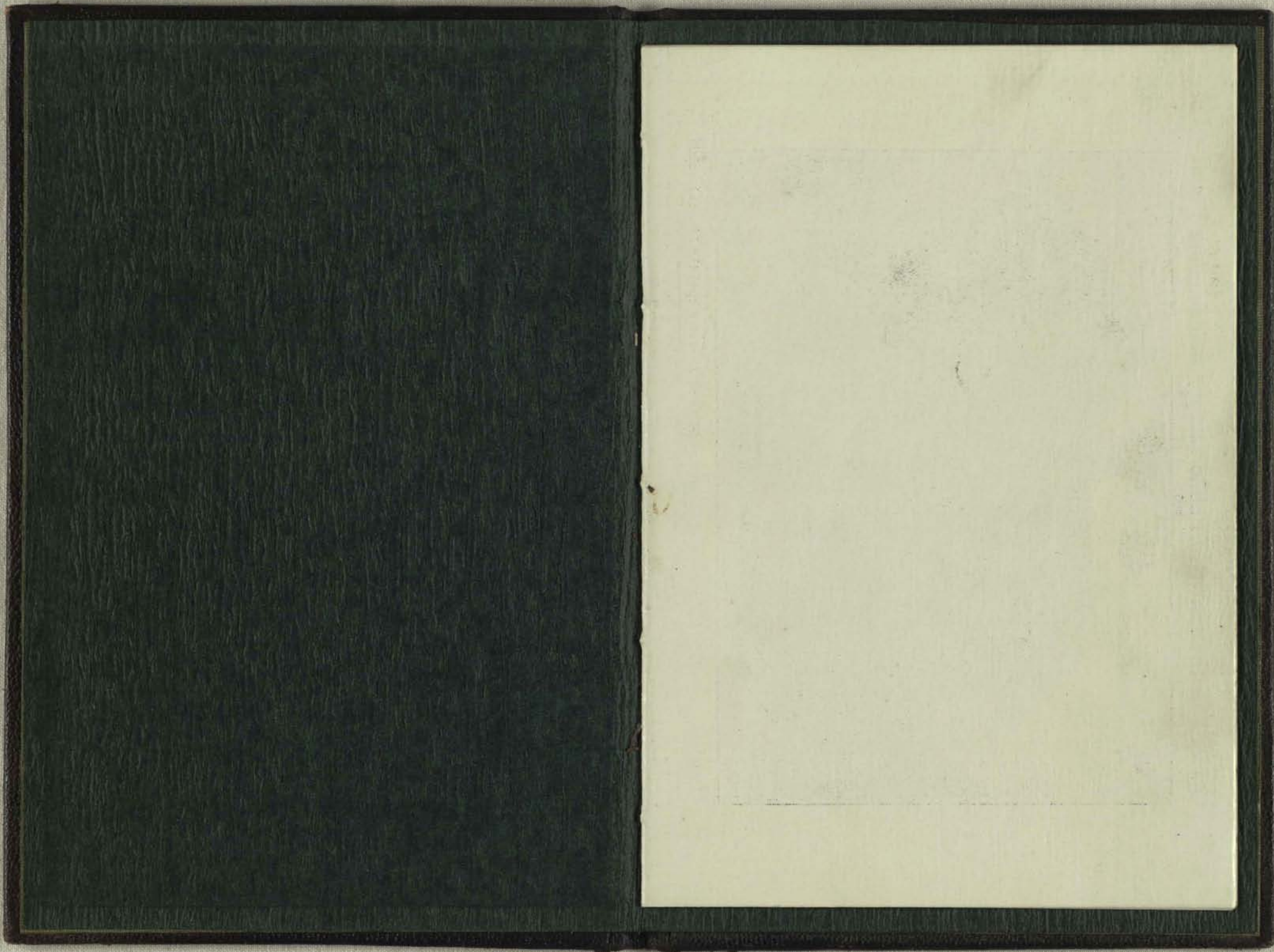


LINWOOD
PUBLIC
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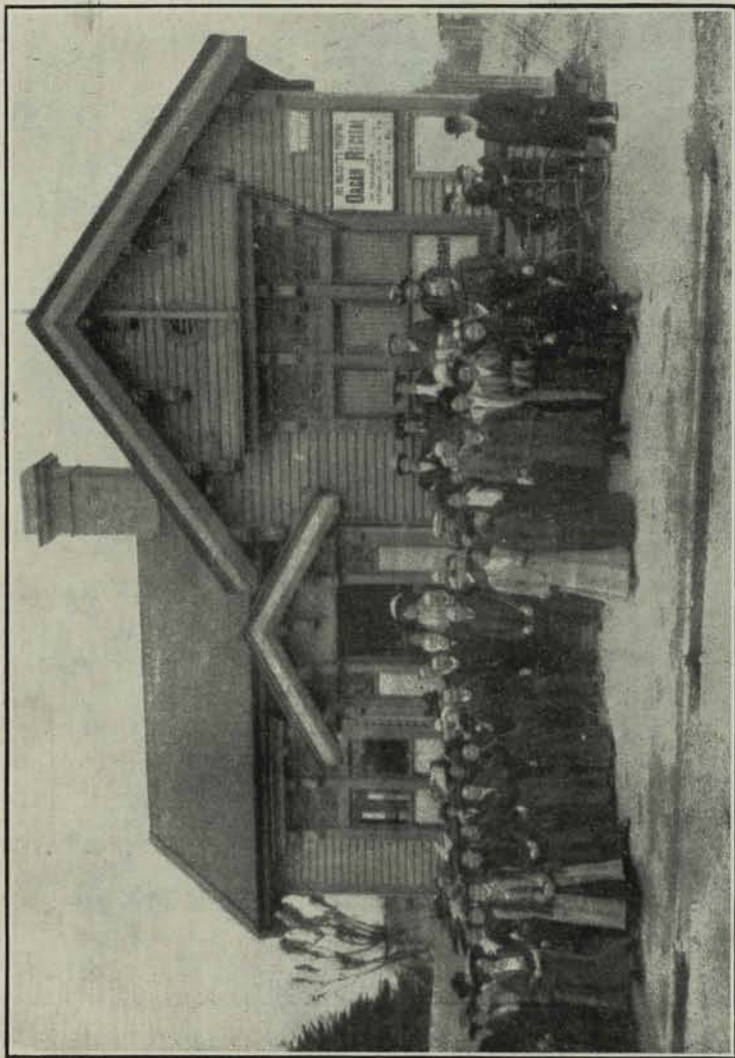
ITS FOUNDATION AND
EARLY PERIOD

