

out the importance of placing children in close connection with it, before they left school, by encouraging them to attend at the library like other citizens and to learn to use and appreciate their own institutions.⁽⁸⁾

By 1918 the membership of the juvenile library had increased to 850 and twenty-three intermediates were taking advantage of the reduced subscription.⁽⁹⁾ Unfortunately, the early twenties showed a decline in membership due, no doubt, to a large amount of post-war sickness, especially the influenza epidemic of 1918, and to the fact that lack of finance resulted in a reduced supply of books and insufficient room. However, on December 3, 1924 a new juvenile wing, forty-two feet long by thirty-two feet wide, was opened with a lecture room of the same size directly above. The library was surrounded with low shelves to accommodate 3000 books and with reading desks to seat from thirty-five to forty children. At that time there was probably no finer children's department in any library in the Dominion.⁽¹⁰⁾ The opening of this fine new building was described by the Librarian as "the most significant event in the history of the Library."⁽¹¹⁾ When it was opened, 300 children hastened to take out books, but by the end of the first month this number had doubled.

This proved to be the turning point in the history of the children's library. During the following twelve months 24,319 volumes were issued to about 1200 children while large numbers patronized the reference books and the splendid magazines provided. Towards the

8. *ibid.*

9. B. of G. 1918, p. 39.

10. "Press" November 25, 1924.

11. B. of G. 1925, p. 37.