

Linwood Library Gazette

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

—Steele.

VOL 1 No 4



JANUARY 1936

THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

(Concluded)

These depository libraries will house collections of books for distribution to local libraries and community centres throughout their respective districts, and also by means of a book-mobile will provide a travelling library to isolated settlers if required.

Under the preliminary scheme books only will be provided. In the final scheme a full library service will be provided, and it will be based, it is hoped, on a co-operative system between the general Government and local authorities. It will entail the pooling of resources in order to make a very much larger number of books available.

Details of this ultimate stage are being worked out by a committee of expert librarians and Government officials. Later on steps will be taken to carry out this final stage.

Meanwhile, much good can be done by the inauguration of the service outlined above. It is well known that one of the main difficulties of residents in rural districts is the insufficient supply of literature. This need is particularly felt by young people who may wish to continue their education after they leave school.

It can be realised, for example, how useful it would be for a young man in a back country district to be able to have access to good and up-to-date books on subjects in which he is interested. For example, subjects like electricity, cabinet-making, or those connected with the various aspects of farming practice itself. It will be possible under this scheme for application to be made either through the local library, or if there is no local library, direct to the centre for the loan of such books.

A national library system such as I have outlined above is in operation in many countries throughout the world. The best system of all is, perhaps, that in operation in Great Britain. Britain now has a free library service for nearly every resident. The whole thing is simple and efficient and has been achieved by the business-like consolidation of existing services. It began in a small way by the simple system of providing books for the small and isolated centres.

It developed into a nation-wide county library service and now the various counties and large towns have co-operated to form regional groups.

Books are lent throughout the region and if the books required are not available within that area they can be borrowed from a national central lending library in London.

Many other examples could be given of countries which have adopted a similar plan. Recently in New South Wales the Government provided £150,000 for the inauguration of a regional library system.

In New Zealand the whole position has been carefully investigated and reported upon recently by Mr Ralph Munn, a representative of the Carnegie Corporation, and associated with him was Mr J. Barr, one of New Zealand's leading librarians. These gentlemen issued a most valuable survey and report upon New Zealand library conditions and needs.

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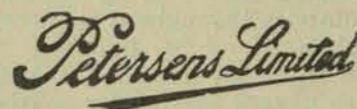
The Public Libraries of New Zealand in 1926, the year of the last census, numbered over 400 and range from small collections of a hundred volumes to libraries such as those in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Timaru, which can stand comparison with libraries of towns in England of similar population.

From "Outline of Library Development,"
Munn-Bar Report on N.Z. Libraries.

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NEW NOVELS

By Our Reviewer

Roundabout. By Humfrey Jordan. The author of "The Commander Shall," has given us in this another refreshing and interesting novel. The story concerns Sir Henry Crad a wealthy young peer who suddenly finds himself practically ruined. The necessity of selling his ancestral home and seeking employment, his experiences in Australia, Singapore and Rangoon up to the time of his return home are graphically and well told. The book is interesting throughout and the ending will prove a surprise to the reader.

The Girl In The Night. By Dorothy B. Upson. A tale of forgery, perjury and blackmail, in which Paul Trant appears (through a foolish wager) as the innocent victim, Lola Denning, a London actress who has been robbed of valuable jewels and blackmailed by her husband, Michael Langham, the villain, are the chief figures with an amateur criminologist in the background. This cast should satisfy the taste of those who enjoy a thriller and romance combined—for there is a romance as well.

Daddy And I. By Elizabeth Jordan. An interesting chronicle of small-town life and youth as seen through ultra-modern eyes. An enjoyable little story.

Love's Renegade. By Ralph Rodd is a story of the marriage of Clio Darrell and Simon Fetherston unknown to their individual guardians. The complications that follow, the problems, excitements and twisting of fortune are humorously told and make a fascinating story.

Glorious Life. By Jean Barre. A happy, breezy story which will appeal to all readers of light fiction and one when once commenced will be difficult to put down until the end is reached.

**SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED
FICTION**

- The Battle of Basinghall Street E. P. Oppenheim
- The Beautiful Derelict Carolyn Wells
- Border Breed Wm. McLeod Raine
- Brothers of the Range F. C. Robertson
- The Bush Fighters H. Pendexter
- Carfax of the Khyber Victor Bayley
- Chivalry Rafael Sabatini
- Death in the Centre Court Geo. Goodchild
- Desert Silver Stone Cody
- Down the Dark Valley Bertrand W. Sinclair
- The Dry Ridge Gang B. M. Bower
- The Emerald Spider Gavin Holt
- The Founder of the House Naomi Jacob
- The Golden Star L. Noel
- Harvest of a House Ursula Bloom
- Here Lies a Most Beautiful Lady Richard Blaker
- It Can't Happen Here Sinclair Lewis
- Lone Wolf's Last Prowl L. J. Vance
- The Looted Bonanza E. W. Chambers
- Long Rope Dane Coolidge
- The Last Door Ottwell Binns
- Mistress Pat L. M. Montgomery

