

towards the institution.

The Board of Governors met the City Council on May 28 (57) and Mr. Russell explained that the Library was one of which the city might well be proud, as it ranked second only to the General Assembly Library in Wellington, but the city had enjoyed the privileges of the institution "without one sixpence of the city funds having been spent upon it." Although the Board recognised the need to extend the library with the growth of the city, it had no funds to devote to the purpose. In the previous year, nearly £2000 had been spent on the Library (£500 of which came from the endowment), and yet, at the end of the year, the Library account showed a debit balance of £636. He was of the opinion that, if the City Council would undertake a municipal system of libraries by means of a small vote, (58) it could then contribute its share of the cost of maintenance of the central library. In the past, the Board had supported the Public Library at the expense of the Museum and higher education, and this was not right. The institutions under its control were growing without any corresponding increase in the Board's revenue, and he hoped the City Council would meet the Board in the matter. After the deputation had withdrawn, the majority of the Councillors appeared in favour of a grant towards the free portion of the Library, but the matter was referred to the Finance Committee. On the following evening, at a meeting of the Board, a resolution was passed that, in the event of the Council

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57. *ibid* May 29, 1908.

58. And thus serve the outer portions of the city such as Sydenham, Linwood and St. Albans.