

GIVE THIS JOURNAL TO A FRIEND

# Linwood Library Gazette

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

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## WIDER LIFE FOR COUNTRY-DWELLERS

### WORLD OF GOOD BOOKS Mobile Library Service

"This is not an occasion when one turns a key: it is more like opening a road. In this case we open the way to a wider distribution of knowledge and recreation within the covers of books," said the Prime Minister (Mr Savage) at the official opening of the Country Library Service, which took place at Parliament Buildings on Monday.

This new means of access to reading matter for people in the remoter districts is being provided, under the auspices of the education Department, by a staff headed by Mr G. T. Alley, equally distinguished as an educationist and a Rugby All Black. Their means of transport are two sturdy and speedy British Bedford lorries, which have been equipped by the Railway Workshops as libraries on wheels, each carrying over a thousand volumes.

Stressing the fact that a successful democracy must be an enlightened democracy, the Prime Minister said he did not think it was an excess of optimism to prophesy that this new feature of education would become one of the most popular and influential services. Such disadvantages as had once attached to country life were rapidly disappearing, and this innovation would place country-dwellers in a better position for good reading than many city folk.

"Of the many educational advances which my colleague, the Hon. P. Fraser (Minister of Education), has achieved in

the past two and a-half years, the Country Library Service coming into operation this afternoon is likely to be recognised as one of the most important reforms in the educational field," said Mr Savage.

### Books Freely Available

"It represents first of all the Government's aim that books should be made freely available to all members of the community, where people at present have no access to libraries or where the existing library facilities are inadequate.

"The aim of the Country Library Service is to have an adequate supply of books circulating through numbers of small libraries which at present have no adequate stock. By an adequate supply I mean a range of books which will give people in country districts the same opportunities as those in the cities—which after all will not have come too soon—to keep in touch not only with the best books of the past but with the best in current literature.

"The scheme," continued Mr Savage, "is essentially a co-operative one—the Government supplying the books and the machinery for co-operation, while local effort will carry out the final distribution.

"The stocks of well-selected books from a central source will be changed periodically and kept up-to-date. In this way within a few years we will have a close network of local libraries drawing on a central stock of books and we will have a service which will ensure that no reader, adult or child, anywhere in the country shall go without books.

"The book vans have been specially designed and built in the Railway Workshops to carry and display over 1000 books