

fully and carefully considered. When informed that the Finance Committee had communicated with Mr. Holland stating that it was the Council's intention to review the whole position in regard to the Library system in Christchurch, including the relationship of the suburban libraries to the Central Library, and that the proposal, that the Central Library should be a "free" library, would be taken into consideration, the Council approved the action that had been taken. (61) As there were no further points in dispute, the Bill was passed in the second session of 1948 and became law on September 30.

Although the City Council took official control of the Public Library on October 1, the actual ceremony of handing over control by the Canterbury College Council was not held until October 7. In assuming control of the Library, the Council took over 72,600 books, valued at £21,000. Of this total, 30,500 were in the Circulating Department, 29,500 in the Reference Department, 5000 in the Juvenile Library, and 7600 in the School Library Service, while the total number of members was over 9000. (62)

"This is a big step in the life of the Library", said the Chairman of the Canterbury College Council (Sir Joseph Ward), who presided. "The Library has been part of Canterbury College for nearly seventy-five years. In handing over to the City Council, however, we know that we are taking a step which will ensure that the good record of the library will be maintained." (63)

And so, after a struggle lasting nearly sixty years, the control of the Library was finally decided. There can be no doubt that the change was for the better as, with all due respect to the work done by Canterbury College, lack of finance nearly always caused a break-

61. *ibid.*

62. Adults, 6059; Children 3500. These figures do not include users of the School Library Service.

63. "Star-Sun", October 7, 1948.