## EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1920

## 53,000,000 Library Near After 22-Year Fight

ment Great City Institutions, Says Colonel Mc-Cain

491.000 Books Circulated Here in Year. Each Being **Read** on Average of Six Times

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN of the conspicuous items in the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER'S ur years' program for Philadelphia is public library building. It is an

There is \$3,000,000 available for is purpose. The entire scheme has en mapped and planned. The site ocinteenth. Twentieth, Vine and Wood reets. It will be completed within the t few years, and though not the date building of its kind in the coun-

It will be a structure worthy of the city which, as Benjamin Franklin ex-pressed it in his autobiography. "Was the mother of all the North American subscription libraries." Founded ISO vers ago, the Library Company of Philadelphia preserves its splendid or-genization intact in its own home, at Juniper and Locust streets, to this

If there is any one thing above an-other of which Philadelphia should be proud it is its libraries. It holds within cart, in the building of the Frankin Institute, the largest and most com-plete technical library in the world. It contains 73,000 volumes, which are contains 73,000 volumes, which are consulted by scientists, manufacturers and inventors from every land. It is a collection so perfect that complete pat-spt office reports of nearly every country are on file. Those of England run back to the year 1617. In addition to the above there is the Apprentices' Library, that celebrates its centennial this year, containing 25,000 volumes with a membership of 15,000 individuals. Then there is the great

Individuals. Then there is the great Mercantile Library. The Free Library of Philadelphia is to be housed in the reat new structure on the Parkway. It required nearly eighteen years of fort before any concrete movement was nade looking to the erection of this

The city authorities, and the Free Library is their particular ward and care, have dawdled, delayed and postponed. For twenty-two years a fund of \$1,000,000 has awaited the leisurely sure of those who should have given t the attention it deserved.

Not Available Until 1914

This sum of a \$1,000,000, originally appropriated in 1898, and wholly in-adequate for the purpose, was not made available until 1914. Then the people rote cut the red tape that had hip-red the library's progress. It was ce years later that the word to "go was given.

In the intervening years the present central library building at Thirteenth and Locust streets has been overrun.



Project Needed to Supple- 'What's the Matter With Philadelphia?

> "MOTHER OF LIBRARIES" it is another of Philadelphia's titles. Why it should be so will be apparent to the reader of Colonel McCain's present article. Libraries, furnishing mental nutriment to millions, are a fea-Philadelphia's everyday ture of

was adopted to accommodate the nearly 2,000,000 persons who in 1919 used the library for reading and study.

vacant chairs in the reading room. They would have used the tables as seats had they dared. Some brought their own portable chairs. Dress suit cases were carried, upended on the floor, and used

uniper and Locust streets, to this away for lack of space in the semidarkness of overcrowded stacks. The finest collection of textile prints, glori-

In danger of fire all these years. In proportion to population, number of volumes and extent of home circula-tion it is one of the most economically managed libraries in the country. It stands third in that respect. Its li-brarians, in spite of hindrances and dis-couragements, have accomplished wou-ders.

ders. With an expenditure of \$372.000, less than one-half of Chicago's annual ap-propriation and one-fifth that of New York city, they have been able to an-swer every reasonable demand upon the institution. The city of Boston, with one-third the population of Philadel-phia, spends \$200,000 more than this

ously arrayed in colors on silk and bound in the best of Old World bindings, volumes that cannot be replaced at any price, and available to students, work-tion, spends \$25,000 more. This city gets more for its morey from its free library, and at less cost, than any other city in the United States. suit them, have been daily and nightly in danger of fire all three years. In proportion to population, number of volumes and extent of home circula-tion it is one of the most economically to it is one of the most economically to a compelled to whether what to a compelled to whether whether whether whether whether to a compelled to whether whether whether whether to a compelled to whether to a compelled to whether whether whether whether whether whether whether to a compelled to whether whether whether whether whether whether whether whether whether to a compelled to whether whether

swered. It stands third among the cities of the country in the number of books circulating.

souts its doors to the public. One is compelled to wonder what Philadelphia expects for its money. The Free Library is more than a li-brary. It is a vast public institution with a diversified array of other public benefits. It is an educational institu-tion second to the public schools. It maintains free lecture lyceums and clubrooms. It encourages meetings of business men's associations, medical so-Free Library System The Free Library system. It maintains twenty-eight branches within the city's corporate limits—one library building to less than every two wards in the city. The buildings of twenty-

**Cheese and Cracker Dishes** 

Well made of sterling silver

One with pierced border,

eight and one-half inches in

diameter, rock crystal dish

in attractive designs and of a

weight which assures everlast-

ing satisfaction.

with silver lid-\$25.

striking buildings in the group of Park-way structures to be completed during the administration of J. Hampton Moore as Mayor. It will be one of the architectural features of the city.

DIAMONDS-

SILVER

GOLD

BOUGHT Penn Smelting & Refining Wks. 906 Filbert St., Phila., Pa.

Grape-Nuts A food that helps to build body and brain The twice baked values of wheat and malted barley, blended into a cereal that is full of flavor and prime nutrition. A scand-by for the business man as well as the little folks at home Grape=Nuts Needs No Sugar Made by Postum Cereal Co. Battle Creek, Mich. Dieboi Di Minanana



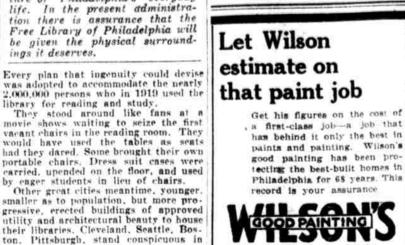
Chestnut and 12th Sts.

Another Remarkable Sale Tomorrow

Women's High Class Blouses

15.00 to 19.75 Values at 8.75

The Blouses in This Sale Represent the Entire Stock of One of New York's Finest Blouse Makers



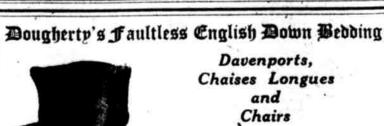


Kitchen

cheerfulness.

ave one





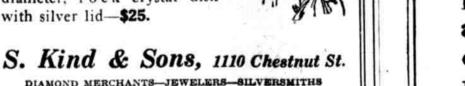
The high quality, exclusive designs, the elegance, the practical luxury, together with the perfect workmanship on every piece, make this the most distinctive up holstered furniture made. Produced solely to your individual order. Sample models may be inspected and coverings selected

at our warerooms. **Dougherty's Faultless Bedding** Hair Mattresses. Bed Springs. Bedsteads.

**1632 CHESTNUT STREET** 



on the Luncheon menu-cooked as only





two of these branches cost \$1,500,000.
It is a vast centrifugal force, whose power is felt on every avenue, along cevery street, down every alley and up every court and byway—if the pople care to take advantage of it.
During the year 1910 there were 3,-1491,000 books circulated. Each book in the library was read on an average six times. Of this number, there were 1,309,000 taken out and read by, children. There were 1,900,000 persons used the library buildings.
The reference book department\_alone is one of the most complete in the world. There are 7802 volumes of