**Linwood
Public
Library**

**Its Foundation and
Early Period**



Opening of the Linwood Public Library and Reading Room



On Thursday, July 22nd, 1909, the Mayor of Christchurch (Mr. C. Alison) opened the Linwood Public Library. The Linwood Citizens' Association inaugurated the movement.

A Record of the Foundation and Early Period of the Linwood Public Library

Christchurch, New Zealand



*"It was not what they got,
It was what they gave
That made them worthy"*

Compiled by A. BRETTELL.

Printed under Patronage of the Linwood Public Library
Committee, 1928.

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

uncertain memory, and the scarcity of records, it is difficult to focus on any definite date, and equally difficult to ascertain the names of those members who took part in these discussions. However, Messrs. A. Marshall, H. M. Chappell, W. W. Tanner, and A. Rountree agree that it was about the middle of 1908 that the subject was first informally brought up at a meeting of the Linwood Citizens' Association by Mr. D. Richardson, who expressed regret that a growing suburb like Linwood had neither a Public Library nor Reading Room. It was this remark that set things moving, and finally led to a definite project. Mr. Harvey, who later was elected first Secretary to the Linwood Public Library, states that he discussed the question with Mr. G. W. Russell, who was elected member for Avon at the General Election in November, 1908, displacing Mr. W. W. Tanner, the representative of this constituency for eighteen years.

Careful consideration of the data gathered, points to the conclusion that of the members of the Association who either publicly or privately mentioned the formation of a Library, to Mr. D. Richardson must be given the credit of having first of all suggested the idea. But on one point there is no doubt whatever, viz., that the Library is one of the results of the activities of the Linwood Citizens' Association, and easily one of the best of its accomplishments.

Once the idea was mooted, it appealed strongly to the more active members of this Association, and as they mostly resided within a limited area, would frequently meet, and, as frequently discuss the projected Library.

It is evident that no time was lost, for, amongst the estimates submitted to the Christchurch City Council by the Finance Committee, on August 7th, 1908, was this item: "Library, Linwood, £40."

There is neither letter nor deputation recorded in the City Council records as being the cause of this item appearing on the minutes, and from this date a period of over five months elapses ere we find another date mentioned.

The reason for the delay was probably the General Election in 1908, which would naturally interest all members of the Citizens' Association, especially as Mr. W. W. Tanner, who had many friends and supporters among the members, was seeking re-election.

On February 27th, 1909, however, the following letter appears in the minutes of the Christchurch City Council as having been received from the Secretary of the Association:—

Mr. H. R. Smith, Town Clerk.
Dear Sir,—

Feb. 20th, 1909.

At the meeting of the Linwood Citizens' Association, held on February 19th, the matter of a Library for Linwood was discussed,

and it was decided that all possible information be gathered and submitted to the Association meeting in April. I have been instructed to inquire from you whether, in the event of a Library being formed, the old Borough Council Chambers would be available for such purpose, and under what terms it could be had.

Apologising for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. M. CHAPPELL.

The result of this request was that, upon the recommendation of its Reserves Committee, the City Council granted the application, as recorded in a minute of March 22nd, 1909, to that effect. The permission was subject to a rental of 10/- per annum, and the recognition of the representatives of Linwood Ward on the Council, as ex-officio members of the Library Committee.

The project was now gaining ground, and interest therein was increasing. There were two meetings at the house of Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., about this time, and on April 30th, 1909, a public meeting was held in the Rolleston Street Hall, to discuss the proposal "to establish a Public Library in Linwood." Mr. W. W. Tanner presided, and Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., was the principal speaker. He said that the City Council had placed the sum of £40 on its estimates for the purpose of stocking a Library at Linwood, and had offered the use of the old Borough Council Chambers at a rental of 10/- per year. Unfortunately the offer of £40 had lapsed, as it had not been claimed by March 31st, the end of the Council's financial year, but he had that day seen the Town Clerk and Councillor Otley, in the absence of the Mayor, and had ascertained that the £40 would probably still be available, and that it would be added to by an annual grant of £25. To this, Mr. Russell continued, would have to be added a share of the annual Parliamentary grant of £3000, which would probably be about £10, and with the money so provided it would be possible for the residents of Linwood to stock a fairly large number of books. He thought that a subscription of 5/- per annum would be sufficient to defray expenses, and that 300 subscribers might be expected. In moving "That a Library be established in Linwood with headquarters in the old Borough Council Chambers," Mr. J. Clarke expressed a hope that they would not follow the example of other libraries who had installed billiards rooms in connection with their libraries. On being seconded by Mr. M. Riddington, the motion was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was passed to the City Council for its offer of the old Borough Council Chambers as a site for the proposed library, and Mr. W. W. Tanner moved that the Linwood Citizens' Association be thanked for the interest it had taken in the matter.

