

of Palmerston North collected and remitted to the Board the sum of £200 towards the cost of a technical school for that town. The Board promised £1 for £1 on this sum, and they understood that the Minister of Education would have subsidised this £400 by a grant of £1 for £1. That such has not been done is a great disappointment to the Palmerston people. The art classes are still conducted at Palmerston North by one of the assistant masters from the Wanganui Technical School, and it is now contemplated to establish classes upon the same basis at Hawera.* In connection with the Technical School, cooking classes have been held at the Wanganui Girls' School during the year.

TEACHERS.—At the close of the year there were 288 teachers in the Board's employ, 148 being male and 140 female teachers. There are also thirty-four cadets, who are not counted on the staff of the schools, and do not receive any pay.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—The annual competition for scholarships was held in December. In the senior division thirty-four candidates competed, twelve of whom qualified and twenty-two failed. Four scholarships were awarded to one girl and three boys. In the junior division thirty-eight candidates competed, and of these six qualified and thirty-two failed. Four scholarships were awarded to one girl and three boys. The Trustees of the Wanganui Collegiate School and the Board of Governors of the Wanganui High School continue to give free tuition to all who qualify, but for whom scholarships are not available within the limits of the grant, as mentioned in last year's report.

PUPIL-TEACHERS.—The annual examination was held in the month of June. In the first class twenty-four candidates presented themselves, and of these seventeen passed (a girl heading the list) and seven failed. In the second class twenty-eight candidates were present, of whom twenty-two passed and six failed. In the third class forty candidates were present, of whom thirty-one passed and nine failed. The result of the examination, upon the whole, was deemed satisfactory.

FINANCE.—The state of the Board's finances is far from being satisfactory as far as the Building Account is concerned. The General Account shows a credit balance of £1,783 19s., with an asset of £158 due from the Rees bequest on account of the Technical School. The liabilities amount to £408 8s. 6d., leaving a net credit balance of £1,533 10s. 6d. as at 31st December, 1898. In the balance-sheet the Building Account shows a credit balance of £3,718 3s. 6d., but of this sum £1,658 4s. is money especially granted by the department for schools in newly settled districts which have yet to be built, leaving a net available balance of £2,059 19s. 6d. But the return of assets and liabilities shows the following liabilities: Balance of amount due under contracts let, £2,564 8s. 8d.; due on account of tenders ready and about to be advertised†, £2,500; deposits on contracts, £142 2s. 6d.; balance required for Feilding School over and above the £900 insurance, £1,080; making a total of £6,276 11s. 2d., thus leaving a balance of liabilities over assets of £4,216 11s. 8d. As the greatest economy has been observed by the Board in its expenditure, it would beg to direct the special attention of the Hon. the Minister of Education to the above statement.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

G. S. BRIDGE, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1898.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—					
On Building Account	Dr. 1,258	13 6			
On General Account	Cr. 2,570	9 5			
			1,311	15	11
Government grant for buildings			7,658	5	
Subscriptions and donations for buildings				34	10 0
Other receipts for buildings—					
School sites leases				40	15 10
Old material				3	0 0
Refund				1	2 6
Contractors' deposits				143	18 6
Government statutory capitation			30,616	15	4
Scholarship grant				551	13 11
Inspection subsidy				300	0 0
Payments by School Commissioners			1,534	18	7
Truant fines				23	6 0
Teachers' classes				21	11 6
Donations for Palmerston North Technical School building				200	0 0
Technical School—					
Rees bequest				300	0 0
Government grant, special				100	0 0
Government grant, capitation				123	18 6
School fees, Board				235	18
School fees, general				431	13 6
Cooking fees				13	1 9
			£43,646	4	10
By Office staff—salaries				476	5 0
Departmental contingencies				215	8 0
Members' expenses				162	5 8
Inspectors' salaries				700	0 0
Inspectors' travelling-expenses				270	0 0
Examination of pupil-teachers				91	6 2
Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)				28,957	13 5
Incidental expenses of schools				1,623	18 1
Training of teachers				58	17 6
Standard examination expenses				59	6 6
Scholarships—					
Paid to scholars				521	13 4
Examination expenses				30	17 3
Technical School				235	18 0
School buildings—					
New buildings				757	12 5
Improvements of buildings				1,335	4 5
Furniture and appliances				266	10 11
Sites				338	1 9
Plans, supervision, and fees				150	19 10
Contractors' deposits				56	5 6
Truant inspection				337	9 1
Hawera School inquiry				34	10 9
Technical School—					
Teachers' salaries				841	11 8
Scholarships				11	13 4
Building				150	5 6
Furniture				201	0 8
Apparatus				13	5 2
Plans and supervision				15	15 0
Expenses				223	10 5
Contractors' deposits				6	17 0
Balance—					
On Building Account				3,718	3 6
On General Account				1,783	19 0
			£43,646	4	10

GEORGE S. BRIDGE, Chairman.

A. A. BROWNE, Secretary.

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

* These classes have since been started.

† And since let.