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# Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Vol. 3 No. 8



June, 1938

## WIDER LIFE FOR COUNTRY-DWELLERS

### WORLD OF GOOD BOOKS Mobile Library Service

"This is not an occasion when one turns a key: it is more like opening a road. In this case we open the way to a wider distribution of knowledge and recreation within the covers of books," said the Prime Minister (Mr Savage) at the official opening of the Country Library Service, which took place at Parliament Buildings on Monday.

This new means of access to reading matter for people in the remoter districts is being provided, under the auspices of the education Department, by a staff headed by Mr G. T. Alley, equally distinguished as an educationist and a Rugby All Black. Their means of transport are two sturdy and speedy British Bedford lorries, which have been equipped by the Railway Workshops as libraries on wheels, each carrying over a thousand volumes.

Stressing the fact that a successful democracy must be an enlightened democracy, the Prime Minister said he did not think it was an excess of optimism to prophesy that this new feature of education would become one of the most popular and influential services. Such disadvantages as had once attached to country life were rapidly disappearing, and this innovation would place country-dwellers in a better position for good reading than many city folk.

"Of the many educational advances which my colleague, the Hon. P. Fraser (Minister of Education), has achieved in

the past two and a-half years, the Country Library Service coming into operation this afternoon is likely to be recognised as one of the most important reforms in the educational field," said Mr Savage.

### Books Freely Available

"It represents first of all the Government's aim that books should be made freely available to all members of the community, where people at present have no access to libraries or where the existing library facilities are inadequate.

"The aim of the Country Library Service is to have an adequate supply of books circulating through numbers of small libraries which at present have no adequate stock. By an adequate supply I mean a range of books which will give people in country districts the same opportunities as those in the cities—which after all will not have come too soon—to keep in touch not only with the best books of the past but with the best in current literature.

"The scheme," continued Mr Savage, "is essentially a co-operative one—the Government supplying the books and the machinery for co-operation, while local effort will carry out the final distribution.

"The stocks of well-selected books from a central source will be changed periodically and kept up-to-date. In this way within a few years we will have a close network of local libraries drawing on a central stock of books and we will have a service which will ensure that no reader, adult or child, anywhere in the country shall go without books.

"The book vans have been specially designed and built in the Railway Workshops to carry and display over 1000 books



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each; and I wish to congratulate the Railway Department on a splendid job. It is proposed that a book van will visit each library participating in the Country Library Service at least once in every four months, when books will be exchanged for fresh ones from the van."

### Wide Range

"The wide range of books on display will, I am sure, be appreciated by the people in the country. Indeed, they are likely to have a much better range of books at their disposal than people in many of the larger towns. I wish good luck to the Minister and his officers for aiming in that direction."

The disadvantages of living in the country had been disappearing very rapidly in the past few years, continued Mr Savage. The revolution in transport, better roads, electricity, radio, telephones and other changes had broken down the isolation which used to characterise country life, and this innovation would, he trusted, carry the movement one stage further.

Though this was only the beginning of the service, the important thing was that a beginning had been made. The whole scheme rested on a solid foundation.

The Minister of Education (Mr Fraser) remarked that the occasion was an important and happy one. The gathering that day, he pointed out, was representative of all organisations interested in adult education, including the Education Department, the W.E.A., the W.D.F.U., the Farmer's Union, the Women's Institutes, the Drama League, the New Zealand Libraries' Association and other bodies. The Minister esteemed it a great privilege to be associated with such a forward move in the spreading of literature and culture.

"Only by most intelligent use of the means which science provides can we save civilisation from disaster, for the implements for the spreading of information must keep pace with other developments," said the officer in charge of the Library Service (Mr Alley).

It was, he added, a common criticism of country libraries that they contained too much fiction. He did not think that they contained too much fiction in an absolute sense. What was needed was the restoration of a balance by adding more

non-fiction works. After describing the development of travelling libraries abroad and in the Canterbury Province, Mr Alley concluded:

"This is an experiment in building with more of the human element than in most efforts in building."

Mr T. D. H. Hall (president of the New Zealand Libraries' Association) discussed the mechanism of the scheme and outlined what it was hoped to achieve by it.

