reviews. The importance of such careful notes as appear in the Engineering News, has been emphasized by library workers. Just as much time is given here to the advertisements and book columns of the minor trade papers, such as American Blacksmith, Wood-worker, etc.

The foregoing shows the means of keeping informed on new publications. The placing of orders depends almost entirely on demand, actual or probable. In other words the books bought are the ones which the public call for, and not ones which merely theoretically the library should have. The following instance illustrates this: A pamphlet was recently issued at \$1.00 entitled "The Philo System of Poultry Culture." A copy was purchased as soon as advertised. The demand was immediate and heavy, and postal card reserves were filed by readers. Another copy was bought, but six reserves were on file. After waiting two months the demand was almost as insistent, and two more copies were bought. The booklet was one of scarcely 100 pages, with paper covers, and issued by the author. The library failed to buy several expensive imported technical books, published by Longmans, Griffin and the other standard English firms. By buying only one copy of the poultry book, a \$3.00 work of permanent value could have been bought. The library was better justified in not disappointing thirty readers of poultry books rather than to place on its shelves a work which might not be called for twice in a year.

In its work with readers, the usual methods are used. The indexes, bibliographies and special lists are at hand for reference. The Technical Press Index, the first volume of which appeared in November, is the most valuable tool of all, partly on account of the self index which is printed at the back. The five year volume of the Engineering Index, 1900-1905, with its alphabetic subject arrangement is also used continually. The department has not had a card catalog as yet, but expects to have one prepared before the next season. In lieu of this there is a rough card index of the subjects in the room, showing their classification. The International Library of Technology has been analyzed on cards which are filed with the class index cards. The current issues of the Engineering Index are not cut up and mounted on cards as they are in some libraries, but are used in their monthly form.

The circulation is heavy and has increased rapidly ever since the opening of the room. From January 1 to May 1, 10,723 books were issued. Much time and labor

is saved the attendants by the charging and return of books at the main issue desk, which every person has to pass on his way in and out of the building.

The circulation of unbound magazines has been given special attention, as it has met with appreciation and seems very useful. From January to April, 4,237 circulated. The current files of magazines on useful arts, about 250, are kept in the room. Pamphlet boxes are laid flat upon the book cases all around the room; in these all except the current issues are placed. The current numbers are placed in Johnson binders and laid on the pamphlet boxes. A reader may borrow for one week as many loose numbers from the boxes as he wishes, and in addition to his regular books. The magazines are charged and returned in the room, on special multi-graphed forms. Certain ones are restricted as to the number which a person may borrow. Such magazines as Country Life in America and Scientific American are circulated freely only when duplicates are received as gifts.

Instances illustrating the kind of work done might be given in abundance, but they are of much the same nature as those described in the accounts of other industrial departments. Every effort is made to give readers satisfaction before they leave the building. The attendants are all young men with some acquaintance with technical subjects. Their custom is, when a reader is seen to be in need of help, to ask if they can be of assistance. The common complaint, that a book is "out," is often the cause for an investigation as to just what is the reason that a reader applies in vain several times for it. In reference work, when the exact information desired is not obtained at the moment, further search is made after the reader has gone. To cover this individual work in a thorough manner, and to keep track of it until the reader has finally been satisfied, a multigraphed "pink slip" is used as follows:

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Look further for (subject or book) , Attd | | |
| | | Date |
| | | Inventory |
| | | Due |
| Date wanted | Letter sent | Reserved |
| Has seen | | Not in file |
| | | Bindery |
| | | Lost |
| Readers name | Address | Ordered |

In the advertising of the department, the multigraph plays an important part. The only expense is for the time and paper. In an hour the operator can set up, run, and take down the type for five hundred copies of a one page list, a circular letter or a postal card notice. These lists and

notices are sent out to all appropriate addresses that are obtained. A list on arts and crafts was distributed at a lecture on that subject held in the library lecture hall. Lists on automobiles and aeronautics were distributed at an automobile show. At a recent exhibit of office appliances and methods in the Treasury Department, the multigraph company ran off a circular letter which had been prepared at the library describing the business books in the library. This served to advertise the multigraph and bring the library to the attention of the right class of people, many of whom were not card holders. News items, prepared at the library, frequently appear in the local papers, all of which are friendly to the library. The Trades Unionist, a local weekly, printed a number of special lists and an editorial. During the winter eight of the larger labor unions were visited, and printed circulars bearing the union label were distributed. These circulars were also given out by several business firms in the city through their pay envelopes. Every one of these advertising efforts has had result in increased circulation and in bringing permanent readers and ambitious workmen to the library. One of the labor unions organized a study class which met on Monday evenings for several months, in one of the library study club rooms, using the books on their craft. So far the relations between the library and the unions have been very cordial, and of practical helpfulness to both parties.

