

One of the most noticeable features of the year's operations has been the increasing extent to which School Committees have manifested the policy of self-help. It is now a common thing for a Committee to report that it has raised a sum running into three figures for school improvements. These funds had until recently been eligible for a Government subsidy of £1 for £1, and it is to be regretted that the state of the country's finances has compelled the Department to limit the amounts payable. The fact that any money raised would probably be doubled was a great incentive to local effort, and the result was that much valuable work was done about the school grounds and buildings at comparatively little cost to the Board.

Schools.—The number of schools open at the end of the year was 385; of these one was a separate infant school and seventeen were aided or household schools. A new school was opened at Charwell Forks, and one of the household type at Haast (Westland). The Kaituna School was reopened, but closed again owing to small attendance. The following table shows the number of schools in operation at the end of each year given; also the number of children on the rolls, the number in average attendance and the percentage of attendance :—

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
1920	380	35,370	29,761	85.1
1921	385	36,498	32,763	89.7

It will be seen that as compared with the previous year the percentage of attendance rose from 85.1 to 89.7, the conditions having become normal and the attendance not having been affected by epidemic among the children, as was the case for the greater part of the previous year.

Maintenance.—The total expenditure on salaries (including house allowances) for the year 1921 reached the substantial sum of £314,925 13s. The incidental allowances paid to School Committees amounted to £17,381 3s. 1d. The following table shows the expenditure on salaries, allowances, and incidentals for each year mentioned :—

Year.	Salaries and Allowances.			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
1919	213,461	10	11	13,923	12	1	227,385	3	0	31,854
1920	285,100	4	7	14,303	13	0	299,403	17	7	29,761
1921	314,925	13	0	17,381	3	1	332,306	16	1	32,763

School Staffs.—There were 915 teachers in the Board's service at the end of 1921. Of these, 383 were head teachers or in sole charge and 532 were assistants. There were in addition 104 pupil-teachers and 136 probationers, also thirty-three sewing-mistresses in small schools in charge of male teachers.

Conveyance of School-children.—The expenditure on the conveyance of children to school was £5,630 1s. 3d., and on the board of children living a long way from the nearest school £894 5s. In all, 1,587 children were conveyed to school during the year, whilst board allowance was paid in respect of 120 children. Of the total (£6,524 6s. 3d.) paid in respect of conveyance and board, the Board contributed £118 17s. 10d. out of its ordinary capitation grant.

Scholarships.—There were 384 candidates (boys 189, girls 195) for the Junior National Scholarships. Of these, thirty-seven (twenty-two boys and fifteen girls) qualified. The number of candidates for Senior National Scholarships was 161 (eighty-nine boys and seventy-two girls). Of these, twenty-one (fourteen boys and seven girls) qualified. There were eighteen candidates for Gammack Scholarships. The first seven candidates in order of merit having been awarded Junior University or University National Scholarships, the next two candidates, eighth and ninth in order respectively, have been awarded Gammack scholarships.

Finance.—The Board's financial position in regard to buildings maintenance shows an improvement on that of the previous year. By restricting building operations as far as practicable to works of urgency, the Board has recovered some of the leeway that took place during the two previous years. It is hoped that by a continuance of the same policy a further improvement will be effected during the present year. It is regrettable that the Administration Fund has again been called upon to meet payments on account of incidental allowances to Committees, technical instruction, new buildings, &c., the transfers under these headings amounting to £2,413 15s. 9d. in the aggregate. In view of the very large amount (£10,801 8s. 7d.) transferred from this fund during the last few years to cover deficits on other accounts, the Board's ability to meet general expenditure on administration contingencies will be seriously impaired in future unless special accounts are made to bear their own burdens.

Manual and Technical Instruction.—Returns received from all sources point to the fact that a year's solid work has been done by all branches of manual and technical education in Canterbury during the past year. Circumstances have all been in favour of the success of the year's working, as there have been no epidemics to militate against the attendances, and very little time has been