

"nothing in the proclamation of those reserves to indicate in what manner or in what proportion the income from them was to be applied to the Institutions for whose benefit they were to be set aside as endowments."

There was, he said, certainly nothing to suggest that they were to be divided equally among the three, without regard to their respective importance or requirements. However, he felt that, because neither party had any power to carry out the transfer of the Library, it was doubtful whether the question was a proper one to be submitted under the Declaratory Judgements Act. Because of this doubt, he preferred not to give a decision but simply to state that it was entirely within the discretion of the Board to allocate the income from the Reserves.

At a meeting of the City Council the same evening, the Mayor, referring to the judgement, said that it seemed to him that matters were left very much as they were before, inasmuch as there was no sum clearly defined to be allocated for the upkeep of the Library. He hoped that, when the matter came officially before the Council, they would approach it with a full sense of responsibility, as it seemed to him a great pity that such a valuable institution should go begging for an owner. (76) Meanwhile the Board retained the Public Library, but made certain changes in respect of it to secure both greater efficiency and economy. (77) Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in June of the following year, the Chairman expressed regret at Judge Denniston's decision, as the revenue from the endowments was too small to enable the Board to

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76. C.C.C. Vol. 27, p.675.

77. James Hight Litt.D. and Alice Candy M.A. "A Short History of the Canterbury College," Christchurch, Whitcombe and Tombs, 1927, p.94.