

the Rev. John McArthur, Mr. Augustus McInnes Bradbury was elected a member for the West Ward. In terms of the Education Act, 1908, the following members retired, and were re-elected unopposed on the fourth Monday in July: East Ward, Robert Masters; West Ward, James Young; North Ward, Arthur Morton. At the meeting held on the 27th August Mr Harold Trimble was re-elected Chairman. For the first eight months of the year the Board met on the fourth Wednesday and the preceding Tuesday each month; but at the August meeting it was decided to meet on the fourth Wednesday only, and not on the Tuesday and Wednesday as previously.

New residences have been erected at Pukearuhe, Waihi, and Whangamomona, and new schools at Douglas, Ihaia, Oeo, Pukearuhe, and Waihi. An addition in the shape of a movable building has been erected at Whangamomona on account of the increase of pupils, and a new school was opened at the beginning of the year at Radnor; and the Puniwhakau and Taurakawa Schools were closed. That portion of the Stratford District High School destroyed by fire on the 18th May, 1911, has been reinstated in brick, and was reopened at the beginning of April. A ground-plan supplied by the Department was adopted, and the building has proved very suitable for teaching purposes not only from an organization point of view, but also in respect to lighting and acoustic properties. At the end of the year there were ninety-four schools open, including two half-time schools. Eighty-four were held in buildings the property of the Board, and the balance in buildings leased to the Board by settlers. Fifty-three of the head teachers have residences attached to their schools, and the others are in receipt of house allowance.

The number of teachers in the service of the Board was 193, graded as follows: Sole teachers, 37 female and 14 male; head teachers, 16 female and 26 male; assistants, 58 female and 13 male; pupil-teachers, 20 female and 1 male; probationers, 7 female and 1 male.

At the annual examinations one pupil-teacher gained a pass in the C and two in the D examination, and two gained a partial pass in the C and five in the D.

At the scholarship examination candidates from the following schools qualified:—

Bayly Memorial Scholarship.—New Plymouth High School, 2; Stratford District High School, 3. The scholarship was granted to a lad from the Stratford District High School.

Board's Senior Scholarship.—New Plymouth High School, 12; Stratford District High School, 6. The scholarships were granted to five from the New Plymouth High School and five from the Stratford District High School.

The National and Board's Junior Scholarships.—Central, 4; Egmont Village, 1; Fitzroy, 2; Hillsborough, 2; Kaimata, 1; New Plymouth High, 6; Omata, 1; Okato, 1; Opunake, 2; Stratford District High School, 20; Toko, 2; Waitara, 2; and West End, 2.

The National Scholarships were granted to one candidate from Fitzroy and one from the New Plymouth High School. The Board's Junior Scholarships were granted to two candidates from the Central, one from Egmont Village, one from Fitzroy, and two from Hillsborough, one from Kaimata, one from Omata, one from Okato, three from Stratford District High School, and one from West End.

The Taranaki Scholarships were won by a candidate from the Stratford District High School, and one from the New Plymouth High School. [Details of purely local interest have been omitted.]

There have been sixty-one appointments made during the year, besides those of a temporary nature and appointments of pupil-teachers. Thirty-eight teachers from other districts received appointments, and twenty-three teachers in the service of the Board received promotion.

The receipts of the Board from all sources, including £1,033 2s. 9d. credit balance from 1911, amounted to £40,520 16s., while the expenditure was as follows: Administration, £3,526 16s.; teachers' salaries, £25,975 11s. 10d.; secondary education, £1,177 0s. 7d.; manual and technical, £2,279 17s. 4d.; buildings, £10,156 11s. 11d.; leaving a credit balance of £860 17s. 9d.

In the month of May a conference of representatives of Education Boards was held in Wellington for the purpose of protesting against the provision in the Local Government Bill whereby it was proposed to hand over the administration of education to the Provincial Councils. Mr. Morton represented this Board.

In the interests of education the Board considers that this district should be enlarged so as to include at least the whole of the Taranaki Province.

The following is an abstract* showing the number of schools, teachers, and pupils attending 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
1902	71	70	38	22	130	4,706	3,904
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
1912	94	93	71	29	193	6,139	5,381

* Condensed into five-yearly periods from 1877 to 1907.