

However, the "Times" took the side of the Council, in no uncertain manner, in an article dealing with the subject on the following day ...

"The City Council has every reason to be dissatisfied with the position. After joining with the Board of Governors of Canterbury College in seeking a declaratory judgement ... it naturally expected the Board to abide by the judgement in dealing with the Library. Yet, when the Council's committee came to discuss the matter with the Board it was informed that the Board was not prepared to transfer the Library to the City except on terms that absolutely ignored the judgement of the Supreme Court ... There is the possibility of the constitution of the Board being brought into the controversy, and of its members being made much more amenable to public opinion than they appear to be at present." (6)

This outburst was grossly unfair to the Board which had merely refused to submit the endowment question to arbitration. It represents an attempt to enlist public support by a deliberate misinterpretation. However, nothing appears to have been done in the matter and the final decision was postponed for a further period.

Meanwhile, however, Mr. Bell soon began to implement a number of improvements in the administration of, and the service provided by the Library. One of the first improvements to be made was the installation of a case inside the entrance to the Circulating Department containing a number of reference books (year books, almanacs, directories, official lists etc.) which could be consulted quickly by business men and others without any formalities of writing down names and addresses. (7) This proved so popular that, later in the year, a shelf of books devoted to Current Affairs was also installed and was drawn on to the extent of about ten books daily. (8) Another early improvement was the introduction of adjustable

6. L.T. September 2, 1913.

7. "The Star", July 15, 1913.

8. L.T. December 31, 1913.