- Mystery at Olympia Jno. Rhode
- The Mystery of the Seven Cafes Sydney Horler
- On a Huge Hill J. D. Beresford
- On the Trail of the Tumbling T C. E. Mulford
- The Professor's Last Experiment Harry Edmonds
- Quartet Richmal Crompton
- The Red Riders of Smoky Range Wm. Colt Macdonald
- The Road to Glory F. Britten Austin
- Robert Harlow's Wife A. Soutar
- Roman Year Isabel C. Clark
- Secret Servant Bernard Newman
- The Shining Cloud M. Pedler
- Shining Windows Kathleen Norris
- A Silver Rattle Sylvia Thompson
- Smouldering Fire D. E. Stevenson
- The Snow Falcon Ganpat
- Spring Came Forever B. S. Aldridge
- The Sullen Sky Mystery H. C. Bailey
- Sun of the Sea Ruby M. Ayres
- The Three Jolly Vagabonds Jackson Budd
- Tudor Green W. B. Maxwell
- Unchartered S. Parkman
- The Vampire of N'Gobi R. Cullum
- Victorious Troy John Masefield
- Where Three Roads Meet Ethel M. Dell
- Woman Alive Susan Ertz
- Woman of the Family May Edginton
- World Under Snow Broster and Forester

In the Juvenile Section

The Riddle of St. Rolf's. By Winifred Norling is an absorbing story of three friends who make up their minds to solve a mystery that has been worrying and frightening the neighbourhood and after many exciting adventures the riddle is finally solved to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Betty of Turner House. By Joanna Lloyd is a story of life at a girls' school and created a very amusing character, Betty Marjoribanks. Her career is full of humorous incidents which are sure to entertain every schoolgirl reader.

The Black Squadron. By Geo. E. Rochester. Full of thrills and containing a method of aerial warfare which well may come into being in the near future.

Flying Beetle. By Geo. E. Rochester. A good flying story full of thrills. A good plot well developed.

CURRENT COMMENT

We wish to congratulate the Christchurch Public Library upon the production of its own journal. We perused it with much interest and feel that not only will it benefit those subscribers for whom it is primarily intended; it should also assist other librarians and library committees, not excluding ourselves.

The Bulletin of the New Zealand Library Association (No. 13) pays us a compliment in the following paragraph. "The Committee of the Linwood Public Library, Christchurch, has published a very useful magazine, 'The Linwood Library Gazette.' Members of the Library should find this publication helpful and the Committee is to be congratulated on its enterprise."

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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1 January 1936 No. 4

EDITORIAL

On the front page we print the concluding part of the National Library Policy as outlined by the Right Hon. G. W. Forbes during the latter days of his Premiership.

We would ask our readers to once again carefully peruse the first part of the Prime Minister's statement, printed in the December issue of the "Gazette." By assimilating the article as a whole, readers will realise that the late Government was fully apprised of the importance and urgency of the Library problem in New Zealand.

In other countries, Libraries are recognised by the authorities as giving community service of paramount importance and as such are provided for out of the national revenue or, as an alternative, municipal funds. In our own country, we find co-operation sadly lacking, with the result that various cities, towns and districts are left to provide their own facilities for the education and literary amusement of readers.

Untrained enthusiasts have, in many instances, given their services on behalf of their fellow-citizens in an endeavour to provide libraries. Some have achieved success and others have been doomed to a long struggle, their efforts having been a predestined failure.

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed. Address all correspondence to "The Editor," Linwood Public Library.

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It is to be hoped that the new Government will follow the excellent lead given by their predecessors. Education of the masses has long been a plank in the platform of the party and we have every confidence that the near future will see some concrete evidence of the Government's good intentions in the direction of co-ordination as applied to Libraries throughout New Zealand.

We wish to extend to all subscribers our wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. In addition to our personal greetings we would mention our earnest desire to see 1936 a still more prosperous one for the Linwood Library.

Here it is that subscribers can assist by introducing their friends to the Library. It is by increased membership that progress may be made in all directions, to the benefit of all.

There was no Committee meeting held during December, consequently we cannot publish current figures, including membership, books issued or purchased. However, we may say, that, as is usual at this time of the year, our membership has declined. We would urge subscribers, when renewing their subscription, to do so for the full twelve months. This, in addition to being a saving of money to the subscriber, ensures a steadier revenue for the committee's use, with beneficial results to the Library in the shape of increased efficiency.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

So far, we are pleased with the reception accorded the Gazette, many subscribers having expressed their approval of it in very generous terms, and of their good wishes for its success. We are of course, gratified that our efforts have met with a kindly reception from so many, and earnestly desire that this spirit should prevail among ALL our subscribers. And in order to attain that end we again ask those who perhaps have, so far, not interested themselves to any

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great extent, to spend a little thought and time on the article on the first page and the Editorial. These, from a policy view point, are the most important features in our Gazette and opinions from subscribers would be of much assistance to our Editor and would be a guide to him in writing the Editorial or any notes he may insert.

