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each; and I wish to congratulate the Railway Department on a splendid job. It is proposed that a book van will visit each library participating in the Country Library Service at least once in every four months, when books will be exchanged for fresh ones from the van."

Wide Range

"The wide range of books on display will, I am sure, be appreciated by the people in the country. Indeed, they are likely to have a much better range of books at their disposal than people in many of the larger towns. I wish good luck to the Minister and his officers for aiming in that direction."

The disadvantages of living in the country had been disappearing very rapidly in the past few years, continued Mr Savage. The revolution in transport, better roads, electricity, radio, telephones and other changes had broken down the isolation which used to characterise country life, and this innovation would, he trusted, carry the movement one stage further.

Though this was only the beginning of the service, the important thing was that a beginning had been made. The whole scheme rested on a solid foundation.

The Minister of Education (Mr Fraser) remarked that the occasion was an important and happy one. The gathering that day, he pointed out, was representative of all organisations interested in adult education, including the Education Department, the W.E.A., the W.D.F.U., the Farmer's Union, the Women's Institutes, the Drama League, the New Zealand Libraries' Association and other bodies. The Minister esteemed it a great privilege to be associated with such a forward move in the spreading of literature and culture.

"Only by most intelligent use of the means which science provides can we save civilisation from disaster, for the implements for the spreading of information must keep pace with other developments," said the officer in charge of the Library Service (Mr Alley).

It was, he added, a common criticism of country libraries that they contained too much fiction. He did not think that they contained too much fiction in an absolute sense. What was needed was the restoration of a balance by adding more

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non-fiction works. After describing the development of travelling libraries abroad and in the Canterbury Province, Mr Alley concluded:

"This is an experiment in building with more of the human element than in most efforts in building."

Mr T. D. H. Hall (president of the New Zealand Libraries' Association) discussed the mechanism of the scheme and outlined what it was hoped to achieve by it.

The Director of Broadcasting (Professor Shelley) extended congratulations on the inauguration of the scheme. Prior to his present appointment, he was associated with Mr Alley in the Canterbury Association for Country Education. Mr Alley, said Professor Shelley, was brought up on a farm and his father was one of the most enlightened farmers in the district. At the University Mr Alley had done valuable special research, and, for mental and athletic distinction, there was no person more suited for the job.

—The Standard, June 2, 1938.

BOOK SMUGGLED OUT OF GERMANY

According to the "Daily Herald," London, the manuscript of a book which has just been published by Gollancz was smuggled out of Germany inside two cakes.

It is called "Down Our Street": the author Jan Petersen. Mr Petersen took his life in his hands when he wrote this book. It is a fearful indictment of Nazi terror as well as an heroic story of the underground struggle against Hitler.

Nearly all its incidents were noted down as they occurred, and the author lived in daily peril of being raided by the Nazis.

This is how the manuscript came to be smuggled out of Germany: "The author was to all appearance crossing the frontier to go for a few days' ski-ing . . . he had a rucksack and the customs officer asked him what was in it.

"Oh, nothing much.' The author was quite obviously embarrassed . . . then in a burst of confidence, 'Well, you know what women are, don't you? I told my wife I was only going away for three days, but she would go and bake me two whopping big cakes . . .'

"The official took a quick glance at the two golden brown cakes and smiled understandingly. 'That's all right. Why, my wife's just the same,' he said.

"The manuscript had been baked in the cakes . . ."

—Canterbury Public Library Journal.