In the foregoing account, the aims and methods in which this department differs from others, or which it emphasizes more fully, have been brought out.

PUBLIC UTILITIES REFERENCES

G. W. Lee, Librarian Stone and Webster,
Chairman Public Utilities Committee

(Arranged under the general headings in the alphabetical order of the publications in which articles appeared.)

Depreciation

The Treatment of Depreciation. Divergent rulings of Interstate Commerce Commsn., N. Y. & Wis. R. R. Commsns. and Bureau of internal revenue; methods of charging returns into property from income, etc. F. R. Ford (Amer. St. & Interurban Ry. Assn., Jan. 1910.) El. Ry. Jrnl., 2-12-10—284—3p

Depreciation. Egrg. aspect; physical decay; obsolescence, etc; estimate of "life" of machinery and plant; acctg. aspect, W. A. J. O'Meara. Electrician—4-8-10—1072—2—5p.

Depreciation. Renewal and replacement accts. (concl'd.) various theories; lack of uniformity in repts of rrs. st. rys. and mfg corps.; practical difficulties in the

way of uniform practice; public accountants should study values. E. G. Stockwell, Jrnl. of Accountancy—1-10—189—22p.

Rates, Costs, Prices, Valuation, Etc.

Sliding Scale. Regulation of prices and rates of dividend for gas companies. A. E. Forstall, Am. Gas Inst., 10-20-09.—Am. Gas Lt. Jrnl.—1-24-10—156—1—9p.

Price of Electricity. An analysis of costs and prices, with especial reference to the Boston Edison Co. R. S. Hale (N. E. L. A., N. E. Section, 3-10—El'l Review—4-23-10—844—2—1p.

Rates of the Hypothetical El. Company; the proper methods of arriving at rates of an el. lt. and pr co. W. J. Hagenah of Wis. R. R. Commsn. El'l World—2-10-10—358—0—4p.

British Central-Station Rates. Flat rates and maximum demand system, sliding scale rates, two-rate system, contract system F. H. Davis, El'l. World, 3-10-10—628—1—7p.

Central-Station—Valuation and Rate Making. Important decision by Wis. Commsn.; "going value," rate of return; schedule of ltg rates; decision in case of State Journal Printing Co. vs Madison Gas & El. Co. El'l World, 3-17-10—675—1—2p.

Valuations of public service corporations; rates; capitalization, etc. Abs W. H. Williams (Am Econ. Assn. & Am. Pol. Sci. Assn. 12-30-09). El. Ry. Jrnl., 1-8-10—76—2p.

Official Valuation of Private Property. Various measures of value, "irrevocable costs;" the original cost. Abs. Fred'k W. Whitridge (Am. Economic Assn., Dec. '09) El. Ry. Jrnl.—1-15-10—110—2—5p.

The Fare Question. Present condition of Amer St. and interurban Rys.; educating the public, benefits conferred by el. rys. W. J. Clark, (Amer. St. and Interurban Ry Assn., Jan. 10.) El. Ry. 2-12-10—279—1—6p.; El. Tractn. Weekly, 2-12-10—171—1—2p.

Valuation of Water Power. Case of Beloit Water, Gas & El. Co. before Wis R R. Commsn. Egrg Record—2-5-10—153—0—4p.

The Evaluation of Water Rights. Method of determining the value of a water right and its application to a typical case Arthur Halstead, Egrg. Record—2-26-10—215—1—6p.

Interurban May Collect Excess Fare in New York. N. Y. Pub. Serv. Commsn., 2nd Dist, sustains the legality of the practice of interurban companies in collecting 5-cent excess fare from passengers not holding tickets, but requires an extension of the time limit for redeeming excess fare receipts. El. Tract. Weekly, 2-5-10—145—0—3p (Ed)

Valuation of El. Ry. Property. Work of valuation; methods of determining physical and intangible values. H. R. Badger, *El. Tractn. Weekly*—2-19-10—197—3p.

