

regulations as to the incidental expenditure, are printed in the Appendix. The effect of the reductions was not immediately felt, as the Board considered it right to give the teachers three months' notice, and a longer time elapsed before the new scale could be brought fairly into operation. But before the end of the year the expenditure had been brought within the revenue; and the estimates for the year 1889 show that, should no unforeseen circumstances occur, the capitation allowance, with the £500 granted for inspection, will meet all the Board's ordinary expenses.

NEW SCHOOLS AND BUILDINGS.—During the year 1888 new school districts were formed at Dromore, Ruapuna, Marshland, and Glenroy (Upper Hororata). Of these, only Dromore and Glenroy were actually new, Marshland and Ruapuna being formed by a division of the New Brighton and Mayfield districts respectively. New schools were built at Westerfield, Marshland, Dromore, Ladbrokees, and Belfast (side); large additions were made to the schools at Harewood Road and Halswell; and considerable improvements to schools at Spreydon, St. Alban's, Oxford East, Mount Somers, Kowai Bush, French Farm, German Bay, Fendalton, South Town Belt, Akaroa. A comparatively large expenditure was required at the Normal School and the Christchurch East Main School on account of damage done by an earthquake. The total expenditure under the head of buildings during the year was £4,579 14s. 6d.

MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS.—The amount paid during the year for teachers' salaries and allowances was £50,749 18s. 10d., and the incidental expenses for the maintenance of schools amounted to £6,400 7s. 5d.; making a total of £57,150 6s. 3d. The following table shows the amount spent on salaries and incidentals during each year from 1878 inclusive:—

Year.	Salaries.		Incidental.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1878	31,919	0 0	6,276	6 9	38,195	6 9
1879	34,417	14 6	5,856	9 8	40,274	4 2
1880	38,136	17 8	5,856	2 1	43,992	19 9
1881	36,683	4 11	5,591	15 6	42,275	0 5
1882	39,418	13 11	5,901	18 1	45,320	12 0
1883	42,240	19 10	6,090	15 9	48,331	15 7
1884	44,727	17 4	6,431	14 1	51,159	11 5
1885	47,543	16 4	6,566	2 3	54,109	18 7
1886	48,686	12 10	6,647	3 1	55,333	15 11
1887	50,991	16 6	6,901	14 10	57,893	11 4
1888	50,749	14 6	6,400	7 5	57,150	6 3

Table No. 7 gives the names of the teachers employed in each school, with the salary payable to each, and the amount of incidental expenditure in each school district. The number of teachers employed at the end of the year 1888 was 516, of whom 191 (twenty-two less than at the end of 1887) were pupil-teachers. The number of sewing mistresses was forty-one.

ATTENDANCE.—The number of school districts at the close of the year was 140; and the number of separate schools, including the practising department of the Normal School (but not the Model School, which, however, is practically separate), was 156. One of these, at Gough's Bay, was an aided school. A second aided school, at Okuku, was closed during the year. The schools are classified as follows:—

Under 15 pupils	...	9	75 and under 100	...	14
15 and under 20 pupils	...	11	100 " 150	...	16
20 " 25	...	17	150 " 300	...	11
25 " 50	...	45	300 " 500	...	6
50 " 75	...	22	500 and upwards	...	5

The usual returns of the number and ages of the children, and of the number receiving instruction in each subject, are appended. The following table shows the total number on the rolls, the number in average attendance, and the percentage of attendance in the schools in this district for each year since the present Education Act came into operation:—

Quarter ended 31st December.	District Schools.	Aided Schools.	Total Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Percentage.
1878	106	4	110	13,647	10,076	73·83
1879	116	4	120	15,230	11,381	74·72
1880	121	2	123	16,437	12,233	74·42
1881	128	1	129	16,051	11,760	73·26
1882	133	2	135	16,907	12,747	75·39
1883	139	4	143	17,797	13,462	75·64
1884	143	3	146	18,332	14,210	77·51
1885	143	3	146	19,223	14,863	77·27
1886	145	3	148	19,402	15,445	79·35
1887	152	2	154	20,045	15,935	79·49
1888	155	1	156	20,388	16,395	80·42

INSPECTION.—The annual reports of the Inspectors, which with the accompanying statistical tables are printed in the Appendix, deal fully with questions relating to the condition of the schools