

As has already been shown, the work being done by the Canterbury Public Library was very encouraging, but hardly anything was being done to provide primary schools with their own libraries. There was no organised effort to cultivate the reading habit in Christchurch, nor did the Public Library work with the schools to the same extent as in Auckland and Wellington. (35) That the Government was also aware of the deficiencies of the existing system was made apparent in the report of the Chief Inspector in 1938.

"Libraries are a very essential part of school equipment... If the pupil is to continue his education in after school days he must, while at school, have opportunities for experiencing the delight a well stocked library can give. Books in the mass must fascinate rather than repel him ..." (36)

Of the many people who appreciated the inadequacy of school library facilities in Christchurch, one person in particular stands forth as the precursor of better times. He was Mr. H. Wilson, headmaster of Phillipstown, who, seeing the existing libraries as lacking or inadequate, induced the Canterbury Headmasters' Association to sponsor improvements. Accordingly, a meeting was held on November 16, 1938 to inaugurate the Christchurch City and Suburban Public Schools' Library Association. Delegates representing the City Council, Canterbury College, School Committees, the Headmasters' Association, the Canterbury Public Library, and the Canterbury Education Board were present and the constitution was adopted. (37) The object of the Association was, eventually, to supply books to children of Standard 111 to Form 11 inclusive on the allocation of of a book and a quarter per pupil. When a school joined there was

35. *ibid.*

36. N.Z. A to J 1938. E.2, p.4.

37. Minutes of Christchurch City and Suburban Public Schools' Library Association November 16, 1938.