If we excluded the salaries of sewing-mistresses and pupil-teachers, and house-allowances paid to teachers where residences are not provided, the average salary paid to adult teachers would appear as £120 4s. 3d.

Of the total number of 2,631 adult teachers (exclusive of sewing-mistresses) employed in the public schools, 2,369 were holders of certificates, 15 others had passed the certificate examination, 68 had gained a partial pass, 35 had failed, and 144 had never been examined by the Department.

TABLE M.—TEACHERS, CERTIFICATED AND UNCERTIFICATED, 31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

(Numbers in brackets represent licensed teachers included in other numbers.)

Education Districts.	Certificated Teachers.	Marks not yet assigned.	Required Service not yet completed.	Partial Pass.	Failed.	Never examined by Department.	Total.	Pupil-teachers having Certificates, not included in Column headed "Certificated Teachers."
Auckland	534	..	3	6	8 [1]	9	560	51
Taranaki	76	..	1	2 [1]	2	3	84	3
Wanganui	166	..	..	11	3 [1]	11	191	14
Wellington	211	..	2	11 [2]	1	20	245	35
Hawke's Bay	107	2	..	4	5 [2]	11 [3]	129	10
Marlborough	36	..	..	2	2	37	77	3
Nelson	112	..	..	6	8 [1]	30	156	10
Grey	39	..	..	3 [2]	2	2	46	1
Westland	28	..	..	..	1	19	48	1
North Canterbury	370	..	..	12	1	2	385	..
South Canterbury	112	..	..	3	1	..	116	1
Otago	391	..	5	5	..	..	401	..
Southland	187	..	2	3 [1]	1	..	193	8
Total for 1900	2,369	2	13	68 [6]	35 [5]	144 [3]	2,631	137
Total for 1899	2,345	2	15	64 [6]	28 [4]	138 [4]	2,592	150
Total for 1898	2,325	3	28	55 [3]	42 [6]	145 [4]	2,598	175
Total for 1897	2,244	2	20	92 [5]	45 [6]	146 [3]	2,549	111
Total for 1896	2,179	1	17	96 [15]	42 [5]	134 [5]	2,469	106
Total for 1895	2,084	5	24	90 [14]	36 [4]	127 [5]	2,366	..
Total for 1894	1,984	5	24	85	42	120	2,260	..
Total for 1893	1,914	4	22	88	48	125	2,201	..
Total for 1892	1,826	6	19	94	54	131	2,130	..
Total for 1891	1,753	7	17	107	58	132	2,074	..

COLONIAL SCALE OF STAFFS AND SALARIES.

Questions connected with the staffing of schools and the salaries of teachers have for some time engaged the attention of the officers of the Department.

By section 35 of " The Education Act, 1877," Boards of Education have the power, *inter alia*, of removing and appointing teachers in the manner provided by the Act, and of administering the funds granted to them in accordance with statute. In the absence of any colonial scheme of staffs and salaries, this power has imposed upon each Board the duty of drawing up a scale of staff and of teachers' salaries for its own district. The main portion of the income of the several Boards consists of the capitation grant of £3 15s. on the average attendance, to which may be added the special grant in aid of the cost of the inspection of schools—viz., £4,000—which is distributed annually. Out of this amount are payable all teachers' salaries and allowances, and the general expenses of Education Boards and of School Committees. The effect of the distribution of the money upon a capitation basis has been to place those Boards in whose districts small schools are numerous in a very different financial position from that of the Boards having the control of a fair proportion of large schools ; and this has had the further consequence of producing in many districts a weakness of the teaching staff, or a low standard of salaries, or both— evils that, had circumstances allowed, the Boards in question would have been only too glad to avoid. Further, the different methods adopted for the solution of the problem have led to many anomalies in staffing and to inequalities in the salaries assigned to various positions in different parts of the colony. Some of these anomalies and inequalities were the subject of remark in last year's report.

These matters concern the efficiency of the schools themselves, it may be indirectly, but none the less vitally ; and the whole question in this aspect assumed an importance that made it necessary to give it the most serious consideration. The issues, however, were so numerous and so involved that it seemed best to appoint a Commission to consider the best method of establishing a uniform scale of staff and salaries to be in force throughout the colony.