

Large Number At Library Opening

Halifax's long-awaited public library is in operation.

Yesterday afternoon the ceremonial opening of the Halifax Memorial Library, dedicated to the city's dead of two world wars, took place before a crowd of about 1,000 persons.

The library was declared open by Deputy Mayor W. B. Moriarty, in the absence of Mayor G. S. Kinley, at the close of a brief ceremony on the steps of the new building.

Stimulus to Culture

Speaker for the occasion was Mr. Justice MacDonald, of the Supreme Court, who called the library an "auxiliary to education, a spur to self-improvement, and a stimulus to learning and culture." "This library will beckon to all," Mr. Justice MacDonald said, "asking only that its treasures be explored, its facilities be used and its books be read."

"It is my hope that these values will be seen to transcend all considerations of cost; that the library will be subjected to such enthusiastic and popular use as to require, and to receive, progressive growth of its facilities," Mr. Justice MacDonald said. "If so conceived," he said, "it will at once justify the vision of its sponsors and enhance the reputation of Halifax as a city of culture."

It was fitting, he said, that "this library should be dedicated as a memorial to those who exemplified, in fullest measure, the virtue of civic piety in two world wars . . . and we can but hope that they who made the mortal sacrifice may find, in this memorial and in its daily use, an enduring symbol that the lamp of memory still burns in the hearts of our citizens."

"We have reared here a most appropriate testimonial to our hallowed dead, to remind us unceasingly that the Present is not the whole of Time, and that Gratitude is not the least permanent of human sentiments," he said.

Calling the opening a most significant event in our civic annals, he said the people "will become possessed of a modern and attractive library wherein they will find new sources and guides to information, literature and recreation and new seeds of nourishment for the mind and soul."

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of civic medallions to Dr. D. C. Harvey and Major Forbes Thrasher, "as tokens of appreciation of voluntary service rendered to the city through the years."

The presentation was made by Hon. J. A. D. McCurdy, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

A silken Union Jack, which will fly over the library, was presented by Mrs. J. K. Crotty, standard bearer, on behalf of the Municipal Chapter of the IODE. After the opening, the colors of the Halifax County Chapter of the Silver Cross Women of Canada were placed in a niche inside the entrance.

Attend Ceremony

Present for the ceremony were Premier and Mrs. A. L. Macdonald, Hon. and Mrs. R. L. Stanfield, members of City Council, representatives of the Silver Cross Women and Canada (Remembrance Association), the IODE and civic organizations.

The opening prayer of Invocation was given by Rev. C. W. Anderson of St. Andrew's United Church.

Benediction at the close of the brief ceremony was pronounced by Rev. J. B. Granville of St. Mary's Basilica.

Deputy Mayor Moriarty then declared the library open and the doors were opened by two Commissioners. For the remainder of the afternoon, hundreds of people inspected the building and many registered as members.

As a special feature of the opening, an exhibition of famous Canadian paintings, borrowed from public and private collections, was presented in the art room on the library's second floor. This exhibition was arranged by the Nova Scotia Society of Artists, the Nova Scotia College of Art, the museum of Fine Arts and Dalhousie University.

The honor of being the first per-

son to register went to W. J. Mills, 33 Marlborough Avenue.

For the remainder of this week, the library will be open for public inspection and registration for membership. Circulation of books will begin Monday.

In opening the library, Deputy Mayor Moriarty paid tribute to the work of the Library committee and especially to the staff, who had worked for months, giving up much of their own time, in order to have the library ready.

On Library Staff

The permanent staff of the library is composed of Miss Mary Cameron, Chief Librarian; Miss Ellen Webster, Deputy Chief Librarian, and head of the Reference Section; Miss Kathleen Currie, head of the Children's Section; Miss Mary D. Falconer, head of the Circulation Section; Mrs. Mildred McLaren, Circulating Librarian; Miss Mabel Gray and Miss Florence Hilton, assistants in the Circulating Section; Miss Ethel Dobson, assistant Children's Librarian; Mrs. Alice Smaltz, and Miss Charlotte Kelvin, assistants in the Children's Section; Miss Edith Clare, Chief Cataloguer; Miss Barbara Smith, assistant Cataloguer, and Mrs. Kathleen Rowbottom, typing assistant.