

Nebraska Public Library Commission

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EDNA D. BULLOCK, SECRETARY
Office, Capitol Building



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TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA:-

Has your town a public library or reading room? If it has not, cannot you assist in organizing a conference of the public-spirited members of your community to consider the establishment of so desirable an addition to the educational facilities of your town?

The children in your schools are being taught *how* to read, but are they being taught *what* to read, and if so, can they get the books they ought to have? If you have no library, is it not true that the people who need books most, are least likely to have them? Next to the public school, nothing has proved so effectual a protection against ignorance, and its companions of carelessness and crime, as a well equipped and intelligently administered public library. The young man who has learned to enjoy the companionship of books, or to use books as tools with which to advance his intellectual or material interests, has put a very respectable barrier between himself and bad company or worse deeds. Society does not throw sufficient protection about itself by merely providing that children may learn how to read. To read aright, to educate himself from the time he leaves school until he ceases to be a member of society, is what we

should require of every citizen, and see that he has opportunity to meet these requirements.

A good beginning along this line will be made when every town in Nebraska, and every rural school district has its collection of books of a general library character, which are for the free use of all residents. You can help to hasten that time by starting the movement in your own town. There is, at this office, a limited number of copies of an address entitled "How to Start a Library." These will be sent to anyone on application to the Secretary.

If your town is too small to support a public library—and such, unfortunately, is the condition of many Nebraska towns—you can, at least, have a reading room. You can find people who will give their magazines when they have read them, church people will give their church papers, editors will give some of their exchanges, literary societies and women's clubs will see that certain periodicals are to be found in the reading room, and also will see that the room is kept open for use. You can be certain of a small supply of comparatively new books by becoming a permanent traveling library station of this Commission. If you wish to have the counsel or active assistance of this Commission in establishing a library, you are entitled to it, and we will be only too glad to help in any way we can. The law provides that the members or officers may be sent about the state on just such errands, whenever requested. The Secretary is empowered to go wherever her presence is desired, to assist in organizing libraries. All inquiries as to the best methods of administering libraries will be promptly answered, if possible. If there is a movement on foot for the establishment or improvement of a public library anywhere in the state, the Commission will render any possible assistance upon request.

Respectfully,

EDNA D. BULLOCK,

Secretary.