

to ten suburban libraries the Council financed alterations and repairs at Sydenham, St. Albans, Waltham, Linwood, and Beckenham, spent £540 on enlargements at St. Martins, and approved plans for the erection of a library at Opawa at an estimated cost of £1500. A library for Opawa had been mooted by the Hillsborough Burgesses' Association in 1929 but the Council refused to make any immediate promise of a building. However, the erection of the city's youngest suburban library was commenced in January 1936 and was opened for the issue of books on June 1,⁽⁶²⁾ increasing the number of suburban libraries dependent on Council grants to eleven.

Criticism by some of the suburban libraries of the amount of financial assistance received from the City Council was answered by Cr. E.H. Andrews (Now Sir Ernest Andrews Kt.B., C.B.E.) in "The Press" of April 8, 1936.⁽⁶³⁾ He stated that in the period 1925-35 the Christchurch City Council had spent £7262 in subsidies, £383 in repairs, and £4561 in the erection of new library buildings - an average expenditure of £1220 per year. But these figures should have given the Council no cause for self-satisfaction as a leading article in the same issue pointed out, when the editor observed that Wanganui, with one fifth of the population of Christchurch and Palmerston North, with one sixth, each spent more than £1000 per year on their libraries, while Timaru, with a population of less than 19,000, spent £2000 per year. He continued that the library rates in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin produced £10,000, £7000, and £5200 respectively, and concluded by claiming that even Christchurch's small sum was spent wastefully.⁽⁶⁴⁾ By 1945 the subsidy to suburban libraries had been

62. Personal information from Mr. H. Jackson.

63. "Press" April 8, 1936. (news item)

64. *ibid* (editorial)