

*Finance.*—At the end of the year, after providing £2,332 17s. 5d. to meet over-expenditure on special accounts, including an accumulated deficit on the Manual and Technical Accounts, the Board's General Account showed a credit of £4,408, a sum less than in the previous year by approximately £1,000, which amount is largely accounted for by the Board's purchase of fuel and stationery for schools. After taking into consideration assets in sight and liabilities actually incurred, the Buildings' Maintenance Fund showed a debit balance of £2,163 10s. 4d., against £2,829 18s. 3d. for the previous year, exclusive of the value of the Board's plant, stock, and material at the workshops at Christchurch, Timaru, and Greymouth. With the value of such assets included, as is only reasonable should be the case, the Buildings Maintenance Account would show a considerable credit. The credit to the Rebuilding Fund, including amounts due from the Government, increased by about £6,400, but an extensive rebuilding programme marked out for the coming year will absorb a large part, if not all, of the amount available.

*Schools.*—The number of schools open at the end of the year was 383, with a total roll at the end of the December quarter of 35,138, and an average attendance of 31,854. New schools were opened at Avoca, Bealey, Flea Bay, Hendes' Ferry, Maungatiro, Rakaia Little, and Waiho Gorge, and the schools at Bushside, French Farm, and Riverside were closed. The undermentioned table shows the number of schools at the end of the year of each decade given, and at the end of the years 1917, 1918, and 1919; also the number of children on the rolls, the approximate number in average attendance, and the percentages of attendances:—

Year.	Total of Schools.	On Roll at End of Year.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
1880 .. ..	185	23,086	16,412	71·1
1900 .. ..	335	27,930	23,806	81·6
1917 .. ..	376	34,119	30,061	88·1
1918 .. ..	388	34,722	29,684	85·5
1919 .. ..	391	35,138	31,854	90·6

*Maintenance.*—The total expenditure on primary salaries for the year 1919, including £4,135 12s. 3d. house allowances, and £1,585 18s. 3d. for relieving teachers, was £213,461 10s. 11d. The salaries paid to teachers in secondary departments amounted to £8,319 13s. 7d. The following table shows the expenditure on salaries and incidentals for each year mentioned:—

Year.	Salaries.	Incidentals.	Totals.	Average Attendance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1880 .. ..	55,318 17 8	8,071 12 2	63,390 9 10	16,412
1900 .. ..	70,978 18 7	8,064 13 10	79,043 12 5	23,806
1917 .. ..	160,797 6 6	11,682 3 4	177,112 16 3	30,061
Bonus .. ..	4,633 6 5			
1918 .. ..	165,436 17 5	11,720 12 11	186,750 17 3	29,684
Bonus .. ..	9,593 6 11			
1919 .. ..	213,461 10 11	13,923 12 1	227,385 3 0	31,854

*Teachers' Salaries.*—In November, new regulations regarding teachers' salaries were gazetted. These provide for the payment to teachers of an increment of £10 to £45, varying according to the grading-mark. The allowances to training-college students, pupil-teachers, and probationers were also considerably increased, and the better remuneration offered has already induced many more young people to enter the teaching profession.

*School Staffs.*—There were 987 teachers in the Board's service at the end of 1919. Of these, 382 were head teachers or in sole charge, 483 were assistants, and 122 were pupil-teachers. There were in addition 84 probationers, also 30 sewing-mistresses in small schools in charge of male teachers.

*Conveyance and Board of Children.*—The expenditure for the conveyance of children to school and board of children living a long distance from school was £4,335 17s. 10d. Conveyance allowance was paid in respect of 1,291 children, and boarding-allowance for fifty children.

*Scholarships.*—The number of candidates for Junior National Scholarships was 406—girls 181, boys 225. Of these, thirty-nine qualified—eleven girls and twenty-eight boys. Two successful candidates had been attending sole-charge schools—viz., Hannaton and Moana; five had been attending large primary schools, and thirty-two had been attending district high schools and secondary schools. For the Senior Scholarships there were 132 candidates—girls 70, boys 62. Of these, twenty-four qualified—nine girls and fifteen boys. For the two Gammack Scholarships competed for in December, 1919, there were twelve candidates. Scholarships have been awarded to a pupil of the Christchurch Girls' High School and one of the Christchurch Boys' High School, subject to the regulations.

*Committees' Incidental Allowances.*—For some time past the allowances to Committees for incidental expenses have been quite inadequate to meet requirements, more especially in view of the rapid increase in the cost of fuel and labour. After repeated applications to the Department for an increased grant, the Government last session agreed to a new scale of allowances, which, however, while improving the finances of Committees, are not yet sufficient to meet their reasonable requirements.

*Irregular Attendance.*—The Truant Officer for North and South Canterbury reported that 1,300 ordinary and 246 final notices had been sent to the parents of children, and that Court proceedings had been taken in 101 cases. In addition, the Truant Officer stationed on the West Coast issued a considerable number of notices to parents. Taking all things into consideration, the attendance