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Tabulator Gift To Institute

"Our perennial problem is having to serve industries and commerce and keep up with what they are doing," Mr D. W. Lyall, principal of the Christchurch Technical Institute, said yesterday after the institute had officially received a punch card installation as a gift from P.D.L. Industries, Ltd.

Mr Lyall said data processing was a new field the institute had been unable to enter.

Now that the institute had a punch card installation, the problems which remained were to find staff for it and students who were interested in its use.

"I can assure you," he said to Mr R. H. Stewart, governing director of P.D.L. Industries, who presented the installation, "that it will be used by many generations of students."

Mr Stewart said that New Zealand lacked trained men in data processing and computer equipment.

The manufacturer of the machine, International Computers and Tabulators (N.Z.), Ltd., had offered to install the machine and maintain it for five years, charging only for spare parts—"a very generous gesture; it needs careful maintenance."

The tabulator works at a speed of 4800 lines of print an hour and adds or subtracts three columns of figures simultaneously. It prints 25 characters of information in figures and letters at the same time.

The photograph shows the punch card installation and, from left, Mr F. B. Eastwood, South Island manager of International Computers and Tabulators (N.Z.), Ltd.; Mr Lyall; Mr R. Jones, chairman of the Christchurch Technical Institute, and Mr Stewart.

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