

course in physical instruction for teachers was held at Matiere, attended by the majority of teachers in the Ohura district. That the classes were a great success is manifest in the greater enthusiasm shown by the teachers who attended, and the mental alertness of the pupils when visited later by the instructors.

*Attendance.*—The following is an abstract showing the number of schools, teachers, and pupils in the district since the year 1917 :—

Year ending	Schools.	Head or Sole Teachers.	Assistants.	Pupil-teachers and Probationers.	Total.	December Roll.	Average Attendance.
1917 ..	153	153	125	46	324	10,019	9,007
1919 ..	153	147	141	50	338	10,313	9,271
1920 ..	158	154	137	55	346	10,439	8,917
1921 ..	162	160	137	59	356	10,829	9,483

*School Committees.*—The Board again desires to express its appreciation of the loyal support and co-operation received from the Technical and Primary School Committees. The sums raised by voluntary contributions have been considerable, and the administration of their affairs have often been carried out under great difficulty owing to high prices and scarcity of labour.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

PERCY J. H. WHITE, Chairman.

#### WANGANUI.

Sir,

Education Office, Wanganui, 31st March, 1922.

I have the honour to present a report on the proceedings of this Board for the year 1921.

*Board.*—The personnel of the Board, which did not change during the year, was as follows: Messrs. W. A. Collins (Chairman) and E. F. Hemingway, West Ward; Messrs. A. J. Joblin and J. J. Pilkington, North Ward; Messrs. A. Fraser and H. McIntyre, South Ward; Messrs. W. Bruce and E. V. Laws, Wanganui Urban Area; and Messrs. A. J. Mahon and W. R. Birnie, Palmerston North Urban Area. The Board was represented on other bodies as follows: Wanganui Girls' College Board, Messrs. W. A. Collins, A. Fraser, and F. Pirani; Palmerston North High School Board, Messrs. A. J. Mahon, W. R. Birnie, and T. R. Hodder; Wanganui Technical College Board of Managers, Messrs. W. Bruce and E. V. Laws; Feilding Technical High School Board of Managers, Messrs. H. McIntyre and H. Tolley. Mr. McIntyre represented the Wanganui, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and Nelson Education Districts on the Committee of Advice of the Wellington Training College.

*Schools and Attendance.*—New schools were opened at Koeke Junction, Te Aunui, Maramaratotara, and Tupapakuraa (Grade 0); Bangonie, Glynceath, Putorino, and Maungaroa Road (Grade 1); Mount Biggs (Grade 2), a side school at Castlecliff, and a model country school in connection with the Queen's Park School. Kakatahi school was reopened. The schools at Retaruke and Te Rena were closed. Taumata and Matahiwi were closed temporarily. Patea and Feilding District High Schools were disestablished, a technical high school being established at the latter centre. A district high school was established at Ohakune. At the close of the year there were open 202 main schools, five side schools, and one model school.

The total roll at the end of the year was 16,402, being an increase of 654 over the previous year. The number on the rolls of the secondary departments of the district high schools was ninety-two, a decrease of fifty-one, which is accounted for by the closing of the secondary department at Feilding. The average attendance for the year was 14,552, and the average weekly roll number 16,162. The average attendance expressed as a percentage of the roll number was 90, which is 4.1 higher than for 1920. The highest attendance during the year was during the December quarter, the average being 14,854. In recent years the attendance has been much affected by epidemics, but there was not nearly so much sickness amongst pupils during last year, and in only a few cases was it necessary to close schools. The Attendance Officer paid 226 visits to schools; 131 informations were laid against parents, and 107 convictions were recorded out of the 115 cases proceeded with. The Attendance Officer also acts as Sanitary Officer. He reports that the conveniences at almost all of the schools were kept in a sanitary condition.

*Teachers.*—The number of adult teachers on the staff, excluding nineteen relieving teachers, was 423. Of these 127 were uncertificated, eighteen being in charge of Grade 0 schools, sixty-one in charge of Grade 1 schools, and thirty-five in charge of Grade 2 schools. 212 were assistants. Practically all the positions occupied by uncertificated teachers are in schools situated in remote parts of the district. This question of uncertificated teachers is constantly before the Board, and no opportunity is lost of replacing such teachers with certificated teachers. There were eleven male and forty female pupil-teachers, and three male and twenty-nine female probationers, a total of eighty-three. It is pleasing to be able to report that at the beginning of the current year a satisfactory number of the applicants for appointment as pupil-teachers and probationers were males, twenty-five of whom secured appointments.

*National Scholarships.*—The total annual value of the forty-three junior and twenty-two senior scholarships in force at the end of the year was £1,160.