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Linwood Library Gazette

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THE N.Z. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND ITS DEVELOPMENT By "The Browser"

Some years ago, to be exact, in March, 1910, in response to an invitation from the Dunedin City Council, a few well known men gathered together and founded The Libraries' Association of New Zealand.

It is interesting to read the proceedings and papers of that first conference of Library representatives and friends.

Among the motions carried was one proposed by Mr Mark Cohen on "Traveling Libraries and their Management," and in speaking to his motion, outlined a scheme, that, in essence, is practically the same that has come into being this year, after 28 years.

Mr T. W. Leys moved "That special provision should be made for Juvenile Libraries and Reading Rooms," and later, "That the importance of well equipped Branch Libraries and Reading Rooms in suitable positions be pressed upon the notice of Municipal Councils, that these libraries should be worked in conjunction with the Central Library, and under a common system of management, but with the aid of a local committee."

At the same session Mr T. W. Leys also moved, "That this conference views with very great regret the discontinuance of Government Grants to Public Libraries, especially those established in country districts; it regards the withdrawal of the grant of £3000 as a retrograde step, etc."

Mr Shaw, of Auckland, moved, "That it was of the greatest importance that the Municipal Corporation Act 1908 should be amended so as to alter the present limitation of the Library Rate from 1d to 3d in the pound." This was also carried.

This was the day of small things, and few of those who took part in that first conference of N.Z. librarians are alive today to see the strength and vigour of the Library movement throughout New Zealand, and the fulfilment of some of their ideas.

Passing over the 2nd and 3rd conferences, reports of which I do not possess, we come to the fourth, held at Dunedin again, the fifth held at Wanganui, and so reach 1928, when the sixth conference was held at Christchurch. This was the first conference at which Linwood Public Library was represented, and it was there and then that the writer was first impressed with the N.Z. Library problem and its possibilities. Dr. Friend gave an exhaustive paper on "Library Liaison within the Empire" inter-alia he said: "One cannot live at the heart of the Empire for years and be in contact with the pulsating life of experimenting, pioneering and creative thinking and the bold planning of the after-war library world, without realising that library service is becoming a very strange and wonderful feature of national and community life—both urban and rural."

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in the efforts in after school years—community spirit and national pride could have a National Library Policy in any Dominion in five years”—well, perhaps, perhaps not, but Dr. Friend aimed high at all events.

A remit from Dunedin suggesting, "That Education Boards should subsidise Public Libraries supplying School Libraries is closely related to actual facts in Dunedin to-day, Miss D. Neal having been appointed Children's Librarian in Dunedin, and the City Council warmly sympathetic, the day is surely very close when school libraries will be seriously considered. Miss Ray, of Canterbury Public Library, gave a paper on "Library Work Among Children," Mr E. R. Ellerm gave a talk on "Mending and Repair of Books," Papers on "Library Routine," on "Literary Connections between England and N.Z.," "Modern Library Problems," "Buried Treasure," "Newspapers and Magazines" and a paper on "Linwood Public Library" were also given.

As I have stated, this was the writer's first contact with a number of people engaged, or interested, in library work, and it claimed, and won my deep interest at once. Nebulous at first, the picture has grown clearer as the years passed by and with that, the fascination of the many problems has become more intriguing. Following conferences have helped to build up a more expansive outlook on, and a better understanding of the work in its many aspects and increasingly, the realisation of its great value.

At Timaru the conference may be called epochal, for it saw the unfolding of a new and tangible thing that was to be ours—if we worked for it. Here we had in the recommendations of the Carnegie survey as put forth in the Munn-Barr report, the thought of years' crystallised, a definite goal to aim for, and from then on to to-day the spirit and tone of conferences have changed just because there now was a definite objective and there are few who fail to see it. Time and thought have been given to library problems by the Council of the Association, and at Wellington last

year it was apparent that much work had been done in the interim in reorganising and one or two major problems.

At Nelson in February last (and this was what I intended to write about and nothing else) the tone of the conference was brisker, more alert and definitely full of desire to get things done.

Mr E. J. Bell, of Canterbury Public Library, in his presidential address, stressed the advance in library affairs and claimed that a new era had dawned, which was full of promise. Local authorities are awakening to the fact that the library movement is worthy of their better support, and, that far from being luxuries, they are an essential factor in modern life, and that being so require the best staffs, the best accommodation and the best books, if they are to achieve something worth while.

