

asked to comment on the fact that a set had been sold the previous June at Sotheby's for £40.⁴¹ He made a spirited reply pointing out the varying aspects of completeness, condition, etc. He would be consoled were it possible for him to know that a set from its catalogued description in no way superior to the splendid Turnbull holding which he acquired was sold at Sotheby's on 22 June 1970 for £6,800.

The greatest humiliation, however, would have been the approach to Dr Scholefield who for four years was Advisory Director in succession to Wilson, until Andersen's fervent protests led to a cancellation. Wilson had reported three times as Advisory Director in 1919, 1920 and 1921/22 the last report being a joint effort with the librarian. Although he did not retire until 1926 he had been away from the General Assembly Library for some time on account of ill health and Andersen might reasonably have expected that he would be allowed henceforth to go it alone. After all he already had a Minister and an Under-Secretary.

His first hopes, however, were to succeed Wilson. In a letter to the Speaker dated 6 October 1925 he reminded the Honourable C. E. Statham of a conversation on the subject and the promise allegedly made by Statham on Andersen's appointment to the Parliamentary Library that 'in eight years time, on the retirement of Mr Wilson, I might look forward to taking his place'.⁴²

At the time of his appointment to Turnbull he understood that the move did not mean a severance from the General Assembly Library and he could 'still step back later on'. Rather surprisingly in view of what he was to say a little later in the same context he gave it as his opinion that 'with the appointment of a junior only, the two libraries could still be run as one, the present first Assistant of the Parliament Library and myself dividing our time between the two with economical result and efficient service'. There does not appear to have been any response to these seemingly praiseworthy anticipations of later generation national library proposals and on 20 November he wrote again. He recalled the promise made to him by the Honourable F. M. B. Fisher, then Minister in charge of the Legislative Department, and again referred to his suggestion to administer the two libraries jointly. On 18 February he followed it up with a letter to the Honourable Downie Stewart, describing his surprise and shock on seeing the position advertised at a salary of £500 per annum – Wilson had been receiving £690 plus his Turnbull Advisory Directorship allowance and another of a similar kind.

His shock was probably equalled by that of the successful applicant who apparently protested to some effect. Dr G. H. Scholefield was appointed as from 17 May 1926 at a salary of £500 per annum rising to £600 by £25 annual increments. To give him an income approaching