

although barely a year old, it was clearly obvious that useful work had been done and the foundation of still wider usefulness laid. (57) Here we are only concerned with its work in the schools of Canterbury. After full consideration the Committee of the Travelling Library decided that it was in the best interests of Canterbury schools for the existing organisation to be amalgamated with this new service. This amalgamation took place early in 1942. Briefly, the new service offered to supply primary, intermediate, and district high schools with books equal in number to the children on the roll from Standard I upwards. Schools would be required to pay a levy of one shilling per child participating; this not only had the advantage of being cheaper than a half-crown per child from Standard 111 upwards but also meant that the number of books received would be greater than in the past. (58) This scheme, which has greatly improved in recent years, has of course, all the advantages of national organisation and is a pointer to the advantages of centralisation.

When the first Government grant to school and class libraries was made in 1913, it consisted of £527 for the whole of New Zealand. In 1948 that sum had been increased to £80,462. (59) It is apparent that, not only in Canterbury but throughout the whole of the Dominion, there has been a complete reversal of the appreciation of the value of juvenile libraries, and, in many instances, the vast improvements that have been effected have originated in Christchurch. Whether it has been with respect to the Public Library's children's section,

---

57. "Press" August 15, 1939.

58. Letter from G.T. Alley (Director of Country Library Service) to Secretary of Travelling Library October 31, 1941, at the Vocational Guidance Office, Christchurch.

59. N.Z. A to J 1948, E 1, p.30.