

The following school buildings were repaired and painted during the year: Adair, Arundel, Geraldine, Glenavy, Hook, Hunters, Kingsdown, Makikihi, Orton, Pareora West, Pleasant Valley, Rangitata Island, Rangitata Station, Redcliff, Scotsburn, Tawai, Te Moana, Waimataitai (residence and interior of school), Waimate (residence and interior of school).

A statement of the receipts and expenditure for the year is appended.

I have, &c.,

W. M. HAMILTON, Chairman.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

OTAGO.

SIR,—

Education Office, Dunedin, 17th April, 1912.

I have the honour to present the following report of the Education Board of the District of Otago for the year 1911.

BOARD.—At the beginning of the year the Board consisted of the following persons: Northern Ward—Messrs. Donald Borrie, Andrew McKerrow, and James Mitchell; Central Ward—Hon. Thomas Fergus (Chairman), Messrs. George C. Israel, and William Scott; Southern Ward—Rev. P. B. Fraser, M.A., Messrs. D. T. Fleming and Parker McKinlay, M.A. In the month of February the Rev. P. B. Fraser resigned, owing to his removal from the district, the vacancy thus caused being filled by the election of Mr. James Smith for the remaining six months of Mr. Fraser's term. On the latter's retirement a resolution expressing appreciation of the energy and attention with which he had applied himself to the work of education during his thirteen years of service as a member was inscribed in the Board's minutes. At the annual election in the middle of the year the Hon. Thomas Fergus and Mr. James Smith were returned unopposed for the Central and Southern Wards respectively, and Mr. Andrew McKerrow was re-elected for the Northern Ward. At the first meeting of the Board in August Mr. Andrew McKerrow was elected Chairman. Twenty-eight meetings of the Board were held during the year, the average attendance of members being eight. In addition, the Board met twelve times as a selection committee to deal with the applications for the various vacancies for teachers. The following were the Board's representatives on various educational bodies: Otago High Schools Board—Hon. Thomas Fergus and Mr. G. C. Israel; Waitaki High Schools Board—Mr. James Mitchell; Boards of Management of Associated (Technical) Classes—Dunedin, Messrs. G. C. Israel, William Scott, D. T. Fleming, James Mitchell, Parker McKinlay, M.A., P. Goyen, and C. R. Richardson, B.A.; Oamaru, Messrs. James Mitchell and Frederick S. Aldred.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.—During 1911 the schools at Merino Downs and Nugget Point, and the household school at Balruddery were closed, and new schools were opened at Ngapuna and Blackburn, and household schools at Pleasant Valley and Teviot Downs. The number of schools in operation in December, 1911, was 239. The net increase in the number of schools open at the end of the year was one. The following table shows the classification of the schools in grades on their average attendance for the year 1911, in accordance with the Act and regulations thereunder:—

Grade of Schools.				Range of Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Aggregate of the Average Attendance.
Grade	0 ...	...	...	1 to 8	11	65
"	I ...	...	...	9 „ 15	33	374
"	II ...	...	...	16 „ 25	55	1,068
"	III ...	...	...	26 „ 35	34	997
"	IV ...	...	...	36 „ 80	57	2,840
"	V ...	...	...	81 „ 120	13	1,280
"	VI ...	...	...	121 „ 200	9	1,341
"	VII ...	...	...	201 „ 300	8	1,957
"	VIII ...	...	...	301 „ 450	8	2,819
"	IX ...	...	...	451 „ 600	8	4,008
"	X ...	...	...	Over 600	3	2,047
					*239	18,796

TEACHERS.—On the 31st December there were in the Board's service 624 teachers, classed as under:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Head teachers ...	101	1	102
Sole teachers ...	32	103	135
Assistant teachers ...	58	210	268
Total of adult teachers ...	191	314	505
Pupil-teachers ...	17	37	54
Probationers ...	5	21	26
Teachers of needlework ...	...	22	22
Manual and technical (special teachers) ...	9	5	14
Teacher of gymnastics ...	1	...	1
„ elocution ...	1	...	1
„ vocal music ...	1	...	1
Totals for 1911 ...	225	399	624
Totals for 1910 ...	226	389	615
Difference for 1911 ...	-1	10	9

* Two half-time schools reckoned as one school in Grade II. Normal School and Model School reckoned as one school in Grade IX.