

A Provisional Committee was formed to consider the matter and report to a future meeting. The members were:— Messrs. J. R. Brunt, J. Jamieson, W. T. McKay, A. Marshall, G. W. Russell, M.P., A. Rountree, W. W. Tanner, D. Richardson, H. M. Chappell, and J. Clarke, the last three mentioned being respectively President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Linwood Citizens' Association.

It was decided also that a deputation wait upon the City Council, and the following letter is taken from the Council minutes of May 3rd, 1909:—

Town Clerk, April 30th.
Christchurch City Council. 1909.
Dear Sir,—

I have the honour to advise that at a meeting of residents of Linwood held in the Rolleston Street Hall on April 30th, 1909, for the purpose of forming a Library, a deputation was appointed to wait on the Council on Monday, May 3rd, for the purpose of laying before the Council certain matters relating to the foundation of the said Library.

Trusting the Council will receive the deputation,

I am,
Faithfully yours,
H. M. CHAPPELL.

In due course the deputation, G. W. Russell, W. W. Tanner, D. Richardson and A. Marshall, waited upon the Council. Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., stated that his duty was simply to introduce the deputation, and that Messrs. W. W. Tanner and D. Richardson would explain the position to the Council.

Mr. W. W. Tanner stated that it was considered desirable by the residents of Linwood to establish a Library in the district. They recognised that they would have an uphill fight in doing so, and were trusting to the Council's generosity to obtain the £40 grant which had not been claimed, and also, that a sum would be placed on the current year's estimates in aid of the Library. Mr. D. Richardson also spoke. That they were successful in their appeal is shown by the following letter:—

Mr. H. M. Chappell, May 4th, 1909.
Secretary Linwood Citizens' Association.

Dear Sir,—
Referring to the request made by the deputation from your Association which waited on the Council at its meeting last evening, that the Council would render assistance in the establishment of a Public Library for Linwood, I have to inform you that the Council will pay the sum of £40 placed on the estimates of last year, and that the question of a further grant was referred to the Finance Committee.

H. R. SMITH, Town Clerk.

The following day was a memorable one in the history of the Library, for on that date, May 5th, 1909, a meeting was

held at Mr. G. W. Russell's house, at which the project assumed a definite shape, and from now on there was a steady but continuous progress. At this meeting there were present: Messrs. G. W. Russell, M.P., D. Richardson, A. Rountree, J. Clarke, A. Marshall, T. W. McKay, W. Meers, and H. M. Chappell, while Messrs. W. W. Tanner, J. R. Brunt, and Councillor Horsley wrote apologising for unavoidable absence. Mr. G. W. Russell being host, acted as chairman, and Mr. H. M. Chappell was elected secretary pro tem. The first business was to receive the report of the deputation, which had waited upon the Council the previous evening, the successful result of which is embodied in the letter quoted above. Proposals of Constitution and By-laws were discussed, and finally 12 clauses were adopted for presentation to a later meeting. But as they were slightly altered upon that occasion, May 11th, 1909, they are referred to in the report of that meeting.

Thanks to the Christchurch City Council for its offer was agreed upon, with a request to take the necessary steps to give up possession of the building. It was also decided to call a public meeting on May 11th, 1909. Those present resolved to make some tangible practical move, and to this end each one present paid his first half-yearly subscription, and it is interesting to note that after 19 years' continuous service, one of those present, Mr. D. Richardson, is still a member of the committee. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Russell for their hospitality terminated this very important and memorable meeting. In passing, this gathering is often spoken of by those interested in the early days of the Library, and always with a marked sense of its importance in the foundation period.

The public meeting on May 11th, 1909, was reported as follows in "The Press" the following day:—

"A meeting of Linwood citizens interested in the establishment of a Public Library in the district was held in the Rolleston Street Hall last evening. Mr. W. W. Tanner occupied the chair, and there was a moderate attendance. The report of the Provisional Committee appointed at the last meeting recommended:—That a Library and Reading Room be established in the old Borough Council Chambers; that the Library be registered; that Messrs. D. Richardson, W. W. Tanner and G. W. Russell be appointed trustees.

The subscription suggested was 2/6 per half-year, honorary members 10/6 per annum, and life members £2/2/-. It was also recommended that the Reading Room be free. The report was adopted, with some slight amendments. It was resolved that the officers be: Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, the last-named to be ex-officio members of the Management Committee, the Secretary to be appointed by this committee. Councillors Otley and Horsley, Linwood representatives on the City Council, were appointed ex-officio members of the committee. The Management Committee to consist of twelve members. The first general meeting will be held on the second Friday in June. Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., has donated £1/1/- to the funds of the Library."