

Dora Hume; second prizes, of £1 10s. each—Francis Brosnan and David Todd. During the year the Scholarship Regulations were amended, the chief changes being the throwing of the scholarships open to competition from all schools, the increase of the money values of Senior Scholarships, and of Boarding Scholarships, and the giving of greater freedom of choice of subjects in the Senior Scholarship Examination, especially to the pupils taking agriculture.

PHYSICAL DRILL.—Generally this subject receives due attention from the teachers. In most of the larger schools military drill and physical and breathing exercises are very well taught, and more attention is given to organized school games under the encouraging supervision of the teachers.

ATTENDANCE.—The following were the attendances for the year :—

Quarter.	Schools.	Teachers.	Roll.	Average Attendance.		
				M.	F.	Total.
March	83	182	5,660	2,663	2,482	5,145
June	84	181	5,625	2,663	2,456	5,119
September ..	84	183	5,684	2,575	2,408	4,983
December ..	84	182	5,753	2,673	2,488	5,161

Yearly average attendance, 5,102.

The roll-number at the end of the year was sixty-nine higher than at the end of 1910, and the yearly average attendance was 227 higher, and again constitutes a record for the district. The mean average weekly roll was 5,670, and the average attendance was 90 per cent. of this (for 1910 it was 88·2). This is the highest percentage yet attained in the district, and the improved standard of regularity is very satisfactory. It may be partly accounted for by the more stringent provisions of section 94 of the Education Amendment Act, 1910, which requires all children to attend the school whenever it is open.

The following table shows the attendance at the schools of the district since the Board was established at the beginning of 1878* :—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Roll-numbers.					Yearly Average Attendance.			Average for Year as Percentage of Mean of Average Roll.
			Beginning of Year.	Admitted during Year.	Left during Year.	End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll for Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
1878	17	56	2,666	..	941	813	1,754	..
1883	39	95	3,644	1,797	1,521	3,920	3,907	1,535	1,417	2,952	75·0
1888	50	125	4,375	1,696	1,368	4,703	4,726	1,902	1,773	3,675	77·7
1893	60	143	4,096	1,755	684	5,167	5,169	2,120	1,996	4,116†	79·6
1898	67	144	4,914	1,493	1,210	5,197	5,182	2,351	2,141	4,492	86·7
1902	71	148	5,075	1,506	1,453	5,128	5,129	2,347	2,108	4,455	86·9
1903	71	144	4,899	1,468	1,372	4,995	5,054	2,244	2,036	4,280	84·7
1904	74	144	4,787	1,648	1,321	5,114	5,077	2,331	2,113	4,444	87·5
1905	74	147	4,888	1,524	1,266	5,146	5,104	2,360	2,141	4,501	88·2
1906	77	152	4,884	1,700	1,389	5,195	5,176	2,396	2,169	4,565	88·2
1907	76	153	4,894	1,625	1,234	5,285	5,244	2,389	2,117	4,506	87·8
1908	76	156	4,888	1,741	1,241	5,388	5,350	2,475	2,181	4,656	87·0
1909	80	175	4,960	1,758	1,178	5,540	5,462	2,522	2,245	4,767	87·3
1910	83	176	5,068	1,886	1,270	5,684	5,525	2,578	2,297	4,875	88·2
1911	84	182	5,180	1,764	1,191	5,753	5,670	2,643	2,459	5,102	90·0

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—During 1910 there was considerable dissatisfaction among School Committees because the special capitation grant of 9d. on the average attendance was withdrawn from them. The Education Amendment Act, 1910, sections 2 and 4, increased the annual capitation grant to Boards from 11s. 3d. to 12s., and provided that the grants for incidental expenses to Committees shall amount in the aggregate for all the Committees taken together to not less than 5s. 6d. for each child. This increased grant enabled the Board during the year to increase the allowances to Committees, and a new scale was adopted. During 1910 the incidental grants paid to Committees by the Board were £1,236 18s., while in 1911 they were £1,452 15s., or a capitation of approximately 5s. 8½d.

BUILDINGS.—During the year a new school was built at Allandale; new teachers' residences were built at Washdyke and Pareora East; and the Waimate, Timaru South, Morven, and Waihao Downs Schools were enlarged. These works were all done out of grants from the vote for special grants for school buildings. In this connection, while thanking the Government and Department for the consideration given to most of its applications, the Board regrets that, though repeated representations were made to him on the matter, the Minister refused to grant the sums deemed necessary for teachers' residences at Washdyke and Pareora. Consequently, the Board has not been able to erect houses and to provide conveniences in keeping with the importance of these schools.

* Table condensed into five-yearly periods from 1878 to 1902. † Strict average.