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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1. August, 1936 No. 11

Library matters have been brought prominently before the public during recent months. The Dominion is becoming "library minded." We have evidence that the Government is anxious to help those that help themselves, the Hon. M. J. Savage's recent message to Linwood Library showing that it only remains for local authorities to stir themselves and set their "library-house" in order, when the moral and financial assistance of the nation's political leaders will be forthcoming.

It has probably become apparent to our readers that when libraries are the subject of national discussion, it is not so much the supply of light fiction that is implied, it is that more substantial and lasting branch of literature—non-fiction. After all, it is hardly reasonable to expect the Government or municipal authorities to equip libraries with a preponderance of novels, which are mostly of a short-lived usefulness; rather should we expect assistance more on the lines of a supply of books that educate and elevate.

It is our opinion that never was the time more opportune than the present in which to concentrate on giving the reading public a generous measure of books calculated to

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
Linwood Public Library.

impart useful knowledge in palatable form. Books of travel, history, and biology can be of far more absorbing interest than the ephemeral novel, a fact that is becoming increasingly apparent to our own readers.

In the non-fiction section of "Our Library" during any evening may be found numbers of subscribers browsing among the books that help to mould character and shape the destinies of their lives. This section is more popular than ever before, and now that there is the probability of more leisure for citizens we anticipate still greater popularity for "non-fiction." Increased leisure means increased recreation, and we are confident that many of our subscribers will realise that recreation applies to the mind as well as to the body.

No doubt some of our readers are of the opinion that "non-fiction" is synonymous with "non-entertainment." To such we would advocate a short course of travel books and biography. The old adage, "Truth is stranger than fiction" still holds good, and when these "adventure" books are written in the modern breezy style then the reader obtains more thrills and excitement than from Wallace or Oppenheim.

We do not suggest that readers should confine their attention to "general literature" to the exclusion of fiction. Good fiction has its own educational value, and of course provides many pleasant hours of entertainment, but we do entreat our subscribers to read that class of book that leaves an imprint upon the mind, an imprint that is lasting and beneficial, although, as the patent medicine advertisements say—"pleasant to take."

As forecast in our previous issue, the Committee has decided to raise the minimum period of "Juvenile" subscriptions to six months. This means that

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