

purpose of stocking a library at Linwood and had offered the use of the old Linwood Council Chambers at a peppercorn rental, but that the £40 offer had lapsed as it had not been taken up by March 31, the end of the financial year. However, although he could not speak definitely, he felt sure that the £40 would still be available, together with the usual annual grant of £25 from the City Council. This, together with a portion of the annual parliamentary grant (probably about £10), would be sufficient to establish a good library concluded Mr. Russell. At a further meeting, a set of rules drawn up by the provisional committee was adopted and advice was received from the Council that the building would be available for library purposes in approximately one month's time.<sup>(46)</sup> Thus was established another suburban library, which by 1917 had 792 members and a book stock of 5969 volumes.<sup>(47)</sup>

It will have been observed that, at the inauguration of the Linwood Library, Mr. G.W. Russell spoke of the usual annual grant from the City Council. This was first made in 1908 when the Sydenham Library wrote requesting financial assistance.<sup>(48)</sup> When recommending a grant of £20, the Finance Committee advised that it should not be taken as a precedent as they were of the opinion that such institutions should be self supporting.<sup>(49)</sup> However, in 1910 the Finance Committee recommended that a similar sum to the previous year (£200) be placed on the estimates by way of a pound for pound subsidy on the subscriptions of suburban libraries. This recommendation was adopted.<sup>(50)</sup> Here then we have the incongruous position of

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46. Minutes of Linwood Public Library p.8.

47. *ibid* Annual Meeting 1917.

48. C.C.C. Vol. 24, p.141.

49. *ibid* p.159.

50. *ibid* Vol.25, p.341.