

Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." —Steele.

VOL. 1, No. 3



DECEMBER 1935

THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE.

It is the Government's intention to organise a national library scheme with a view to assisting existing small country libraries and to provide facilities for districts which have no libraries.

A national central lending library will be established and will have as its main function the distribution of books on a nation-wide scale. It will buy and select the books in the manner best calculated to meet the educational requirements, particularly in regard to vocational requirements. Good recreational reading will also be provided.

It is the aim of the Government to bring every individual whether located in a small borough or country town or on a station, farm or works camp in touch with a good book supply and it is expected that the public, particularly through their local libraries, will take advantage of this service. In districts where there is no library, arrangements will be made through local societies or groups of, say, about 15 people formed for the purpose, to undertake the responsibilities for the care and local distribution of books from the national centre.

In the past the Government endeavoured to assist the smaller libraries by means of subsidies but owing to pressure of financial circumstances it was regretfully forced to suspend this library grant.

Moreover the system was found to be ineffective and as the Government is desirous of affording the best possible help it can to local libraries it was felt that it would be of much greater benefit to replace the old subsidy system with a new scheme of lending boxes of books at regular intervals from a national centre.

The plan is to give each library qualified to get the old subsidy, the loan of boxes of books of about 50 volumes. These boxes of books can be changed several times a year. This would be a considerable advantage over the old scheme whereby the library purchased a few books from their grant. These books became worn out and dilapidated and frequently remained on the shelves for many years after they had ceased to be useful.

It is proposed to lend books to libraries or groups free of charge on condition that they be lent to individual borrowers also free of charge. All details connected with the scheme are at present being worked out.

Since these books will be selected in accordance with the best standards and will contain books of an educational and the best recreational type, local libraries will be relieved of expenditure on such necessary but expensive literature. The local libraries will thus have more money with which to buy current fiction for their subscribers. In this way existing arrangements in local libraries will not be interfered with.

The scheme does not involve any interference with the local control of libraries. It is intended merely to increase their means of usefulness which are at present restricted by the limited funds at their disposal.

This is only the beginning of a much more comprehensive scheme. Later on it is intended to de-centralise the central lending library and to set up, throughout the Dominion, a number of regional depository libraries, each under a trained librarian with a small staff.

(To be continued)

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NEW NOVELS.

By Our Reviewer.

Outspan. By Jane England. This is a Rhodesian story of a young widow with a tragic past who has to fight for the prosperity of her farm and the future of her baby son. The vagaries of the climate, the machinations of a self-seeking and evil man, intrigues and native unrest are among her troubles through all of which she is supported by the love of the District Magistrate. The story is full of vivid incident and should particularly appeal to women.

Wild Memory. By Anne Duffield. The setting for this story is on an estate in Egypt owned by Major Kaye who is a bachelor and custodian of Sybil the chief character of the story. Sybil is spoilt and the conflict between her ill-balanced youth and her sophisticated chaperon's tolerant maturity, a secret garden, an unforgettable memory, the ghost of which is finally laid, is well told.

Fate Laughs. By Herbert Adams. Out of work Jim Flower, travelling in a train, finds himself staring at his double and the extraordinary resemblance between himself and the stranger leads to an argument by which their positions are reversed and Jim impersonates the stranger for three quarters of an hour. During this period Flower meets his fate in Betty Barrow and coincidentally Betty's brother-in-law is murdered. A brisk and thrilling story built up of successive coincidences which keeps the reader thinking to the conclusion.

The Man Who Had Everything. By Louis Blomfield. From an orphan farmer boy Tom Ashford became a fashionable playwright and acquired fame, money, a pretty wife, two children, and a seductive mistress. He has no more wants and is generally dissatisfied. His empty hours are haunted by the memory of a war time romance with a French girl, Eliane Vainville, while being nursed after he had been wounded on the road to St. Quentin. The book is forcefully and well written, introducing living personages and leading to an ending it will pay the reader to learn.

