

Public Libraries Act of 1869 could be brought into operation. The provisions of the Act had been taken advantage of in Auckland and Wellington, and he saw no difficulty in doing the same thing in Christchurch. This would then allow the Board to devote an extra \$600 per year to the Museum and to purely educational purposes. In conclusion, Mr. Russell said that nothing would be done to disturb existing arrangements, regarding the conduct of the Public Library, until the estimates for the next year came up for discussion in the following October or November.

The matter does not appear to have been carried further until the next annual statement by the Chairman of the Board, on April 27, 1908.⁽⁵⁶⁾ The Library, he pointed out, had grown very greatly since it was originally endowed, and the fund, from which it was supported, was also responsible for the maintenance of the Museum and the School of Technical Science (i.e. the School of Art and the School of Engineering). His opinion was, that, in cultivating and promoting these latter institutions, the Board was acting far more in the spirit of the pioneers, who granted the endowment, than they would be in expending any larger part of it in providing fiction and light literature generally, for the people of Christchurch. He felt that the time had come, when the Board might well look to the City Council to realise, to some slight degree, its responsibilities for the education and intellectual life of the city, so far as those were concentrated in the Public Library, and he hoped the time was not far distant when the City Council would give a substantial grant

56. *ibid* April 28, 1908.