

1950  
NEW ZEALAND

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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 1950

*Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave*

To the CHAIRMAN, JOINT LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

SIR,

I have the honour to report on the operations of the General Assembly Library for the year 1949-50.

## REDECORATION OF MAIN READING-ROOM

Early in the recess preparations were made for the replastering and repainting of the main reading-room which was in bad repair. This necessitated removing the books from the shelves around the walls so that these were no longer available for use. The actual work of restoration did not begin, however, until shortly before Christmas. The plastering work was finished by mid-February but the repainting was delayed till the plaster dried out, and had not been started at the end of the financial year. This has proved a serious handicap in the work of the Library and has made it impossible to open to recess privilege holders, which is to be regretted.

## STAFF

Changes in the staff have caused difficulties this year, there being periods when the temporary shortages have affected some departments adversely. An important change has been made with regard to the cataloguing section. This is now housed in room 30, which was renovated for the purpose. The change should add to the efficiency of this department as the staff can work without being subjected to constant interruptions as in the past. Three members of the Library staff lent valuable assistance by erecting the necessary shelving from old materials to hand and removing the furniture. Consequent on the change more space has been made available to students and others engaged in research work, and additional tables have been placed in the annex to the reading-room where they are in constant use; and the quieter conditions attained are more conducive to serious study.

The comfort of the staff generally has been greatly improved by the provision of a more adequate rest-room on the ground floor. Each member has been provided with a locker, and a convenient kitchenette has been installed. These amenities are much appreciated. Messrs. R. McEwan and B. Mattingley of the bindery staff very helpfully renovated tables and chairs for the room.

The alterations necessitated moving a large part of the official publications and the reconstruction of the sorting-room.

### BOOK STOCK

Despite staff changes the cataloguing department has accessioned and catalogued 1,837 books as compared with 1,911 for the previous year. Following on a recommendation from the Joint Library Committee an additional grant of £250 was made this year: and this has enabled us to order several important reference works and to strengthen the law section which gradually is being brought up to date. The balance at the Bank of New Zealand shows a credit of £381 6s. 8d. as compared with £68 4s. 1d. last year, but the books on order at 31st March would absorb this amount.

The new accessions were classified as follows, the figures for last year being given in parentheses: Bibliography, 235 (227); newspapers, 124 (159); philosophy, 45 (26); religion, 145 (129); sociology, 1,265 (1,293); parliamentary, 333 (251); philology, 20 (42); natural science, 168 (233); useful arts, 579 (552); fine arts, 280 (316); literature, 338 (325); travel and history, 611 (672); biography, 318 (283); fiction, 376 (373).

Owing to staff shortages at various periods it has not been possible to proceed with reclassification schemes but stock was taken of the history section.

### DONATIONS

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, donations to the Library from the following: Belgian Legation (Wellington), Book Society (London), British Council, Trustees of the British Museum (London), Canadian Geographical Society (Canada), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (U.S.A.), Professor D. V. Cowen (Capetown), Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Sydney), Francis Bacon Society (London), High Commissioner for Australia in New Zealand, High Commissioner for Canada in New Zealand, Mr. Samuel Jacoby (U.S.A.), Captain R. Lloyd Jones (U.S.A.), G. and J. Kiteat, Ltd. (London), Messrs. Kraks Legat (Denmark), Mr. Marcus Marks (Eastbourne), Northern Ireland Government Office (London), Parliament Library, Stockholm, Prisma Editions (Paris), Public Library of South Australia, Lord Rowallan (London), Royal Netherlands Legation (Wellington), Society of Automotive Engineers (U.S.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Stafford (Fiji), State Information Office (Pretoria, S.A.), Mr. Michael Standish (Wellington), Mr. T. F. Thornton (Kelburn), United Commercial Travellers Association, Ltd. (Melbourne), University of Western Australia.

### CIRCULATION

Despite the fact that the Library was not open to recess privilege holders the circulation figures dropped only to 20,755 volumes as compared with 23,152 volumes last year. Ninety-four baskets and 71 parcels were posted to Members of Parliament and 286 parcels to other libraries. Under the library inter-loan system 635 books were sent to 40 libraries as compared with 907 to 34 libraries last year. The National Library Service borrowed 259 (368) and the Library School 90 (260). Our borrowings from other libraries were 24 (38).

### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The reference staff has given good service not only to Members of Parliament and Government Departments, but to the public generally. No serious request for information is turned down, and inquiries from various parts of the world have been answered.

There were 1,324 inquiries entailing research on the part of the staff, of which 398 required less than five minutes' work, 501 took five to fifteen minutes, and 425 took over fifteen minutes.

Among the 52 students using the Library for research purposes were five Fulbright scholars.

#### INDEXING OF NEWSPAPERS

As the Wellington newspaper, the *Dominion*, has found it impossible to continue compiling its index, a copy of which has been supplied generously to the General Assembly Library in the past, it has been necessary to extend our existing index of the *Evening Post* in order to cover New Zealand news as fully as possible. This is a large task and takes most of the time of one of the senior assistants of the reference department: but it is essential to the accurate and speedy answering of questions. It will also be of great value to students in the future, and will link up with the index of the earlier Wellington newspapers. The preparation of the latter has suffered recently owing to the resignation of the indexer, but already the issues to June, 1844, have been covered.

#### BINDING

The bindery has again given excellent service despite the fact that a senior book-binder was absent on sick leave for seven months. The volume of work done was reduced in consequence, but the output included 1,776 volumes bound and 328 rebound or repaired. The figures last year were 2,268 and 624 respectively. In addition the 4,837 new accessions were stamped with the Library crest and classification numbers and pockets put in the backs, and several special binding jobs were done for the Legislative Department.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Again our work as agents of the International Exchange has grown considerably, 5,400 packages having been received and despatched to other addresses in New Zealand compared with 3,684 last year. The Library received in addition 16 cases of material for its own use compared with 14 cases for 1948-49. There is an increasing demand for exchange agreements from other countries so that this is a department where the work is expanding all the time.

Negotiations are under way for an exchange of official publications with India.

During the year an exchange of material was effected with the University of California. We were able to supply sets of the Appendices to the Journals and the New Zealand Debates. In exchange we are receiving the Library of Congress Author Catalogue (300 volumes) published by Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, Michigan. We also completed similar sets for the library of the Cambridge University and shall receive books from the Cambridge University Press in exchange. Most of the volumes sent abroad in this way were from stocks which the Library has salvaged from various sources and held for such purposes. Thus, not only does the General Assembly Library benefit, but better resources are provided abroad for students doing research in New Zealand subjects.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the staff generally during the year. They have applied themselves to additional tasks with zeal and have given loyal service. I feel I should mention especially Messrs. J. O. Wilson, D. Dighton, and S. Donkin for the special job they did in connection with the moving of the cataloguing department, for without their willing help the change could not have been made.

I owe my sincere thanks to the Joint Library Committee for their helpful co-operation and interest; to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London and his staff for their ready attention to our needs; and to the overseas agents of the New Zealand Government in the United States of America, Canada, and Australia for their courteous assistance.

Attached is the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year, with the Auditor-General's certificate.

I am, &c.,

W. S. WAUGHOR,  
Chief Librarian.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY ACCOUNT

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1950

<i>Receipts</i>			<i>Payments</i>		
Balance			Purchase of books and subscrip-		
Bank of New Zealand, 1st April, 1949	£	s. d.	tions to periodicals	£	s. d.
Petty cash, 1st April, 1949	68	4 1	United Kingdom	1,013	19 10
Private Bill fees	1	14 6	United States of America and		
Annual grant	125	0 0	Canada	457	15 7
Refunds, lost books, resales, &c.	2,250	0 0	Australia	86	16 3
	27	8 2	New Zealand	529	13 9
			Bank charges and cheque-book	1	0 2
			Petty-cash expenses	1	10 0
			Petty-cash balance	0	4 6
			Balance at Bank of New Zealand	381	6 8
	<u>£2,472</u>	<u>6 9</u>		<u>£2,472</u>	<u>6 9</u>

NOTE.—Private Bill fees received from Treasury include £75 which were due but not received at 31st March, 1949.

W. S. WAUGHOR, Chief Librarian.

Examined and found correct.—J. P. RUTHERFORD, Controller and Auditor-General.

*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given: printing (614 copies), £s.

By Authority: R. E. OWEN, Government Printer, Wellington, 1950.

Price 3d.]