

Financial.—The total amount due by the Department to the Education Boards for the salaries and incidental expenses for the year 1929 was approximately £73,654, made up as follows:—

Salaries—					£	£
Full-time assistants	..	..	..	..	45,514	
Full-time student teachers	..	..	..	..	79	
Overtime	..	..	..	..	88	
Capitation for part-time teachers (including commercial instructors in district high schools)	..	..	..	..	805	
						46,486
Incidental allowances	..	..	..	..	..	10,862
Capitation grants	..	..	..	..	..	16,306
Total					..	73,654

In addition, capitation amounting to £1,685 and incidental allowances amounting to £505 were earned on account of commercial instruction in district high schools given by part-time teachers. The Department also provided handwork materials for use in 1929 costing some £11,600, and also refunded to Education Boards the actual receiving and distributing charges, amounting approximately to £1,400 involving a total expenditure of £13,000.

The above figures exclude salaries and incidental allowances payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

GENERAL.

Number of Schools.—The number of technical high schools open during 1929 was fourteen, in addition to which there were seven organized technical or art schools offering full-day courses. From the 1st January, 1927, the New Plymouth Technical Day School was amalgamated with the New Plymouth High School, and the statistics as far as the full-time pupils are concerned are included in the secondary schools report.

Technical classes were conducted at twenty of the twenty-one centres referred to above, and also at seventeen other centres, the total number of centres for all classes being thirty-eight.

Attendance.—The following table shows the numbers in attendance at technical schools and classes in 1929:—

—	Free.	Other.	Total.
Total number of pupils on the roll of technical high and technical day schools at 30th June, 1929	7,324	212	7,536
Total number of students in attendance at other technical classes (<i>i.e.</i> , part-time and evening classes) at 30th June, 1929	5,627	5,560	11,187
Grand total	12,951	5,772	18,723

In the technical high schools and technical day schools the total enrolments increased from 7,817 in 1928 to 8,266 in 1929, an increase of 5·7 per cent.

It is to be noted that the increase in the numbers in both day and evening classes is due to the increase in the number of free pupils, more than balancing a diminution in the numbers of other pupils.

Staffing.—On the 30th June, 1929, there were 327 full-time assistant teachers on the staffs of technical schools, besides a large number of part-time teachers. There were also twenty full-time student teachers, eleven being males and nine