TRUANT INSPECTORS.—After the discharge of the Truant Inspector who had acted for the district, the Board allowed the Committees to appoint their own officers, upon the scale referred to in last year's report. The experiment, however, has not proved a success, notwithstanding that the Board issued a circular to Committees offering to defray any reasonable expense incurred by them in enforcing the compulsory clauses of the Act.

School Committees.—The Board is glad to be able to state that it has worked very harmoniously with the School Committees generally, and can testify to the useful work performed by them. Large sums of money have been collected by them for prize-funds, picnics, and improvements to grounds, &c.; and it can only regret that there should have been any exception to the rule.

Finance.—The several returns required by Government give full details of the receipts and expenditure during the year. Owing to the vast area covered by this district, and the consequent number of small schools, the manipulation of the funds placed at the Board's disposal involves far more labour than is generally supposed. The statement of account shows that a sum of £25,399 11s. 3d. has passed through the Board's hands during the year. In the General Account there is a credit balance of £2,434 14s. 1d., with liabilities amounting to £560 2s. 4d.; leaving a net credit balance of £1,874 11s. 9d. Of these liabilities £329 14s. 4d. is for school fund due to Committees (since paid); and a foot-note to Return No. 6 explains that £230 8s. belongs to the Rees Bequest Interest Account, now held in suspense in accordance with the Board's promise. The Building Account shows a debit balance of £2,209 9s. 10d., with liabilities amounting to £1,372 12s. 2d., making a total of £3,582 2s. Against this the Board has taken as an asset the Government grant for buildings of £3,009 3s. 3d. now due; leaving a net deficiency of £572 18s. 9d. It will thus be seen that, although the Board has not yet provided for many necessary works in the district, and has constant demands made upon it from all parts, it has been obliged to incur liabilities over its assets for a considerable sum. The sum now placed by Government at the disposal of the Board for building purposes is so small that it is totally inadequate to meet the demands made upon it; and, as already represented to the department, it would be useless to apply for assistance to local bodies who are themselves in debt or struggling for an existence. The Board therefore urgently presses upon the notice of the Government the necessity of affording some information as to the course to be adopted in future with regard to providing funds for building purposes.

For details of information respecting the state and progress of education in this district, I have

the honour to refer you to the Inspector's report.

I have, &c., W. H. Watt, Chairman.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

General Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1885. Expenditure. Receipts. £ s. d. £ s. d. To Balance at beginning of year—General By Balance at beginning of year on Build-Account 1,939 16 ing Account 1,617 . . Government grant for buildings Office staff—salaries 2,736 0 0 418 15 Clerical assistance Balance of contractors' deposits 32 2 6 Government statutory capitation (£3 15s.) Special capitation (5s.) Departmental contingencies 16,206 6 335 Inspector's salary 1,109 400 O Scholarship grant (1s. 6d.) ... 312 6 Inspector's travelling expenses Grant for training of teachers
Payments by School Commissioners for primary education Examination of pupil-teachers
Teachers' salaries and allowances
cluding rent, bonus, &c.)
Incidental expenses of schools 300 00 0 0 (in-14.914 18 1,404 15 Rees bequest 168 190 Training of teachers Rees bequest ... Balance at end of year on Building Ac-Scholarships— Paid to scholars 2,209 9 10 301 15 10 11 count Paid to scholars ... Examination expenses ... General examination expenses School buildings-New buildings ... Improvements of buildings 998 9 2,219 13 Furniture and appliances Plans, supervision, and fees Balance at end of year on General Account 2.434 14 1 £25,399 11 £25,399 11

> W. H. Watt, Chairman. A. A. Browne, Secretary.

Examined and passed.—R. Macalister, Provincial District Auditor. 5th May, 1886.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, 31st March, 1886.

In accordance with section 102 of "The Education Act, 1877," I have the honour to transmit the report of this Board for the past year.

Board.—On the 1st January, 1885, the Board was constituted as follows: J. R. Blair (Chairman), G. Beetham, W. C. Buchanan, H. Bunny, the Hon. G. Randall Johnson, Thomas Mason, Dr. Newman, G. V. Shannon, and the Rev. J. Paterson. At the annual election in March Messrs. Mason, Johnson, and Paterson retired. Mr. Paterson was re-elected, and A. W. Brown and J. Young were elected to fill the places of Messrs. Mason and Johnson, who declined to stand again. During the year the Board has met thirteen times, one meeting being for special business.

Schools.—Additional schools have been opened at Pahiatua, Dreyerton, Te Whiti, Dalefield,