

three institutions on an endowment of 105,207 acres yielding only £1450 per year.⁽²³⁾ Even without the Library, the endowment was barely sufficient to meet the needs of the Museum and the School of Technical Science. It is thus small wonder that the Board was reluctant to part with any portion of the endowment to provide the citizens with fiction, when the 1870 Ordinance refers to the establishment of a "Public Library for the promotion of literature."

However, the Council reiterated the sentiments of Mr. Wynn Williams (24) although in a more restrained manner. The Mayor considered that the Board had treated the Council slightly and his suggestion, that a public meeting should be called, was endorsed by the Council. In accordance with this decision, a preliminary meeting of representative citizens was held on February 26⁽²⁵⁾ to consider what action should be taken with regard to the recent resolutions of the Board of Governors, and a sub-committee was set up to master the facts of the case preparatory to laying the whole matter before a public meeting.

In an attempt to clarify the situation because of the apparent misunderstanding, the Editor of the "Times" devoted two successive "leaders" to the library question.⁽²⁶⁾ In the first of these, he advanced the hypothesis that there were three possible libraries which could have been intended by the 1870 Ordinance. The Council adopted the attitude that the Ordinance referred to the existi

23. N.Z. Appendix to Journals 1883 E - 7, p.3.

24. L.T. February 19, 1884.

25. *ibid* February 27, 1884.

26. *ibid* February 28 and 29, 1884.