

has so far reached 1890. The close searcher, however, will need to go over the ground himself on a particular topic. I have found, where every fact is important, that one needs to establish in which paper the kind of topic or local news in which one is interested appears. Incidents and meetings fully written up in the morning will be ignored in the evening. Our Taupo reporter will have many things on his mind and his appearances may be spasmodic over a ten year period. And so on.

Manuscripts

I cannot put off talking about manuscripts much longer. The categories of manuscripts of interest to local historians which the A.T.L. acquires may be grouped as follows:

- Personal papers including letters and diaries
- Business archives
- Society and local body records
- Trade union records

These are obtained in various ways but chiefly by gift, purchase or photocopy. We have a policy of actively pursuing Ms. which because of inevitable pressures of one kind and another isn't as effective as I would like although in sheer bulk during the past four years our holdings have grown more rapidly than for some time earlier. An interesting development is the increasing extent to which even locally we find it necessary to purchase although this applies chiefly to personal papers. Broadly speaking we actively pursue material which can be regarded as of national as distinct from local interest if there is a suitable repository prepared to act. But I never turn down anything offered nor readily at hand. The ideal situation in the future would be to have copies of much of the important local material held nationally in an appropriate local repository. Correspondingly we should have copies of important locally held material. This exchange will take time to achieve but can be accepted now as a working principle. In manuscript libraries such as Turnbull any large collection of political or administrative interest will have important local material. The McLean collection for example for Taranaki, Wanganui and Hawke's Bay, the Mantell papers for Canterbury and Otago as well as Wellington—and diaries of course range wherever their author travels. Much of this material can be identified from inventories when they have been prepared or from the personal knowledge of informed and sympathetic manuscript librarians.

What Turnbull has in this category is a much smaller proportion than the holdings of National Archives where the surviving registers and indexes do not make it easy to bring out all the local references. I say under my breath, 'thank God they don't', because this means that for