

GREY.

SIR,—

Education Office, Greymouth, 20th March, 1903.

I have the honour to submit the report of the Grey Education Board for the year ending the 31st December, 1902.

BOARD.—In July the three retiring members, Messrs. J. Byrne, J. Petrie, and J. McCarthy, were re-elected unopposed. The Board has thus throughout the year consisted of Messrs. J. Byrne, J. Flynn, S. R. Harris, J. Kerr, W. R. Kettle, J. McCarthy, J. Petrie, F. White, and Hon. James Marshall. During the year twelve ordinary and three special meetings have been held.

SCHOOLS.—There were thirty-one schools in operation at the end of the year, this being an increase of two on the previous year. The Teremakau Settlement School was reopened in April, and the Swedes' Mill School was opened in July.

ATTENDANCE.—The average attendance for the year was 1,394, this number being an increase of twenty-five on that for the preceding year. Considering that the average attendance for 1901 was ninety-two less than that for 1900, the increase, though small, is very hopeful.

TEACHERS.—The total number of teachers employed at the end of the year was 58 (11 males and 47 females). Of these 10 were head teachers, 21 were sole teachers, 15 were assistants, and 12 were pupil-teachers. Excluding the pupil-teachers, there were 17 uncertificated teachers in the employ of the Board.

At the pupil-teachers' examination held in December, 4 passed to a higher grade, 1 failed to do so, and 1 was absent. The rest have passed the necessary examinations.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—At the annual examination there were seven candidates, and two scholarships were awarded to pupils of the country schools.

PHYSICAL DRILL.—Owing to ignorance of the provisions of "The Physical Drill in Public and Native Schools Act, 1901," many of the teachers did not attempt to teach the subject at all. In several of the schools, notably the Greymouth District High School, very satisfactory work was done. Now that the teachers have an opportunity of attending drill classes, which during the current year have been conducted every Saturday for upwards of three months, the subject is attempted in all the schools.

FINANCE.—At the end of the year the General Account showed a debit balance of £5 13s. 3d., and the Building Account a credit balance of £195 7s. 1d. Without explanation these figures are misleading, as to the former must be added £41 13s. 6d., the unexpended balance of a special grant for the training of teachers, which was included in the total. In December the Board received an advance of £500 on the building grant, otherwise at the end of the year there would have been a debit balance of over £300. After paying all the liabilities, the Board has but a limited amount to provide for the maintenance of buildings for the current year.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

F. WHITE, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1902.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
Government grant for buildings	887	10 0	Dr. balance at beginning of year	317	1 8
Sale of old buildings	24	17 6	Office staff—Salaries and clerical assistance	175	0 0
Other grants from Government—			Departmental contingencies	50	9 8
Capitation for relieving-teachers	25	17 5	Inspector's salary and travelling-expenses	225	0 0
Allowance, £250, and capitation at 11s. 3d.	1,024	5 6	Truant Officer's salary and expenses	25	0 0
Addition to statutory capitation, 1901	184	4 10	Salaries—teachers of secondary class	182	15 0
Salaries and allowances of teachers and pupil-teachers—			Paid to scholars for scholarships	100	0 0
Net amount paid by Government	5,612	0 2	Training of teachers	25	0 0
Amount paid by School Commissioners—			Teachers' salaries	5,621	16 2
—reserves revenue	44	0 0	Teachers' house allowances	265	16 8
Scholarship grant at 1s. 6d.	103	17 2	Pupil-teachers' lodging allowances	20	0 0
District High Schools—Capitation	216	5 0	Incidental expenses of schools	92	0 0
Grant from Greymouth High School Board	100	0 0	School buildings—		
Manual and technical instruction—			New buildings	40	0 0
Refund	2	5 0	Improvements of buildings	236	5 9
Other receipts, viz.—			Furniture and appliances	197	7 7
Rent	2	0 0	Rent of buildings used for school purposes	60	0 3
Refund, Gas Account	1	5 0	Plans, supervision, and fees	40	8 6
			Other expenses—		
			Printing and advertising	142	12 6
			Members' travelling-expenses	194	15 0
			Grant for swimming	5	0 0
			Sanitation fees (Building Account)	7	11 3
			Bank charges	14	13 9
			Cr. dit balance at end of year—		
			On Building Account, Cr.	£511	15 0
			On General Account, Dr.	322	1 2
					189 13 10
					£8,228 7 7
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F. WHITE, Chairman.
H. SMITH, Secretary.

Examined and found correct, except as to a payment of £30, which has been made to the ex-Chairman for his expenses to Wellington, but which, not being authorised by law, is disallowed, and the amount of which must be refunded to the Board fund.—J. K. WARBURTON, Controller and Auditor-General.