

was as hard as a rock on that subject. He desired to thank Councillors Otley and Horsley, the Linwood representatives on the City Council, for their services in advancing the cause of the Library, and also to Mr. W. W. Tanner, who had devoted a great deal of time in preparing documents and doing other secretarial work which required the experience of a man of public offices. The district was under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Tanner in this matter. In conclusion, Mr. Russell said that he would be pleased to give the newly-opened Library any assistance he could in his capacity as chairman of the Board of Governors of Canterbury College, or as a member of Parliament.

Mr. Harvey, in relating the incidents of the afternoon, has stated that he was busily engaged after the formal ceremony in receiving subscriptions and enrolling members, and that about 40 or 50 joined up that day.

Thus was the Library launched on its career with good wishes from everyone, and an enthusiastic committee in charge to steer it towards the goal of successful accomplishment.

It has been a somewhat difficult task, but a very pleasant one, to gather the details together of the foundational work, for the written records are scanty, and memory is sometimes faulty, but the writer has carefully taken notes from the gentlemen he interviewed, also from letters and other sources, and wherever there has been a lack of harmony in the information so gathered, he has endeavoured to sift the matter thoroughly, and thus, by comparing events and data, he has, he thinks, given a fairly accurate account of the work done by those who interested themselves in the formative steps of the Linwood Public Library.

Reviewing the record of various meetings, discussions and conversations, it is now possible to accord our meed of praise to those workers who played their part in laying the foundation of what has developed into one of the finest secondary libraries in New Zealand.

One of the wisest decisions of the founders was that no games such as billiards or cards should be allowed, nor should any social functions be permitted. They believed that these attractive recreations had nothing in common with books, and in order to make a success of the Library the energy and zeal of those interested should be concentrated on purely library matters. It must be conceded that the results achieved have proved Mr. J. Clarke's vision to be true when moving in this direction, and the decision arrived at by the committee, to be correct.

The same ideal is to be noted in remarks made by other founders, notably Mr. W. W. Tanner, in a conversation with the writer when he said: "We intended and aimed to found a library of the best works we could buy," while Mr. A. Marshall went one better, declaring "That no book is too good for our shelves; if the book is worthy, then money must be

found to buy it and place it on our shelves." Succeeding committees have proved that they, too, have been inspired with the same determination to be satisfied with nothing less than the best. Thus was the fine ideal maintained, and the summary of registered books shown further on proves that all through the nineteen years of its history, the Linwood Public Library, despite the changes in the personnel of its committee, has consistently provided the best in fiction, the finest magazines and periodicals, and a splendid juvenile department, while to those desiring something apart from these, it has a very fine selection of non-fiction works, including Essays, History, Biography, Science, etc.

In the early days, it was suggested that Mr. Carnegie, the American millionaire, should be asked to assist the newly-launched Library with a grant, and that Mr. W. W. Tanner write to him, but after discussing the proposal it was decided that it would be better to endeavour to build up an institution independent of any outside or foreign assistance, and so the matter dropped, never to be broached again.

The names of the many gentlemen who rendered valuable service in the formative stages are conspicuous in this brief record, but no risk of criticism on the score of invidious distinctions should prevent special mention in the case of a few, whose claims will be readily conceded.

Mr. D. Richardson, for instance, has shown unremitting devotion from the very beginning of the movement up to the present day, giving to it that fine combination of qualities that have won for him such general respect. Mr. Richardson occupied the chair for four years, 1920-24, during which term the Library building was materially enlarged. He is still an active member of the committee, and holds office as a co-Trustee with Mr. W. W. Tanner. Nor will anyone who is conversant with the facts dispute the claims of Mr. W. W. Tanner to special mention in this record. From his 18 years' experience as M.P. for the district, with all that such experience implies, this gentleman gave valuable service in all matters of legal and official procedure. His well-known acquaintance with the best literature and deep interest therein enabled him to contribute much to the success of the Library, whilst his kindly personality endeared him to all who have had the privilege of association with him. Nor would it be possible to omit an appreciative reference to Mr. A. Marshall for his capable and sustained services from the inception of the Library proposal up to a few years ago. For some considerable time he was both treasurer and sole book buyer, and in both capacities his faithful service is remembered with gratitude. He was Mayor of Linwood in 1896-1897.