GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1880.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st January, 1880	1,493	13	6
Grants from Government—			
Statutory capitation (£3 15s.) ...	7,733	8	9
Grants to Committees (10s.) ...	680	3	4
Scholarships (1s. 6d.)	230	15	0
Inspection subsidy	300	0	0
For buildings	3,000	0	0
Payments by School Commissioners from education reserves	1,893	15	0
Grants from Public Libraries Vote ...	193	13	0
Library Committees' contributions ...	12	10	8
Temporary bank draft*	200	0	0
Interest on current account	68	4	6
Sale of building	60	0	0
School Committees' subsidy (subscriptions for ordinary purposes) ...	61	19	6
Rent of building	75	0	0
	£16,003	3	3

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Office and Staff—			
Salaries	347	4	8
Clerical assistance	13	12	6
Departmental contingencies ...	380	14	3
School Inspection—			
Salaries	290	0	0
Travelling expenses	83	1	9
Examination of pupil-teachers ...	1	2	2
Teachers' salaries and allowances ...	8,706	16	7
School Committees	1,119	4	1
Scholarships paid to holders ...	164	5	0
Scholarship examinations	16	16	10
Training of teachers	19	1	0
Insurance of school-buildings ...	173	1	6
School-buildings (new)— ...	1,815	15	10
Improvements and repairs ...	819	6	0
Furniture and appliances ...	224	3	8
Purchase of site	30	0	0
Plans, supervision, &c.	126	15	5
Library Committees	215	8	9
Temporary bank draft*	200	0	0
Lectures Account	135	9	6
Balance	1,091	3	9
	£16,003	3	3

HERBERT BELFIELD, Chairman.
HENRY W. HAMMOND, Secretary.

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.—I have audited this account and have compared it with the vouchers, and find it correct. The balance at the bank, after payment of outstanding cheques, is accurately stated.—J. OLLIVIER, Provincial District Auditor. 4th March, 1881.

WESTLAND.

SIR,— Hokitika, 30th March, 1881.

I have the honor to submit the report of the Board for the year 1880.

BOARD.—At the commencement of the year the Board consisted of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Mueller (chairman), Patten, Grimmond, Reid, Parfitt, Seddon, Perkins, and Paterson. The following gentlemen were elected on 10th March, 1880: Messrs. R. C. Reid, T. S. Weston, and Frank Hamilton, to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Messrs. R. C. Reid and G. A. Paterson, and the death of Mr. C. Broad. Mr. Patten resigned his seat in July, and Mr. R. Hirter was elected to fill the vacancy. At the first sitting of the new Board, in April, Mr. Mueller was unanimously re-elected Chairman. Including adjourned meetings, the number of meetings held by the Board during the year was nineteen; two of these were special meetings.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS, AND TEACHERS.—At the termination of the year there were 18 school districts in this education district; the formation of a new district, that of Kynnersly, at the northern end of the district, having been rendered necessary, owing to the gold discoveries in that locality causing a new rush. Three other new districts were formed during the year, viz., Blue Spur, by subdivision of the Kanieri District; and Christchurch Road and Kokatahi, the two latter having previously been considered outlying districts. On the 31st December, 1879, there were 30 schools in the district, employing 44 adult teachers—viz., 32 male and 12 female—and 32 pupil-teachers: total, 76. During the past year the following new schools were opened: Upper Kokatahi and Lower Kokatahi, Kokatahi District; South Spit, Hokitika District (reopened); and Westbrook, Kumara District. On the 31st December, 1880, there were, therefore, 34 schools in the district, employing the following teachers: Adult males, 30; adult females, 21: pupil-teachers, males 12, females 23: total, 86.

In the last annual report furnished by the Board it was shown that very considerable reductions had been made in the salaries of their teachers and officers, and that several schools had been closed, and others placed under the 88th clause of the Act; these reductions and alterations having come into operation on the 1st February, 1879. Since that date the Board have made numerous representations to the Government, showing clearly the very exceptional position occupied by the district under the Act; and have had reason to believe that the Government recognize the fact of the district being exceptionally situated. Feeling sure, therefore, that their representations would eventually receive substantial recognition from the Government, the Board, being strongly impressed with the fact that the progress of educational matters had been considerably retarded by the reductions and alterations before mentioned, ventured during the period between the 1st February, 1879, and the 1st August, 1880, to increase their expenditure to the following extent per annum:—(1.) Reinstatement of assistant teachers, Hokitika and Greymouth, £300; (2.) Increase of pay to pupil-teachers, and teachers for instructing pupil-teachers, £206; (3.) Appointment of assistant teachers, Cobden and Paroa Schools, £135; (4.) Increase of pay to schools under the 88th clause, £200; (5.) Increase in cost of insurance, £80; (6.) Allowances to caretakers, Hokitika and Greymouth, £100; (7.) Increased payments to School Committees rendered necessary by formation of new school districts, £120: total, £1,141. It will therefore be seen that when the Board received the circular notifying

* The sum of £200 here inserted was not an actual receipt, but is the amount of a bank draft to cover probable outside cost of books ordered from Messrs. Bell and Bradfute. Total, after this deduction, would be £15,803 3s. 3d.