Wheels Beneath. By Gerald Kelton. A story of the British secret service commencing with the murder of one of its agents in Cannes and the theft of valuable plans. Major Carden from England, while endeavouring to recover the plans meets Erica von Metinich, an opposing spy, and they both fall in love with each other. The story develops along unusual and interesting lines, retaining a certain freshness to the end.

Barrel Organ Tune, by Jane Oliver, is an excellent novel giving one the idea of Noel Coward's "Cavalcade" from the point of view of a Scottish country doctor. It is well written and full of interest.

The Chronicles of Slyme Court. By H. M. Raleigh. Lord Grebe, the owner of Slyme Court, is a middle-aged, good natured and simple peer of England, and this book is a series of humorous happenings which took place at his ancestral home and of which he is the victim.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION.

And Then Came Spring Anne Hepple
The Clue of the Rising Moon Val Williams
Cobbler's Corner Sophie Cole
The Crimson Crescent Augustus Muir
Four Gardens Marjorie Sharp
The Green Lantern Ben Bolt
Green Rushes Maurice Walsh
Jack and John W. Riley
King's Blood W. P. Drury
Manhunt Trail Westmoreland Grey
The Morning Mist Nora K. Strange
Probationer Guy Fletcher
Quayle of the Yard Paul Trent
Rich Man, Poor Girl Maysie Greig
Silver Mist Joan Sutherland
Smoky Canvas Diana Patrick
Someday Ruby M. Ayres
Spanish Maine P. C. Wren
Sunshine Stealer Berta Ruck
Vesper Service Murders Van Wyck Mason
Volcano Cecil Roberts
Wheels Beneath Gerald Kelton

In the Juvenile Section.

The Hermit of the Hill Bertha Leonard
Captain Robin Hood, Sky Highwayman G. E. Roberts
Cockle Cove Lydia S. Graham
The Marlot Mystery Harold Avery
Pleasure Island Gurney Slade
Binkie and Co. Beatrice Gibbs
Puck of the Priory Guide Madge T. White
The Salving of the Fusi Yama P. F. Westerman
Ford of H.M.S. Vigilant T. Y. Jeans
That New Girl Anna Cecily Fox
Enter Jennie Wren May Wynne

CURRENT COMMENT.

We have received several congratulatory letters from other libraries concerning the Gazette. Mr A. L. Low, of the Public Library, New Plymouth, congratulates us on the excellence of the journal and the initiative of the Committee. Mr M. S. West, of Fairlie Public Library, wishes us success and the "Gazette" long life.

Mr C. E. Cook, of Waltham Public Library, states that the journal's information will greatly assist his library, and Mrs E. Eaton, of Spreydon Public Library, tells us that her committee congratulates us and wishes the new venture every success.

We are pleased to receive these good wishes, showing, as it does, that a spirit of comradeship exists between those responsible for the management of various libraries. It is the aim of the Linwood Library Committee to foster that feeling of good fellowship which must eventually result in benefit to all concerned.

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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1 December 1935 No. 3

EDITORIAL.

The Editor has been honoured by a letter from the Prime Minister (Right Hon. G. W. Forbes) in which he expresses his regret at being unable to contribute a special article to the Linwood Library Gazette, owing to the heavy pressure on his time in connection with the general election.

He has, however, kindly sent us a copy of a statement on the Government's library policy recently made by him and further expresses the opinion that our Gazette can do much towards furthering the Government's aims.

Owing to the pressure on our limited space we have decided to publish our Prime Minister's statement in two instalments, the first of which appears on the front page.

A Word to Novel Readers.

We would be failing in our duty towards our reading public, did we not attempt, in some small degree, to persuade inveterate readers of fiction to devote some of their leisure hours to the reading of educational and informative literature.

Some readers of popular novels—mystery stories, "thrillers," Western yarns and modern romance, shudder at the word "educational." Yet many of our

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
Linwood Public Library.

non-fiction books are far more "thrilling" than exciting adventure novels, and when the reader turns the last page of some authentic "travel" book, he feels that not only has he acquired knowledge; he has also found his imagination stirred by heroic deeds that are not the figment of some author's fertile brain.

