

from a small subscription, was completely free and was practically the only important library, in New Zealand, not supported by rates. If it had not been for the generosity of Mr. James Gammack, it would have been in a very sorry plight indeed. The article also declared that the whole Library needed remodelling, being gloomy, badly lighted, and far short of modern standards of library architecture. Yet the Council made no effort to relieve the Board's burden; although the economic depression would no doubt have made a library rate unpopular or even impracticable.

In his annual report for the year 1933,⁽²²⁾ Mr. Bell stated that he had received the offer of a travelling grant, from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, to enable him to visit the United States and Canada, in order to study their library methods, and that arrangements had been made for him to leave New Zealand in September. During the Librarian's absence, Dr. F.P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation, visited Christchurch and, on making a thorough inspection of the Public Library, expressed himself well pleased with what he saw, mentioning, in particular, the children's library.⁽²³⁾ Speaking at a young farmers' educational course on his return from America,⁽²⁴⁾ Mr. Bell, when emphasising the need for free public libraries, informed his audience that in England and the United States people were library minded, and it was the aim of all local authorities in the United States to raise a library rate of one dollar per head. Yet in New Zealand, Dunedin and Timaru had the only really free libraries, while in Auckland and Wellington there was a library

22. B. of G. 1934, p.36.

23. "Press", February 9, 1935.

24. *ibid* July 26, 1935.