GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1897.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—			
On Building Account	675	17	3
Scholarship Account	3	11	8
On General Account	355	19	10
Land Account	5	16	8
Cash in hand	1	1	8
Government grant for buildings ..	1,940	0	0
Government statutory capitation ..	10,955	14	11
Scholarship grant	211	4	3
Inspection subsidy	200	0	0
Payments by School Commissioners ..	1,362	14	11
Rents of school sites	28	6	0
Sale of old buildings..	21	0	0
Interest on Land Fund	0	6	11
Payments by Committees	9	2	6
	£15,770	16	7

Expenditure.				£	s.	d.
By Office staff—salaries				175	0	0
Clerical assistance				8	10	0
Departmental contingencies				193	15	1
Inspector's salary				350	0	0
Inspector's travelling-expenses ..				91	13	4
Examination of pupil-teachers ..				5	17	3
Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)				9,766	19	3
Incidental expenses of schools ..				1,285	17	2
Training of teachers				141	0	0
Scholarships—						
Paid to scholars				206	5	0
Examination expenses				7	1	3
School buildings—						
New buildings				1,272	3	3
Improvements of buildings				696	15	7
Furniture and appliances				220	14	1
Sites				30	6	3
Plans, supervision, and fees ..				70	0	0
Advertising, &c.				15	4	6
Balance—	£	s.	d.			
Building Account ..	341	9	11			
Scholarship Account	1	9	8			
General Account ..	961	1	8			
Land Account ..	6	2	10			
Cash in hand ..	1	0	9			
	1,311	4	10			
Less outstanding cheques	77	10	3			
				1,233	14	7
				£15,770	16	7

ROBERT G. BAUCHOPE, Chairman.
G. VEALE, Secretary.

Examined and found correct—J. K. WARBURTON, Controller and Auditor-General.

WANGANUI.

SIR,— Wanganui, March, 1898.

I have the honour to present the annual report of the proceedings of this Board for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

BOARD.—The members who retired by rotation in March last were Messrs. Henry Sanson, James W. Baker, and George A. Hurley. Messrs. Baker and Hurley were re-elected, and Mr. F. M. Spurdle, of Wanganui, was elected in place of Mr. Sanson. During the year Mr. Gilbert Carson, Chairman of the Board, resigned, and Mr. G. S. Bridge was elected to the vacant seat. Upon the resignation of Mr. Carson, Mr. J. W. Baker was elected Chairman for the current year. The Board is therefore now composed of the following gentlemen: Mr. James W. Baker, Warrengate, Chairman; Mr. George S. Bridge, Wanganui; Mr. B. C. Robbins, Hawera; Rev. John Ross, Turakina; Mr. F. M. Spurdle, Wanganui; Mr. J. H. Fry, Makino; Mr. Frank Y. Lethbridge, M.H.R., Feilding; Mr. Fred. Pirani, M.H.R., Palmerston North; and Mr. George A. Hurley, Manaia.

SCHOOLS.—The number of schools in operation in this district at the close of 1896 was 124, and at the close of 1897 it was 127. The new schools opened are: Anderson Road, Utiku, and Moawhango. The average weekly roll-number for the quarter ending 31st December was 10,283. The working average, upon which the Board receives the capitation grant, was 8,459, and the strict average attendance was 8,352. The percentage of strict average attendance to the roll-number for the four quarters was as follows: First quarter, 78·34; second quarter, 80·79; third quarter, 81·29; and fourth quarter, 81·22. The average for the year is 80·41. These figures show a steady rise until we come to the last quarter, when there is a slight fall. This, however, is usually the case at the end of the year. The schools are divided as follows: Twelve are aided schools, with an average attendance under 15 pupils; seven are aided, with an average of 15 and under 20; nineteen have an average of over 20 and under 25; thirty-nine have an average of over 25 and under 50; twenty-one have an average of over 50 and under 75; three have an average of over 75 and under 100; thirteen have an average of over 100 and under 150; nine have an average of over 150 and under 300; and four have an average of over 300 and under 500. Only the nineteen schools first-named, with an average of under 20, are aided schools. A change has been made in the names of four schools, namely: Karere is now called Longburn; Paraekaretu, Silverhope; Kaitoke, Millburn; and Goat Valley, Kai-Iwi.

BUILDINGS.—The principal contracts undertaken during the year were for new schools at Mangaonoho, Ruahine, Anderson Road, and Kai-Iwi; additions to schools at Maxwell, Feilding, Aramoho, and Mangaweka; new residences at Apiti and Birmingham, and additions to the Hunterville residence. The timber for the Kawatau School was cut and stacked in April, but was washed away by the floods. A second lot has been cut, and a contract for the erection of the school has subsequently been let. The old Goat Valley School and site were sold, and a fresh site, free of cost, was acquired at Kai-Iwi in a more desirable situation, upon which a new school has been erected. Besides the above works, fences, drains, and outhouses have been attended to as far as funds would admit. The Board's carpenter has also been fully occupied upon the erection of new schools at Awahou and Whakamara. Extensive repairs, alterations, or additions have been made to the