

GIVE THIS JOURNAL TO A FRIEND

# Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Vol. 2 No. 7



APRIL 1937

## RANGIORA FREE LIBRARY

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Town Clerk, Rangiora

The Library at Rangiora was for many years controlled by a Library Institute. The Institute had its own building, and since its formation in the early eighties had collected a large number of volumes. The income was solely from subscriptions, and there were about 200 members. In 1925 the building was burned down and most of the contents destroyed.

The Council was approached and took over the control of the Library. Two members of the Library Committee were elected by the subscribers. In 1929 the Council took over full control, and subscribers' members were no more. The Library was open for exchange of books on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m., and on Tuesday afternoons. The cost to the Council after deducting revenue was about £200 per annum.

Last year it was decided to get a report by the Town Clerk on a reorganisation scheme. Crs. W. C. Prosser and E. W. Whitworth were very keen to bring about improvements, and as a result a complete change in the system was made. It was found, when inquiry was carefully made, that it would not cost the Council a great deal more to make the Library free to Borough residents. It was also found that the best results could be obtained by mak-

ing a complete change, including staff, hours, and location of the books.

The Council is fortunate in having a very large, airy upstairs room about 70 feet long by 23 feet wide, well lit by windows every few feet, and with plenty of indirect electric light. This room was previously used for a reading room and contained papers and magazines. The Library itself was in a small downstairs room and was becoming very full of books and shelves.

After some opposition from one or two members of the Council, and also from a small section of Library readers, the change was made in August last year. The change over has been a very complete success. Two Librarians are employed instead of one. Mr Bell of the Canterbury Public Library very kindly took these girls under his charge for a fortnight in order to give them some ideas on library management.

The Librarians work on alternate days. The Library is now open every week day from 10 to 12, 2 to 4, and 7 to 8 p.m. This meant that instead of being open seven hours a week, it is now open for 30 hours a week. The number of readers has increased from 220 to over 800, and in the juvenile section from 22 to 190. The books had to be removed upstairs, catalogued, and with the pocket system of exchange have pockets and cards fitted. This work was done with the help of Councillors who worked very long hours every night over the week that the Library was closed down.