Going Value. As an element in the appraisal of Pub. utility properties; comparison of Wisconsin Commsn. theory as shown in its rulings, and that of Mr. John Alvord advanced in "Notes on going value and methods of its computation" before Am. Water Works Assn. Wm. E. Bryan (Egrs. Club of St. Louis, Oct. '09.) *Jrnl. of Ely. Pr. & Gas*—1-8-10—31—4—7p.

The Pub. Service Corpn. A gen. dis. of rate regulation, the corpn's relations with the public, depreciation, etc. C. L. Cory and dis. (A. I. E. E., San Francisco section.) *Jrnl. of Ely. Pr. & Gas*—3-26-10—272—10—3p.

Going Value and Good Will. Extracts from opinion of the Wis. Utilities Commsn. in determining the compensation to be paid by the village of Cashton for the property of the Cashton Lt. & Pr. Co.—*Pub. Service*—2-10—53—3—9p.

Rate Regulation. Senator Bailey on cost of service vs value of service in rate regulation; a reasonable rate of return must mean one which affords the ry. a just compensation for its service. *Ry. Age Gazette*—2-25-10—388—1p, (Ed.)

A Talk on Rates. A statement to the public. W. F. Davidson. *Selling Ely.*—3-10-97—2—5p.

Public Service Commissions and Corporate Control

Pub. Service Commsns. R. R. Commsns. especially the Mass. Commsn; legislation in Mass.; effect of obtaining charters easily; issuing securities; financial conditions of Mass El. Rys. P. F. Sullivan, (Amer. St. & Interurban Ry. Assn., Jan. 1910.) *El. Ry. Jrnl.*—2-12-10—280—2—3p.; *El. Tractn. Weekly*—2-12-10—168—2—1p.

Proposed Utilities Commsn in Maryland; some objections to the bill. *El. Ry. Jrnl.*—3-19-10—482—1—1p.

New Jersey Public Utility Commsn. Law. Text of the bill; comparison of important provisions of N. Y. & N. J. Commsn. laws *El. Ry. Jrnl.*, 4-2-10—626—2—7p.—561—0—9p. (Ed.)

Legislation for Control of Corpn. Legislation in various states; lack of uniformity; British laws. J. E. Sterrett (Nat'l Civic Federation Cong. on uniform legislation.) *Jrnl. of Accountancy*—2-10—241—6—5p.

Strikes and Public Utilities. A remedy; legislation for prevention of strikes; powers of Pub. service commsns. W. G. Merritt. *Outlook*—1-8-10—85—5p.

Current Notes and References

The Maryland and New Jersey legislatures at the recent sessions passed public

utilities commission acts. Five states have thus far provided for the control of public service corporations by state commissions. Massachusetts, New York and Wisconsin have now passed the experimental stage in such regulation. Bills for similar commissions have been introduced in practically every state of importance in the Union but thus far have failed of passage. A bill was introduced in Congress by Senator LaFollette for a public utilities commission for the district of Columbia in 1908.

Rapid Transit—Boston. Special report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners to the State Senate on the advisability of constructing additional subways, tunnels and elevated structures in the city of Boston. 34 pages. Senate Document No. 28. 1910.

Franchise—Street Railway—Cleveland. An ordinance granting a renewal of the street railway grants of the Cleveland Railway Company, fixing the terms and conditions of such renewal grants, changing the rates of fare, regulating transfers and terminating existing grants. February 19, 1910. Ordinance No. 16238a. 86 pages. Published by the city.

Street Railways—District of Columbia. Regulations for the operation and equipment of street railway cars in the District of Columbia adopted by the Interstate Commerce Commission, September 15, 1909, as amended up to March 8, 1910. 7 pages.

Street Railways—District of Columbia. Second Annual Report of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the street railroads in the District of Columbia. 1909. 10 pages. Contains the report of the District Electric Railway Commission to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Public Utilities—Maryland. Public Service Commission Law passed by the General Assembly of Maryland, 1910. 57 pages. Published by the State

Railroads—Massachusetts. Forty-first Annual Report of the Railroad Commissioners for the year 1909. 337 pages.

Franchise—New York City. Compilation of laws and ordinances enacted from January 1, 1887 to January 1, 1908, relating to railroads and other corporations, including ferries, in the city of New York 1908. 374 and 74 pages. Compiled and published by the Corporation Counsel of New York city, 1909.

Grade Crossings. Report on grade crossings in New York City and the need of change in the grade crossing law. Report submitted by Commissioner Bassett to New York Public Service Commission for the First District. 35 pages. 1910.

