

from subscriber control. Councillor Nuttall saw this and said so too. Councillor Andrews, though he was saying something very like it two years ago, turned his back on reform. It will not come unless every occasion is taken to explain and recommend the system which is still misunderstood and distrusted by too many suburban library workers and subscribers." (93)

For stark realism and profound common-sense it would be difficult to find a better analysis of the situation. The Editor's fears were justified when, speaking at the annual meeting of the St. Albans Library a few nights later, Mr. F.H. Dephoff, a prominent suburban library worker, declared that if free libraries were introduced it would be just as sensible to give everyone free rides on the trams, free tepid baths and free electricity. "It would cripple the suburban libraries to be put on a paid staff basis." (94) This attitude shows what a vast amount of educational propaganda will be necessary to convince people of the basic faults of the system, and it was strongly attacked by Councillor E.A. Sharp who said that "people who are busy fighting a new idea don't see how it could fit in with their own." The speaker deprecated the suburban outlook of Mr. Dephoff and many of his fellow workers.

At this same meeting, Councillor Andrews, whose comments to date have been largely of a negative nature, laid down a definite policy. "I am not prepared to admit that the present system is bad. I support the voluntary system - (cries of 'Hear, hear') - and I have never said anything different." He continued that "The Press" pointed

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93. *ibid* July 23, 1940.

94. *ibid* July 26, 1940.