A novel, however exciting or well-written, is soon forgotten, but a good travel story or maybe some biography leaves a lasting memory in addition to broadening our outlook on life.

ABOUT THAT CHRISTMAS GIFT.

In our previous issue we commended to subscribers the idea of giving to their friends a year's subscription to our Library as a worthy Christmas gift. Twelve months of that pleasure associated with good reading costs but six shillings, but to the reader it is worth several pounds. We wish to give you this final reminder.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR.

The remarks made by the Rt. Hon. G. W. Forbes, Prime Minister, in reference to a Municipal Library in Christchurch, as reported in the daily papers recently, have added a deeper interest and a more hopeful outlook for library affairs in Christchurch and suburbs. For the present we refrain from any comment but this:—that it is good to see that the unique position of library affairs in our city bids fair to be altered, and that, sooner than was hoped for.

The question of a new building for our library is one that has caused much thought in Linwood. Some years ago the Linwood Public Library Committee waited upon the City Council, to ask for a new building, but only received a vague assurance that in the following year something might be done. Early this year we again approached the Council but were informed that finance was not available.

For years the building we now occupy has been too small for the business conducted there. The crowded condition of the shelves is apparent to anyone acquainted with Library work, while the administrative work is done under grave disadvantage and discomfort. The widening of Stanmore Road on the East side from Hereford Street to Gloucester Street is almost completed, except for the Library building and the Post Office. Both these must, at some future date, be moved some feet further back, but even to take one foot of our present building would not

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only make the position much worse for us, but the cost would be considerable.

The solution of the matter would be to remove the Council stables and yard, on the East side of the Library altogether, and to plan for a building in reinforced concrete to occupy the whole of the section belonging to the Council—including the site of the present Library. This would provide for a small lawn and a few shrubs about the entrance.

Town planning committees have been at work for some time, but they have apparently overlooked the Council stables and yard on the main road and surrounded by dwellings.

Surely these two facts, first the cramped and crowded condition of the Library, and second the unsightly and unhygienic stables and yard, are more than sufficient reason for a new building.

Lack of finance has been advanced as the reason for the delay, but if Christchurch and Linwood citizens were aroused to a stronger interest in local civic affairs, it is more than possible that even this difficulty would be overcome.

OUR FOUNDERS. No. 3.

ALFRED MARSHALL.

Associated with Mr D. Richardson and Mr W. T. McKay, both of whom have been mentioned in this series of thumb-nail sketches, Mr A. Marshall was one of that group of men whose efforts resulted in the foundation of Linwood Public Library.

Soon after the Library was launched, he was appointed treasurer and book-buyer, positions that he held for a number of years. An accountant of distinction in Christchurch, his knowledge was an acquisition to the Library committee, and as a book-buyer he earned the thanks of thousands of readers.

Mr Marshall was born in Hereford Street in 1859 and later attended a school conducted by Mrs Charlesworth. His later education was completed at other schools, one of which was the Wesleyan School in Durham Street. Here he gained the coveted position of Dux, but as this honour placed him beyond everyday contact with his school chums he decided, to use his own words, "Not to do it again."

Many interesting memories of the "good old days" are recounted by Mr Marshall. In his boyhood days Armagh Street was unformed and Latimer Square was but a waste place, tussock covered. Bedford Row was the site of a nursery and vegetable garden.

As an instance of what determination and application will do, we might mention that young Alfred's bugbear was arithmetic, but realising that difficulties existed but to be conquered, he concentrated on this subject and mastered it to such effect that he later filled some important positions in the financial world of Christchurch. The later years of his business life were devoted to the Mutual Benefit Building Society where he occupied the managerial chair until quite recently.

Mr Marshall is of a modest and unassuming nature, but his life's work has earned for him a full measure of esteem and goodwill from the

public in general and members of Linwood Library in particular.

Like the other founders we have referred to, our past treasurer and book-buyer is now a life-member and we trust he will, for many years, enjoy the books he obtains from the Library that owes so much to his early foresight.

