LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

In "Tomorrow," the magazine recently placed on the table in the Non-Fiction Room, there is a page devoted to studies of "The Library," conducted by the Society of Otago Librarians.

ducted by the Society of Otago Librarians. A recent number, December 23rd, deals with "A National Scheme—Some Suggestions." Beginning by pointing out that the greatest defect in New Zealand libraries is the almost entire absence of co-ordination, and that there is, in fact, an equal absence of system. "Tomorrow" suggests that New Zealand be divided into four areas, which would contain a large city library, a University library, libraries in secondary cities, and a very large number of smaller distributing units; a lead must come from the Government, for without Government sympathy and support nothing on a national scale could possibly be undertaken; they insist that a Library system is an integral part of the National Education system, and that the antique custom of granting library privileges only to those able to pay a subscription is now thoroughly discredited; it is common sense that a Free Library system."

The Chair has quoted freely in order to show that the Society of Otago Librarians is in step with the Report presented by Messrs Munn and Barr. It is heartening to find as one travels along the highway signs that the Report is increasingly being used in the endeavour to improve library conditions in New Zealand.

Christchurch has made a very fine start, and we heartily congratulate both the City Council and the Canterbury University College Council on having surmounted some of the initial difficulties, and, though it will probably be some considerable time before we at Linwood are enabled to become part and parcel of a Christchurch Free Library system, we are definitely encouraged by the "signs of the times."

Reports from Rangiora state that since the library was made free more than 800 residents have enrolled. This borough of 2000 people is to be heartily congratulated upon its public library service. The library has been entirely reorganised, and the lending library possesses a most attractive appearance.

Both Wellington and Auckland have Societies of Associated Librarians, and are doing good work.

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