

reference to two statements by the Board (34) which had created considerable alarm in the minds of the members of the City Council. The speaker contended that, as the Public Library in the Board's possession had been recognised as such by the Board since 1873, their new attitude was a matter for grave concern. He further pointed out that, from the very commencement of negotiations to transfer the property of the Mechanics' Institute first to the Province, then to the New Zealand Government, and finally to Canterbury College, there had been no departure from the term "Public Library". In conclusion, Mr. Wynn Williams advanced the opinion that, if the Board's contention was correct, it would involve the absurdity that the Library had been partly maintained for some years by funds which should have been applied in the establishment and maintenance of another Public Library altogether; and it would, therefore, involve the conclusion that the Board had been guilty of a breach of trust in expending public money "on an institution that was not entitled to receive one penny."

It would be foolish to underestimate the importance and significance of this meeting, as many of the persons present had been directly concerned in the transfer of the Literary Institute. Further disputes in later years were conducted by men who did not possess this first-hand knowledge, and it appears reasonable to assume that this would tend to militate against a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. Joynt, in furthering the remarks of the first speaker,

---

34. Vide supra n.14 and n. 20.