

the City Council had adopted the following resolution: "That  
 "in view of the fact that the Council deducted the sum of \$2,500  
 "from the estimates of the Public Library Board, and said Board  
 "having decided that this will necessitate the closing of two of  
 "their Branch Libraries; be it resolved, that the sum of \$1,500  
 "be reinstated of the \$2,500 deducted, so that the Branch  
 "Libraries in St. Andrew's Market and St. Paul's Hall may  
 "be retained for the benefit of the ratepayers, who, from  
 "returns sent in, have taken the fullest advantage of said  
 "Branches."

The Board soon after made application to the City Treasurer for this sum, but payment of one-half the amount, being rent of the halls for 1895, was refused, on the ground that no funds had been provided out of which to make the payment.

So far as can be learned, the desire of the citizens, especially those living in the districts convenient to the Branch Libraries, is that the branches be kept open and continued, and it would appear that the members of the City Council entertain the same view.

The Library Board has been prepared and willing to meet the wishes of the people in this respect, and the proposed closing of two of the Branch Libraries is the result solely of the want of necessary funds, caused by the City Council's reduction of the estimates.

It is not my desire or intention to comment further on this matter, or to speculate upon the probable results of the occurrences above reported, beyond remarking, that, if the Central Library and all its branches are to be continued on the reduced appropriation, the amount of money necessary for the purchase of books will be greatly encroached upon. It is to be hoped,