

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Office—Salary and expenses	71	8	6	28	11	6	100	0	0
Office stationery, postages, &c.	5	10	8	1	12	0	7	2	8
Expenses of leasing—advertising	18	16	9	5	18	6	24	15	3
Fencing, &c., reserves	4	11	0	...	...	...	4	11	0
Surveys	2	16	3	0	18	9	3	15	0
Crown Lands Office fees	1	12	6	...	...	...	1	12	6
Rates	79	17	4	24	7	4	104	4	8
Legal expenses	40	9	6	5	5	0	45	14	6
Payments to Boards—									
Auckland Education Board	1,524	0	0	}	...		1,600	0	0
Hawke's Bay Education Board	76	0	0						
Payments towards secondary education—Gisborne									
High School ... ..	...			825	11	4	825	11	4
Refunds—									
Lease deposits	7	16	0	4	4	0	12	0	0
Rent deposits	7	12	6	...	...	...	7	12	6
Balance at credit on 31st December, 1888 ... ..	...			...	...	...	870	3	0
Total expenditure ... ..	...			...	...	...	3,607	2	5

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance of cash in hand, 31st December, 1888 ... ..	...			...			870	3	0
Arrears of rent for 1886	74	10	0	6	15	0	81	5	0
Arrears of rent for 1887	261	17	7	32	18	9	294	16	4
Arrears of rent for 1888	872	8	5	213	18	0	1,086	6	5
Total assets	1,208	16	0	253	11	9	2,332	10	9

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Advertising	1	4	4	0	8	2	1	12	6
Lease deposits	35	0	3	7	15	7	42	15	10
Total liabilities... ..	36	4	7	8	3	9	44	8	4

WM. P. MOAT, Chairman.

H. N. GARLAND, Secretary.

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

TARANAKI.

SIR,—

School Commissioners' Office, New Plymouth, 5th April, 1889.

I have the honour to forward the annual report of the Board of School Commissioners for the year ending the 31st December, 1888.

During the year the Board has held twelve ordinary and four special meetings. The following are the attendances of each member: T. King, Esq., 12; R. Parris, Esq., 15; R. G. Bauchope, Esq., 14; T. Humphries, Esq., 15; Mr. District Judge Rawson, 1.

The greater facilities given under the Public Bodies' Powers Act and "The Land Act, 1885," for leasing lands on more advantageous terms to tenants are inducing extended settlement throughout the district, and most of the rural lands vested in this Board are now let.

As will be seen from the statement of accounts appended hereto, there is a large amount of arrears of rent. This is accounted for partly by the fact that tenants held back their rents pending the fate of the Fair Rent Bill before the House last session. The reductions made to tenants holding land under the Public Trustee have also had the effect of inducing lessees under this Board to allow their rents to accumulate, with the hope of similar reductions. The Board has, however, taken steps to collect these arrears, and has determined to re-enter on all properties where the tenants are unable to pay their rents in a reasonable time.

A large number of applications have been received for reductions of rent, and the Board secured the services of Mr. G. F. Robinson, Crown Lands Ranger, to examine and report upon the leases of the applicants. Small reductions have been made in a few cases, but in the majority of cases it was found that the tenants were not paying excessive rents.

Owing to the death of the late Secretary, Mr. W. Northcroft, Mr. E. Veale has been appointed Secretary to the Board.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

I have, &c.,

T. KING, Chairman.