

Library Service, an offer of 1000 books had been made, which the committee gratefully resolved to accept. Supplies of books continued to come to hand in very fair numbers and in improved bindings, especially from the United States. In addition to books from this source, others were secured locally and also from Dunedin, Australia, and England, with the result that there were more than 5000 books circulating among the twenty-eight schools, while a further 2000 were held in reserve.⁽⁴⁷⁾ This survey ceases in 1948 by which time the book stock of 8435 books was serving thirty-three schools. As a forerunner of a future free service, the per capita levy had been reduced to sixpence and the extension of the scheme to children in Standard 11 was under discussion. Furthermore, in the approved plan for the remodelling of the central library, the City Council had made provision for a bright and roomy portion on the ground floor for the school service.⁽⁴⁸⁾ It would thus appear that the scheme should have a rosy future.

This detailed account of the growth of a school library service in Christchurch has perhaps impressed the reader with the growth of library consciousness and the library spirit amongst city education-
alists during the last decade. In general this is true in post-
primary schools also. When investigations were carried out in this
field in 1934, it was revealed that, with one or two exceptions,
library facilities in both secondary and technical schools were
extremely scanty, and in no case reached an approved standard of
library service.⁽⁴⁹⁾ This charge was admitted by the Chief Inspector

47. *ibid* July 21, 1947.

48. *ibid* July 12, 1948.

49. Munn and Barr. *op cit* p.43.