

tinued is that I find it difficult to give the required time to their preparation and attend to all the other work connected with the school. Even perspective and geometry require a certain amount of preparation, while subjects like engineering and architecture cannot under the most favourable conditions be prepared under three or four hours. Experimental science, taken last term, which in some cases requires no preparation as regards reading, involves at least five or six hours preparing notes, getting out and in many cases fitting up complicated apparatus, and going through the experiments, it may be, two or three times before the lecture—all this without assistance of any kind. This want of teaching power in the school is still more marked at the teachers' class on Saturday morning, when I am supposed to take five different subjects on the blackboard (see pupil-teachers' syllabus above), and also attend to students individually, in the limited time at my disposal. When it is remembered that many of those who attend this class travel long distances by train (last term thirty out of forty-seven came by train), it is absolutely necessary if the subjects are to be properly taught, that competent assistance be provided, otherwise it cannot be expected that students will continue to attend this class.

The work of the school is carried on in two rooms—namely, the art room, in which the casts are hung, where not more than twelve students can work at easels without crowding, and the lecture room, capable of seating thirty-six students at desks. As the advanced students get on to work from larger casts it is difficult to get far enough away from the cast and yet not interfere with the line of vision of other students. When the required full-figure casts from the antique—so much required by the morning and evening classes, and referred to above—are obtained a larger room must be provided for their reception. I may mention that, as a matter of fact, several advanced art students have discontinued attending the evening class owing to the overcrowded state of the room. Last term forty-seven teachers attended the Saturday-morning class for drawing and lectures on geometry. The lecture room, however, has only sitting accommodation for thirty-six students. Owing to the overcrowded state of this room first-class pupil-teachers found it next to impossible to draw from models, and several others, who came from Palmerston to the class, have been unable to get seats, and consequently could do no work. From the fact that the models must be placed on the lecture table for the evening and Saturday-morning classes, it is very difficult to deal with science work, as the apparatus cannot be arranged on the lecture table till the drawing class is over—that is, between 1 and 2, when I am supposed to be having dinner. The science lecture is delivered from 2 to 3. Although the lecture room will seat thirty-six, this is only for elementary drawing. In the evening, when engineering and architecture students use large boards, and work from large examples, only two students can work at a desk, so that if lectures on machine construction are resumed, which will, I feel sure, lead to a full attendance, other accommodation for freehand and model students must be provided. I would suggest that the room be enlarged, and exclusively devoted to lectures, as it is, apart from overcrowding, very distracting to me if several kinds of work are going on together at the same time. The walls of the art room are so occupied with casts that there is no available space for frames in which finished drawing and painting can be shown. This is a most important element in the progress of a school, as students see these standard works, which they study and try to work up to. We have twenty imperial frames and many excellent works, but require wall space on which to hang them.

From what I have said I hope the Board will see that there are good reasons both for increased accommodation and the appointment of a competent assistant. If this be done I would propose that, according to the syllabus of the school, modelling in clay and wood-carving, together with benchwork in joinery for boys, be commenced in the present art room. These subjects are not only intimately connected with the art work already going on, but, as they are of a directly practical nature, they will be the means of largely increasing the popularity of the school. The school now possesses a complete set of chemical and physical apparatus for instruction in the elementary stages of inorganic chemistry—acoustics, light and heat, and magnetism and electricity—as recommended by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. It seems therefore desirable that adequate teaching power should be provided in order that evening instruction in these subjects may be given with a view to preparing students for the South Kensington science examinations in those subjects, and to the delivery of popular science lectures and lectures on agricultural chemistry. At present the apparatus is only used one hour weekly in connection with the Saturday class for teachers.

The Chairman, Wanganui Education Board.

I have, &c.,

DAVID BLAIR.

WELLINGTON

SIR,—

Education Board Office, Wellington, 31st March, 1895.

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, I have the honour to submit the following report of this Board's proceedings for the year ended the 31st December, 1894:—

BOARD.—No change has taken place in the membership of the Board, the retiring members, Mr Fitzherbert, Mr Young, and the Rev J Paterson, being re-elected, the Board, therefore, now consists of Mr J R. Blair (Chairman), Mr T Brady, Mr W C. Buchanan, Mr F H. Fraser, Mr W H. Fitzherbert, Mr W W McCardle, the Rev James Paterson, Dr Newman, and Mr Young. The Board has held fourteen meetings, twelve ordinary and two special, with the following individual attendances: Mr Blair, 13, Mr Brady, 11, Mr Buchanan, 10; Mr Fitzherbert, 10; Mr Fraser, 13, Mr McCardle, 12, Rev J Paterson, 10, Dr Newman, 11, Mr Young, 14. The Finance Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Treasurer (Mr Blair and Dr Newman), the Rev J. Paterson, and Mr Fraser, met monthly on the Mondays previous to the Board meetings, when all accounts were carefully examined, and the schedule of payments required to be made was prepared for the Board.