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abled paper manufacturers all over the world to produce a cheap cellulose pulp from a wide range of fibre material, straw, esparto grass, bamboo, and ultimately ground wood in 1840; but in 1866 the sulphite process of producing chemical pulp from wood was perfected, and a new era began in the production of books and newspapers, leading to the establishment of immense paper and pulp industries in Scandinavia, the United States of America and Canada.

We have arrived at the stage in our article where the manufacture of paper has reached its zenith, particularly in relation to the production of newspapers and books. The discoveries of the new components of paper, and the development of paper-making for commercial and other purposes have given us the present means of exchange amongst nations and communities. Reference is here made to the manufacture of bank note paper, and it is recorded that in 1725 a monopoly was granted to de Portal for the manufacture of paper for the Bank of England notes.

The connecting link with the production of paper and the ultimate appearance of the "printed word" is the process of printing, and the invention of movable type in A.D. 1400, was the beginning of the production of books.

(To be continued)

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

Among the many items mentioned in the Budget recently in the House of Representatives was one of great interest, and, indeed, of importance to those engaged in library work in New Zealand; it ran as follows:—

"A scheme is being inaugurated for assisting small libraries in the country districts. This will take the form of a regular loan supply of books from a central source and will constitute the beginning of a comprehensive National Library System. This service will be ready for operation early next year. A sum of £3,000 is to be provided as an initial grant.

"A Council of Adult Education is being set up to co-ordinate the various efforts made in the direction of Adult Education, for the general purposes of which (including such education in public works camps and the activities of the W.E.A.) an increased sum is being provided.

"Also, a larger sum than in any previous year is being allocated to school and class libraries. A sum is provided to allow of the restoration of grants for public libraries in rural communities."

We are pleased to see this tangible proof

For your
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH

TRY

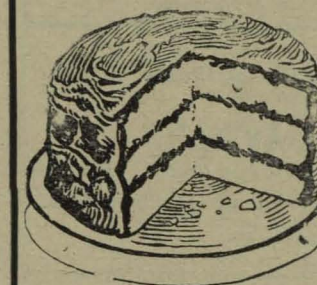
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of the interest that the present Government is taking in the great work of Adult Education, and its recognition of the fact that libraries are an essential link and a powerful factor in that direction. It will take some time for New Zealand to reach the standard existing in England, but the movement is gaining strength and forging ahead here, just as it is in Australia. With the co-operation and co-ordination of the country libraries with the urban centres, the day is steadily drawing nearer when the National Free Library System will be an accomplished fact in New Zealand.

NEW NOVELS

By Our Reviewer.

Summer Half. By Angela Thurkill. It is some time since we had a novel from this writer but Mrs Thurkill is one of the few novelists who can describe all the most trivial affairs of everyday life without tediousness and can give minute details of unimportant actions of her characters, making them sound natural and amusing. In this book there is no sustained story worth mentioning with the exception of a few amorous complications consisting of a subtle understanding of the characters and conversation of ordinary intelligent people.

There is Phillip the clever young school-master with communistic leanings; Collin Keith, a half-fledged lawyer who takes up teaching in an unappreciated spirit of self-sacrifice; Kate the quiet sister; Noel Merton, a successful barrister; Rose Birkett and others that make up reading comparing with a long, pleasant letter, written humorously of our friends by a witty and gossip-loving correspondent.

Worth While, by P. C. Wren, "deals with the adventures with Richard Wendover who appeared in 'The Man of a Ghost,' that is a tale of Russian intrigue on the North West frontier of India and one may read it from cover to cover with no small satisfaction. Its plot is self-contained so that readers can embark upon it without previous research into Major Wendover's career."—Times Literary Supplement.

Dragons to Slay. By Bok. A well-written story detailing the rounding up of a notorious gang of Chinese pirates. Plenty of movement and thrills with a strong love interest.

On Eagles' Wings. By Leslie D. Weatherhead. An entirely new type of novel by a really able writer. The story of Moses is told in a most enjoyable novel form full of interest. Apart from the Biblical story, a keen sense of drama on the part of the author keeps the reader fully interested.

The First Man. By Alexandra Dick. Here is a fine story told in a new way of the Dictator of a small Balkan power. He is determined to stop intrigue and prevent revolution but a young Englishwoman tourist crosses his path and ends up in a revolution of his ways. Well written and full of interest.