

1128. In regard to Secondary School Boards the administrative cost per pupil is much higher. The total cost of administration of these Boards is £10,383, but allowance should be made in connection with the administration of endowments. Excluding expenditure on administration of endowments, the cost per pupil is approximately 10s. 9d.

1129. With regard to Technical School Boards the cost is again also high, and averages 12s. 9d. per pupil.

1130. We are of opinion that some of the causes of expensive administration under the Board system are :—

1131. (1) *Large and highly paid staffs employed by various Boards.*

1132. In 1915 the administrative and clerical officers employed by Boards numbered seventy-nine, while fourteen officers were engaged in connection with buildings, excluding clerks of works, foremen, and workmen. **In 1930, notwithstanding the gradual reduction in the duties of Boards, the administrative and clerical officers had increased by 40 per centum and building staffs by 133 per centum.**

1133. The average school attendance during the foregoing period had increased by only 21·5 per cent., **so that the cost of administration has been out of proportion to the increase in school attendance, and has occurred notwithstanding substantial reductions in the duties of Boards.**

1134. The following table gives a clear comparison between 1915 and 1930 for each district :—

	Administration : Clerical Staff.*			Number of Schools.		
	1915.	1930.	Per Cent. Increase.	1915.	1930.	Per Cent. Increase.
Auckland	11	27	145·5	645	779	20·8
Taranaki	5	9	80·0	103	170	65·0
Wanganui	10	12	20·0	216	218	0·9
Hawke's Bay	6	10	66·7	174	198	13·8
Wellington	10	18	80·0	245	262	6·9
Nelson	4	6	50·0	128	137	7·0
Canterbury	19†	15	—21·1	384	390	1·6
Otago	8	11	37·5	257	251	—2·3
Southland	6	9	50·0	186	188	1·1

* Including storemen, attendance officers. † Includes the staffs of the old North Canterbury, South Canterbury, Westland and Grey districts. Note the decrease in staff due to centralization—that is, by the amalgamation of districts.

1135. It should be stated here that the staff of the Department has also increased substantially during the same period, but this is largely due to the extension of its duties as follows :—

- (a) The amendment of the Education Act from time to time throwing greater responsibility on to the Department.
- (b) The extension of the system—for example, correspondence school, special classes, child-welfare extension, extension of manual and technical training, extension of training college activities, &c.

1136. We mention this because we do not wish it to be inferred that an increase in the administrative costs of the Boards has not been paralleled by an increase in the administrative cost of the Department, but for the latter the reason is easily understood, **while it is difficult to account for the increase in the administrative costs of the Boards when their responsibilities and powers have been substantially decreased.**

1137. As an instance of the comparatively high salaries paid by Boards, we mention that the Secretary to the Department and the departmental Architect each receive £715 per annum, now less statutory reductions. That the salaries of officers of Boards are high in comparison is clear from the following statement :—

						Salaries in 1930.		Number of Schools.
						Secretary.	Architect.	
						£	£	
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	800	775	779
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	600	600	170
Wanganui	..	..	..	..	..	665	625	218
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	725	715	198
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	800	575	262
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	700	500	137
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	725	675	390
Otago	..	..	..	..	..	650	600	251
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	525	495	188