teachers, twenty-eight in the fifth year, seventeen in the fourth year, thirty-seven in the third year, fourteen in the second year, and twenty-two in the first year.

INSPECTION.—The Inspector's annual report shows that at the time of the examinations there were 14,684 children on the books, an increase of 490 on the previous year. The total number of passes was 8,500, 89 per cent. on the number examined in standards, the high proportion of passes being again mainly due to the exceedingly good work of the large schools. The report refers to the useful work done by the Truant Officer, but points out that there is a widespread indifference on the part of parents to the need of regular attendance. It has been found impossible of late years to inspect annually a proportion of the more distant schools. The appointment of a third Inspector, Mr. F. H. Bakewell, M.A., will now remove that difficulty, and enable the staff to do full justice to the whole of the schools.

DRILL.—With a view to having efficient military drill taught in the various schools, the Board appointed Mr. T. W. McDonald drill-instructor, his duties being, where the attendance is sufficient, to organize and form companies, to give instruction in company and battalion drill, and form classes for the instruction of teachers. He will be required to give instruction in all the schools within easy access, but will not be called upon to visit the smaller schools in the outlying districts. Arrangements are to be made whereby the teachers of these schools will receive class instruction to enable them to teach drill thoroughly.

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, 1898.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
To Government grant for buildings ..		9,800	0	0
Other receipts for buildings—				
Sale old school site, Otaki		250	0	0
Rent from reserves		30	18	6
Unclaimed deposit		7	10	0
Refund, overpayments		1	0	11
Government statutory capitation ..		43,081	17	9
Scholarship grant		812	18	7
Inspection subsidy		300	0	0
Payments by School Commissioners ..		1,673	13	8
Donation from Industrial Association		1,500	0	0
Subsidy from Government thereon ..		1,500	0	0
Interest on £1,500 from Industrial Association		11	15	11
Government grants for manual and technical instruction classes ..		468	19	4
Fees, &c., Technical School		1,072	7	8
Capitation, cheque outstanding since 1897		4	10	0
Balance—	£ s. d.			
Maintenance	*Cr.* 402 12 10			
Buildings ..	*Dr.* 704 7 5			
		301	14	7
		£60,817	6	11

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Balance	5,242	4	11
Office staff—salaries	922	10	9
Departmental contingencies ..	552	14	6
Inspectors' salaries	925	0	0
Inspectors' travelling-expenses ..	292	19	0
Examination of pupil-teachers ..	9	14	6
Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)	37,753	12	9
Incidental expenses of schools ..	4,047	8	4
Scholarships—			
Paid to scholars	800	7	6
Examination expenses	22	13	9
School buildings—			
New buildings	3,286	0	11
Improvements of buildings ..	2,525	19	10
Furniture and appliances	304	1	3
Sites	534	5	0
Plans, supervision, and fees ..	117	13	0
Bank interest	102	11	7
Technical School—			
Salaries	1,875	11	4
Incidental	719	7	7
Buildings—			
New	500	0	0
Furniture	144	19	3
Plans	137	11	2
	£60,817	6	11

A. DORSET, Secretary.

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

HAWKE'S BAY.

SIR,— Education Office, Napier, 2nd March, 1899.

I have the honour to forward the following report of the proceedings of the Hawke's Bay Education Board for the year 1898:—

The Board consists of the following members, viz.: Rev. Dr. Sidey (Chairman), Messrs. C. A. Fitzroy, J. G. Gilberd, W. L. Knight, S. McLernon, F. Sutton, T. Tanner, F. W. Williams, and Dr. Moore.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The following return shows a comparative statement of the children on the roll and the average attendance in the schools under the Board for 1878, 1888, 1897, and 1898:—

Year.	Average Weekly Number on the Roll.						Average Attendance.					
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Percentage Increase Previous Years.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Percentage Increase Previous Years.
1878	1,520	1,797	1,854	1,985	1,789	...	1,259	1,612	1,580	1,649	1,525	...
1888	5,902	5,968	5,841	5,758	5,867	6·4	4,686	4,733	4,673	4,627	4,679·75	8·3
1897	7,604	7,618	7,582	7,593	7,599·25	1·27	6,331	6,381	6,448	6,396	6,389	2·1
1898	7,732	7,788	7,753	7,782	7,763·75	2·15	6,515	6,712	6,684	6,291	6,550·5	2·52