

a City Council which, while steadfastly refusing to devote one penny of public funds to the maintenance of an adequate city library, was quite willing to spend £200 (and later more) each year on grants to suburban libraries! Such inconsistency does not reflect credit on the city rulers.

In 1912 the New Brighton Library was revived,⁽⁵¹⁾ and in September 1914 a library was opened at Redcliffs in a vacant butcher's shop.⁽⁵²⁾ The government subsidy ceased in 1915, except in those districts with less than 1000 inhabitants, and, under this new system, Redcliffs alone continued to participate, but this grant was also ended in 1917⁽⁵³⁾ and Redcliffs - like Sumner, New Brighton, and Papanui - being outside the city boundaries, received no subsidies, having to manage entirely on subscriptions and voluntary labour. With the conclusion of the war, a third attempt was made to establish a library in Addington, this time with more success.⁽⁵⁴⁾ A site was bought and paid for by the people of Addington and the City Council erected a building for the library.⁽⁵⁵⁾ Thus by 1922 the City Council was subsidising libraries at Addington, Linwood, St. Albans, Sydenham, Waltham, and Woolston, in addition to carrying out building renovations and alterations when required. In fact, in 1922, a completely new library building was erected in St. Albans on the sole condition that the building and books were to be insured by the Council, the premiums being paid by the Library.⁽⁵⁶⁾

About the end of 1923 Mr. J.E. Jones convened a meeting of the

51. N.Z. A to J. 1912 et seq.

52. Personal information from Mr. S. Betteley.

53. N.Z. A to J. 1915 et seq.

54. For first attempt vide supra p. 86. The second attempt in 1914 was postponed on account of the war.

55. Personal information from Mr. R.M. Flintoff.

56. Christchurch City Council Officers' Reports. 1922, p.15.