

1911.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION : SUBSIDIES TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(PAPERS RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF).

[In continuation of E.—10, 1909.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

I. EXTRACT FROM THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

PARLIAMENT did not appropriate any sum in 1909–10 for payment of subsidies to public libraries. Last session, however, a vote of £4,000 was granted—an increase of £1,000 over those of previous years. The vote was first granted twenty-seven years ago, and amounted to £6,000. In 1886 the amount was reduced to £4,000. For twelve years after this date no grant was made, but in 1898 a vote of £2,000 was passed by Parliament. The following year it was increased to £3,000, and this amount has been regularly voted each year until 1908.

The increase in the amount of the vote is due to the increased income of libraries participating. During the last ten years the number of libraries has increased from 349 to 405, and the income on which subsidy was granted from £9,993 to £15,954.

In the *New Zealand Gazette* of 3rd November, 1910, a notice was inserted stating that £3,000 was available for distribution, and shortly afterwards another amount of £1,000 was voted by Parliament, making £4,000 altogether. Forms of application were sent to all libraries known to the Department.

The method of distribution of the vote was the same as that adopted in previous years—viz., a nominal addition of £25 was made to the amount of the income of each library derived from subscriptions, donations, and rates, provided that the receipts for the year were not less than £2, and the vote was distributed according to the amount thus augmented; but no library received credit for a larger income than £75—that is, in no case did the augmented amount on which distribution was based exceed £100. In accordance with the *Gazette* notice, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 3rd February, 1911, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 405 libraries from which applications, each accompanied by a statutory declaration on the proper form, had been received at that date. The vote, as thus dealt with, afforded a subsidy of 4s. 7·38d. in the pound on the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £6 4s. 7d. to £23 1s. 7d. The number of libraries participating in the vote shows a decrease of thirty-two as compared with the number aided in February, 1909.

In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained, it is made a condition for participation that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library in the previous year shall have been expended in the purchase of books.

The following table shows the distribution according to the education districts:—

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

Education Districts.	Number of Libraries.	Income.	Income upon which Subsidy is based.	Subsidy.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	97	2,974 12 0	3,870 0 4	892 16 5
Taranaki	13	384 17 5	640 10 2	147 15 7
Wanganui	31	1,557 9 2	1,518 8 2	350 7 6
Wellington	20	4,804 11 7	1,178 7 1	271 18 4
Hawke's Bay	29	1,394 14 1	1,386 5 0	319 17 7
Marlborough	6	152 10 4	286 2 6	66 0 5
Nelson	25	658 1 2	1,093 18 10	252 8 3
Grey	4	351 16 10	295 12 9	68 4 6
Westland	5	98 18 9	223 18 9	51 13 5
North Canterbury	66	1,763 2 2	2,570 14 2	593 2 2
South Canterbury	19	301 12 3	776 12 3	179 2 10
Otago	50	1,111 13 3	2,094 17 3	483 7 3
Southland	38	364 8 6	1,314 8 6	303 5 9
Stewart Island	1	29 0 6	54 0 6	12 9 4
Chatham Islands	1	7 0 0	32 0 0	7 7 8
Totals	405	15,954 8 0	17,335 16 3	3,999 17 0