Telephone—Pennsylvania. Opinion of Pennsylvania Railroad Commission in the matter of the complaint of Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania against Slate Belt and Bell Telephone Companies. 1910. 4 pages. Case No. 246. Published by Pennsylvania State Railroad Commission. Relates to requirement of physical connection.

CURRENT REFERENCES

John A. Lapp, Indiana State Library, Chairman Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries Committee.

Bakeries. The Wisconsin sanitary bakery law of 1903 as amended in 1907 prohibiting bakeries in basements more than five feet below the surface, was upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court as a health regulation in *Benz vs. Kremer*. 125 N. W. 99, Feb. 22, 1910. Dissenting opinion by one justice.

Blacklisting. The Texas blacklisting statute Acts 30th Leg. ch. 67, requiring service letters to be given to discharged employees showing true reasons for his discharge, held constitutional in ever particular. *St. L. and S. W. Ry. Co. vs. Hixon*, 126 S. W. 338.

Child Labor. Summary of the laws in force in the U. S. in 1910. Prepared by Miss Laura Scott. Published by the American Association for Labor Legislation. John B. Andrews, Executive Secretary, Madison, Wis., 1910. 139 pages.

Cold Storage. Use of cold storage. Data on cold storage and cold storage products by Dr. H. W. Wiley. Washington, April, 1910. 23 pages. Senate Doc. No. 486.

Commission Government. Report of the Sub-Committee of the Illinois Legislature appointed to investigate the operation of the commission form of city government in Galveston, Houston and Dallas. Springfield, Ill., 1909. 11 pages. This committee visited the cities in question. Report summarizes the charters and workings.

Cost of Living. Report of special committee of the Mass. legislature appointed March 9th to investigate the increased cost of living with special reference to the tariff. House document, Boston, May 1910. This document which will contain over 700 pages exonerates the tariff and trusts from the blame for high prices. Too much gold, waste, extravagance and advanced standards cited as causes.

Courts—Inferior. Report of the Page commission in New York appointed to inquire into courts of inferior criminal jurisdiction in cities of the first class. Albany, 1910. Reviewed fully in the Survey, Apr. 30, 1910.

Drummers. Arkansas law prohibiting drummers for certain kinds of business from soliciting business on railway trains was upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court,

Apr. 4, 1910, 30 S. C. R. 493, as not offending "due process of law" or "denying the equal protection of the laws."

Drunkenness. Drunkenness in Massachusetts, conditions and remedies. Special report of the board of trustees of the Foxborough state hospital to the legislature, Boston, 1910. 70 pages. This report was made in accordance with a resolve of the legislature of 1909. Contains bibliography of inebriety.

Fire Marshalls. Digest of the laws of the state, prepared by the legislative reference department of Indiana. Tabulation. Typewritten copies. Apr. 1910.

Exemption From Taxation. Report of the tax commission of Massachusetts on the effects of the exemption from taxation of property of educational and public institutions. Boston 1910. 68 pages. Considers the subject of reimbursement of cities and towns in which such property is located.

Industrial Education. Report of the Committee of ten of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education on the relation of industrial training to the general system of education in the United States, New York, 1910. 16 pages.

Industrial Poisons. A summary and list of industrial poisons prepared for the international association for labor legislation. Published in Bureau of Labor bulletin, No. 86, Washington, Jan. 1910. 21 pages.

Inebriates. The report of the inspection under the inebriate acts of 1879 to 1900 for the year 1908. Parliamentary paper, 1910. 43 pages. Price 4½ d. This report covers the work done in this important field. The agitation of the subject of inebriate asylums in this country makes the experience of England valuable. The report of the departmental committee in 1908 on the operation of the law relating to inebriates is especially valuable. This report contains 39 pages. Price 4½ d. Minutes of evidence and appendices are published separately.

Insurance. Law placing costs of suits in contested claim cases on the insurance company, if the company loses, was held invalid in Colo. as discriminating in favor of a plaintiff. *Pac. Mut. Life Ins. Co. vs. Van Fleet*, 107 Pac. Rep. 1087.

The report of the insurance department of Missouri for 1909, reviews fire insurance rates, loss ratio in large cities, proper building laws, and state rate making. The superintendent declares in favor of control or review of fire rates.

