

subscription, in 1909, in an attempt to popularise the institution, so that, in 1910, it was found necessary to return to the higher fee in an attempt to relieve the constant drain on the funds. (70) But the burden of maintaining all the institutions under its control with insufficient funds proved too great for the Board, and in 1912 they were once more compelled to approach the Council. The letter omitted the intermediate step of asking for a grant, and stated the desirability of the City Council taking over the Library "and all its real and personal property, including bequests ... subject to all its liabilities." (71) A special committee was set up to consider the matter (72) but the Council representatives insisted on a judicial interpretation of the Canterbury Museum and Library Ordinance before any attempt was made to discuss the question of the Council taking over the Public Library. (73) and, on April 1, 1912, the Council received a letter from the Board agreeing to obtain a declaratory judgement. (74)

In delivering his judgement in the Supreme Court at Christchurch, on November 25, 1912, (75) Mr. Justice Denniston declared that the Library known as the "Canterbury Public Library" was that which the Board was supposed to maintain out of the endowment. But he stated that this did not answer the question as to whether or not the Board was obliged to allocate any particular portion of it to the maintenance of the Library. Furthermore, there was

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70. *ibid* May 30, 1910, p.10.

71. C.C.C. Vol 27, p.353.

72. *ibid* p.380.

73. *ibid* p.396.

74. *ibid* p.426.

75. "Press," November 26, 1912.