

In Otago additions have been completed at Pine Hill School, Dunedin. A new consolidated school to serve the Clutha Valley is nearing completion. Mosgiel Primary School is being rebuilt and additional accommodation is being erected at Wakari. The new training college in Dunedin is now under way, and a new intermediate school is to be provided in South Dunedin.

In Invercargill a new school is being erected for the children in the eastern portion of the city, and plans are being prepared for the erection of intermediate schools to give relief to overcrowding in the public schools.

The Department has also made substantial progress with the improvement of the accommodation provided for the children attending the Native schools under its control. New schools have been erected at Mochau and Punaruku. Additional class-rooms have been provided at Awarua, Huiarau, Maraeroa, Oromahoe, Paeroa, Rangitahi, Te Kaha, Te Whaiti, Tokomaru Bay, and Waimamaku. Work is nearing completion at Ahipara (additions), Hiruharama (new), Okauia (school and residence), Ruatoki (new), and is proceeding at Te Kao (additions) and Te Waotu (addition and residence). A new residence has been provided at Waimamaku, while special works have been completed as follows: Erection of model cottage at Horohoro; manual-training facilities at Paeroa and Rangitahi; dining-hall, also facilities for bathing and teaching of cookery at Te Hapua; and a dental clinic at Tokaanu.

Consideration is being given to the following works: Matihetihe (school and residence), Papamoa (school and residence), Te Kotukutuku (additions), Te Matai (school and residence), Te Teko (new school), Tikitiki (school and residence), Wharekahika (school and residence), and a new school and residence on a new site at Whakarewarewa.

Further substantial progress has been made with the building of the new science block at Auckland University College, while the biology and administration block at Victoria College and the second lecture theatre at Otago University are practically completed. Consideration is to be given to the erection of University Libraries at Canterbury College and at Otago University.

During the year £12,240 was expended on the replacement of school buildings destroyed by fire, while £13,240 was recovered from the Government Fire Insurance Fund, part of which was on account of expenditure incurred in the previous year. These amounts are not included in the figures below.

The following table shows the capital expenditure on new buildings, additions, teachers' residences, and sites for the financial years ended 31st March, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939:—

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£
Public schools	35,105	87,908	162,894	331,558	467,255
Secondary schools	14,679	23,516	24,092	58,924	56,819
Technical schools	12,851	59,350	77,836	97,740	82,568
Training colleges .. ..	..	610	6,730	1,984	27,071
Native schools	5,419	8,399	12,172	34,180	39,632
University Colleges .. ..	..	..	3,022	39,086	58,710
Massey Agricultural College .. ..	..	..	525	..	..
Child-welfare institutions .. ..	..	221	..	351	..
School for the Deaf .. ..	..	..	..	4,841	6,295
Schools for feeble-minded .. ..	..	..	2,473	312	840
Kindergartens .. ..	..	..	..	881	1,181
N.Z. Institute for Blind .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,000
Wellington Education Board office building .. ..	..	..	..	..	5,350
Gross total	68,054	180,004	289,744	569,857	746,721
Less credits-in-aid	10,894	48,547	7,848	8,325	*66,598
	£57,160	£131,457	£281,896	£561,532	£680,123

* Includes £51,000 sale of Education Board's office building, Wellington.

5. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

The following table gives the number of public primary schools in December, classified according to range of roll. The total average attendance for each grade and subgrade of school for the year ended 31st August, 1938, is also given.