

THE WARD SYSTEM.—This latest innovation in educational management appears to the Board to be an utterly useless, as well as a most mischievous “tinkering” with the Education Act. If any necessity for such experimental legislation existed in any of the large districts, there was not the slightest need for such a change in Marlborough, or, probably, in any of the smaller education districts. It cannot truthfully be said that any—even the most remote—portion of this district has had cause to complain of the neglect of its requirements. Every member of the Board has acted as though he were representing every part, as well as the whole of the district. No complaint of undue preference of one part, to the detriment of any other, has ever been heard in Marlborough. The change will introduce a most undesirable element of parochialism into the proceedings of the Board, and, judging by analogy with other representative institutions, a member will in future be valued according to the amount of money he can cause to be devoted to his particular ward, with little consideration for the welfare of the district as a whole. The change is particularly mischievous in this district, as it will give some Committees a most undesirable preponderance of influence in the election. For instance, one Committee, if its members are, as they probably will be, unanimous, will be able to outvote all the Committees in the same ward, although having control of over less than one-fifth of the children in that ward. This difficulty might have been avoided if the framers of the Act had shown the usual courtesy of consulting the Boards. On the whole, the Board is of opinion that this latest example of ill-advised legislation is calculated to diminish, if not entirely to destroy, the influence of the Boards.

The report of the Board’s Inspector, already forwarded, gives all the information required as to educational progress within the district.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DUNCAN, Chairman.

The Right Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1905.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance at beginning of year—				Staff salaries and clerical assistance ..	475	0	0
On General Account .. ..	185	16	3	Office contingencies .. ..	194	17	5
On Building Account .. ..	281	3	3	Teachers' and pupil-teachers' salaries, and allowances to pupil-teachers ..	6,630	12	11
Grants from Government for—				Relieving-teachers' salaries ..	5	16	2
Teachers' and pupil-teachers' salaries, and allowances to pupil-teachers ..	6,467	9	11	Incidental expenses of schools (including subsidies on moneys raised locally and grant to Committee of 9d.) ..	578	6	5
Reserves revenue for primary education ..	300	0	0	Truant officers .. ..	41	0	0
Capitation at 11s. 3d. and grant of £250 ..	1,171	19	0	Capitation, 9d. .. ..	56	2	0
Capitation for relieving-teachers ..	40	19	6	Scholarships and expenses of examination ..	145	0	0
Special grant for Committees .. ..	56	2	0	Manual and technical instruction—			
Receipts from other sources—				School classes (needlework classes) ..	7	14	3
Rents of school reserves .. ..	12	10	0	Special classes (instruction of teachers) ..	33	19	3
Sundry sales .. ..	2	16	6	Managers of associated classes ..	139	15	10
Truancy fines .. ..	4	11	0	Maintenance of school buildings—			
Grants from Government for—				Repairs, repainting, &c. .. ..	258	12	11
Scholarships .. ..	141	1	5	Plans and supervision .. ..	14	19	0
Grants from Government for manual and technical instruction—				Alterations and small additions ..	188	11	8
Needlework classes .. ..	7	14	3	House allowances .. ..	80	0	0
Capitation (general and scholarship) ..	37	10	10	Fencing reserve, Grassmere .. ..	4	10	6
Instruction of teachers .. ..	133	3	4	New schools, additions, furniture, sites, &c. (North Bank) .. ..	128	15	3
Subsidies on voluntary contributions and bequests .. ..	1	0	0	Buildings, class-rooms, furniture, &c., for manual and technical purposes—			
Receipts from other sources—				Plans .. ..	23	5	6
Voluntary contributions .. ..	8	7	6	Other expenses—			
Grants from Government for—				Land Sales Account .. ..	26	0	0
Maintenance of buildings, rebuilding, &c. ..	451	0	0	Rent of side school .. ..	12	5	2
House allowances .. ..	64	3	4	Insurance of school buildings ..	8	17	9
Teacher's house, Fairhall .. ..	240	0	0	Refunds .. ..	3	8	4
Refund of rent of side school for 1904 ..	26	0	0	Balance at end of year .. ..	645	0	8
Rent of old school buildings .. ..	12	8	0				
Sale of old residence, Tuamarina .. ..	12	10	0				
Rent of side school .. ..	2	10	3				
Okaramio Committee: Piano Fund .. ..	12	0	0				
Other receipts—							
Proceeds of sale of sites .. ..	26	0	0				
Refunds (various) .. ..	3	10	8				
Sale of old wire .. ..	0	4	0				
	£9,702	11	0		£9,702	11	0

JOHN DUNCAN, Chairman.

JOHN SMITH, Secretary.

26th March, 1906.

NELSON.

SIR,—

Education Office, Nelson, 5th April, 1906.

I have the honour to lay before you a report of the proceedings of the Nelson Education Board for the year 1905.

THE BOARD.—At the annual election of three members of the Board the retiring members were re-elected, so that the *personnel* of the Board is the same as at the end of the previous year—viz., Messrs. W. N. Franklyn, T. J. Baigent, A. T. Maginnity, George Talbot (Chairman), J. D. Beuke, T. Bailie, H. Atmore, W. H. Phillips, and W. Lock. In the opinion of the Board the method of electing members of Education Boards as it has obtained during the last twenty-seven years was perfectly satisfactory,