FINANCES.—The balance-sheet shows a total expenditure of £49,230 0s. 10d., of which £34,996 13s. 3d. was on account of teachers' salaries, £3,463 0s. 6d. to committees, and £6,322 5s. 7d. on account of school buildings. The Board's finances are now in a more satisfactory condition than last year, and will enable all increases of salaries to be made in full, as sanctioned some time ago by the Board. The Board had to pay £97 16s. 9d. to the bank on overdraft.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education. J. R. BLAIR, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1896.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
To Government grant for rebuilding ..		70	0	0
Other receipts for buildings—				
Sale of reserve		140	6	0
Rent of reserve		14	18	0
Sale of timber		1	0	0
Refund		2	14	0
Government statutory capitation ..		40,557	9	3
Scholarship grant		654	17	9
Inspection subsidy		300	0	0
Grants for manual and technical instruction		270	6	3
Payments by School Commissioners, for primary education		1,227	4	5
Other receipts—				
Refund members' expenses ..		5	0	0
Refund teachers' salaries		5	0	0
Refund scholarship grant		7	10	0
Sale of old lead		30	1	4
Fees, Technical School		954	7	6
Grant from City Council		65	6	6
Balance—				
Dr. Building Account	6,037 5 6			
Cr. General Account	1,113 5 8			
		4,923	19	10
		£49,230	0	10

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Balance	611	9	0
Office staff—salaries	725	0	0
Departmental contingencies.. ..	471	9	1
Inspectors' salaries	925	0	0
Inspectors' travelling-expenses ..	329	14	0
Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.) ..	34,996	13	3
Incidental expenses of schools ..	3,936	11	2
Scholorships—			
Paid to scholars	650	0	0
Examination expenses	12	7	9
School buildings—			
New buildings	3,520	11	8
Improvements of buildings ..	1,573	13	4
Furniture and appliances	573	19	7
Sites	510	6	1
Plans, supervision, and fees ..	153	14	11
School libraries	2	12	0
Insurance	34	3	0
Interest (bank)	97	16	9
Interest on balance of contract for office and technical school ..	104	19	3
	£49,230	0	10

J. R. BLAIR, Chairman.
A. DORSET, Secretary.

Examined and found correct, except that vouchers for payments amounting to £68 11s. 2d. are wanting.—J. K. WARBURTON, Controller and Auditor-General.

REPORT OF THE INSTRUCTOR IN SINGING.

SIR,— Wellington, 27th March, 1897.

I am glad to be able to report continued interest and, on the whole, satisfactory progress in the subject which has been entrusted to me by the Board. My principal class, at which I have the satisfaction of seeing a weekly attendance of from eighty to a hundred teachers and pupil-teachers, is held on Saturday mornings; and I also hold a supplementary class on Wednesday afternoons for those pupil-teachers who do not find it convenient to attend on Saturdays. Once in each month I visit Masterton, where I have an excellent class of about thirty-five teachers; much of our success there is due to the trouble taken and the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Jackson for our comfort and convenience. Several members of this class come long distances and sacrifice much time in order to be present, and our work has been rendered more efficient and interesting by the excellent instrument which, with the Board's assistance, has recently been provided for the Masterton School.

I think that perhaps the best evidence of the good work now generally done in singing was the performance by some 350 children, representing all the city schools, at the opening ceremony of the recent Exhibition; a performance which gave great satisfaction and pleasure to all who heard it, and for which the credit was largely due to the various teachers who provided me with such excellent material. It would, I think, give great satisfaction if such a demonstration could be given annually. Further evidence of good work is also shown by the fitness with which many young teachers now come to the examination in music held by the Education Department in connection with the E certificate; the preparation for which was, until recently, so far as my experience of this district is concerned, most inadequate and perfunctory.

In connection with this latter point I would suggest that, for those teachers who show the necessary aptitude and attainments, a special certificate, similar to the School-music Teachers' Certificate issued in England, should be awarded. The idea has been warmly commended by some of the most experienced teachers in the Board's service, and I hope soon to lay the matter in detail before the Inspectors for their approval and recommendation. Happily, there is now little need to urge that singing, like other subjects, if taught at all should be taught well; for apart from the lifelong pleasure which the subject is capable of giving to those so taught in early childhood, it is in itself not only one of the most recreative and refining, but also one of the healthiest possible exercises for both mind and body.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT PARKER,

The Chairman, Wellington Board of Education. Instructor in Singing.