The Director of Broadcasting (Professor Shelley) extended congratulations on the inauguration of the scheme. Prior to his present appointment, he was associated with Mr Alley in the Canterbury Association for Country Education. Mr Alley, said Professor Shelley, was brought up on a farm and his father was one of the most enlightened farmers in the district. At the University Mr Alley had done valuable special research, and, for mental and athletic distinction, there was no person more suited for the job.

—The Standard, June 2, 1938.

### BOOK SMUGGLED OUT OF GERMANY

According to the "Daily Herald," London, the manuscript of a book which has just been published by Gollancz was smuggled out of Germany inside two cakes.

It is called "Down Our Street": the author Jan Petersen. Mr Petersen took his life in his hands when he wrote this book. It is a fearful indictment of Nazi terror as well as an heroic story of the underground struggle against Hitler.

Nearly all its incidents were noted down as they occurred, and the author lived in daily peril of being raided by the Nazis.

This is how the manuscript came to be smuggled out of Germany: "The author was to all appearance crossing the frontier to go for a few days' ski-ing . . . he had a rucksack and the customs officer asked him what was in it.

"Oh, nothing much." The author was quite obviously embarrassed . . . then in a burst of confidence, 'Well, you know what women are, don't you? I told my wife I was only going away for three days, but she would go and bake me two whopping big cakes . . .'

"The official took a quick glance at the two golden brown cakes and smiled understandingly. 'That's all right. Why, my wife's just the same,' he said.

"The manuscript had been baked in the cakes . . ."

—Canterbury Public Library Journal.

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## LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

Vol. 3 No. 8

June, 1938

It is indeed pleasing to note that our membership is again on the increase. A steady decline in the number of subscribers during the past year or so has caused the committee much concern, and many discussions have taken place as to remedial measures that might be taken. During the summer months a falling-off in membership has invariably been the case, but during the whole of last winter the declining membership still persisted much to the perturbation of the Management Committee.

This winter, however, a different story may be told, and we are pleased to say that not only are new members becoming enrolled, but many old subscribers are returning to the fold. We have been told by several that the lure of bright shop windows and gaily covered book-jackets so much in evidence in the commercial book-clubs, were the cause of their forsaking old pastures for new, but experience has brought home to them the truth that our pastures have more body, give more lasting pleasure and cost but a fraction of the money-making concerns.

This is all very gratifying, as our librarians are all voluntary workers, giving their services for the benefit of fellow-citizens. We would earnestly ask our subscribers to make known to their friends the advantages of Linwood Public Library; its wealth of good fiction and non-fiction, its juvenile and magazine sections and its very moderate annual subscription, equivalent to less than 1½d a week. The committee has considered the question of raising the subscription to meet the greatly advanced price of books, but so far has taken no action; instead, last

year our reserve funds were called upon to keep up a generous supply of books. Will readers of this Gazette do their part by inducing their friends to become members of the Linwood Public Library family?

### BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED ON NON-FICTION SHELVES

**I Search for Truth.** By Sir Walter Citrine. This is the 5th Edition of this widely read book, being revised and enlarged.

The truth (?) about Russia seems to possess as many facets as a diamond, and while there may be truth in all of them, the whole truth certainly is not. Sir Walter Citrine has given us a finely balanced book, free from partisanship on the one hand, and from hostile criticism on the other, on one page he will please the ardent conservatives, and on the next will give the most enthusiastic socialist something to make him grin with delight, while from first to last he gives the reader much to think about.

It is thoroughly sincere, and one follows the emotions aroused in the author by what he sees, indignation, humour, pertinacity (realistic), it depicts a drama being played in earnest that affects not only Russia, but the whole wide world. **News of England.** By Beverley Nichols. Mr Nichols here arouses our interest at once, and that interest is maintained to the word "finis." In the chapter on "The Goddess of Chance" he draws a vivid picture of England gambling that leaves one aghast, even though one thought one knew something about it. On the football pool £400,000,000 per annum and 30,000,000 letters posted every week are staggering figures. Expenditure on elementary and higher education, hospitals, public libraries, maternity welfare, asylum, police, parks, poor relief, sewerage, tramways, waterworks, baths, cemeteries, fire brigades, electricity, gas, harbour, highways, justice, housing, planning and a few other things, could all be paid out of this huge figure spent on gambling on football. While this is bad enough, worse still is the fact that it is a profession for the purpose of exploitation of the wage-earner. If another Gibbon should ever arise to write "The Rise and Decline of the British Empire" he will surely say that Gambling was a big factor in the decline. The chapter on The Sober Truth is equally alarming, as is also that on The Flock and the Fathers. Mr Nichols is always easy to read and honest in his convictions, and when he is unable to show a way out

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of these difficulties, he seems to find it hard  
to strike an optimistic vein. This book will be  
well read and will be found full of interest.

