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in the efforts in after school years—community spirit and national pride could have a National Library Policy in any Dominion in five years”—well, perhaps, perhaps not, but Dr. Friend aimed high at all events.

A remit from Dunedin suggesting, "That Education Boards should subsidise Public Libraries supplying School Libraries is closely related to actual facts in Dunedin to-day, Miss D. Neal having been appointed Children's Librarian in Dunedin, and the City Council warmly sympathetic, the day is surely very close when school libraries will be seriously considered. Miss Ray, of Canterbury Public Library, gave a paper on "Library Work Among Children," Mr E. R. Ellerm gave a talk on "Mending and Repair of Books," Papers on "Library Routine," on "Literary Connections between England and N.Z.," "Modern Library Problems," "Buried Treasure," "Newspapers and Magazines" and a paper on "Linwood Public Library" were also given.

As I have stated, this was the writer's first contact with a number of people engaged, or interested, in library work, and it claimed, and won my deep interest at once. Nebulous at first, the picture has grown clearer as the years passed by and with that, the fascination of the many problems has become more intriguing. Following conferences have helped to build up a more expansive outlook on, and a better understanding of the work in its many aspects and increasingly, the realisation of its great value.

At Timaru the conference may be called epochal, for it saw the unfolding of a new and tangible thing that was to be ours—if we worked for it. Here we had in the recommendations of the Carnegie survey as put forth in the Munn-Barr report, the thought of years' crystallised, a definite goal to aim for, and from then on to to-day the spirit and tone of conferences have changed just because there now was a definite objective and there are few who fail to see it. Time and thought have been given to library problems by the Council of the Association, and at Wellington last

year it was apparent that much work had been done in the interim in reorganising and one or two major problems.

At Nelson in February last (and this was what I intended to write about and nothing else) the tone of the conference was brisker, more alert and definitely full of desire to get things done.

Mr E. J. Bell, of Canterbury Public Library, in his presidential address, stressed the advance in library affairs and claimed that a new era had dawned, which was full of promise. Local authorities are awakening to the fact that the library movement is worthy of their better support, and, that far from being luxuries, they are an essential factor in modern life, and that being so require the best staffs, the best accommodation and the best books, if they are to achieve something worth while.

Regional committees were proposed at Christchurch in 1928, but they only took actual shape last year, when branches of the Association were formed at each of the four main centres. At Christchurch the Canterbury Branch has done good work, and as it grows stronger will do even better.

The rural districts have been sadly neglected for many years past, but it is gratifying to know that the present Government has appointed a director in order to establish a scheme without delay, this will help to provide the right books for the right people. As to cost, all good things are expensive, but this will not be costly, as, under a properly organised service, the rural districts will be better served than if each district had a library of its own. Mr Bell also mentioned several other aspects of the Association's work, book buying, the press, radio and other points.

The business of the conference covered a wide range of library matters. Some were fully discussed, others were finished more readily. On the forenoon of the second day seven seminars were arranged and discussed matters both interesting and vital to library work. These seminars were unique in this respect, that it gave

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