

formerly, and these have since been studying in the Rector's class at the Hokitika District High School, in accordance with the new regulations of the Board.

FINANCE.—The Building Account shows a credit balance of £471 5s., but this includes the departmental grant of £420 just made, and which is all the Board has obtained as its share of the building vote for the year. The requirements which this grant is intended to meet amount to £881. Owing to the fact that all the Board's buildings, with one exception, are of wood, and most of them of some years' standing, the demands on the Board for repairs are both constant and large, and are likely to become more so in the near future.

The Board's income for the year on General Account alone, including a credit balance of £31 1s. 6d. at the commencement, has been £5,621 0s. 8d., and its expenditure £5,698 8s. 7d. thus leaving a debit balance on this account of £77 7s. 11d. The Board views the existence of this debt, small as it is, with regret, although aware that it has come about in spite of the most vigilant and habitual regard to the claims of economy. The difficulty lies in the fact that the population of the district is so scattered, less than 1,700 school-children being dispersed over nearly two hundred miles of sea-coast, and hence the number of schools to be maintained is out of all proportion to the number of scholars on whom capitation is received, so that nearly all the schools have to be worked at a loss to the Board. How great is the disadvantage under which the Board labours in this respect will become manifest by comparing the ratio of schools to scholars in this and some other education district—say the neighbouring one of North Canterbury. In the case of this latter district the average roll-number for each school will be found to be 130, whilst in that of Westland it is only fifty-two, so that, proportionately, more than twice as many schools have to be maintained in this district as in the one cited.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

J BEVAN, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1891

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£	s.	d.
To Balance at beginning of year—					By Office staff—Salaries		172	10	0
Building Account		85	17	9	Departmental contingencies—				
General Account		31	1	6	Furniture and repairs		27	7	8
Government grant for buildings		1,023	0	0	Fuel, light, and cleaning		27	5	6
Government statutory capitation		5,118	15	0	Printing		25	10	0
Scholarship grants		77	9	3	Stationery		8	1	10
Inspection subsidy		175	0	0	Advertising		21	6	0
District High School fees		130	0	0	Legal expenses		3	13	0
Hokitika High School Board, annual subsidy		60	0	0	Allowances to members of Board		14	5	0
Deposit (on tenders)		5	0	0	Subscription to <i>West Coast Times</i>		1	17	6
Book-sales		14	13	11	Cheque-book		1	5	0
Interest on fixed deposits		7	17	6	Petty cash		5	0	0
Sale of harmonium		6	3	6	Rent of post-office box		1	0	0
Balance at end of year—					Interest on bank overdraft		0	7	6
General Account (outstand- ing cheques)	£150 15 9				Inspector's salary		175	0	0
Less balance in bank	73 7 10				Inspector's travelling expenses		66	11	6
		77	7	11	Examination of pupil-teachers		16	7	0
					Teachers' salaries and allowances (in- cluding rent, bonus, &c.)		4,770	17	7
					Incidental expenses of schools		237	13	10
					Scholarships—				
					Paid to scholars		96	0	0
					Examination expenses		10	10	0
					School-buildings—				
					New buildings		205	11	6
					Improvements of buildings		270	2	6
					Furniture and appliances		53	18	1
					Sites (fencing, &c.)		73	7	0
					Plans, supervision, and fees		10	16	6
					Books		9	10	9
					School requisites		35	6	1
					Balance at end of year—				
					On Building Account (in bank)		171	5	0
					On Building Account (on fixed deposit)		300	0	0
							£6,812	6	4
							£6,812	6	4

JOHN BEVAN, Chairman.

JOHN GAMMELL, Secretary

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

NORTH CANTERBURY

SIR,—

Christchurch, 31st March, 1892.

I have the honour to present the following report of the proceedings of the Education Board of the District of North Canterbury for the year ending the 31st December, 1891.

THE BOARD.—The three members who retired at the end of March, 1891, were Mr. Anson, Mr. Ruddenklau, and Mr. Wright, of whom Mr. Ruddenklau did not offer himself for re-election. At an election held on the 12th March Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Anson, and Mr. Wright were elected. Mr. Montgomery was one of the members originally elected in 1873, but retired in October 1887. At the same meeting Mr. Weston was elected Chairman of the Board, Mr. Peryman, Mr. Wright, Mr. Westenra, and Mr. Joyce were elected members of the Buildings Committee, and Mr. Anson, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Montgomery members of the Appointments Committee. The Chairman is *ex officio* member of both these Committees. Later in the year, in the absence of