

STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1883.

A. *Exclusive of Building Fund.*

<i>Assets.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st December, 1883	1,471	3	11	Due to teachers	826	1	4
Due from members of Board of School Commissioners	6	5	0	Due to officers of Board	64	15	0
Due from Government for scholarships	51	5	0	Due on account of scholarships	57	0	6
				Due for rent of school	5	0	0
				Credit balance to next year	575	17	1
	<u>£1,528</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£1,528</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

B: *Building Fund only*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st December, 1883	716	19	0	Due by votes to Committees	672	1	2
Balance	407	2	2	Balance of purchase-money for site of Haven Road School, and interest	452	0	0
	<u>£1,124</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>£1,124</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

NORTH CANTERBURY

SIR,—

Christchurch, 31st March, 1884.

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Act the Education Board of the District of North Canterbury has the honour to present the following report of its proceedings for the year ended the 31st December, 1883.

THE BOARD.—The members who retired by rotation on the 31st March, 1883, were Mr Tancred, Mr Webb, and Mr Cunningham, of whom Mr Tancred did not offer himself for re-election. At the election held on the 1st March, Mr Cunningham, Mr Webb, and Mr Edward James Lee were returned. At a meeting held on the 5th April, Mr John Inglis was re-elected Chairman. An extraordinary vacancy occurred in the month of December through the lamented death of Mr E J Lee, in whom the Board has lost an esteemed colleague, whose services, had his life been prolonged, would have been of high value to the cause of education. The Board held twenty-four meetings during the year twenty-three ordinary and one special. The average attendance of members was 6.25.

NEW DISTRICTS AND BUILDINGS.—Four new districts were formed during the year—at Burnham, Sefton, Summerhill, and Waiau. Of these, Burnham and Waiau are entirely new. What is now the District of Sefton was formerly included in the districts of Mount Grey Downs, Saltwater Creek, and Ashley, and Summerhill is formed by a division of the District of Cust. New school buildings were erected at Darfield, Lauriston, South Malvern, Winslow, and Taumutu (the last-named being a second school in the Lakeside District, half the cost of which was defrayed by Government in consideration of its being partly intended for the benefit of the Maoris residing on the Native reserves in that locality) schoolrooms at Waiau and Rotherham (the latter being at present an aided school), and at Mandeville Plains masters' houses at Summerhill, German Bay (side), Hinds, Kirwee, Lismore, and Methven and considerable additions or improvements made at Alford Forest, Amberley, Phillipstown, Christchurch West, Cust, Heathcote Lower Hororata, Killinchy, New Brighton, North Road, Prebbleton, Springburn, Springston, View Hill, West Melton, Woodend and improvements to the grounds, &c., at Lyttelton, St. Alban's, and the normal school. The total expenditure in school buildings was £16,685 4s. 5d. A detailed return, showing the amount spent in each school district, is given in Table No. 7.

MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS.—The total expenditure during the year 1883 for the maintenance of schools, including teachers' salaries and allowances, and all incidental expenses, amounted to £48,331 15s. 7d., and the expenditure upon salaries and allowances only to £42,240 19s. 10d. The average attendance for the year was 12,753. The cost per head for maintenance, including all expenses, was at the rate of £3 15s. 9½d. per head of the average attendance, and the cost of instruction only at the rate of £3 6s. 2¾d. The following table shows the amount expended under the heads of salaries and incidentals for each year from 1878, inclusive:—

	Salaries.			Incidental.			Totals.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1878	31,919	0	0	6,276	6	9	38,195	6	9
1879	34,417	14	6	5,856	9	8	40,274	4	2
1880	38,136	17	8	5,856	2	1	43,992	19	9
1881	36,683	4	11	5,591	15	6	42,275	0	5
1882	39,418	13	11	5,901	18	1	45,320	12	0
1883	42,240	19	10	6,090	15	9	48,331	15	7

ATTENDANCE.—At the end of 1883 there were 123 school districts in North Canterbury and 143 schools, including the practising department of the normal school. Four of these—viz. Kowai Bush, Little Port Cooper, Manuka Town, and Rotherham—were aided but, at the date of this report, Kowai Bush has been restored to its position as a district school, the attendance having increased beyond the minimum required by the Board's regulations. Full particulars as to the ages of the children, and numbers receiving instruction in each standard and in each subject, will be found in the appended return, No. 2.*

The following table shows the number of schools, and the number of children on the rolls and in average attendance, for each year since the system established by the Education Act of 1877 came into operation:—

* Not reprinted here, the information being given elsewhere in the Minister's report and its appendix.