**Civil Engineering of Today.** By Edward  
Cressy. This volume is a product of the Oxford  
University Press and every page is informative  
and very interesting. The many fine illustrations  
are good and help one to a fuller knowledge of  
the contents.

The first chapter is a querv. "What is Civil  
Engineering?" and is a full and concise explana-  
tion of the term. There are chapters on Bridge  
Building, Great Modern Bridges, Tunnels and Tun-  
nelling, Inland Waterways, Safe Harbours, Dam  
Construction, Great Hydro-Electric Power  
Plants, The Town Water, Reclaiming the Desert,  
and Recovery of Land from the Sea, with copious  
illustrations. The reader will find that not  
only is he adding to his knowledge, but that it  
is offered to him in such a presentable, easy to  
read manner that much pleasure will be enjoyed  
during the perusal. We can recommend this  
book as a change, and feel confident of its good  
reception.

A two volume edition of Byrons Poems in a  
new Russian translation, made by Shengeli, is  
being brought out by the State Publishers of Liter-  
ature in Moscow.

The edition is being issued in 20,000 copies.

During the twenty years since the October  
Revolution 277,700 copies of Byron's works have  
been published in the U.S.S.R.—Times Literary  
Supplement, February 19, 1938.

### SOME OTHER NON-FICTION RECENTLY PLACED ON SHELVES

**The Seas Were Mine.** By Capt. Howard Hart-  
man. This is world-wide adventure lasting 25  
years and told in a style which will give much  
enjoyment to the reader—a capital book and one  
that will be much sought for.

**Across the Frontiers.** By Sir Philip Gibbs.  
A book by this writer is always in demand and  
well worth reading, and this book is one well  
worth close study with its forceful presentation  
of the perilous situation in Europe today.  
Strongly pro German and Fascist in his latest  
views, it may not, or it may, make a new appeal  
to readers. Don't miss this one.

**Through Turbulent Years.** By Vernon Mc-  
Kenzie. A leading American Journalist who,  
having spent some turbulent years in Europe,  
gives us a pen picture of what he saw and learn-  
ed. Germany, Hitler, Moscow, The Maginot Line,  
Mussolini, and King George V., with a forecast  
of events to come, all figure in the picture.

**Alone Through the Forbidden Land.** By Gus-  
tav Krist. Every page of this book has its  
special interest, depicting a great journey filled  
with incident and adventure. Read it and com-  
pare with News from Tartary and Forbidden  
Journey.

**How to Win Friends and Influence Them.** By  
Dale Carnegie. This is a book for everyone, for  
although it deals with ancient wisdom, Dale Car-  
negie gives it to us through his own experience  
and personality—a fine book.

**Last Flight.** By Amelia Earhart. A sense of  
tragedy permeates this book, for unknown to the  
writer, when sending her notes forward, she was  
never to see the printed pages. Nearly 12 months  
ago she started on the most difficult hop of her  
journey from New Guinea, and was never seen  
again. Mr Putman with the manuscript and a  
few details from others who knew his wife, pre-  
pared the book for the press.

### FICTION

**Commander of the Mists.** By D. L. Murray,  
is an historical romance, admirably told, which  
takes the reader through varied excitements in  
the Highlands in Edinburgh and in London until  
the departure of the Young Pretender and the  
trial of Lord Lovat. The Times Literary Supple-  
ment writes: "Whatever one's view of the rising,  
Commander of the Mists must be recognised as a  
really grand story."

**Action at Aquila.** By Hervey Allen. The  
"action" of the title is but the climax of Mr  
Allen's long and eventfully crowded Civil War  
story, whose hero, a colonel of Northern cavalry,  
experiences many exciting adventures both at and  
behind the front before he wins the heart of a  
Southern soldier's widow. The style is romanti-  
c-picaresque, done with lively invention; not wholly  
free from sentimentality but carrying the day  
by its vigour. This writer's previous book, "An-  
thony Adverse," with its 1,300 pages, dealt with  
Napoleonic times and has achieved the not-  
able distinction of selling 1,000,000 copies in four  
years.

