

## GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1891.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at beginning of year on Building Account	11,164	19 6	By Balance at beginning of year on Building Account	3,508	1 0
Government grant for buildings	11,685	0 0	Office staff—Salaries	946	10 0
Subscriptions and donations for buildings	10	0 0	Clerical assistance	21	5 0
Other receipts for buildings—			Departmental contingencies	709	2 8
Proceeds of sale of Waipu Cave School	8	0 0	Inspectors' salaries	1,250	0 0
Contractors' forfeited deposits	25	0 0	Inspectors' travelling expenses	541	11 6
Government statutory capitation	67,811	7 6	Examination of pupil-teachers	69	2 8
Scholarship grant	1,322	8 5	Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)	55,881	18 8
Inspection subsidy	500	0 0	Incidental expenses of schools	5,935	1 10
Payments by School Commissioners	1,701	6 8	Scholarships—		
School Committees—Towards cost of painting	175	3 8	Paid to scholars	1,280	0 0
Bank of New South Wales—Royalty on coal taken from Kamo School ground	44	15 1	Examination expenses	27	13 1
			School-buildings—		
			New buildings	3,709	3 6
			Improvements of buildings	2,803	3 8
			Furniture and appliances	765	18 8
			Sites	145	7 9
			Plans, supervision, and fees	494	12 5
			Balance at end of year—		
			On Building Account	5,301	13 0
			On General Account	11,057	15 5
	£94,448	0 10		£94,448	0 10

R. UDY, Chairman.

VINCENT E RICE, Secretary

Examined and found correct.—JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD, Controller and Auditor-General.

## TARANAKI.

SIR,—

Education Board, New Plymouth, April, 1892.

In the terms of "The Education Act, 1877," I have the honour to transmit the report of the Education Board for the year ending 31st December, 1891.

BOARD.—At the annual election in March Messrs. H. Faull, T. Kelly, and E. Olson were the retiring members for the year, the whole of whom were re-elected. The Board then consisted of Mr. T. Kelly (Chairman), Miss Heywood, Messrs. J. Andrews, G. A. Adlam, R. G. Bauchope, H. Faull, E. Olson, D. Teed, and J. Wade. The Board held twenty-four ordinary and one special meeting during the year. The attendance of members has been as follows—viz., Mr. Kelly, 25, Miss Heywood, 25, Mr. Andrews, 25, Mr. Adlam, 24, Mr. Bauchope, 24, Mr. Faull, 25, Mr. Olson, 22, Mr. Teed, 17, and Mr. Wade, 24.

SCHOOLS.—There were forty schools open at the beginning of the year, and two opened during the year—viz., the Hurford Road and the Pungarehu Schools (the latter being an aided school). Three schools—viz., Ngairi, Bird Road, and Cardiff Road Schools—were also taken over from the Wanganui Education Board on the 1st October, 1891, making the total schools now in operation in the district forty-five.

TEACHERS.—The number of teachers in the employ of the Board at the end of 1891 was eighty, with twenty-four sewing-teachers, making a total of 104, classified as follows—viz. :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Head teachers	30	14	44
Assistant teachers	4	6	10
Pupil-teachers	3	23	26
Sewing-teachers		24	24
	37	67	104

Owing to the low average of salaries in this district, it is almost impossible to secure the services of good teachers for many of our small schools, or, if obtained for a time, the position is simply used as an aid in obtaining advancement in other districts. The higher salaries offered by other Education Boards have the effect of depriving this Board, year by year, of the best teachers in our small schools, and the constant changes that consequently occur in the staffs of many of our schools make satisfactory progress a matter of impossibility. The Board carefully revised its estimated revenue and expenditure for the year with the object of increasing the salaries of teachers, but so closely did the expenditure trench on the revenue that only a sum of £100 was available, which was allocated in granting an allowance of £10 a year to teachers of schools where no residence is provided. As the most rigid economy is exercised in the Board's expenditure, it is hopeless to expect better results under present conditions.

It is difficult, under the present system of Board administration under a permanent Act, to provide a remedy for the inequality of teachers' salaries, except by a special parliamentary grant in aid. This difficulty might, to a certain extent, be improved by increasing the area of the district, and by the Government remitting to the Board the rents received from education reserves within the Board's jurisdiction. The policy of the Provincial Governments in the past was to endow education by setting apart 5 per cent. of the waste lands. This policy has been continued by the Waste Lands Board under central administration. It appears to the Board only reasonable, under the adverse circumstances stated, that the rents locally received ought to be locally applied to remedy the great disadvantages under which the Board labours in endeavouring to supply to children in this district the same educational facilities which are easily obtained in other districts of the colony. The Board, therefore, ventures to hope that this matter will receive the favourable consideration of the Government.