A Provisional Committee was formed to consider the matter and report to a future meeting. The members were:—Messrs. J. R. Brunt, J. Jamieson, W. T. McKay, A. Marshall, G. W. Russell, M.P., A. Rountree, W. W. Tanner, D. Richardson, H. M. Chappell, and J. Clarke, the last three mentioned being respectively President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Linwood Citizens' Association.

It was decided also that a deputation wait upon the City Council, and the following letter is taken from the Council minutes of May 3rd, 1909:—

Town Clerk,

April 30th.

Christchurch City Council.

1909.

Dear Sir,—

I have the honour to advise that at a meeting of residents of Linwood held in the Rolleston Street Hall on April 30th, 1909, for the purpose of forming a Library, a deputation was appointed to wait on the Council on Monday, May 3rd, for the purpose of laying before the Council certain matters relating to the foundation of the said Library.

Trusting the Council will receive the deputation,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

H. M. CHAPPELL.

In due course the deputation, G. W. Russell, W. W. Tanner, D. Richardson and A. Marshall, waited upon the Council. Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., stated that his duty was simply to introduce the deputation, and that Messrs. W. W. Tanner and D. Richardson would explain the position to the Council.

Mr. W. W. Tanner stated that it was considered desirable by the residents of Linwood to establish a Library in the district. They recognised that they would have an uphill fight in doing so, and were trusting to the Council's generosity to obtain the £40 grant which had not been claimed, and also, that a sum would be placed on the current year's estimates in aid of the Library. Mr. D. Richardson also spoke. That they were successful in their appeal is shown by the following letter:—

Mr. H. M. Chappell,

May 4th, 1909.

Secretary Linwood Citizens' Association.

Dear Sir,—

Referring to the request made by the deputation from your Association which waited on the Council at its meeting last evening, that the Council would render assistance in the establishment of a Public Library for Linwood, I have to inform you that the Council will pay the sum of £40 placed on the estimates of last year, and that the question of a further grant was referred to the Finance Committee.

H. R. SMITH, Town Clerk.

The following day was a memorable one in the history of the Library, for on that date, May 5th, 1909, a meeting was

held at Mr. G. W. Russell's house, at which the project assumed a definite shape, and from now on there was a steady but continuous progress. At this meeting there were present: Messrs. G. W. Russell, M.P., D. Richardson, A. Rountree, J. Clarke, A. Marshall, T. W. McKay, W. Meers, and H. M. Chappell, while Messrs. W. W. Tanner, J. R. Brunt, and Councillor Horsley wrote apologising for unavoidable absence. Mr. G. W. Russell being host, acted as chairman, and Mr. H. M. Chappell was elected secretary pro tem. The first business was to receive the report of the deputation, which had waited upon the Council the previous evening, the successful result of which is embodied in the letter quoted above. Proposals of Constitution and By-laws were discussed, and finally 12 clauses were adopted for presentation to a later meeting. But as they were slightly altered upon that occasion, May 11th, 1909, they are referred to in the report of that meeting.

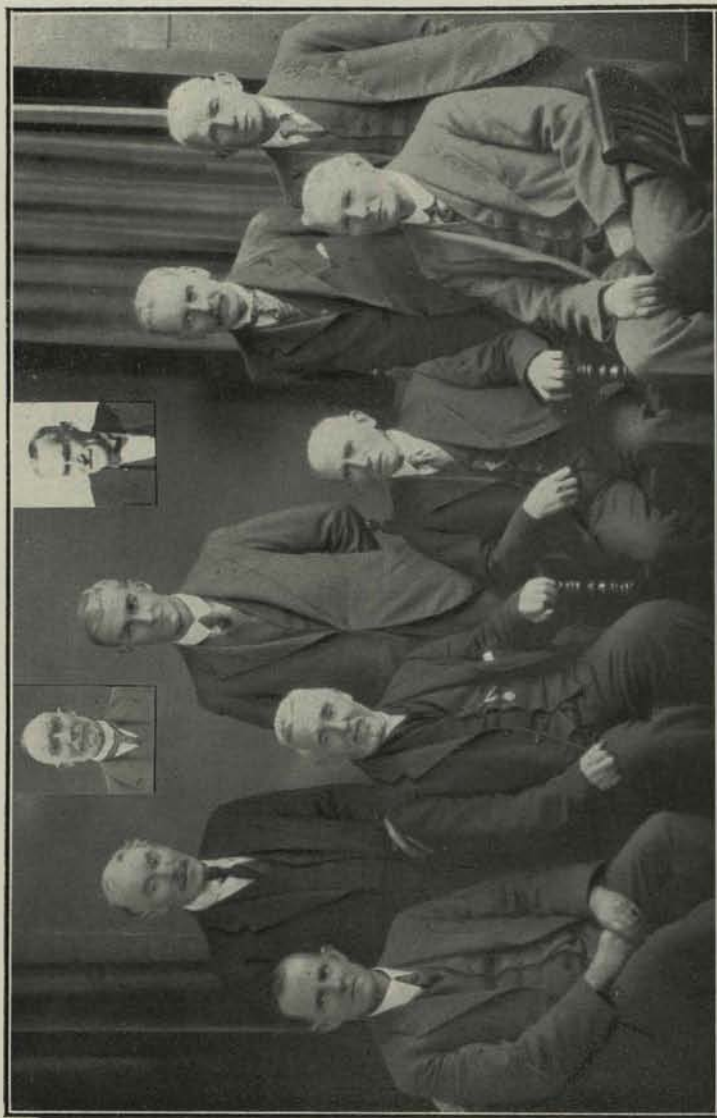
Thanks to the Christchurch City Council for its offer was agreed upon, with a request to take the necessary steps to give up possession of the building. It was also decided to call a public meeting on May 11th, 1909. Those present resolved to make some tangible practical move, and to this end each one present paid his first half-yearly subscription, and it is interesting to note that after 19 years' continuous service, one of those present, Mr. D. Richardson, is still a member of the committee. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Russell for their hospitality terminated this very important and memorable meeting. In passing, this gathering is often spoken of by those interested in the early days of the Library, and always with a marked sense of its importance in the foundation period.

