

School Library Service was so vastly improved that it would not have been at all surprising if the membership of the juvenile section had shown a considerable decrease. Yet, by the following year, another 500 children had been enrolled, many becoming members when their classes visited the library for instruction. (28)

As has already been stressed, it is essential that the closest connection should be maintained between the school and the library. Although it is impossible to trace the establishment of school libraries in Christchurch, it is likely that a number of them started in the years following the introduction of the Government subsidy in 1913. (29) This grant, which commenced at £527, showed a steady increase until it reached £3494 by 1931. However, it was reduced in the following year to £1431 on account of the commercial depression and, when conditions did not improve, it was discontinued in 1933.

Although the Chief Inspector of Primary Schools reported in 1930 that the teaching of reading in Canterbury was in some respects improving, the most pleasing feature being the increased use of school and class libraries, (30) this should not be construed to suggest that the library service was by any means adequate. When the Munn and Barr report was published in 1934, it declared that most elementary schools had collections of books which, only by courtesy, could be called libraries; the exceptions that they noted did not include Christchurch. It was pointed out that, under existing conditions, the schools generally were without funds for library purposes with the consequence that they had to depend almost entirely

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28. *ibid* 1948, p.21.

29. N.Z. A to J 1914, E.1. p.65.

30. *ibid* 1930, E.2. p.21.