Committee Meeting

The monthly meeting of the committee was held on Tuesday, the 20th inst, the president, Mr A. Brettell in the chair and twenty-one members being present.

A motion of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr C. J. Cox, for many years a subscriber and active member of the committee, was carried.

The resignation of Mr W. Wigglesworth from the Committee owing to his leaving the district was accepted, and the Secretary was instructed to write and thank him for his past services.

Mr J. H. Houlden was elected to fill the vacancy.

The treasurer's statement showed the income for the month of October to have been £65/8/1, and the expenditure on books and reading matter £60/11/10.

One hundred and sixty-five new books were placed on the shelves.

The secretary reported the membership to be 1822 as against 1762 for the same period last year—a gain of 60—and 9197 books were issued.

The secretary, Mr Hopkins, was granted leave of absence to the end of the financial year, and Mr E. E. Wiltshire was appointed as acting secretary.

New Zealand Author's Week.

We understand that a "New Zealand Authors' Week" is shortly to be organised in Christchurch.

We are entirely in sympathy with any project that aims at encouraging local talent and particularly so when that talent is of a literary nature.

New Zealand literature is slowly but surely commanding the respect of the reading public, not only in our own country, but overseas generally and in Great Britain, in particular.

Nationally, we have not yet evolved a distinct type of novel, but several authors have been successful in presenting us with interesting books, bearing the stamp of craftsmanship and using the Dominion, in some phase or other, as a background.

Non-fiction books, dealing with New Zealand and New Zealanders, both Pakeha and Maori, provide enthralling reading matter and we would urge our readers, who have not already done so, to commence a course of combined study and entertainment by learning something of their own country and its history.

Our non-fiction department has a fine collection of these books available to all subscribers.

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NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED.

Good-Bye to Fifth Avenue. By Cornelius Vanderbilt, Junr. Doors are opened, shutters thrown wide, and blinds drawn up, on the inner circle of New York Society. A more frank book it is difficult to imagine, and the vigorous style of the author holds one's closest attention.

A Radical at heart, he is uncompromising, gives no quarter, and asks for none. A real eye-opener and gives one quite an interesting hour or two following him on his iconoclastic journey.

Knights of The Boomerang. By Herbert Basedow, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., B.Sc. Full of information, gained at first hand and intensely interesting. One learns much of the ceremonial ritual envisaged in their customs and dances. Behind every action and movement there is deep meaning.

After reading Dr. Basedow's book one has a greater respect for the aboriginal of Australia. His idea of justice is primitive, but is a strong deterrent. Likewise his conception of moral law also primitive but just. At his best he behaves as a man should, and will earn our better understanding and kindlier thought for the Knight of the Boomerang.

The Flying Carpet. By Richard Halliburton. A most enjoyable book. Rollicking and carefree adventure, with some lovely pen pictures, Timbuctoo and the Storks, Borneo and the Gift of 12 Smoked Heads. The story of Gabriel. A return visit to the Taj Mahal. The Taj rising from a sea of fresh luxurious green, seemed like the sudden and supreme realization of all the dreams of beauty in the world.

"The aspirations, the eternal quest for one perfect thing—they were attained in that vision . . . all ugliness, all evil, vanished when I stood in the presence of such overpowering loveliness." Read it—and enjoy it.

Abyssinia on the Eve. By Ladislav Farago. After reading this book one will better understand the tremendous task Italy has undertaken. The hardships imposed through the trying climate, heat, cold, and, owing to the height, the great strain in any degree of activity. The insects alone are a sore trial, then the beasts, disease, lack of water, and taking it altogether Abyssinia as painted by Mr Farago is a fine country to leave alone.

The author was glad to leave it, and he sums up the position thus:

"The outcome of this war is quite as thickly enshrouded in mystery as the causes."

God's Adventurers. By Marjorie H. Tiltman. This book follows the same plan as "Heroes of Modern Adventure," and its two following books.

It tells of men and women who have set out on a definite quest, spurred by great ideals and high resolution, equipped with unquestioning faith and have found at the end, life's fulfilment and the joy of victory.