

were to be amended providing for annual dues of \$5 a year for individual members and from \$10 to \$40 a year for institutional members, the amount varying according to the number of full time employees in the library. The annual dues of associate members, it was proposed to fix at \$20 a year.

Roughly, this is the Roalfe plan as it was approved at the Montreal meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries. In addition to approving the plan, it was voted to establish the headquarters permanently in Washington. Among other things, this was regarded as having the advantage, not only of bringing the Association in close contact with the Library of Congress, but also of enabling the Association, when its reorganization is completed, to undertake, through its Secretariat, the service of supplying its members with government publications, now so difficult to obtain.

The amendments proposed in the report of the Roalfe committee will be submitted to the members of the Association and will be acted upon, I have no doubt, favorably, at the next annual meeting to be held in, June 1935, at Denver. If these amendments are adopted, the way is clear for the reorganization of the Association. It will be possible to accept institutional memberships and to proceed with incorporation and to begin the development of the service contemplated in the Roalfe report. It would greatly assist us if this Round Table were to adopt a resolution approving of the plan of the American Association of Law Libraries and requesting a similar endorsement by the Association of American Law Schools. Undoubtedly, the American Association of Law Libraries has taken a great step forward. While its membership includes librarians from libraries other than those of law schools, it will be able, when it is reorganized, to render great services to law school libraries and can be of very considerable aid to the Association of American Law Schools and its members.

I have asked Mr. Roalfe, the chairman of the expansion committee of the American Association of Law Libraries, who is, I think, the real author of the plan, and Professor Hicks, also a member of the committee, to take up the balance of my time. They will present to you in more detail than I have done, certain aspects of the Roalfe plan which will be of special interest to law schools and their libraries.

Mr. Hicks spoke as follows:

Mr. Hicks: The outstanding periodical in the world devoted to the professional interests of law libraries and law librarians is the *Law Library Journal*. I was tempted to say that this is the only such periodical, but that would have been unfair to the *Law Library News*, and to several local publications issued by law libraries.

The *Law Library Journal*, published by the American Association of Law Libraries and now in its twenty-seventh volume, began its life as a non-identical twin of the Index to Legal Periodicals, when that Index was born in January, 1908. It is still published in conjunction with the Index, its periodicity being quarterly like that of the Index. During most of its life, it has been used chiefly as the vehicle for publishing the papers and proceedings of the annual meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries. This has been its chief function, and only occasionally have the limited funds available permitted the publication

of other material. Despite this limitation, the Journal is the most complete repository in existence of information concerning the history, management and problems of law librarianship. Even under difficulties, it has proved itself to be a professional journal indispensable to law libraries.

When its function as a professional journal for law librarians is emphasized, I mean also to emphasize its importance for the practising lawyer and the legal scholar, for bar associations and for law schools. Certainly every increase in professional knowledge and skill induced in law librarians by means of a professional journal shows itself in increased facilities and services available to the users of law libraries. It is for this reason that it is pertinent to discuss with law teachers and administrators of law schools, the idea of expanding the Law Library Journal, as one phase of the plan for extending the activities of the American Association of Law Libraries. I am therefore taking the liberty, on the invitation of Mr. James, of giving a prospectus of what I should like to see the *Law Library Journal* become. The proposals are:

1. That it shall be published monthly instead of quarterly.
2. That, in addition to publishing the proceedings of the annual meetings, it shall publish contributed articles, information and news concerning law books and law publishing, law libraries, law library skills and practices, and law librarians.

The contents of the Journal under the heads enumerated would include the following:

(a) *Law Books and Law Publishing*

The Journal would take over the functions of the present Law Library News in listing new and forthcoming treatises, laws, periodicals and reports. It would serve as a medium of exchange and sale of second-hand books. It would not review law books, but would leave that field to the existing law journals and reviews. It would, however, contain articles concerning new trends in law publishing, the history of classes of law books, and of law publishing firms. It would provide a forum for discussing difficulties encountered in the use of law books, and for pointing out gaps in the facilities for finding the law provided by Federal, State and Municipal governments and by private publishers. It would also contain short bibliographies and subject lists prepared by librarians and other contributors. It would call the attention of librarians and users of libraries to existing indexes and reference tools which may have been neglected by some of them. It would not hesitate to call attention to facilities presumably well known, because it would expect to serve the beginner, and those whose opportunities have been few, as well as those in the larger libraries.

(b) *Law Libraries*

The Journal in the past has contained many articles about particular law libraries. There are many more that ought to be described, both historically and as to their present condition. Such articles would be given space in the expanded Journal; and summaries of the annual reports of law libraries would be informative items of news. Through such summaries unusual acquisitions would be pointed out, the location of special

collections would be made known, and original ideas in law library management would be brought to light.

(c) *Law Library Skills and Practices*

Hereunder lies a large opportunity for service through the Journal. There is no published Manual of Law Library Economy. For information concerning methods used in law libraries one must even now turn to the present Journal, since in it is to be found practically all that has been published. In an expanded Journal, under the stimulation of competent editorship, many more technical articles would be published. They would answer to real needs not only of beginners, but of experienced librarians. They would deal with book-selection, book-buying, serial records, cataloguing, classification, reference work, loan desk service, charging systems, binding, library statistics, labor saving devices, book-plates, library supplies, library furniture, lighting, ventilation, rare book exhibitions, library hours for readers and for staff, and a hundred other similar matters. Although law books would not be reviewed, there would be extensive reviews of books and articles relating to the technique of law library science.

(d) *Law Librarians*

Material concerning law librarians would be included for two reasons, first, by publishing biographical articles concerning law librarians of the past, to give to those of today some idea of the dignity of the profession in which they are engaged; and second, by news items to keep law librarians informed as to the activities of their colleagues in the profession.

Such a monthly journal as I have outlined would probably not immediately be self-supporting. It would, however, have two means of support at the outset, namely the amount now paid as a subscription price for the Law Library News, and law book advertisements. Subscribers to the Law Library News now pay \$3.50 a year. They would gladly pay as much or more for the expanded Journal. Law publishers, I believe, would advertise extensively in a monthly journal, read by every law librarian in the country. Costs of editorship, publication and distribution in excess of the above income would have to be underwritten. It is thought likely that this underwriting could be arranged for, if the Roalfe plan of reorganizing the American Association of Law Libraries were carried through with the aid of the Association of American Law Schools.

Mr. Roalfe closed the discussion of the Roalfe plan with the following:

Mr. Roalfe: Since a library is an indispensable feature of every law school worthy of the name, we will no doubt all agree that the improvement of our libraries is a legitimate and meritorious aim. Therefore, without further introduction, I will endeavor to set forth some of the reasons why we believe that support of the expansion program of the American Association of Law Libraries will contribute to the achievement of this end.

Professor James has presented a brief outline of the plan and has reported its present status, and Professor Hicks has emphasized the importance of expanding the Law Library Journal, and has indicated how it, as a more adequate professional organ, can render a service which will directly or indirectly con-