

SCHOLARSHIPS.—The following scholarships (summarized) were awarded at the commencement of the current year: Board's Junior, ten; one was extended for one year. Board's Senior, eight; one was extended for two years. Junior National, four. There are now in force seventeen Board's Junior, twenty-five Board's Senior, and nine Junior National Scholarships.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS.—Saturday classes for the training of teachers were held in art at Hawera, Palmerston North, Taihape, Wanganui, and Feilding; in vocal music at Hawera, Taihape, Wanganui, and Feilding; in handwork at Hawera and Palmerston North; in modelling in clay at Wanganui; in cookery at Palmerston North; in science, botany, agriculture, and dairy-work at Wanganui and Hawera; and in woodwork at Feilding.

PUPIL-TEACHERS AND PROBATIONERS.—The pupil-teachers and probationers in the Board's service on the 31st December were classed as follows: Pupil-teachers—first year, 21; second year, 27; third year, 12; fourth year, 8; fifth year, 2. Probationers—first year, 10; second year, 5.

BUILDINGS AND SITES.—During the year new schools were erected at Horopito, Main South Road, Kaitieke, and Pukekaha; new residences at Ohangai, Mangaonoho, Raumai, Rangataua, Makotuku, and Waituna West. Additions were made to the schools at Sedgebrook, Gonville, Mokoia, Hunterville, Kairanga, Terrace End, Ohakune, and Rangataua, and to the residences at Otakeho, Beaconsfield, Riverlea, and Mangarimu. The Taikorea School and residence were removed to a more convenient site. The site and residence at Longburn were sold, and the school removed to a new site. A quarter-acre section was purchased as an addition to the Wanganui St. John's site, and a new site of 4 acres was secured at Marton on which it is intended to erect a new school at some future date. In both cases half the cost was paid by the Government. A site of about 4½ acres in the western end of Palmerston North was transferred to the Board by the Wellington School Commissioners. A school is required in this locality, and it is the intention of the Board to apply for a grant for the erection of a building. The supply of furniture and various works, consisting chiefly of the erection of shelter-sheds, out-offices, fencing, metalling, repairs, repainting, installation of sewerage, &c., were carried out at the following schools (only those places are given at which the cost exceeded £10): Apiti, Aramoho, Ashhurst, Awahuri, Beaconsfield, Carnarvon, Colyton, Foxton, Fraser Road, Hautapu, Hawera, Halcombe, Hunterville, Hurleyville, Jackeytown, Kelvin Grove, Kimbolton, Longburn, Lytton Street, Mangaweka, Momohaki, Meremere, Manaia, Maxwell, Mount View, Marton, Matarawa, Manui, Newbury, Ohakea, Ohingaiti, Owakura, Okoia, Ohangai, Campbell Street (Palmerston North), Patea, Parawanui, Porewa, Poukire, Pipiriki, Raetihi, Rongotea, Rawhitiroa, Raurimu, Sanson, Stanway, Taikorea, Te Roti, Taonui, Taihape, Turakina, Upokongaro, Valley Road, Waverley, Queen's Park (Wanganui), Warrengate, Whakamara, Wanganui District High, Waitotara, Winiata Side, and Waitohi. Contracts for painting, totalling about £450, have just been entered into.

MAINTENANCE GRANT.—The maintenance grant for the year was £5,788, thus restoring the grant to the basis in vogue up to the year 1909. The payment has placed the Maintenance Account on a better footing. A number of very old schools and residences urgently require rebuilding, and careful management will be necessary if the Board is to meet the whole cost of these works out of its Maintenance Fund. The shifting of population in several districts necessitates considerable expense in the removal of school buildings and the purchase of new sites, for which no provision is made in the scale of grants.

WANGANUI SCHOOL SITES ACT.—This Act, which was passed last session of Parliament, empowered the Board to lease the site on which the Wanganui Technical and Infants' Schools stand, and to pledge the rent as security for a loan for the purpose of erecting a technical college, infants' school, and Board offices. The Board has been fortunate in securing the lease of about 6 acres of the industrial-school estate, and a start has been made with the erection of the technical-college buildings. The building of a new infants' school and Board offices will be taken in hand as soon as the necessary financial arrangements are completed. The technical-school site has been subdivided and leased at a total rental of £997 a year.

DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY FIRE.—It is with regret that the Board reports the destruction again by fire, early this year, of the greater portion of the Wanganui District High School building. The new portion to replace that previously destroyed by fire was completed only a few months ago. Plans have been submitted for the rebuilding of the school on up-to-date lines. The teacher's residence at Hiwinui was burned down in November last, but, so far, the Government has not made a grant for the reinstatement of the building, although the Board has erected it and saved the Department the payment of house allowance. In such localities it is impossible for married teachers to find accommodation, and claims for rebuilding should be dealt with at least as promptly as by insurance companies.

TEACHERS' RESIDENCES.—Although the Government has been fairly liberal in making grants for the erection of teachers' residences, there are still some places without residences, where the teachers find it a matter of impossibility to obtain suitable accommodation. In the case of a married teacher this is especially hard. The Board would again urge the Minister to favourably consider the applications in hand. Notification has been received of a grant for the erection of washhouses and bathrooms at six, a washhouse at one, bathrooms at seven, additions of one room at six, and two rooms at three residences. The amounts allowed will not be sufficient to carry out the proposed additions. Consequently, if the works are proceeded with, the Maintenance Fund—or that part of it supposed to be for reinstatement—must bear part of the cost.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES' ALLOWANCES.—The amendment to the Act whereby the Board is required to pay Committees a capitation allowance for incidental expenses, amounting in the aggregate for all the Committees taken together to not less than the total amount calculated at the rate of 5s. 6d. for each child in daily attendance in the district, necessitated the revision of the Board's regulations on the subject. The Board formerly paid, taking the average attendance for the whole district, at the rate of 4s. 5½d. per child, in addition to the cost of sanitary service, fumigation of school buildings, &c. The regulations under the Amendment Act provide that these charges