

Committees have been more numerously attended, and a larger number of candidates have come forward for seats on the Committees and on the Board. This healthy state of matters is principally caused by the prominent place assigned to the education question at the general election, and partly by more vigorous action on the part of the Board. Whatever may be the cause, there is no doubt that the more intelligent criticism is brought to bear on the actions of Boards and Committees, the more the cause of education will progress.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT G. BAUCHOPE, Chairman.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1884.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance on December 31st, 1883—			By Office staff, salaries	150	0 0
On Building Account	846	8 3	Clerical assistance	16	16 8
On General Account	234	11 3	Departmental contingencies	133	6 5
Government grant for buildings	1,542	0 0	Inspector's salary	300	0 0
Subscriptions and donations for build- ings	25	0 0	Inspector's travelling expenses	50	0 0
Sale of schools and furniture	40	7 3	Examination of pupil-teachers	1	10 0
Government statutory capitation (£3 15s.)	5,287	8 2	Teachers' salaries and allowances (in- cluding rent, bonus, &c.)	4,594	10 4
Special capitation (5s.)	378	1 3	Incidental expenses of schools	633	7 11
Inspection subsidy	200	0 0	School-buildings—		
Payments by School Commissioners—For primary education	417	15 5	New buildings	2,337	12 4
Management of high school	34	5 4	Improvements of buildings	498	0 9
Advances to high school repaid	325	0 0	Furniture and appliances	207	12 4
Store Account	10	6 8	Sites	91	15 7
Balance of account on 31st December, 1884—Building Account *	758	2 0	Plans, supervision, and fees	87	0 0
			Store Account	27	10 6
			Transfer fee, paid in 1883, refunded	1	0 0
			Balance of account on 31st December, 1884—General Account	969	2 9
	<u>£10,099</u>	<u>5 7</u>		<u>£10,099</u>	<u>5 7</u>

ROBT. G. BAUCHOPE, Chairman.

W. NORTHCROFT, Secretary.

Examined and passed.—C. RENNELL, Auditor.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1884.

A. Exclusive of Building Fund.

<i>Assets.</i>		<i>Liabilities.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st Decem- ber, 1884	211 0 9	Due to teachers	194 11 6
Due from vote for buildings	758 2 0	Due to unpaid accounts	19 7 7
Due from store	68 6 0	Due to Committees	126 17 1
	<u>£1,037 8 9</u>		<u>£340 16 2</u>

B. Building Fund only.

Nil.

Balance of account, 31st December, 1884 ..	758 2 0
	<u>£758 2 0</u>

E. VEALE, Chairman.

W. NORTHCROFT, Secretary.

WANGANUI.

SIR,—

Wanganui, 20th March, 1885.

In compliance with the provisions of "The Education Act, 1877," I have the honour to submit the annual report of this Board for the year ending the 31st December, 1884.

BOARD.—The members who retired in December, 1883, were Mr. W. H. Watt, Mr. G. S. Bridge, and Mr. James W. Baker. Mr. W. H. Watt and Mr. G. S. Bridge were re-elected, and Mr. G. V. Bate, of Hawera, was elected in the place of Mr. James W. Baker, who did not then seek re-election. During the year Sir William Fox, K.C.M.G., of Rangitikei, and Mr. G. M. Snelson, of Manawatu, resigned. The former was replaced by Mr. James W. Baker, of Warren-gate, and the latter by Mr. J. H. Fry, of Makino Road, Manawatu. Mr. W. H. Watt was re-elected Chairman. Up to the present time the elections have resulted in an equitable distribu-tion of members for the several counties.

SCHOOLS.—At the close of 1883 the Board had sixty-seven schools in operation. There are now seventy-four at work, although two were temporarily closed at the end of the year during a change of teachers. Of these schools eight are aided, and are officered by teachers appointed by the settlers, but subject to the Inspector's examination. The Board formerly made an allowance of £4 5s. capitation to aided schools, but has lately found it necessary to limit the amount to £4,

* On all the Board's accounts the year 1884 closed with a credit balance of £211 0s. 9d. (See Appendix, Table 2.)