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Rural Library Facilities

The rural library association measure on which the qualified electors of the unincorporated part of Yakima county will vote on November 7 provides for the extension of library service from the urban to the rural areas of the county. It will tend, if adopted to raise the cultural level of the community besides making possible for rural residents many hours of profitable and enjoyable reading.

The measure contemplates a co-ordination of the library facilities of the urban communities that will form a pool of informative books, both classical and reference, for rural readers. The measure also authorizes the association to purchase books which may not be available in the urban libraries.

The measure also provides for a maximum levy of 2 mills on the property within the unincorporated portion of the county. This levy is in excess of the 10-mill county levy but within the 40-mill tax limitation. The amount of the levy within the 2 mill limit would be determined annually by the county commissioners. The commissioners also would appoint the library board, which would act in a large measure co-operatively with the boards of the libraries existing in the incorporated cities and towns.

No doubt great good would result from the establishing of a rural library association in Yakima county. The benefits would far outweigh the cost. And the county commissioners would require the association to operate economically and efficiently.

It is probable that the larger share of the cost at first would be devoted to servicing the rural communities with books from the urban libraries and that purchases of books would be limited to reference volumes not available elsewhere in the county. But the association's policy, of course, would be determined by the library board which the county commissioners would appoint.