New York Times
Aug. 9, 1936
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Capitol grounds at Bismarck, N. D.

ONLY HALF OF ADULTS CAN READ WITH EASE

But National Survey Discloses Newspapers Reach 95%—Books Confined to 30%.

Only half of the adult population is able to read with ease, Miss Miriam Tompkins of the Columbia University School of Library Service declared yesterday. She reported the results of a nation-wide survey of literacy and the reading habits of the American public, conducted by Columbia, the University of Chicago and the American Library Association.

It was found that 95 per cent of the adult population reads newspapers and 75 per cent reads magazines, mostly of the pulp type. The survey also disclosed that only 30 per cent reads books, most of which are "cheap" fiction, only a third representing the best in research, scholarship and creative ability.

California leads the nation in the use of the public library with a per capita circulation of 9.14, the survey showed. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Wyoming rank next. New York is nineteenth, with each person reading on the average 4.33 books a year.

In the country as a whole it was found that each person reads fewer than four books a year. Reading is at its lowest ebb in Mississippi, which has a per capita circulation of .36.

Miss Essae M. Culver, lecturer in library courses at the Columbia Summer session, explained that California's high per capita book circulation was attributable to its county library system, through which books are sent into the mountain and other remote areas.

200 ARE AT N. Y. U. CAMP

Educators Will Hear Special Series of Lectures.

LAKE SEBAGO, N. Y., Aug. 8.—More than 200 educators are enrolled in the Summer camp for

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