As "the Chair" mentioned in No. 1 we desire the full co-operation of subscribers, and as the only method of reaching that desirable position is by a frank expression of ideas, we are taking this opportunity as early in the New Year as possible to ask subscribers:

First, to see that you get the Gazette regularly every month.

Second, to read it.

Third, tell us your opinion about it.

OUR FOUNDERS. No. 4

Charles Percy Rutland

Mr Rutland was one of the men who formed the first committee of our Library, and is the last remaining one, who is yet an active worker in connection with it, taking his place on the rota with unfailing regularity. He has served a term as President and is a very popular member.

Mr Rutland was born at Temuka in 1878, was educated at Temuka District High School, developing a gift for drawing. On leaving school, after a brief period in the Soft Goods trade, he joined the staff of G. C. Bates & Co., Decorators and Sign Writers, as apprentice. During the following years he became a member of the Temuka Brass Band, playing for them for some years. He was a sergeant in the Temuka Rifle Volunteers. Leaving Temuka he came to Christchurch in 1903, with the object of studying at the Canterbury College School of Art. During this period he joined the staff of W. A. Polson, remaining there for six years, leaving there to go to Anderson's Ltd. in 1911 where he is still engaged.

He joined the Veterans' Rifle Club and the Linwood Miniature Rifle Club. Besides being a keen rifle shot Mr Rutland is an ardent angler and in his own quiet fashion can tell a good "fish" yarn.

Of a quiet, retiring disposition, he has earned the esteem of his fellow members. We all join in the sincere wish that for many years to come Mr Rutland will be with us, working for "Our Library."

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Growth of Library Habit.

Rugby, Sept. 10th, 1935.

The number of books issued annually by public libraries in the London and home counties area, has grown from 23,237,887 in 1924 to 56,905,176 last year, while in the same period the number of books on their shelves increased from 3,139,804 to 6,537,870.

By means of inter-library relations and links with the National Central Library for students, individual readers, instead of being confined to the stock of non-fiction works at any one library, have access to the resources of the entire area, comprising several million volumes.

From The Press, 12/9/35.

NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

The Boundary Rider. By R. B. Plowman. This book is the final of the Trilogy by this author, the two previous books being: (1) "The Man from Oodnadatta"; (2) "Camel Pads." Although it is the third book of the series, it actually deals with the days before motor cars or wireless had appeared in the bush in Australia.

The description of homesteads in their varying stages of development, the tremendous distances, the lonely isolated lives of the shepherds and boundary riders, the changing scenery, make this book one of great interest and gives one an understanding and sympathy with the splendid work of the Padre, as he cheerfully goes from hut to homestead smiling, bright, happy, and above all, helpful to all.

A Trader in Cannibal Land, The Life and Adventures of Captain Tapsell. By James Cowan. A most interesting book. There is adventure galore; in whalers, and in the Mediterranean, he served in the Danish Navy and fought against Nelson. He commanded a privateer and spent some time in a Swedish prison, finally reaching New Zealand just after the tragedy of the Boyd. The country and its people aroused his interest and he remained, ultimately becoming a trader.

He died at the age of 94.

Twixt Hell and Allah. By Ex-Legionnaire No. 1484. Francis A. Waterhouse. This is another "Legion" book and will become as popular with subscribers as previous books dealing with the Foreign Legion. It is full of incident, thrilling, gruesome, pathetic, and in one of two cases, a lighter touch that is quite humorous. A very interesting book.

SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

The response to our notification that T. E. Lawrence's "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" is available to subscribers has been remarkable.

Although we have purchased four volumes of this outstanding book, it is inevitable that many of those who have placed their names on the waiting list will have to wait a considerable time before receiving the book.

To expediate matters, we have divided each book into two parts, but in spite of this it will probably be several months before many subscribers have their wishes gratified. We can only assure them that when eventually they get the book, they will realise that it was indeed worth waiting for.

::

A SATISFIED SUBSCRIBER

One of our subscribers has expressed his appreciation of the Linwood Library in no uncertain terms. He tells us that he bought a section and built a house in Linwood for the express purpose of being close to the Library. He says he has never regretted it.

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NORMAN BERROW
Author of "Smokers Of Hashish"



Mr Norman Berrow, a Christchurch author, is to be congratulated upon having had another novel accepted by a leading London publishing house.

The author is rather modest and when complimented by the Editor of the Linwood Library Gazette upon his success with "Smokers of Hashish" was inclined to belittle his own work. But the response by readers has shown that Mr Berrow's craftsmanship in writing a colourful novel in a cheerful and intriguing manner is appreciated.

When asked what his new novel is like, he admitted to being personally more pleased with it than with his first one. Knowing Mr Berrow's habit of decrying his own genius, we take his admission as evidence that his new novel, "Oil Under the Window" will be well worth waiting for. We await its advent with eager interest.

We have asked the author to give us an outline of the story. This we hope to print next month.

The development of the English County Library System is the most significant feature of library development in recent times. Since its inception less than a quarter of a century ago, it has been the means of providing residents in the country, who previously had no library service, with facilities that are comparable with those of residents in large cities.

Munn-Barr Report on N.Z. Libraries
"Outline of Library Development."