

to the success elsewhere of paid staffs, but he would be sorry to see libraries here like one he saw in Wellington. "There was a paid librarian sitting there and not a bit interested in the subscribers. Now you wouldn't catch volunteer librarians doing that." In conclusion, he advocated City control of the central library, but not control, by the central library, of the suburban libraries. The battle of words concluded with a leader in "The Press" which pointed out that if the Councillor's suggestion, in July 1938,⁽⁹⁵⁾ that a library rate of one eighth of a penny in the pound would yield £6000 per year, was not "something like the advocacy of a library rate", then Spreydon was in Siberia. In conclusion, the Editor suggested that his contrastive picture of the indifferent, lazy, paid librarian and the alert, busy, voluntary librarian was "pretty but pointless." (96).

Here the matter rested for seven years, possibly because, with all efforts being concentrated on winning the worst war in the history of the world, people were too occupied to wage battle on the home front as well. This, at any rate, is the more charitable view-point although, having regard for this history of the library service, another reason also springs readily to mind. Whatever the reason, the Editor devoted his leading articles to the state of the war and the Councillor (shortly afterwards elevated to the Mayoralty) devoted his speeches to patriotic exhortations.

However, by 1947 the war was over and once again people could turn their eyes to home affairs. In a special newspaper article

95. "Star-Sun" July 22, 1938.

96. "Press" July 26, 1940.