

Linwood Library Gazette

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Linwood Public Library

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Linwood Library has been signally honoured by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. M. J. Savage, favouring us with a message concerning the national outlook upon library development.

That there is a real need for co-ordination in New Zealand's public libraries has long been recognised by thinking people, and it is indeed pleasant news that the Government fully realises its responsibilities in this direction.

In a young country, such as ours, it may be easily understood that, all over the country, isolated groups of readers, anxious to improve their facilities for wider reading, would band together for the purpose of collective book-buying to the advantage of their respective communities. In many instances very little knowledge on the part of these zealous folk would lead them along uncharted tracks and the result of their well-meaning efforts would not be such as to redound to the credit of any properly organised library system.

Imagine then, in New Zealand, scores of so-called public libraries, without any well-defined plan or organisation, struggl-

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
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ing along on amateurish, wasteful lines, with no co-relation between them, and but few points of resemblance to each other. The one feature that probably is common to all is a comparatively plentiful supply of fiction. We have nothing to say against this, but we do believe that books of a higher standard: non-fiction books of educational value, are practically non-existent in many of our smaller libraries.

This is indeed a lamentable state of affairs, but is unfortunately almost unavoidable under existing conditions, for this class of literature is expensive, and probably beyond the reach of many individual libraries.

The time is ripe for a complete overhaul of New Zealand's library system, and the present Government has apparently realised the fact that, to evolve order out of chaos, a policy of incorporating libraries as a part of the national education system is very necessary.

The Right Hon. Mr Savage finishes his message to us on a high note, that of "Co-operation." We are heartily in accord with him in this respect, and we trust that the day is not far distant when other national problems will give way to that of Library Development.

Now that we are assured of the Government's intention to take the matter in hand we may take heart and look forward to the day when our Dominion is as far abreast of the times in matters pertaining to libraries as in other phases of our national existence.

We are confident that when the time arrives for the problem to be seriously faced the spirit of co-operation will be in evidence throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand. We have no hesitation in saying that Linwood will not be found wanting.

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