

to do about the new railway station. In my turn I will ask what Christchurch has done about giving itself a new library."⁽²⁷⁾ Mr. Forbes added that a municipal library was a necessity in any city, and suggested the incorporation of the existing library in a new one which would meet the needs of the city. As a new library would be a municipal institution, it would be the responsibility of the City Council to draft a proposal, for submission to the College Council, satisfying it that the library endowments would be put to their proper use and that the library generally would be conducted on improved lines. "Christchurch should have a library in keeping with its dignity and importance", said Mr. Forbes, "but it is for Christchurch to take the initiative, and I hope the first move will not be delayed."

Whether or not the City Council was duly impressed by the nature of the Prime Minister's speech, we do not know, but exactly one month later, on December 2, 1935, it was moved by Councillor Guthrie, "That a conference be sought between this Council and the Canterbury College Council with the object of reorganising the finance and control of the Canterbury Public Library and the Canterbury Museum, so as to bring these institutions into line with the requirements of the Province."⁽²⁸⁾ In accordance with this motion, a Special Committee was set up to investigate the situation. It held three meetings in March of 1936⁽²⁹⁾ and reported that the Children's and Lending Libraries were comparatively satisfactory, but that the Reference Library was a disgrace to the city and

27. "The Christchurch Star Sun", Christchurch, November 1, 1935.

28. C.C.C. Vol. 60, p. 17207.

29. C.C.C. Minutes of Special Committees p.1041-2.