**This Narrow World.** By Eileen Bigland. The  
world of Miss Eileen Bigland's picture is busy,  
crowded, rich and entertaining. The story is  
supposedly written by Anna, who is vivid from  
first to last, a delightful creature, neither ex-  
periencing nor producing in others a dull moment.  
Her early adventure with her angry grandfather  
in a kilt is less unusual, though amusing, than  
her life in Russia—her grandmother is Russian  
—with her magnificent great-uncle, living in pre-  
Revolutionary splendour. This is not the most  
probable story in the world, but it is a very  
lively novel which succeeds in imposing its il-  
lusion.

—Times Literary Supplement.

**Seven Against Reeves.** By Richard Alding-  
ton. In this novel, Mr Aldington frankly adopts  
the English humorous tradition of there being no  
joke like an old one, and it is by gusto rather  
than originality or wit that he primarily seeks  
to draw his reader's enjoyment after his own.  
Prosperous Mr Reeves retires from the city in  
hope of a quiet country life. Instead, he is  
dragged by his dominating wife through the  
whole gamut of "arty" cocktail and week-end  
parties. Finally the worm turns when led abroad.  
Mr Aldington is obviously on holiday, having  
plenty of fun and some not too pointed satire.

—Times Literary Supplement.

### SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Action at Aquila ..... Hervey Allen  
Angels May Weep ..... Jane Abbott  
African Moon ..... Phyllis M. Wilson  
Beautiful Heroine ..... Pauline Warwick

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Desire Enchanted ..... Phillipa Preston  
Discord and Harmony ..... Cosmo Hamilton  
Dreamlight ..... F. E. Mills Young  
The Dragon's Tail ..... Anne Duffield  
Epitaph for a Spy ..... Eric Ambler  
The Facts About Floyd ..... S. Parkman  
The Flivver King ..... Upton Sinclair  
Flying Peter ..... Paul Trent  
The Frozen Death ..... Winifred Graham  
Fulfilment ..... Netta Syrett  
Furthermore ..... Damon Runyon  
The Girl Men Talked About ..... Maisie Greig  
The Girl Who Wasn't Claudia ..... Eve Chaucer  
Gold Chains ..... W. Riley  
The Golden Knight ..... Geo. Challis  
Good-bye to Life ..... D. Hume  
Gunsmoke ..... Nelson C. Nye  
High Yaller ..... H. de Vere Stacpoole  
The Hush-Hush Murders ..... M. T. Yates  
In an Ocean City ..... Emmeline Morrison  
The Vilcinet Case ..... Jack Mann  
Lady it is Spring ..... Anne Maybury  
Lady this is Love ..... Sheila Burns  
The Langley Murder Case ..... R. Daniel  
Lord Samarkand ..... H. A. Vachell  
The Mad Doctor of Harley Street ..... F. J. Thwaites  
Murder in the Sun ..... H. Footner  
The Narrow Room ..... Shirley Darbyshire  
New Loves for Old ..... Lewis Cox  
The Night Club Murder ..... J. G. Brandon  
No Easy Way ..... Naomi Jacobs  
On the Dodge ..... Wm. McLeod Raine  
Powder Smoke ..... Jackson Gregory  
Prince of Paradise ..... Francis Gerard  
Queens in Love ..... Frank Seymour  
Racing Yacht Mystery ..... Bruce Graeme  
Riverboat Gambler ..... Tom Roan  
Rumbin Galleries ..... Booth Tarkington  
Son of Rembrandt ..... Theun du Vries  
Sunshine after Rain ..... Pamela Wynne  
Timber Joe ..... Robt. Ormond Case  
There was a Jolly Miller ..... R. H. Mottram  
This Narrow World ..... Eileen Bigland  
This Publican ..... Dornford Yates  
A Traveller Came by ..... Sally Carson  
To Wake the Dead ..... J. Dickson Carr  
Turn the Hour-glass ..... Wallace B. Nicholls  
The Veiled Lover ..... Joan Conquest  
What's Happened to Rankin ..... Eden Philpotts  
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