The public meeting on May 11th, 1909, was reported as follows in "The Press" the following day:—

"A meeting of Linwood citizens interested in the establishment of a Public Library in the district was held in the Rolleston Street Hall last evening. Mr. W. W. Tanner occupied the chair, and there was a moderate attendance. The report of the Provisional Committee appointed at the last meeting recommended:—That a Library and Reading Room be established in the old Borough Council Chambers; that the Library be registered; that Messrs. D. Richardson, W. W. Tanner and G. W. Russell be appointed trustees.

The subscription suggested was 2/6 per half-year, honorary members 10/6 per annum, and life members £2/2/-. It was also recommended that the Reading Room be free. The report was adopted, with some slight amendments. It was resolved that the officers be: Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, the last-named to be ex-officio members of the Management Committee, the Secretary to be appointed by this committee. Councillors Otley and Horsley, Linwood representatives on the City Council, were appointed ex-officio members of the committee. The Management Committee to consist of twelve members. The first general meeting will be held on the second Friday in June. Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., has donated £1/1/- to the funds of the Library."

SOME OF THE FOUNDERS.



W. Meers, H. M. Chappell, A. Marshall, C. P. Rutland, W. W. Tanner, D. Richardson, J. W. McKay, W. Harvey, J. Clarke, A. Rountree

At the conclusion of this general meeting, the Provisional Committee met, those present being: Messrs. J. Clarke, A. Marshall, A. Rountree, H. M. Chappell, W. Meers, and W. W. Tanner, who presided. It was decided to register the Library as the Linwood Public Library, Mr. W. W. Tanner undertaking to do this. The Secretary was instructed to forward the names of the trustees to the City Council, and to ask for possession of the old Borough Council Chambers. The following letter explains itself:—

The Town Clerk,
Christchurch City Council.

Linwood, May 11th, 1909.

Dear Sir,—

I am instructed by the committee of the Linwood Public Library to inform you that the Trustees have been appointed, and the Library registered as requested, also to state that the committee would like possession of the old Borough Council Chambers about the middle of June, or at a date about that time that is most suitable to your Council and the present tenant.

I am, etc.,

H. M. CHAPPELL.

Certain sub-committees were elected, but these were altered at the meeting on June 11th, 1909, and again on June 25th.

Perhaps the fact that there was but a moderate attendance is the reason for more definite progress not being made at the above meeting. On June 11th, 1909, another general meeting was held, when the report of the Provisional Committee was finally discussed and adopted, and all officers and committees elected.

In the interval, viz., on May 31st, there is an interesting item recorded in the minutes of the Christchurch City Council wherein the Finance Committee recommended, *inter alia*, "that Linwood be subsidised £ for £ up to £100."

A further minute of the Christchurch City Council on June 11th, 1909, gives the reply to the letter of May 11th, 1909, stating that the tenants would vacate the old Borough Council Chambers on July 11th, 1909.

The meeting in the Rolleston Street Hall on June 11th, 1909, is recorded in the "Lyttelton Times" of June 15th, 1909, as follows:—

A public meeting of subscribers and those interested in the Linwood Public Library was held in the Rolleston Street Hall on June 11th, when Mr. W. W. Tanner occupied the chair. The Provisional Committee presented its final report, stating that the Library and Reading Room proposals were being well supported. A letter was received from the Town Clerk advising that the old Borough Council Chambers would be available about July 11th for

Library purposes. The election of officers resulted as follows:—

Patron: The Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison.

President: Mr. W. W. Tanner.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Councillor H. Otley, Councillor W. Horsley, A. Henderson, A. Marshall, W. A. Smith, G. W. Russell, M.P.

Treasurer: Mr. G. Clarke.

Management Committee: Messrs. Archbold, Aiken, Chappell, Harvey, Lough, Meers, McKay, O'Connor, Rountree, Richardson, Rutland, and Dr. Inglis.

Votes of thanks to Mr. W. W. Tanner for his services in connection with the preliminary arrangements, and to Mr. H. M. Chappell, for having acted as Secretary to the Provisional Committee, were accorded.

