

Medical and Dental Inspection. This work has proceeded steadily throughout the year. To make the scheme a success, however, more frequent visits are necessary, and full provision made for the treatment of children suffering from the various defects reported. The Board has brought under your notice the need for the establishment of a dental clinic in this district. These clinics have been established in other parts of the Dominion, and when further dental clinics are being established it is hoped that the claims of Hawke's Bay will not be overlooked.

Scholarships. Scholarships in tenure at the end of 1921 were as follows: Junior National Scholarships, 25; Senior National Scholarships, 10; Wairoa County Council Scholarships, 2: total, 37.

Buildings.—The renovation and painting of schools and residences have been proceeded with steadily throughout the year, but the work in this connection is somewhat backward. Funds will not permit of additional staff being engaged to expedite this important work. A fairly heavy building programme was undertaken during the year. New schools were completed at Clive Grange, Greenmeadows (infant school), Mangaheia, and Pukehamomoa. The main building at Napier Central was finished, thus completing the reinstatement of this school on a new site. The rebuilding of the Ruataniwha School, which had been destroyed by fire in 1920, was also completed. A new district-high-school building was erected at Waipukurau. The Hatuma South School, which had been closed over a number of years, was removed to the soldier settlement at Wilder, at which place also a small movable residence was erected. Additions to and remodelling of existing schools were carried out at Fernhill, Hastings Street, Kaiteratahi, and Wairoa, while additions were made to the school at Tokomaru Bay. Additions were also made to the residence at Havelock North. The following works of importance were in progress at the end of the year: Mangapapa, new infant school; Mahora, portable and extensible school; Otawhao, new school.

Earlier in the report I have pointed out that there has been a large increase in the school population in this district. Quite a number of schools are very much overcrowded, and additional accommodation in most cases cannot be delayed much longer, notwithstanding the prevailing financial conditions.

During the year the Board was able, with the assistance of a grant from the Department, to erect a workshop, in which machinery of a modern type has been installed. The Board is now in a position to manufacture all kinds of school furniture, and to provide joinery, &c., when required. Prices paid for furniture in past years have been exceptionally high, and the workshop will enable the Board to effect a very large saving in this direction.

School Committees.—The Board again desires to express its appreciation of the manner in which School Committees have co-operated with the Board in the administration of the Act, and in the cause of education generally. Committees have again found considerable difficulty in carrying on with the funds for incidental expenses granted by the Department. Were it not for the fact that large sums were raised locally for school purposes, the liabilities in many instances could not have been met. The self-reliant attitude of many of the Committees is worthy of the highest commendation, but the Board is of opinion that, while local efforts should be encouraged in the direction of raising funds for the improvement and the beautifying of the school and the school-grounds, Committees should not be placed in the position of having to raise funds to supplement the Government grants for the ordinary incidental expenses of the schools. In this connection it is of interest to note that during the past five years the sum of £4,502 10s. 7d. has been received from Committees for the purpose of subsidy claims on the Department. The figures for each year are—1917, £882 15s. 4d.; 1918, £514 14s. 11d.; 1919, £825 16s. 2d.; 1920, £960 13s. 5d.; 1921, £1,318 10s. 9d. These amounts do not, however, include several large sums raised by Committees or contributed from other sources for the purchase of school-sites, &c., which were not subsidized and which were not paid to the Board's account, nor do they make any allowance for valuable donations of land for school-sites. By making allowance for these items, it is safe to say that the voluntary contributions in this district have totalled £11,000 over the period stated.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

G. F. ROACH, Chairman.

WELLINGTON.

SIR,—

Education Board Office, Wellington, 31st March, 1922.

In accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, 1914, I beg to submit the following report of the Education Board of the District of Wellington for the year 1921.

Board.—The Board membership was unchanged:—viz., Urban areas: (1) Wellington City and former Boroughs of Karori, Onslow, and Miramar—Messrs. Thomas Forsyth (Chairman), R. A. Wright, M.P., J. J. Clark, and A. J. White; (2) Hutt and Petone—Messrs. G. T. London and E. P. Rishworth. Rural area: (1) Hutt-Horowhenua Ward—Messrs. W. H. Field, M.P., and C. I. Harkness; (2) Wairarapa Ward—Messrs. T. Moss and W. T. Grundy; (3) Marlborough Ward—Messrs. R. McCallum, M.P., and E. H. Penny. Board representatives: High schools—Wellington Colleges, the Chairman; Marlborough College, Messrs. R. McCallum, C. Ferguson, and W. D. Pike; Masterton High School, Messrs. W. T. Grundy, T. Moss, and T. Jordan; Hutt Valley High School, Messrs. G. T. London, E. P. Rishworth, and the Mayor of Petone. Technical Schools—Wellington, Messrs. T. Forsyth, J. J. Clark, and A. J. White; Masterton, Mr. W. T. Grundy; Petone, Messrs. G. T. London and D. McKenzie.