Insurance, Casualty. Uniform law for standard provisions in accident and health insurance prepared by the National association of insurance commissioners, has been presented in most of the states holding sessions this year. The prepared bill

provides for a review of the superintendents' opinions by the courts. An attempt to cut this provision out of the bill in N. Y. failed.

Juvenile Court. Report of the first division of the city of New York, Court of special session, 1909. Contains statistics of cases that have come before the court and a discussion of methods of dealing with juvenile delinquency.

Labor Laws. Review of labor legislation for 1908-1909. Bulletin of the U. S. bureau of labor, Nov. 1909. 41 pages. This number also contains the text of all labor laws passed in the U. S. since Jan. 1st, 1908. 320 pages. This bulletin supplements the 22nd annual report of the bureau of labor and brings the labor laws down to 1910.

Liquor—Injunctions. Law of Iowa providing for an injunction against the sale of liquor and preventing violations by contempt proceedings held valid by Iowa Supreme Court. *Brown vs. Bennett and Powers*, 125 N. W. 833.

Municipal Ownership. Returns of the London County council, the corporation of London and the metropolitan councils, on municipal trading. Part IV showing all facts connected with these undertakings. Parliamentary paper, 224 pages. Price 1s 1d. The three preceding parts cover the municipal undertakings in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Peddlers' License. Law of South Dakota which levies a tax on peddlers, upheld by state supreme court. *State vs. Thompson*, 125 N. W. 567. Arkansas law on the same upheld by Arkansas supreme court as relates to intra state commerce but void as placing an unlawful burden on interstate commerce. *State vs. Byles*, 126 S. W. 94

Penal Labor. Competition of penal labor. Report of the hearings before Subcommittee No. 4, Committee on labor, March 8 and 23, 1910, Washington, 1910, 153 pages. This document gives the testimony and arguments on three bills First—giving control to each state of convict made goods when shipped from another state. Second—prohibiting purchase by the officers of the U. S., the District of Columbia or the territories of convict made goods. Contains many valuable papers on different phases of the problem of penal labor.

Pensions—Civil Service. Civil service retirement in Great Britain and New Zealand. U. S. Bureau of Labor. Sen. Doc. 290, Washington, Jan. 1910. 203 pages.

Playgrounds. Speech of Herbert Parsons of N. Y. in the house of Representatives, March 26, 1910. Advocates extension and summarizes the arguments for

playgrounds, especially relating to supervision.

Plumbers. An ordinance of the city of Atlanta, Georgia, requiring examination and license of plumbers declared unconstitutional Mar. 3, 1910, 67 S. E. 390. Discriminates by permitting a firm or corporation to engage in plumbing if one member is licensed while individuals are not.

Primary Elections. The Wisconsin primary election law was upheld by the state supreme court in the case of *State vs. Frear*, 125 N. W. 7. Separate concurring opinion by Justice Marshall. In this case the right to submit a law to a referendum is examined and upheld.

Primary Elections. The Tenn. primary election law of 1909 (L. 1909 C. 102) was declared unconstitutional by the Tenn. Supreme Court, Feb. 26, 1910, 125 S. W. 1036. Discriminates in placing some judicial officers under the law and others not. Imposes fees upon candidates. Part of the law not covered by the title.

Probation. Report of the departmental committee on the probation of offenders act of 1901. Minutes of evidence and appendices. Parliamentary paper. 1910, 126 pages. Price 1s 1d.

Railroads—Earning Power. James H. Oliphant & Co, N. Y., 1910. Gives earnings from and expenses of operation of the several road systems of the country, their capitalization and outstanding stocks and bonds.

Railroad Rates. West Virginia law classifying railroads for rate purposes and fixing rates was upheld in principal by the supreme court of that state but in its application to the particular case it was held confiscatory and void. 67 S. E. Rep. 613.

Railroads—Switches. The Nebraska law of 1905, ch. 105 requiring railroads to build switches to grain elevators at their expense, was declared unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court in *Missouri Pacific R. R. Co. vs. State of Nebraska*. 30 S. C. R. 460 Takes property without due process of law.

Railway Co-employment. The railway co-employment law of Wisconsin (L. 1907 C.254) was upheld by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin in *Kiley vs. C. M. & St. P. Ry. Co* March 15-22, 1910, 125 N. W. 464. Federal law upheld so far as it relates to D. C. and territories, Nov. 15, 1909 in case of *El Paso & N. R. C. vs. Gutierrez*, 30 S. C. R. 24.