At the conclusion of the public meeting, those present went into committee, and Mr. W. Harvey was elected secretary. Sub-committees were appointed to deal with the matter of books, magazines and newspapers, also for fitting up the necessary shelving.

The report of the Provisional Committee as amended by this meeting reads as follows:—

- (1) That a Library and Reading Room be at once established in the old Borough Council Chambers, according to the offer of the Christchurch City Council to let that building for this purpose, at a rental of 10/- per annum.
- (2) That the Library be registered in the Ordinary form under the existing law dealing with similar institutions.
- (3) That three Trustees be appointed, in whom should be vested all property belonging to the Library, such Trustees to be Messrs. D. Richardson, W. W. Tanner and G. W. Russell, M.P.
- (4) That the officers of the Library be a Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be ex-officio members of the Committee, all officers to be elected annually.
- (5) That a Management Committee of twelve members be elected by the subscribers on the second Friday in June each year, whose duties shall be to make due provision for the working of the Library, subject to the By-laws.
- (6) That the Linwood representatives on the Christchurch City Council be ex-officio members of the Committee of Management.
- (7) That the Reading Room be Free.
- (8) That an annual subscription of Five Shillings be charged for the Lending Library, which may be paid half-yearly in advance from date of membership.
- (9) That Honorary Members be invited to join at a fee of not less than 10/6 per annum. Life Members at £2/2/-. Such Honorary and Life Members to be entitled to all privileges of membership of the Library.

- (10) That the Annual Meeting for the election of officers and presentation of the Report and Balance Sheet be held on the second Friday in June each year.

- (11) A Special Meeting of Subscribers may be called at any time by a requisition signed by twelve (12) financial members, and that a month's notice thereof be given, and cost of such meeting be covered by a deposit, handed to the Secretary. Only the special subjects mentioned shall be discussed.

Thus the Provisional Committee, as such, ended its labours and became merged into the First Elected Committee. Amongst the names is that of Mr. C. P. Rutland, who for 19 years, with but a slight break, has actively participated in the work as member of committee, and during the last year, 1927-28, has occupied the Presidential chair.

The newly-formed committee held their first meeting as such on June 25th, 1909, those present being Mr. W. W. Tanner (in the chair), and Messrs. T. W. McKay, C. P. Rutland, A. Archbold, H. M. Chappell, A. Marshall, W. Meers, J. Clark, A. Rountree, Dr. Inglis, and W. Harvey (Secretary).

Ever keen on finance, they empowered the Trustees to let the building to the Licensing Committee for election purposes. The Books Committee were authorised to spend £25 on books, and arrangements were made for cataloguing all books purchased. At the meeting on June 11th, 1909, it was resolved that practically the whole committee should draw up the necessary rules and by-laws, but at this first committee meeting it was decided that Messrs. W. W. Tanner, A. Marshall, C. P. Rutland and A. Archbold should undertake this work. These members met at Mr. A. Marshall's house some time during June-July, 1909, and discussed this subject thoroughly, and in at least one important matter, arrived at a decision that has been of supreme value to the Linwood Public Library all through its history, and which has been, and is to-day, one of the main factors contributing to its success, viz., that one subscription entitled the subscriber to one book, but that extra books could be taken out on payment of 3d. per volume. It is very probable that the members of committee, when making that decision, hardly realised what a splendid foundation they were laying for the future, and that the apparently insignificant sum of 3d. should produce in one year, 1927-28, the very fine sum of £324/16/9, which, being interpreted into books, means that during that year 25,987 books were taken out as extra books upon a charge of 3d. per book.

With the steady and consistent increase of books upon the shelves, the number of subscribers increased, and thus was set up a reciprocal movement, beneficial to both subscriber and

Library, and which has continued to this day. There have been many gifts of books to the Library, and on July 13, 1909, it is recorded that Mr. Osborne presented a number of the London weeklies, some of them of an old date, with the proviso that they be bound. This was done by Mr. Aiken, and on February 10th, 1910, the bound volumes were handed over to the Library by Messrs. Willis and Aiken, who generously bound them free of charge. It was resolved that the names of donors be written in all books presented, and it is interesting to note that this rule obtains to this day, for suitable forms with the donors' names inscribed thereon are to be found in the non-fiction section in books presented by generous friends. But of the earlier gifts, including the volumes mentioned above, none are to be found now.

It is interesting to learn that nineteen years ago, at a committee meeting held on July 20th, 1909, at which Messrs. Smith, A. Marshall, Aiken, W. Meers, H. M. Chappell, Dr. Inglis, W. W. Tanner, W. Harvey, were present, it was resolved "That a catalogue list of all books in the Library be printed as soon as possible."

This was one of the founders' good intentions which failed to materialise, but the wonderful rapidity with which the number of books had increased is sufficient explanation. The matter was never lost sight of, but the bugbear of expense was ever present, and fully nineteen years passed by ere the committee could claim to have a full and complete catalogue compiled on modern lines, and accessible to subscribers.

There are two catalogues: 1st, Authors in loose leaf form; and 2nd, Titles arranged alphabetically, on the card system. These include all books, viz., fiction, juvenile and non-fiction, and in addition there are complete separate catalogues for both the juvenile and non-fiction sections, all being kept up-to-date as books are placed on the shelves.

