in her home, loaning the books only to her more intelligent neighbors and congratulating herself on the good she was doing, when the children of families about her were reading nothing or reading trash. Such a woman needs to be taught to reach out for neglected children by every means that a kindly tact and enthusiasm may suggest and to hold them by a loving sympathy until the book hunger grows."

III

HISTORY OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN WISCONSIN.

In February, 1893, the library of the State of New York began to send out from Albany a number of small libraries of 100 volumes each to such of the smaller cities and villages as were not provided with free public libraries. Each of these small libraries remained in a community for six months and was then exchanged for another. The system of traveling libraries thus established proved so flexible, useful and popular as to attract wide notice and sympathy. In 1895 the legislature of Michigan appropriated $2500 to buy books for a similar system and in 1896 the state of Iowa set aside $5000 for a like purpose.

In Wisconsin, the system was founded on somewhat different lines by private philanthropy. In January, 1896, shortly after the organization of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Hon. James H. Stout, a State Senator from Menomonie, Wisconsin, asked the aid of the Commission in making plans for a traveling library system for his home county, for which he proposed to bear all expenses. Mr. Stout was a trustee of the Mabel
HON. JAMES H. STOUT, MENOMONIE, WIS.
Founder of the First Traveling Library System in Wisconsin.
Taintor Memorial Library of Menomonie. The books of this library were loaned without charge to the people of Dunn County, but comparatively few books were drawn by rural residents, owing oftentimes to the long trips necessary in getting and returning them.

Mr. Frank A. Hutchins, then Chairman of the Commission, was requested to visit the county to look into the local conditions and needs, and later to select the books desired. Five hundred books were purchased which were divided into sixteen libraries. The list of books in one of the libraries will give a better idea of its range than a general explanation:


The ruling thought in selecting the books was to get volumes which would attract people who read but little and to give them the desire to read wholesome literature habitually. Each small library was put up in a substantial bookcase and was provided with a simple system of records. To insure good care for the volumes and continuous local interest, a library association was organized in each district. The number of these associations has now (1910) grown to 36, additional libraries having been
provided from time to time, there now being 37 libraries in the system, which is still maintained by Mr. Stout. Miss Eda Gilkerson of Menomonie is the librarian of the system. Miss Stearns of the Commission makes a yearly visit to Dunn County to exchange the boxes.

The immediate success of Senator Stout's system led to the inauguration during the same year (1896) of a similar one for Wood County by J. D. Witter of Grand Rapids. Upon the death of Mr. Witter it was found that he had left the sum of $5000 for a permanent endowment fund. The books are sent out from the T. B. Scott library at Grand Rapids. There are now 32 libraries in the system, all being placed, four boxes having been loaned to meet a pressing demand in Portage county.

In November, 1896, the same year as the inauguration of the Stout and Witter systems, the Commission held a library meeting at Ashland. One session was devoted to traveling libraries. The interest in the subject was so great a mass meeting of citizens was called and an organization known as the Northern Wisconsin Traveling Library Association effected to furnish libraries to the people in a number of counties on the borders of Lake Superior. Mrs. E. E. Vaughn, the first President of the Association, was previously the founder of the Vaughn Public Library which became the headquarters of the system. Thirteen libraries were placed in the field.

During this same year of great traveling library activity, Miss Maude A. Earley, then librarian of the Chippewa Falls Public Library, and Miss Anna E. Schaeffer, county superintendent of schools of Chippewa County, determined to make an effort to supply some traveling
FRANK A. HUTCHINS
Wisconsin's Foremost Promoter of Public and Traveling Libraries
libraries for their home county. Four libraries were sent out, one of which led to the establishment of a village library. Later, a county system of traveling libraries was inaugurated, ten libraries being purchased with county funds. For local reasons, the books of the system were later placed in the schoolhouses of the county.

Shortly after the inauguration of the Stout system, Mr. W. H. Bradley of Tomahawk started a system for the towns in which he had stores, mills and lumber camps in Lincoln County. With his death the system languished, though some of the books are still being circulated.

In Portage County, Miss Irene Warren, librarian of the Stevens Point Normal School, and Miss Mary E. Tanner, art director, secured three or four traveling libraries and collections of traveling pictures which were issued at meetings held in schoolhouses.

