

innovation of all was the installation of gas lighting in the whole building. Apart from improvements to the interior of the building the exterior was repaired while the grounds were also put in order. Added to these improvements in comfort and appearance was the acquisition of the substantial number of over 500 new books. Proof of public appreciation was not slow in appearing as the subscription list jumped to 210 and the income rose by over £40.

Notwithstanding these improvements and in spite of the fact that by the annual meeting of July 4, 1872 the membership had risen to 243, the outlook was still far from bright. In his annual report the chairman said,

"It is a mortifying fact that with a library of 2500 volumes which is being regularly added to, a reading room supplied with all the local and principal colonial newspapers, only two hundred and forty-three subscribers can be obtained, the greater part of whom are quarterly members, who it may be taken as a rule only subscribe for three quarters of the year, one quarter of the four being allowed almost invariably to lapse. With our population and intelligence the membership should be fifty per cent. more at least." (31)

Meanwhile the need for a well financed library was being discussed in other quarters and for a short space we will leave the members of the Institute in order to see what other plans were afoot. A special committee set up by the Provincial Council to investigate the question of a Museum and a Library presented its report on October 27, 1870. (32) In general, the committee recommended the establishment of a Library in connection with

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31. *ibid* July 4, 1872.

32. Report of Committee on Museum, Library, Etc., October 27, 1870 (in Journal of Canterbury Provincial Council)