

Council, tiring of its fruitless approaches to the Board, decided to continue with its earlier plan and called a public meeting, for Friday June 13, "to take into consideration the future management and endowment of the Public Library."⁽³⁹⁾ Thus after months of arguing and bickering the stage was set for what might well have been the final episode in the struggle over the destiny of the Canterbury Public Library. The people of Christchurch were to be called upon to bring the Board to account for its supposed wrongdoing. For those who are superstitious, Friday 13 is always a dangerous day and it was certainly "black Friday" in June 1884 for it rained - and, what is more, it rained so hard that, on the Saturday morning, the following short notice appeared in "The Press",

"The meeting which was to have been held last night to consider the Public Library question is postponed till further notice. The evening was wet and at half-past seven only about a dozen persons were present." (40)

But, for some undiscoverable reason, the "further notice" never appeared. Although both the local papers and other possible sources have been systematically scoured, no further trace of the proposed public meeting appeared.

It is only possible, in the light of one significant future event, to surmise what may have happened, if the meeting had been called. On September 11,⁽⁴¹⁾ 1899, the City Council received a letter from eleven ratepayers asking for a public poll on the question of the Library in accordance with the provisions of the

39. L.T. and "Press" June 9, 1884. et seq.

40. "Press", June 14, 1884.

41. C.C.C. Vol. 18, p. 410.