

The following is an abstract* showing the number of schools, teachers, and pupils attending the schools in the district, beginning with the year 1877, to the present time:—

Year ending.	Schools.	Head Teachers.	Assistants.	Pupil-teachers and Probationers.	Total.	Roll-number.	Average.
1877	23	23	7	2	32	726	496
1882	37	37	11	6	54	1,985	1,290
1887	35	35	9	26	70	2,395	1,597
1892	46	46	12	27	85	3,148	2,351
1897	60	60	18	29	107	3,845	3,018
1901	65	65	19	32	116	4,334	3,556
1902	71	70	38	22	130	4,706	3,904
1903	72	70	45	19	134	4,754	3,971
1904	75	73	46	18	137	4,885	4,158
1905	76	73	45	20	138	4,952	4,249
1906	80	77	42	24	143	5,040	4,346
1907	81	78	45	23	146	5,096	4,246
1908	88	85	48	19	152	5,370	4,653
1909	90	86	60	30	176	5,836	5,131
1910	93	91	58	32	181	6,021	5,177
1911	95	93	63	33	189	6,199	5,487

CONCLUSION.—The relations of the Board with the Education Department, its official and teaching staff, and with the School Committees, have been most cordial and pleasant throughout the year.

HAROLD TRIMBLE, Chairman.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

WANGANUI.

SIR,—

Education Office, Wanganui, 31st March, 1912.

I have the honour to submit a report of the proceedings of this Board for the year 1911.

BOARD.—At the end of the year the Board consisted of Messrs. Fred. Pirani (Chairman), A. Fraser, and G. H. Bennett (Southern Ward), D. H. Guthrie, M.P., F. Purnell, and J. P. Aldridge (Central Ward), P. O'Dea, E. Dixon, and F. M. Spurdle (Northern Ward). The *personnel* of the Board underwent no change during the year, the retiring members—Messrs. Spurdle, Pirani, and Aldridge—all being re-elected. Mr. Pirani was re-elected Chairman for the sixth successive term. Sixteen meetings were held during the year, the average attendance of members being seven.

SCHOOLS.—There were open at the close of the year 198 main schools and three side schools. New schools were opened at Whareroa and Bluff Road (Grade 0), Western Rangitikei (Grade I), Hihitahi (Grade III), and Umumuri (Grade IV). A side school was opened at Marton Junction. The school at Pine Creek was closed. The Mars Hill School will not be reopened, as the new school at Durie Hill will serve the needs of the children in the Mars Hill district as well as those of Durie Hill. The names of the schools at Sedgebrook and Himatangi were changed to Wanganui East and Oroua Downs respectively.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—Seventeen private schools, with a roll-number of 1,125 pupils, were inspected by the Board's Inspectors.

ATTENDANCE.—The roll-number on the 31st December was 14,795, and the average attendance for the last quarter of the year 13,223. These numbers show an increase over those of the previous year of 526 in the roll-number and 770 in the average attendance. The increases are very marked indeed. For the same period of the year 1910 the increase in the roll-number over that for 1909 was only 420, and in the average attendance 139. The average weekly roll-number for the year was 14,674, and the average attendance 13,048. The average attendance expressed as a percentage of the average weekly roll was 88.9, an increase of 2.9 on the year 1910, and this in spite of the fact that sickness was very prevalent among the children during a portion of the year. The amendment to the Act requiring a child to attend on every half-day the school is open, unless exempted, has no doubt helped to bring about the improvement in the attendance. The Board's Truant Officer, too, has done valuable work in this direction, carrying out his duties with energy and discretion, and only prosecuting as a last resort. He made 371 visits to schools, and sent out 1,220 letters and notices to parents. Of 127 summonses, convictions were recorded in 104 cases, eight cases were dismissed, two were struck out, and thirteen were withdrawn. The Inspectors at once noticed the improvement in the attendance at their visits to the schools. To this cause may fairly be attributed the marked increase in the number of proficiency certificates gained. There have been occasional murmurings of dissatisfaction, but the great majority of parents, recognizing the reasonable nature of the exemptions, have accepted the new provisions without demur.

* Condensed into five-yearly periods from 1877 to 1901.