

GREY.

SIR,—

Education Office, Greymouth, 25th March, 1899.

I have the honour to lay before you a report of the proceedings of the Grey Education Board for the year 1898.

THE BOARD.—The Board consisted of Messrs. John Byrne, John Flynn, S. R. Harris, Hon. James Kerr, W. R. Kettle, J. Marshall, B. McGuire, Joseph Petrie, and F. White. During the year the Board has held twelve regular meetings.

SCHOOLS.—There were thirty schools in operation at the close of the year, being an increase of one on the previous year. The teachers in the employ of the Board comprised seventeen males and forty-four females, or a total of sixty-one. The annual examination of pupil-teachers was held in December. Ten pupil-teachers were examined; eight of these qualified for a higher grade, and two failed.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—The annual examination for scholarships was held in December. For the four scholarships, two town and two country, there were twenty-one competitors, six from the Greymouth District High School and fifteen from the country.

FINANCE.—At the close of the year the Building Fund showed a credit balance of £318 18s. 4d. The amount expended during the year was £876 1s. 8d. The Board's General Account at the close of the year showed a debit balance of £262 0s. 4d. This was owing to bad attendance during a part of the year, and to the great cost of maintaining many of the small schools in sparsely populated districts.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

JOSEPH PETRIE, Chairman.

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

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Government grant for buildings ..	1,195	0 0	By Balance	513	16 7
Government statutory capitation ..	5,388	8 9	Office staff—salaries	175	0 0
Scholarship grant	109	19 3	Departmental contingencies	20	12 3
Inspection subsidy	125	0 0	Inspector's salary	200	0 0
Grant in aid of technical class ..	16	18 5	Teachers' salaries and allowances (in-		
Payments by School Commissioners ..	110	0 0	cluding, rent, bonus, &c.)	5,032	1 8
District High School fees	41	0 0	Incidental expenses of schools	122	0 0
Grant from High School Board	100	0 0	Training of teachers	39	10 0
	£	s. d.	Scholarships	100	0 0
Balance	180	17 0	School buildings—		
Unpresented cheques	81	3 4	New buildings	60	3 5
			Improvements of buildings	270	17 5
	262	0 4	Furniture and appliances	116	19 3
Less due from Building Ac-			Sites	39	7 0
count	6	6 9	Plans, supervision, and fees	9	13 0
			Printing	72	2 6
	255	13 7	Advertising	32	3 0
			Members' travelling expenses	193	3 0
			Technical class	16	18 5
			Interest	15	0 11
			Balance—		
			On Building Account	318	18 4
			Less due to General Ac-		
			count	6	6 9
				312	11 7
	£7,342	0 0		£7,342	0 0

JOSEPH PETRIE, Chairman.

F. W. RIEMENSCHNEIDER, Secretary.

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

WESTLAND.

SIR,—

Education Office, 10th January, 1899.

I have the honour to submit the report of the Westland Education Board for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

THE BOARD.—As in the previous two years, the membership of the Board has suffered no change, the retiring members, Messrs. Chesney, Hudson, and Smith, being re-elected in March. At the first meeting in April the following reappointments were made: Mr. McWhirter, Chairman; Mr. Chesney, Treasurer; Mr. Grimmond, School Commissioner; and Mr. Michel, representative on the Hokitika High School Board. During the year the Board has held one special and twelve ordinary meetings.

SCHOOLS.—During the year thirty-six schools have been in operation, including a new school at Kanieri Forks. At the end of the year thirty-four were open, household schools at Waitatoto and Taipo having been closed.

The classes devoted to secondary education in connection with the Hokitika and Kumara District High School, consisted, at the time of the Board's examination, of twenty-one and ten pupils respectively, each class being very successful. The latter has been discontinued from the beginning of 1899, owing to the insufficiency of the numbers attending.

The class for manual instruction connected with the Kumara School has been conducted efficiently during the year, as a separate report by the Inspector will show. In the last annual