It can safely be said, at the beginning of the 20th year of the Library's existence, that it has not only attained, but far exceeded the expectations of the founders, for not even the most sanguine could have believed that in less than 20 years the 40 or 50 subscribers on opening day would be increased 40-fold, thus reaching the splendid total of nearly 1800, and the modest two or three hundred volumes have grown to over 21,000 registered books.

The record of the Magazine Department, too, is one of which any library would be proud, for beginning with some 6 or 7 magazines, it has developed into a very popular and splendid section of the Library. In the early days Mr. W. R. Smith presented "Century," Mr. Butterworth gave "Punch," and Mr. Aiken "The Red Funnel," a magazine

published by the Union Steam Ship Company, but which had a comparatively brief life. He also gave the "Strand," whilst Dr. Inglis donated "Progress" and "The Clarion," both now defunct.

From this humble beginning the number steadily increased, until to-day there are some 70 magazines, periodicals, weekly and daily papers. There is a room set apart for these, and every night the accommodation is taxed to the utmost.

The formal opening of the Library took place on July 22nd, 1909, the function being performed by the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison, assisted by Mr. W. W. Tanner and Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P. Appropriately the speeches were highly complimentary to the members of the Linwood Citizens' Association for their public spirit, sagacity, and zeal, in bringing so worthy an institution into existence. The function was followed by a pleasant social hour, during which many members were enrolled and subscriptions collected. The "Lyttelton Times" of July 23rd, 1909, reported the event, and the following is a copy of that report verbatim:—

LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENED BY THE MAYOR.

The Linwood Public Library, which has been established through the efforts of the Linwood Citizens' Association, occupies the neat wooden building that was in former years the Linwood Borough Council Chambers, on the corner of Stanmore Road and Worcester Street. This building is vested in the City Council, which has granted its use to the Library Committee, and has also made a grant towards the purchase of books. Mr. W. W. Tanner, President of the Library, welcomed the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison, and thanked the Council for its assistance in establishing the Library. He assured the Mayor that the institution would grow, and that it would prove of very great value, in the future, to the inhabitants of the eastern portion of Christchurch.

The Mayor said that he heartily sympathised with any movement for the foundation of a Library, and he must congratulate the people of Linwood upon having at last attained one. The success of the Library would, to a great extent, depend upon the wisdom exercised in the selection of books placed upon the shelves. Care must be taken that none of the numerous class of modern novels, which were pernicious in their tendency, were allowed a place upon the shelves. Linwood was not making the use of its recreation grounds which it could, and should do, and he hoped that in regard to the Library the residents would see that it was to their best interests to make use of the opportunities which were now placed in their way. He declared the Library opened, and wished it a successful and useful career.

Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., congratulated the people of Linwood upon the progressive step they had taken, and said that though the Library was at present but a small one, he believed it was based on good, solid and progressive lines. In two years, he believed, it would have greatly increased and justified its existence. The City Council had voluntarily handed over the building for the Library, from which it had previously been receiving a revenue, and besides it had given a subsidy. That subsidy, he understood, was to be made an annual one in the same way as the subsidy given to the Sydenham Library by the Council. In regard to the Christchurch Library, he was sorry to say that they could get no subsidy from the Council. The Mayor

was as hard as a rock on that subject. He desired to thank Councillors Otley and Horsley, the Linwood representatives on the City Council, for their services in advancing the cause of the Library, and also to Mr. W. W. Tanner, who had devoted a great deal of time in preparing documents and doing other secretarial work which required the experience of a man of public offices. The district was under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Tanner in this matter. In conclusion, Mr. Russell said that he would be pleased to give the newly-opened Library any assistance he could in his capacity as chairman of the Board of Governors of Canterbury College, or as a member of Parliament.

Mr. Harvey, in relating the incidents of the afternoon, has stated that he was busily engaged after the formal ceremony in receiving subscriptions and enrolling members, and that about 40 or 50 joined up that day.

Thus was the Library launched on its career with good wishes from everyone, and an enthusiastic committee in charge to steer it towards the goal of successful accomplishment.

It has been a somewhat difficult task, but a very pleasant one, to gather the details together of the foundational work, for the written records are scanty, and memory is sometimes faulty, but the writer has carefully taken notes from the gentlemen he interviewed, also from letters and other sources, and wherever there has been a lack of harmony in the information so gathered, he has endeavoured to sift the matter thoroughly, and thus, by comparing events and data, he has, he thinks, given a fairly accurate account of the work done by those who interested themselves in the formative steps of the Linwood Public Library.

Reviewing the record of various meetings, discussions and conversations, it is now possible to accord our meed of praise to those workers who played their part in laying the foundation of what has developed into one of the finest secondary libraries in New Zealand.

One of the wisest decisions of the founders was that no games such as billiards or cards should be allowed, nor should any social functions be permitted. They believed that these attractive recreations had nothing in common with books, and in order to make a success of the Library the energy and zeal of those interested should be concentrated on purely library matters. It must be conceded that the results achieved have proved Mr. J. Clarke's vision to be true when moving in this direction, and the decision arrived at by the committee, to be correct.

