

are largely due. The Committee of the Mount Cook schools, in conjunction with a Committee of the Board, has established a night school for boys over school age the attendance during the winter averaged about a hundred. The school was well equipped with teachers. A course of science lectures was delivered by Dr Hutchinson (gratuitously), and, so far as could be judged without inspection, good work was done. The fee for the winter term was 2s. 6d.

The conversion of the Masterton School into a district high school will, it is anticipated, prove a great boon to the Wairarapa. The necessity for an institution where the higher branches of education are taught, and where inducement can be held out for pupils to continue their education beyond the limits of the standards, and at the same time at a reasonable cost, has long been felt in the Wairarapa. The absence in the past of such a school in the district has deterred many promising candidates from competing for the scholarships offered by the Board, the expenses of a course of study at the Wellington College or Girls' High School being far in excess of the prizes offered. The Board anticipate great success to attend this step, and feel sanguine that the additional expense will be covered by the fees from pupils to a very large extent, if not entirely.

**NORMAL SCHOOL.**—The report of the Principal of the school, forwarded herewith, deals fully with the progress of the institution during the past year. An increase of one student cannot be considered very encouraging, and the result of the large expenditure cannot be deemed satisfactory. The question of the reorganization of the Normal School, with a view to placing the whole institution, training and practising, under the responsibility of one person, has been before the Board on several occasions, but the limited funds at its disposal has deterred any positive action from being taken. However, the Board hopes that during the next year it will be able to bring about such a change as will insure a more steady and regular increase of students for training. The Board is well satisfied with the perseverance and energy displayed by the Normal master and his assistants, and recognizes that they have one and all worked conscientiously during the year.

**SCHOOL INSPECTION.**—The report of Mr Lee on the work of the schools examined during the year, forwarded herewith, shows that, with very few exceptions, steady progress is being made, and the teaching of the staff continues good.

**RETURNS.**—The various returns required for the purposes of the annual report of the department for the present year, as set forth in Circular No. 83/8, are herewith attached.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

J R. BLAIR, Chairman.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1883.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£	s.	d.
To Balance on 31st December, 1882—					By Office staff, salaries		324	0	0
Building Account		22	12	5	Departmental contingencies		399	1	2
General Account		1,061	12	6	Inspector's salary		500	0	0
Government grants for buildings		6,412	12	0	Inspector's travelling expenses		217	15	0
Other receipts for buildings—					Examination of pupil-teachers	..	8	6	9
Scientific apparatus		2	0	0	Teachers' salaries and allowances (in-		17,896	17	0
Government statutory capitation (£3					cluding rent, bonus, &c.)		1,541	1	3
15s.)		18,529	8	11	Incidental expenses of schools		359	10	0
Special capitation (5s.)		1,164	13	4	Rents of school buildings	..	1,584	14	2
Scholarship grant (1s. 6d.)		344	4	11	Training of teachers				
Inspection subsidy		300	0	0	Scholarships—				
Grant for training of teachers		1,172	1	6	Paid to scholars		309	3	4
Payments by School Commissioners for					Examination expenses		90	2	6
primary education		383	17	9	School buildings—				
Deposits		120	3	0	New buildings		2,036	10	0
Balance of account on 31st December,					Improvements of buildings		2,554	10	11
1883—					Furniture and appliances		408	10	4
General Account		274	12	3	Sites		1,019	10	0
Building Account		215	13	9	Plans, supervision, and fees		229	11	5
					Deposits	..	92	15	0
		£29,572	4	10			£29,572	4	10

J R. BLAIR, Chairman.

ARTHUR DORSET, Secretary

Examined and passed.—R. MACALISTER, Provincial District Auditor

#### STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1883.

<i>Assets.</i>		£	s.	d.	<i>Liabilities.</i>		£	s.	d.
<i>A. Exclusive of Building Fund.</i>									
Due from Government—					Balance of account, 31st December, 1883		274	12	3
Normal School		418	18	8	Due to Committees		459	1	4
Scholarships		132	10	11					
Balance		182	4	0					
		£733	13	7			£733	13	7
<i>B. Building Fund only</i>									
Cash in bank on this account, 31st Decem-					Balance of amounts due or to fall due under				
ber, 1883		215	13	9	contracts		1,135	18	6
Balance		961	7	9	Deposits on contracts		41	3	0
		£1,177	1	6			£1,177	1	6