

received £100 and St. Albans, Waltham, and Addington £200 each, while all four received grants of £50 for books.<sup>(28)</sup> Woolston was not included because it had already been decided to abandon the idea of establishing a library,<sup>(29)</sup> while nothing further was heard of the Addington scheme so that it may be assumed that this was also abandoned through lack of popular support. It would also appear that the Government did not consider that the Colombo Road District merited two libraries and decided in favour of one at Waltham. Of all the libraries mentioned earlier, New Brighton was the only one which did not apply for a grant. Thus when the provincial system was abolished in 1875 there were five suburban libraries in Christchurch - at Papanui, Waltham, New Brighton, and two at St. Albans.

Although there were a number of libraries established, especially in main centres, before 1875, their growth after that year was greatly facilitated by two Acts of the General Assembly. The first of these, the "Public Libraries Powers Act," 1875,<sup>(30)</sup> provided that any group of people not less than ten in number, having subscribed not less than £20, could make a declaration of their intention to establish a public library or a mechanics' institute at a place to be named in the deed. It laid down the necessary procedure for establishing such an institution and made provision for existing libraries to become incorporated under the Act. On its own this Act is of little significance but it was followed two years later by the "Public Libraries Subsidies Act"<sup>(31)</sup> which set aside an annual govern-

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28. *ibid* September 3, 1873.

29. *ibid* July 19, 1873.

30. Statutes of New Zealand, 1875. No. 88, p. 373.

31. *ibid* 1877. No. 47, p. 363.