

Though the Act holds liable to summary conviction and fine the parents of all children who attend less than six times in any week in which the school is open at least nine times, it must not be supposed that advantage is taken of this provision to unduly harass or annoy all and sundry who fall at any time within its scope. Moderation and tact must ever be the truant officer's watchword and in Dunedin and suburbs his procedure in separating innocent from culpable parents is ordinarily as follows. At the end of every month he is furnished by each headmaster with a list of those pupils who have failed to make the requisite number of attendances. After conference with the headmasters, all cases in which sickness is known to be the cause of the absence are struck out, as are all cases where the lapse is an isolated one, and not thought likely to recur, doubtful cases are specially inquired into, and only those are dealt with in Court in which the offence is of a more flagrant character, and for which no sufficient cause is either known to the headmaster or can be readily ascertained. This procedure, of course, applies mainly to that class of children described in the Act as irregular attenders. For information with respect to those children who are habitual truant-players, and who, through not being on any school roll, are unknown to the teachers, the officer has to rely almost entirely upon his own alertness and observation.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

By order of the Board.

P G. PRYDE, Secretary

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1894.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at beginning of year—			By Office staff—Salaries	1,013	0 0
On Building Account	5,470	2 7	Departmental contingencies..	329	1 3
On General Account	2,851	0 7	Inspectors' salaries	1 487	10 0
Government grant for buildings	7,000	0 0	Inspectors' travelling expenses	535	12 8
Local contributions for buildings	73	11 9	Examination of pupil-teachers	19	0 4
Deposits forfeited	4	0 0	Teachers' salaries and allowances	60,388	0 5
Government statutory capitation	62,050	11 8	Incidental expenses of schools	4,556	11 5
Government scholarship grant	1,297	14 11	Training of teachers	1,631	9 6
Inspection subsidy	500	0 0	Scholarships—		
Payments by School Commissioners	6,614	4 3	Paid to scholars	1,234	11 2
District High School fees	144	6 11	Examination expenses	35	0 1
Rents of school sites	7	16 6	School buildings—		
Interest	118	5 3	New buildings	4,280	8 7
Fees, School of Art and Design	123	9 6	Improvements of buildings	1 721	6 7
Dictionaries sold	68	0 0	Furniture and appliances	408	5 9
			Sites	221	8 10
			Plans, supervision, &c.	398	5 7
			School of Art and Design	586	11 6
			Truant officer	84	12 9
			Members' expenses	158	19 0
			Refund part proceeds dictionaries sold	56	0 0
			Balance at end of year—		
			On Building Account	5,513	19 0
			On General Account	1,663	9 6
	<u>£86,323</u>	<u>3 11</u>		<u>£86,323</u>	<u>3 11</u>

P G. PRYDE, Secretary and Treasurer

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

REPORT OF THE ART MASTER.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the School of Art and Design for the year 1894.

During the past session the same course of instruction has been pursued as heretofore. The total number of students who received instruction during the past year was 323, showing a decrease of 19 since last year. This total includes 94 teachers and pupil-teachers, 51 students in training, 95 students who attended the day classes, and 83 students who attended the evening classes.

At the December examination the total number of students and pupil-teachers examined in the second grade was as follows:—

Subjects.	Number examined.	Passed.			Failed.
		Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	
Freehand	37	6	15	10	6
Model drawing	34	4	7	16	7
Geometrical drawing	14	3	4	2	5
Perspective	14	2	6	4	2
Drawing on blackboard	14	10	2	2	..
Drawing ornament from casts	14	1	3	10	..