

rate but subscriptions were still charged. However, in Christchurch, there was no library rate at all, and in this respect, he said the city was fifty to one hundred years behind the times.

One of the most useful and most popular innovations to date appeared, on December 19, 1935, with the first issue of the "Canterbury Public Library Journal".⁽²⁵⁾ A foreword, by Mr. C.T. Aschman, Chairman of the College Council, explained that the aim of the Journal would be to give to subscribers the best possible information about books and authors and so to act as a guide in the selection of reading matter. The first issue consisted of sixteen pages, containing selections of the best books of all kinds recently added to the Library, while "Books of the Month" were reviewed by members of the staff. Three thousand copies were printed and distributed free to subscribers. This Journal which is still in existence to-day, is the only one of its kind in New Zealand to have had an unbroken existence from its inception.⁽²⁶⁾

But, in spite of the fact that the service provided by the Library was steadily increasing in efficiency and popularity, the financial position showed very little improvement. In 1935, when referring to the proposal for a new railway station in Christchurch, the Prime Minister (Mr. Forbes) said, "Christchurch, for some time past, has been fairly free with requests to the Government. Granted, it has the right to call attention to its needs, but while it has been doing that, it has lagged sadly behind the other cities in the matter of helping itself... Now you have asked me what the Government is going

25. "Press", December 20, 1935.

26. Personal information from Mr. E.J. Bell.