

# Ontario's Travelling Libraries

As a place to see the best of the new books and the best of those not so new, even the good book stores do not compare with the headquarters of the Ontario Travelling Libraries. On a recent visit we found such popular new titles as "Windows for the Crown Prince," "Diary of a Young Girl," "Alexander of Tunis," "Postmarked Moscow"—not just a few of these much-talked-of books but enough copies to go into a good proportion of the boxes travelling about the province.

We were impressed too with the extensive Canadiana section: The Rivers of America series—"The Fraser" by Bruce Hutchinson, "The Mackenzie" by Leslie Roberts, "The Saskatchewan" by Marjorie Campbell, "Red River Runs North" by Vera Kelsey. There was the author's characteristic Canadian folk lore and history in John Murray Gibbon's "Romance of the Canadian Canoe." Others in the non-fiction class were "Canada's Century" by Le Bourdais; "People of the Deer" by Harley Mowat; "Toward the Last Spike," E. J. Pratt's poem on the building of the C.P.R.; "A Gentlewoman in Upper Canada," Letters of an English Woman, edited by H. H. Langton; "The Ardent Exile" a biography of D'Arcy McGee by Josephine Phelan; "At My Heart's Core" a play by Robertson Davies, based on the experiences of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Trail; Canadian Art by Graham McGinis; "Canadian Humor" by John Robbins; "Canadian Writers" by Arthur Phelps; "A Pocketful of Canada" by John Robbins; "Sunshine Sketches" by Stephen Leacock and a long list of fiction including "Canadian Short Stories" edited by Robert Weaver and Helen James—stories that had been read on CBC programmes; "The Salt Box" by Jan Hilliard, "The Outlander" by Germaine Guevremont, "The Grandmothers" by Katharine Cobourn, "High Bright Buggy Wheels" by Luella Creighton, "The Plouffe Family" and "The Town Below" by B. J. Lemelin, "Each Man's Son," by Hugh McLennan, "Moonstone Creek" and "Up Medonte Way" by Kenneth Wells; "The Tin Flute" and "Where Nests the Water Hen" by Gabrielle Roy.

When a Women's Institute or any organization orders a travelling library the librarian is glad to have suggestions as to the sort of books they want. There must not be more than fifty per cent fiction and the proportion of fiction is usually less than that. For the general reading, unless the organization has asked for something specific, the librarian

## For That Which is Common

By Wilhelmina Stitch

For that which is common, be praised, O Lord!  
For sun and the tang in the morning air,  
For mist and the gray of a soothing sky,  
For night and the stars within her hair,  
For work and the joy in the will to try,  
For love and its binding silken cord —  
For that which is common, be praised, O Lord!

For clever fingers that mold and make,  
For home and its rest at the day's long end,  
For peace that the thirsty soul doth slake,  
For china and flowers and homely board —  
For that which is common, be praised, O Lord!

For laughter of children absorbed in play,  
For laughter of adults whose hearts are young,  
For the hillocks and valleys of life's short day,  
For gift of speech and the gentle tongue,  
For love of service, its own reward —  
For that which is common, be praised, O Lord!

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tries to give something inspirational, such as Harry Emerson Fosdick's "A Faith for Tough Times," or Canon Ward's "The Master on the Mount." There may be an anthology of poetry or the works of one of the standard poets. If a library is ordered shortly before Christmas or Easter a book related to the season will be added. In a box for an Institute there will be books on homemaking and the libraries have a strong section on child study. Every box has something on travel, on hobbies and handicraft and on sociology. Miss Evans, chief librarian told us: "We have books on UNESCO and NATO and anything bearing on the brotherhood of man." We noticed on the shelves, "Masters of their Own Destiny" by Dr. Coady, the story of the co-operative movement in Nova Scotia; "The Expanding Community" by MacDonald, "Color Blind" on racial tolerance, by Halsey. There are fine biographical books too—"Up From Slavery," the life of Booker T. Washington, "Women of Red River," "The Scalpel and the Sword," by Allan and Gordon, a biography of the Canadian Dr. Bethune; "Angel Mo and Her Son Roland Hayes." In fact there are few books of merit that cannot be had from these libraries. If you want some particular book ask for it; if it is worth reading the librarian will try to get it for you.

Searching through the shelves we came on a few unusual and delightful numbers: "Year In, Year Out" a book of essays by A. A. Milne; "Give the Lady What She Wants," the history of Marshall Field's mail order store, illustrated like the old Godey's Ladies' Book with fashions and furnishings from the first catalogue up to the present, "Abraham Lincoln" by James Daugherty, beautifully illustrated and written for readers of all ages—a good book