The same ideal is to be noted in remarks made by other founders, notably Mr. W. W. Tanner, in a conversation with the writer when he said: "We intended and aimed to found a library of the best works we could buy," while Mr. A. Marshall went one better, declaring "That no book is too good for our shelves; if the book is worthy, then money must be

found to buy it and place it on our shelves." Succeeding committees have proved that they, too, have been inspired with the same determination to be satisfied with nothing less than the best. Thus was the fine ideal maintained, and the summary of registered books shown further on proves that all through the nineteen years of its history, the Linwood Public Library, despite the changes in the personnel of its committee, has consistently provided the best in fiction, the finest magazines and periodicals, and a splendid juvenile department, while to those desiring something apart from these, it has a very fine selection of non-fiction works, including Essays, History, Biography, Science, etc.

In the early days, it was suggested that Mr. Carnegie, the American millionaire, should be asked to assist the newly-launched Library with a grant, and that Mr. W. W. Tanner write to him, but after discussing the proposal it was decided that it would be better to endeavour to build up an institution independent of any outside or foreign assistance, and so the matter dropped, never to be broached again.

The names of the many gentlemen who rendered valuable service in the formative stages are conspicuous in this brief record, but no risk of criticism on the score of invidious distinctions should prevent special mention in the case of a few, whose claims will be readily conceded.

Mr. D. Richardson, for instance, has shown unremitting devotion from the very beginning of the movement up to the present day, giving to it that fine combination of qualities that have won for him such general respect. Mr. Richardson occupied the chair for four years, 1920-24, during which term the Library building was materially enlarged. He is still an active member of the committee, and holds office as a co-Trustee with Mr. W. W. Tanner. Nor will anyone who is conversant with the facts dispute the claims of Mr. W. W. Tanner to special mention in this record. From his 18 years' experience as M.P. for the district, with all that such experience implies, this gentleman gave valuable service in all matters of legal and official procedure. His well-known acquaintance with the best literature and deep interest therein enabled him to contribute much to the success of the Library, whilst his kindly personality endeared him to all who have had the privilege of association with him. Nor would it be possible to omit an appreciative reference to Mr. A. Marshall for his capable and sustained services from the inception of the Library proposal up to a few years ago. For some considerable time he was both treasurer and sole book buyer, and in both capacities his faithful service is remembered with gratitude. He was Mayor of Linwood in 1896-1897.

The President for 1927-28 was Mr. C. P. Rutland, one of the very early band, having been on the committee of June 11th, 1909, and from that date, except for a brief absence, right through its history, has been a most willing and reliable worker. Another staunch friend of the Library movement throughout its history was Mr. A. Rountree, his practical experience in structural work proving beneficial to the Library on many occasions, while at all times he was zealous in his service.

Messrs. I. W. McKay, M. W. Meers, J. Clarke, are some of the very early band who gave their time and labour willingly and rendered faithful service, in the days when they only had their vision of the future to spur them on and inspire their work.

As nearly all those who interested themselves in the movement were men in middle life, it is only natural that we find a vacancy in the ranks to-day. But though they have "crossed the bar," their names will always be closely connected with our Library. One of these was Mr. A. Henderson, a prominent social worker, who gave himself freely to many good works. His kindly generosity earned for him the respect and esteem of all.

After the auspicious formal inauguration of the Library as an accomplished fact, the enthusiastic impulse was so well sustained that in December, 1909, the committee decided to open the Library every week-night, in lieu of the three nights obtaining hitherto, and simultaneously with this decision it was agreed to enlist a number of ladies to assist in the work. The Library was accordingly opened Monday to Saturday each week, but there is no record of ladies assisting in the actual work, and it would seem that the matter was dropped. But to-day there are several ladies who are so keenly interested in Library affairs that they give their services on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, a service very much appreciated by subscribers and committee.

In February, 1910, the Library sustained a loss in the resignation of Mr. H. M. Chappell, who had been transferred to Rangiora. He was most intimately connected with the Library from its inception, occupying, as he did, the office of secretary to the Linwood Citizens' Association, and pro tem. secretary to the Provisional Committee. He was most enthusiastic and enterprising, always being found in the front rank when work was to be done. The Library suffered a great loss on his retirement, though he had the satisfaction of knowing that it was well on its feet and heading for a prosperous future.

In February, 1910, Mr. W. W. Tanner, who had recently been elected to the Hospital Board, found that, owing to his many public duties, he was unable to attend as regularly as

COMMITTEE, 1923-24.



A. Brettell, D. J. Burgess, C. J. Cox, W. G. Williams, A. Marshall (vice-president), F. C. Fairclough, E. Salvesen, E. A. Harris, L. B. Thompson, C. G. Blackwell, W. H. Main, C. P. Rutland, A. Bunker, W. F. Hargreaves, E. G. Thomas, G. N. Hayley, D. Richardson, H. Burson, E. E. Wiltshire, Treasurer, President-elect, President, Vice-president, Secretary.

hitherto, and from that date he did not preside at the committee meetings.

He presided at the first annual general meeting, and on April 30th, 1910, Mr. T. M. McKay resigned. He had been a prominent and zealous worker in several Linwood interests, notably the Park, School, and finally the Library.

The first annual meeting on June 24th, 1910, elected the following officers:—

Patron: Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison.

President: Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. W. W. Tanner, H. Otley, W. Horsley, A. Marshall and W. R. Smith.

Treasurer: Mr. J. Clarke.

Committee: Messrs. Archbold, Butterworth, H. Burson, Cooper, Fraer, Clarke, jun., Machin, McKinney, Rutland, Rountree, Richardson and Meers.

