

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Name.	Population (1936 Census).	Number of Borrowers for Year ending 31st March, 1943 : Local Area.	Number of Borrowers for Year ending 31st March, 1943 : Outside Borough or Local Area.	Number of Borrowers before Change to Country Library Service, Free Library System.	Issues for Year ending 31st March, 1943.	Income from Rates and Grants by Local Authority for Year ending 31st March, 1943.	Total Expenditure* on Salaries, Books, and Up-keep for Year ending 31st March, 1943.
Alexandra	871	150	20	100†	7,600	£ 97	£ 104
Baldutha	1,546	421	59	65†	†	205	213
Bluff	2,038	390	..	60	12,600	35	127
Bulls	527	100	40	52	†	18	104
Cromwell	737	111	21	12	2,381	238	147
Featherston	1,050	239	40	79	8,809	81	141
Feilding	4,550	763	62	200	40,189	275	471
Greymouth	8,115	2,741	78	450	68,059	678	853
Hawera	4,663	1,780	218	710	97,436	650	1,090
Helensville	961	..	Information not supplied.		..	..	..
Huntly	1,942	926	49	145	60,000	200	220
Hokitika	2,689	..	Information not supplied.		..	..	..
Inglewood	1,271	366	108	200	29,129	102	289
Kaipoi	1,598	650	20	60	17,385	125	173
Kaikohu	662	248	27	120	†	†	†
Kaitiaki	780	157	94	88	8,437	50	180
Kaponga	406	144	40	23	†	†	†
Kawakawa	520	115	46	45	5,886	38	73
Levin	2,658	1,616	170	452	75,087	490	786
Mackenzie County	3,158	682	None	70	28,263	350	349
Mataura	1,500	436	26	135	24,509	26	277
Morrinsville	1,796	907	189	165	49,325	150	479
Motueka	2,169	335	125	†	50,778	205	505
Otaki	1,744	..	Information not supplied.		..	..	..
Otorohanga	712	260	†	80	†	†	†
Paeoa	2,149	890	38	†	†	141	252
Pahiatua	1,668	520	†	90	†	†	†
Putaruru	789	248	36	65	†	50	143
Queenstown	931	220	†	32	†	†	†
Rangiora	2,239	1,263	55	1,000†	45,514	352	446
Rotorua	6,351	2,891	574	358	109,473	750	1,078
Roxburgh	479	171	†	None	†	†	92
Runanga	1,647	240	Information not supplied.		..	..	..
Taihape	2,183	1,285	140	200	39,677	200	424
Taradale	1,206	456	7	60	11,672	50	44
Tauranga	3,387	919	252	376	64,489	450	558
Te Aroha	2,366	736	83	None	20,703	145	243
Te Awamutu	2,224	709	207	230	38,898	200	269
Te Karaka	355	82	4	36	4,732	20	23
Te Puke	961	338	121	83	15,555	71	181
Thames	4,268	962	20	165	†	246	258
Waimate	2,315	643	102	250	40,936	209	432
Woodville	1,031	107	35	78	8,618	90	123

* Expenditure in many cases includes the cost of books for rental or pay collection, part or all of which is recoverable. The cost of the local service, especially for providing lighter fiction, is not fully borne by the ratepayers. † This library was free before the Country Library Service began operating. ‡ Figures unavailable or not supplied.

SMALL INDEPENDENT SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARIES : “ B ” SERVICE

Three hundred and sixty-eight of these libraries were linked with the Service during the year, compared with the previous year's figure of 348 ; 179 of the libraries are in the North Island, 189 in the South Island ; 26,410 books were on loan to these “ B ” libraries, an average of just over 71 books per library. The need for conserving oil fuel and tires again made it necessary to reduce the number of exchanges effected by means of the book-vans to two per year. In certain cases the libraries were encouraged to exchange both their own stock and books borrowed from this Service with corresponding stock of nearby libraries. In some cases where local libraries were enthusiastic and enterprising such exchanges were carried out, and were mutually beneficial. The shortage of books in New Zealand book stores and the tendency for a greater amount of purchasing-power to be available caused the smaller libraries to make more demands on this Service than could be fulfilled. Many libraries which two years ago were receiving loans of fifty books have increased these loans, or have wished to do so.

OTHER WAYS IN WHICH SERVICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Hamper or “ C ” Service.—In places where no library exists and where it is not possible for one to be formed, the service to properly established groups by means of travelling hampers has been continued. During the year 70 groups received this service, compared with 54 for the previous year. Many additional collections were made up during the year and despatched for the first time to groups, while those which had been sufficiently long in circulation were withdrawn. A change was also made