Regional committees were proposed at Christchurch in 1928, but they only took actual shape last year, when branches of the Association were formed at each of the four main centres. At Christchurch the Canterbury Branch has done good work, and as it grows stronger will do even better.

The rural districts have been sadly neglected for many years past, but it is gratifying to know that the present Government has appointed a director in order to establish a scheme without delay, this will help to provide the right books for the right people. As to cost, all good things are expensive, but this will not be costly, as, under a properly organised service, the rural districts will be better served than if each district had a library of its own. Mr Bell also mentioned several other aspects of the Association's work, book buying, the press, radio and other points.

The business of the conference covered a wide range of library matters. Some were fully discussed, others were finished more readily. On the forenoon of the second day seven seminars were arranged and discussed matters both interesting and vital to library work. These seminars were unique in this respect, that it gave

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all the delegates more time to devote to those phases of library work that appealed to their particular library or district. The seminars and the many remits—26 in number—provided ample opportunity for an informative exchange of opinions on many phases of library activity. The subjects for the seminars were as follows:—

1. Book Sources and Prices for N.Z.—Libraries—Speaker: Mr A. L. Low, New Plymouth Public Library.

2. Union Catalogues and Union List of Serial Publications—Speaker: Mr C. W. Collins, Canterbury University College Library.

3. Going Free—Speaker: Mr W. C. Prosser, Rangiora.

4. Private Circulating Libraries—Speakers: Mr. J. Barr, Auckland Public Library, and Miss Carson Hawera Public Library.

5. Pamphlets as a Source of Information, (a) N.Z. Material, (b) Overseas Material—Speakers: Dr G. H. Scholefield, General Assembly Library, and Mr C. R. H. Taylor, Alexander Turnbull Library.

6. What are Minimum Reference Stock Requirements of the Small Library—Speakers: Mr A. G. W. Dunningham, Dunedin Public Library, Mr G. T. Alley, Director for Rural Districts.

7. Seminar for University Librarians.

From the above, it will be seen that in that forenoon some interesting discussions took place, and when the reports of each were read in full conference later every delegate became acquainted with the full

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morning's work. This current year promises to be full of active building and maturing, and we can look forward confidently, I think, to some definite results in the near future.

The remits, as already mentioned, numbered 26, and covered a wide range. Opawa Public Library were the sponsors of two and another two came from the Canterbury Branch.

In Christchurch, headquarters of the Canterbury Branch, it is pleasing to note the increased interest taken in its affairs by librarians in the suburban public libraries.

**SOME NON-FICTION BOOKS
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Memoirs of John Galsworthy. By his sister, M. E. Reynolds. In 1932 John Galsworthy gained the Nobel Prize of £9,000 for his work in literature. He at once earmarked the whole of this amount for the creation of a permanent income for the P.E.N., to render it self-supporting and further to promote its international activities and hospitalities. This fine, unselfish action shows a genuine desire to further the cause of cultural development, and is a notable proof of the sympathetic vision of the man.

The whole book is a very human document, and will be happily accepted by all those who enjoy his works.

Mrs Reynolds has given us a charming picture of the well-known author.

VH—UXX. By Captain P. G. Taylor. The story of a flight from Australia to England, his companions being Scotty Allen and the late Chas. Ulm.

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England and the Maori Wars. By A. J. Harrop. Mr Harrop has added to New Zealand history in this volume from original documents, now for the first time published. His comparisons with events in other Dominions and Colonies is very instructive, and the map is helpful. This book will be found in the New Zealand section.

Seven League Boots. By Richard Halliburton. Mr Halliburton has given us some good books, but this one is both good and unique, in fact the reviewer thinks it is the best one yet. We have often read of people riding on an elephant, but to make a journey in Europe over the Alps is pretty near original. But that is only one event in the book. Read "Seven League Boots" and you will wish you had been there.

Adventuring in Coral Seas. By Albert F. Ellis. Those who have read and enjoyed "Ocean Island" and "Nauru" will find an equal pleasure in this, the latest book by Mr Ellis. He possesses a flair for tropical islands, their people, and their great beauty. For him they possess a fascination, and it is sheer enjoyment to be on and among them, and this is perceived in his book.

One reviewer says "Mr Ellis must know the Coral Islands as few other men, and he has given us an unusually absorbing volume, entertaining, graphic, and illuminating."

I'm Alone. By Captain Jack Randall. The author of this book may be accurately described as a "go-getter," and a 100% at that.