The difficulties attending the smooth and successful running of Library affairs are apparent as one reads through the minutes. Time and again are resolutions passed, only to be ignored in the committee's endeavour to find a suitable method of overcoming difficulties. Other resolutions are carried until eventually a satisfactory solution is found, and the objective attained. Although such success has been achieved during the Library's history, there is no resting, for to-day there is to be found, among members of the committee, that same urge toward the goal of securing the best results possible.

And while such a spirit exists the Library will unquestionably continue to make steady progress and maintain the proud position it holds to-day among the Secondary Libraries of New Zealand.

OFFICERS OF THE LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Patrons.

Mr. C. Alison, Mayor of Christchurch ..	1909-11
Mr. T. E. Taylor, Mayor of Christchurch ..	1911
Mr. J. J. Dougall, Mayor of Christchurch ..	1911-12
Mr. H. Holland, Mayor of Christchurch ..	1912-19
Dr. Thacker, Mayor of Christchurch ..	1919-21
Mr. J. A. Flesher ..	1921-28

Presidents.

Mr. W. W. Tanner	1909-1910	Mr. W. R. Smith, Chairman
Mr. G. W. Russell	1910-1911	Mr. W. R. Smith, Chairman
Mr. G. W. Russell	1911-1912	Mr. D. Richardson, Chairman.
Mr. G. W. Russell	1912-1913	Mr. H. Burson, Dep.-Chairman Elected March 21st, 1913.
Mr. G. W. Russell	1913-1914	Mr. D. Richardson, Chairman.
Mr. G. W. Russell	1914-1915	Mr. W. W. Tanner, Chairman.
Mr. W. W. Tanner	1915-1917	
Mr. H. Burson ..	1917-1918	
Mr. D. Richardson	1918-1923	
Mr. G. N. Hayley	1923-1927	
Mr. C. P. Rutland	1927-1928	
Mr. C. J. Cox ..	1928-1929	

Secretaries.

Mr. H. M. Chappell	Secretary to the Provisional Committee, 1908-09.
Mr. W. Harvey ..	Elected June 11th, 1909. Resigned March 24th, 1911.
Mr. F. A. Drayton ..	Elected April 20th, 1911. Resigned August 19th, 1913.
Mr. W. Midgley ..	Elected August 19th, 1913. Resigned July 19th, 1920.
Mr. E. E. Wiltshire	Elected July 19th, 1920.

Treasurers.

Mr. J. Clarke ..	1909-11	Mr. E. G. Thomas ..	1921-
Mr. A. Marshall ..	1911-21		

**ANALYSIS OF FICTION AND NON-FICTION BOOKS
PLACED ON SHELVES.**

Date To	Total Books Bought	No. of Books Bought during year	No. of N.F. Books Bought during year	Total Non-Fiction
1909	960	960	188	188
1912	1,994	1034	134	322
June 1913	2,975	981	132	454
" 1914	4,005	1030	116	570
" 1915	4,730	725	225	795
" 1916	5,459	729	92	887
Dec. 1916	5,932	473	68	955
" 1917	6,683	751	105	1063
" 1918	7,482	799	58	1118
" 1919	8,526	1044	113	1231
" 1920	15,030	6504	531	1762
" 1924	16,340	1310	119	1881
" 1926	18,283	1943	54	1935
Dec. 1927	20,019	1736	113	2048
May 1928	20,504	485	57	2105
	—	20,504	2105	—

APPENDIX BY THE SECRETARY, 1928.

A few words about the non-fiction section in which, as may be seen by the casual reader of the record, Mr. Brettell is keenly interested, may not be out of place here. Joining the committee in June, 1910, he speedily recognised the disadvantage to both Library and reader, on finding non-fiction and fiction mostly shelved together on fiction shelves.

To gather together, classify and catalogue all the general works, took some time, but it relieved the fiction shelves of about 1300 or 1400 books, and finally, having evolved order from chaos, he was placed in charge of the non-fiction department, and appointed buyer for this section. Among many gifts, the outstanding one has been that of Mr. F. C. Fairclough, comprising a portion of his late father's library, consisting of nearly 900 volumes. These are set apart in an alcove in the non-fiction room, and include a fine set of the Elizabethan dramatists, several reprints of choice early English writers, and other valuable works, making a fine addition which many libraries would be proud to possess.

Last year approximately 2500 books were taken by subscribers from the non-fiction section, and it is pleasing to state that the interest of subscribers in this department is steadily increasing, notably among young students, reading up in preparation for examinations.

The juvenile section, inaugurated by Mr. Reynolds, has, since his removal to Wellington, been carried on by Mr. A. S. Forrester, comprises some 800 or 900 volumes, and is exceedingly popular among the younger members.

The most important section of the Library, viz.:—Fiction, has been fortunate, from the foundation onwards, in the men who have had charge of it. When Mr. A. Marshall, following other worthy members, resigned from the position of book-buyer in 1921, he was succeeded by Mr. Hargreaves, and later, by Mr. E. G. Thomas. The faithful and zealous work of these members is shown by the high standard of volumes placed upon the shelves. Another factor, also important, is an early and adequate supply of the newest books, thus meeting the urgent demand of subscribers for the very latest, with the result that Linwood Library has drawn to itself nearly 1800 subscribers who are as proud of the Library as their elected representatives on the committee.

The writer would like to express his appreciation of the valuable services of all members of committee, and to that spirit of co-operation that has been so pronounced, and that has been such a prime factor in securing the measure of success that obtains to-day.