School Meals. Report on the working of the education (provision of meals) act of 1906 up to March 31st, 1909. London 1910, 50 pages. Parliamentary paper. Summarizes the work done and gives text of the law and the circulars of information from the board of education.

Short Ballot. The Ballot's burden by C.

A. Beard. The Short Ballot and Politics without politicians by Richard A. Childs. All reprints by the Short Ballot Organization, 383 Fourth Ave., N. Y. This organization is distributing much educational material on the subject of the simplification of the ballot.

Tax Commissions. Permanent state tax commissions. A comparative digest of the laws of the states providing for permanent tax commissions. Prepared by S. Johnson, legislative reference librarian, Bismark, N. D., Apr. 1910. 96 pages.

Taxation—Personal Property. The abolition of the personal property tax was advocated by Mayor Gaynor of N. Y. Bills are pending to that end in the legislature. The Merchants Association Committee on finance and taxation made a report in favor of repeal. Proceedings Apr. 1910, 4 pages. The Tax Reform Association of N. Y., 54 Pine St. has also issued several leaflets in favor of repeal. One of the strongest arguments in favor of abolition of the tax is the report of the Mayor's advisory commission issued in 1906.

Water Conservation. Laws of water conservation and use. W. R. King. Address before the state bar association of Oregon, Nov. 17, 1908. Office of the state engineer, Salem. Conservation methods discussed and suggestions for legislation made.

Water Supplies. The public water supplies of Indiana, by Chas. Brossman, Sec. Ind. Engineering Soc., Indianapolis. Published in the Public Officials Magazine, Indianapolis, Apr 1910. 5 pages with maps showing public water supplies of the state.

Women—Hours of Labor. The Illinois law limiting the hours of labor of women to ten hours was upheld by the supreme court of that state, following generally the Oregon case decided by the supreme court of the U. S., Feb. 24, 1908.

BOSTON BRANCH.

The second meeting, looking to the formal organization of the Boston Branch, was held on Tuesday, April 12th, at 4 o'clock, at the Boston Public Library. This meeting was devoted especially to bringing out the facilities offered by the Boston Public Library, the Harvard College Libraries, and the Libraries of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, suggesting some of the best available resources in Boston for getting at information. The American public is well aware that the Boston Public Library is a pioneer among libraries in this country, and that it contains a wealth of special collections. Mr. Wadlin, the Librarian, called attention to the Statistical Department with its open shelves of books on

political economy, municipal, state and national statistics, reports of commissions, and other reference works; to the Patent Room, with its collection of upwards of 10,000 volumes, rich also in German and English patents, with a goodly number of French; to the parliamentary papers of Great Britain; to the Bates Hall general reference collection of some 10,000 volumes, which is most handy for the general reader. He spoke of the broad spirit in which the Library is conducted and the service that it gives in answering inquiries from all parts of the world. It is obvious that the Boston Branch will look to this Library as a chief factor in co-operation.

Mr. Lane, Librarian of the Harvard University Library, told of its many special collections. Obviously in history, art and science we can imagine its wealth, but less obviously would one think of its special collections of city maps, of chamber of commerce reports, building laws, state railroad commission reports, and of college catalogues.

Dr. Bigelow, Librarian of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that the library system there is entirely a collection of special libraries. Each has its own index, while the so-called General Library (specializing in general literature and English works) has an index to them all. The Institute in its thirteen departments receives some 900 different periodicals, which are, perhaps, its strongest feature. Libraries on chemistry, physics, electrical engineering, naval architecture, mechanical and civil engineering, mining and metallurgy, biology, etc., go to make up the group.

One of the early problems of the Boston Branch should be to take account of these three great libraries and of the lesser ones of the vicinity, as well as the small collections of different offices, and issue a report upon the facilities that they offer to the special interests of the members of this Association.

The next meeting of the Boston Branch will probably be in June, shortly previous to the annual meeting of the Association at Mackinac.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES DIRECTORY.

Corrections and additions to the special libraries directory published in the April issue will be made from time to time. The secretary and editor urgently request information concerning such mistakes or omissions.

The library of the Western Society of Engineers, 1735 Monadnock Block, Chicago, Ill., should be listed as an engineering library instead of municipal, J. H. Warder, Librarian.

¶ The H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, Mass., makes a specialty of looking up and reporting on special items. Classified catalogues are issued monthly. Correspondence invited. Special library binding.