The book opens with a boyish game of pirates, that led to an attempt to run away to sea, but the time for that had not yet arrived, wise parental counsel held the boy until it was willingly agreed that he should get his desire in deep water vessels. With his inherited aptitude for the sea he, while still early in his twenties, gained his ticket as master both in sail and steam, and during the Great War gained many honours. While careful not to rashly look for trouble, he never shirked it, so as the result trouble came full and plenty.

The story of the vessel "I'm Alone" occupies the last four or five chapters, and is supplementary to the author's previous experiences in rum running. He remained with her as captain until she was sunk.

An enjoyable, easy to read, book, that will be popular.

At the 14th International Congress of the P.E.N. Clubs, held under the auspices of the P.E.N. Club of Buenos Aires, Dr. Emil Ludwig gave an address, and in the course of it he said:—

"I have no right to establish a hierarchy among German authors, but it is a strange fact that nearly all German artists appreciated in the whole world are either imprisoned or in exile at present, while none of the authors recognised by the Third Reich is known outside its borders. The two famous authors that Nazis boast of, Stephen George and Oswald Spengler, are opposed to that Government, and represent, therefore, cases of unilateral love; they are two great spirits dead in bitter forlornness.

"The German poets and writers regarded as heretical have not sent me overseas to implore the help of our foreign comrades. Our books are read everywhere in the civilised world, while the work of 'Nazi' writers are only read in the Third Reich."

(The title "P.E.N." means Poets, Essayists, and Novelists.)

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED

FICTION

- Afraid of Love.....F. E. Baily
- Any PortJno. Glyder
- The Adefield MysteryF. D. Grierson
- Bullion on the Range.....Tevie Miller
- Cardboard Castle P.C. Wren
- Chief of Hell's GatePete Kent
- A Cockney of the Legion.....J. D. Newson
- The Colossus of Arcadia E. P. Oppenheim
- The Devil to Pay Elery Queen
- The £50 Marriage Case Jno. G. Brandon
- Gay KnightFay Chandos
- Girl of TexasW. D. Hoffman
- The Golden Venture.....Ursula Bloom
- The Guilt is Plain.....David Frome
- The Hidden Tribe S. Fowler Wright
- It Happened in Essex.....Victor Bridges
- The Juice of the PomegranateEthel M. Dell
- Living Apart.....Ruby M. Ayres
- Marriage VowMarjorie M. Price
- The Nursemaid Who Disappeared ..P. Macdonald
- One Page Missing.....Andrew Soutar
- Other Women's Beauty.....Maisie Greig
- Parade of the Empty Boots.....Chas. E. Seltzer
- The Peace of Zimri.....Dolf Wyllard
- The Pioneer Herd.....F. W. Hilton
- Plucky GirlMolly Seymour
- Posted MissingHarold Bindloss
- Private DubyFaith Baldwin
- This Proud Heart.....Pearl Buck
- Quane of the G MenJno. Benton
- Range Rebellion.....F. C. Robertson

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The Strange Proposal Grace L. Hill
Strange Quartet Kathlyn Rhodes
Summer Moonshine P. G. Wodehouse
Tangled Legacy H. St. J. Cooper
Tarzan's Quest E. R. Burroughs
Up from Texas E. B. Mann
Wedding March Berta Ruck
Where Ignorance is Bliss Norma Lorimer
Yellow Stories Geo. Goodchild

Some excerpts from the "Times Literary Supplement:—

This Proud Heart. By Pearl Buck. As a girl, Susan Gaylord trifled with other arts, particularly music, before her inspiration became singly manifested as a genius for sculpture. From that time she remained faithful to her natural expression in art, but in her own simple way. She was essentially simple in the sense of single-hearted; she meant to live the whole of a woman's life. Her early first marriage to a young man in the "real estate" business cannot be counted as a failure. He too greatly adored and respected her, was too conscious, despite all her serious endeavour, that he could enter only one side of her life; but they had two children, a boy and a girl, and it was finally death, not fundamental disagreement, that set Susan free to take her children and her faithful domestic Jane, an Englishwoman, to Paris.

Susan, now devoted to the study of her art, still desires to include in her life the ties of her motherhood, succeeding reasonably well until she conceives a passion for the wealthy young American sculptor, Blake Kinnaird. And there is one phase, after her second marriage, in which Susan is in danger of burying her talent. They are back in New York, then, and she has, for a time, all that the average woman could wish for. But Susan justifies her genius, its expression having been attained through life and not by escape from it. "This Proud Heart" is a book that deserves much consideration, and is a novel well worth reading.

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