of £2,603 10s. is required to place the buildings of the district upon a really satisfactory footing. According to the present rate of ordinary grant the Board would not receive yearly more than a fourth of the sum mentioned. Unless the Board obtain a special grant the result must therefore be that the buildings will go from bad to worse; and instead of the expenditure of a small sum for repairs, there must, in some cases, be a renewal of the whole building. The recommencement of work in connection with the Midland Railway, and the revival in mining affairs likely to be caused by development of quartz mines and the extension of beach dredging, will tend to increase our population, and cause a demand for more school accommodation. Unless more liberality can be shown in connection with the building grant, there is small chance of the Board being able to meet the requirements of the district. The Board desires to acknowledge the public spirit displayed by the inhabitants of Ngahere and the neighbourhood, who erected a school building at their own cost and handed it over to the Board. As a proof that the Board endeavoured, with the limited means at its command, to meet the necessities of all the schools as fairly as possible it may be mentioned that four schools only received no expenditure upon buildings. The amounts expended varied from 12s. at Red Jacks to £131 1s. 7d. at Richardson, the average expenditure upon sixteen schools being £34 1s. 1d.

The Board's regulations for scholarships are appended hereto, and are materially different to those previously existing. The scholarships are now tenable at the Greymouth District High School, and the Board is therefore able to offer a larger number—viz., two yearly for the town schools, including Greymouth and Cobden, and two for country schools; the first receiving only free tuition for three years, and the latter free tuition for three years and £25 a year for two years. The Board regrets that the advantages offered have not met with greater appreciation, as shown by the unsatisfactory results of the examination. The Board was only able to grant one scholarship each for town and country. The causes of the failure to show good work were set forth in the special and general reports of the Board's Inspector.

The Board desires to pay testimony to the energetic manner in which Committees have met the inconvenience caused by the abolition of their yearly grant, and hopes to find it in its power shortly to be able to renew the grant.

Table No. III. gives the receipts and expenditure of the Board for the year, and Table No. IV. the expenditure as divided amongst the schools. Committees were provided with stationery free of charge, and schools were provided with ink, chalk, blotting paper, foolscap and note paper, envelopes, slate pencils, penholders and pens, pencilholders, &c., without payment. A schedule is attached showing the cost of these articles for each school. Table No. V. gives the ages of the children in the public schools of the district, and the number classified according to standards; also the number receiving instruction in each subject prescribed by the Act. Table No. VII. furnishes particulars of the building requirements of the district, and the Board would respectfully press upon your consideration the reasons already given for dealing promptly with them.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education. JAMES B. BARKLEY, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1888.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Government grant for buildings ..	654	12	0
Government statutory capitation ..	4,984	15	5
Scholarship grant	98	11	10
Inspection subsidy	125	0	0
Payments by Nelson School Commissioners	65	10	10
District High School fees	83	0	0
School books	80	0	0
Rent of reserve, Taylorville	200	0	0
Grant from Greymouth High School Board	70	0	0
Rent of offices	25	0	0
Sundries	1	8	5
Balance at end of year—General Account	194	4	3
	£6,582	2	9

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Balance at beginning of year—			
General Account	499	0	0
Building Account	87	0	5
Office Staff—Salary	300	0	0
Clerical assistance	30	16	8
Departmental contingencies	131	7	4
Inspector's travelling expenses ..	35	12	6
Examination of pupil-teachers ..	3	3	0
Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)	4,234	11	5
Incidental expenses of schools ..	172	10	7
Scholarships—Paid to scholars ..	100	0	0
School buildings—			
New buildings	180	4	0
Improvements of buildings ..	184	15	1
Furniture and appliances	172	15	2
Plans, supervision, and fees ..	5	3	6
Interest on Building Fund	2	0	1
Rent	74	10	0
Printing	64	17	0
Travelling expenses—Members ..	81	5	0
School requisites	162	14	3
Interest on overdraft—General Account	37	3	0
Balance at end of year—On Building Account..	22	13	9
	£6,582	2	9

J. BARKLEY, Chairman.
E. T. ROBINSON, Secretary.

Examined and found correct.—JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD, Controller and Auditor-General.