

FOREWORD

Just a little record of the "day of small things" in Linwood, in an age when our race is indefatigable in its research regarding "origins" of everything under the sun. Only a narrative, carefully compiled, of the exertions and whole-souled services of the few who saw the need in their lives of doing what they esteemed a public duty—self-imposed—a duty immediately recognised and appreciated by Linwood in the same spirit as that actuating the founders, and so heartily endorsed and supported. If this small achievement aids in any way the local historian of the future, those founders have their reward.

W. W. TANNER.

September, 1928.

*"Where there is no vision
the people perish"*

THE FOUNDATIONAL PERIOD OF THE LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

*"Through wisdom is an house builded,
and by understanding it is established."*

To work for and improve public utilities, to see that the particular suburb or district wherein they dwell is not overlooked by the authorities, and to safeguard and advance the general civic welfare—Such are some of the praiseworthy objects and motives that enlist public-spirited citizens in the service of their fellows.

This brief record is put forth with the object of rescuing from oblivion the facts connected with the inception of the Linwood Public Library, an institution in our midst that has not only attained such dimensions, but, what is more important, such a degree of utility and influence that no apology is needed for this modest account of its beginnings, compiled whilst nearly all the gentlemen responsible for its existence are still alive, and have been able to confirm or supplement the facts where occasion required.

These few pages will also serve the purpose of perpetuating the memory of those men with whom the idea of a Public Library for Linwood originated, who worked so devotedly to make it a reality, and so well and truly laid the foundation, that its history hitherto has been one of steady, continual advancement.

Linwood has never, amongst its residents, lacked a healthy proportion of people imbued with the spirit of public service. The formation of the Linwood Citizens' Association was therefore a development that in such a community was to be expected, and of which, in 1908-9, Mr. D. Richardson and Mr. H. M. Chappell occupied the offices of President and Secretary respectively.

Very appropriately, the question of a Library would be warmly supported by the members of the Association, and in the latter part of 1908 the matter was frequently discussed by them, but owing to lapse of time, with the obstacle of