

be used for the establishment of a College Library in 1908, it would be necessary to balance the Library account, either by an increase in the subscription rate, or by a reduction in the expenditure on staff and conveniences, with regard to hours of opening, unless the Council could see its way to make a grant to the Library. (53) However, the Council replied that, at that time, it had no funds which it could devote to the Library.

On September 11, (54) the position was set out in a leading article, in the "Lyttelton Times," which criticised the proposed action of the Board and reminded them that their first duty under the Library trust was to the general public, and not to Canterbury College. The leader concluded by stating that, "It rests with the Board, surely, to justify the proposed departure from the practice and policy of so many years, and the public will be interested to hear on what grounds the chairman defends the proposal." Mr. G.W. Russell, the Chairman of the Board, made a statement in reply, which appeared in the newspaper on the following day. (55) He pointed out that, owing to its precarious financial position, the Board was compelled to retrench in one direction, and he felt that the Library was the one institution which should not be a burden on the endowment. If the people of Christchurch desired that institution to be maintained at the high level which it had attained, he suggested that they had the remedy in their own hands, as, if the City Council declined to provide the money out of its ordinary revenue, the

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53. C.C.C. September 9, 1907. Vol. 23. p. 453.

54. L.T. September 11, 1907.

55. *ibid* September 12, 1907.