Mr. E. D. Smith, the donor of the Menasha public library building, established a system of 15 traveling libraries for Winnebago and Calumet Counties which he maintained until his death. So popular did the books prove to be, the citizens of Winnebago County secured the passage of a law in 1901 enabling that county and others to have county traveling library systems under county auspices through county appropriations.

Women's clubs also established systems. The Fortnightly Club of La Crosse gathered together six traveling libraries which were presented to the county upon the establishment of a county system. The Woman's Club of Eau Claire maintained a system until the county inaugurated one, when the books were given to the
county. The Woman's Club of Marinette sent out nine boxes to adjacent hamlets and maintained the system until a county system was adopted. The Monday Club of Waupaca circulated three boxes in Waupaca County. The Woman's Club of Madison gave money, books and periodicals for libraries to be circulated in the northern part of the state.

The Social Economics Club of Milwaukee purchased three traveling libraries for circulation by the Commission. The Ladies' Literary Club of Wausau established a system of 14 boxes for Marathon County through donations from club women and other citizens. The Woman's Club of Green Bay sent out a number of boxes in Brown County. The Lincoln County Traveling Library Association, with headquarters at Merrill, supplied ten stations.

The Milwaukee Kalmia Club gave traveling libraries and also made gifts of books to establish permanent public libraries. The Madison Book Club has given its books to the Commission for years past. The Woman's Club of Beloit gave six boxes of books and periodicals. The Twentieth Century Club of Oshkosh gave two boxes of books and periodicals. The Woman's Club of Kenosha sent four boxes of periodicals. The Woman's Club of Racine gave two boxes of books and periodicals. The Woman's Club of Berlin circulated 5 traveling libraries in Green Lake County. The Woman's Club of Stevens Point sent out 4 libraries in Portage County. The Milwaukee Branch of Collegiate Alumnae donated a library, as did the Janesville History Club, the Study Club of Hudson and the New Century Club of Madison.
The students of Milwaukee-Downer College contributed 45 volumes. The Merrill Club of the Milwaukee West Side High School gave a library, as did the seventh and eighth grade classes of the Milwaukee Normal School. The Whitewater Normal School sent 6 boxes of periodicals. Vassar College students sent a box of periodicals.

The Milwaukee "Germania" and "Herold" secured many copies of German periodicals, and the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel contributed many volumes.

Mr. Joseph Dessert of Mosinee gave the Commission $500 for the purchase of 12 traveling libraries for general circulation. Senator Stout and Mr. Witter made gifts of a like nature, Mr. Stout providing six and Mr. Witter eight libraries. J. M. and T. J. Pereles of Milwaukee also gave money for the purchase of libraries. Mr. Gardner P. Stickney and the Misses Elizabeth and Louise Haisler gave collections of books, as did Charles M. Morris, all of Milwaukee. Miss Stearns of the Commission, contributed three libraries. Miss Julia Lapham of Oconomowoc collected 11 boxes of books and periodicals. Mrs. William F. Allen of Madison gave money for 2 traveling libraries. Hon. Levi Withee of La Crosse gave $100 for the purchase of 2 traveling libraries. George DesForges of Milwaukee gave $50 for one library. D. E. Roberts, of Milwaukee, gave a library. Isaac P. Witter, Grand Rapids, W. J. Starr, Eau Claire, B. E. Sampson, Brownsville, and the Bannerman Granite Co. of Chicago each gave $50 for the purchase of traveling libraries. For some years J. M. and T. J. Pereles gave $100 a year for the cause. E. P. Arpin, a lum-
berman of Grand Rapids, gave $300 to purchase libraries for a number of towns where he had business interests. Hon. W. F. Vilas, L. S. Cheney, R. G. Thwaites, Mrs. S. H. Carpenter, Prof. W. W. Daniells, Amos P. Wilder, and Mrs. Lucius Fairchild, all of Madison, were contributors of books and periodicals.


IV

THE GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT.

In 1898, there were 186 traveling libraries in Wisconsin, of which 35 were sent out by the Commission. In 1900, there were 238 libraries, 54 of which were issued by the Commission. In 1902, there were 305 libraries, 134 of which were sent out by the Commission. A number of communities sent $50 to the Commission to purchase traveling libraries, thus making each of these communities a link in the chain of traveling libraries in the state. The demand for more traveling libraries became so pressing that a Department of Traveling Libraries was created by act of legislature in 1903 through the following enactment:

Section 373a as amended by chapter 53, laws of 1899, and chapter 348, laws of 1903: