

TABLE P.—MONEY LIABILITIES (AND BALANCES), DECEMBER, 1890.

Education Districts.	Liabilities for		Balances for		Totals.
	Buildings.	Other Purposes.	Buildings.	Other Purposes.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	4,542 8 0	4,978 2 9	.. .. .	6,250 4 10	15,770 15 7
Taranaki	30 0 0	.. .. .	635 0 0	206 15 4	871 15 4
Wanganui	1,089 10 4	1,311 3 7	864 11 6	1,860 5 6	5,125 10 11
Wellington	6,373 8 10	470 8 9	.. .. .	2,750 16 5	9,594 14 0
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	.. .. .	134 10 0	2,461 5 5	1,138 12 1	3,734 7 6
Marlborough	856 1 2	80 0 0	.. .. .	457 10 11	1,393 12 1
Nelson	160 9 11	1,543 16 1	1,671 9 4	1,292 8 11	4,668 4 3
Grey	587 19 3	410 14 7	302 0 9	.. .. .	1,300 14 7
Westland	64 14 8	37 15 5	624 3 1	.. .. .	726 13 2
North Canterbury	2,272 15 2	2,388 14 6	374 16 11	2,173 4 11	7,209 11 6
South Canterbury .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	641 12 8	1,503 6 10	2,144 19 6
Otago	2,660 12 6	.. .. .	.. .. .	7,264 15 9	9,925 8 3
Southland	491 11 5	623 5 7	2,276 7 1	1,930 13 10	5,321 17 11
Totals	19,129 11 3	11,978 11 3	9,851 6 9	26,828 15 4	67,788 4 7

Efforts have been made to ascertain the real wants of the several districts with respect to school buildings, and to get such information as would render it possible to distinguish between the necessities that are really pressing and others that are less urgent. In reply to a circular issued in February, the Boards have sent in estimates amounting to about £90,000, but in some cases the required distinctions with respect to degrees of urgency are not clearly made, and further correspondence must take place before a general statement of a satisfactory kind can be prepared.

The following table (Q), compiled from the annual returns made by the Boards, affords information with respect to deficiencies of accommodation in places where schools are already established :—

TABLE Q.—DEFICIENCY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Education Districts.	Schools in Operation (omitting those with less than Ten Pupils each).	Schools not belonging to Boards.	Schools without Residences.	Schools with less than 10 sq. ft. for each Child (but more than 8 sq. ft.).	Schools with less than 8 sq. ft. for each Child.	Available in 1891. (Tables O and P.)
						£ s. d.
Auckland	246	29	102	9	..	[−1,850 9 0]
Taranaki	39	1	12	3	..	635 0 0
Wanganui	86	3	23	2	..	864 11 6
Wellington	79	10	40	4	3	[−5,237 11 1]
Hawke's Bay	47	3	18	10	7	2,461 5 5
Marlborough	24	2	3	5	1	[−156 1 2]
Nelson	91	5	48	2	1	1,671 9 4
Grey	20	..	8	1	1	302 0 9
Westland	28	4	11	1	1	624 3 1
North Canterbury	163	5	17	3	..	374 16 11
South Canterbury	56	..	14	1	1	641 12 8
Otago	193	2	4	6	3	[−2,988 4 6]
Southland	107	7	29	5	1	2,276 7 1
Totals	1,179	71	329	52	21	9,851 6 9 [−10,232 5 9]

It will be seen that, apart from the prospect of new settlement, much remains to be done to put existing schools upon a satisfactory footing. There are 73 overcrowded schools, 71 schools meeting in rooms that are not public property, and 329 schools to which masters' residences are not attached. Schools with average attendance below 10 are not reckoned in this statement.

The sum voted for public-school buildings last year was £35,000, and distribution was made to the Boards as follows: Auckland, £6,100; Taranaki, £700; Wanganui, £2,300; Wellington, £3,000; Hawke's Bay, £2,850; Marlborough, £700; Nelson, £2,200; Grey, £890; Westland, £603; North Canterbury, £5,050; South Canterbury, £1,800; Otago, £5,500; Southland, £2,400. In this distribution some favour was shown to the smallest districts, and to districts in which settlement is making rapid progress.

The number of scholarships granted by Educations Boards under the 51st section of "The Education Act, 1877;" and the expenditure on this account, have slightly declined during the year. The scholarships vary in annual value from £52 10s. to £4. Particulars are given in Table R.