

DRAWING MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.—The report of the Headmaster of the Drawing Department will be found in Appendix H. This department has suffered considerably in consequence of the general retrenchment. The services of the principal assistant had to be dispensed with, and the teaching of drawing was discontinued in a number of outlying but important schools. The total expenditure on the department amounted to £876 5s. 10d. for the year, the receipts from fees being £143 19s.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—Eighteen scholarships—9 junior and 9 senior—were offered for competition at the end of the year, and were duly awarded to the competitors who stood first at the examination. The number of junior scholars at the end of the year was 11, and that of senior scholars was 12. It is pleasing to find that most of the winners of senior scholarships at this year's examination gained junior scholarships two years ago. The holders of senior scholarships gained during previous years have also taken a distinguished position at the advanced schools at which they have been prosecuting their education. The appendix contains the report of the examiners, the examination-papers, the names of those holding scholarships, and other supplementary information connected with this matter.

SCHOOL-BUILDINGS.—Your department allowed this district for school-buildings out of the current year's vote the miserably inadequate sum of £6,000. The estimate of the Board's requirements, made out early in the year and submitted to the department, was £43,372 4s. 7d. In the course of the year the sum of £25,279 19s. 2d. was expended on school-buildings, a sum which is more than four times as great as that granted by the department, and nearly £20,000 in excess of it. The Board cannot count upon making any saving from the statutory capitation grant, all of which is required to meet the current cost of salaries and management. There are at present under consideration a greater number of applications for the erection of new schools and of additions to old ones than for some years past. Not only is settlement extending and rendering the erection of new schools necessary, but in many districts provided with schools of the smallest class the attendance is growing so greatly that enlargement or the erection of an additional class-room can no longer be delayed. If this is not done the schools will either be crowded to excess or children will have to be refused admission. For some time past the Board has found it desirable, in rural schools, to replace the pupil-teacher and sewing teacher granted, when an average attendance of 50 is reached, by a female teacher, at a salary of £70 per annum—an arrangement which costs about the same as the staff formerly allowed. Few country schools are large enough for a master and mistress to carry on their work efficiently in the same room, so that new additions are frequently required in consequence of this improvement in the school staff. Under these circumstances the Board would urge on your notice the great necessity that exists for making much more liberal provision for necessary school-buildings in this important and extensive district than was done for the past year. In consequence of the want of funds the Board has had to postpone the erection of a number of urgently-needed schools, and thus the list of applications now under consideration has been swelled.

The Board desires to point out that, in the absence of provision for voters' rolls and for the taking of a poll at the elections of School Committees, the cumulative system of voting is very unsatisfactory, and suggests that the Act be amended to remedy this.

By order of the Board.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

P. G. PRYDE, Secretary.

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

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, 1st January, 1880—			By Office and Board—		
Maintenance Account ...	8,678	8 9	Office staff, salaries ...	865	16 8
Grants from Government—			Departmental contingencies ...	658	15 0
Statutory capitation (£3 15s.) ...	51,764	14 1	School Inspection—		
Grants to Committees (10s.) ...	4,408	5 10	Salaries ...	968	15 0
Scholarships (1s. 6d.) ...	693	5 4	Travelling expenses ...	418	10 3
Inspection subsidy ...	500	0 0	Printing ...	51	0 0
Training of teachers ...	2,000	0 0	Examination of pupil-teachers ...	33	7 8
Specially for buildings ...	12,720	18 10	Teachers' salaries and allowances ...	52,056	15 11
Payments by School Commissioners from			School Committees, for educational, pur-		
education reserves ...	5,393	15 11	poses ...	6,120	0 11
Fees for district high schools ...	94	15 0	Scholarships—		
From Public Libraries Vote ...	1,008	16 9	Paid to holders ...	671	13 4
School of Art fees ...	143	19 0	Expenses of examinations ...	38	7 0
Sale of old buildings ...	701	0 0	Training of teachers ...	2,214	13 4
Sale of school sites ...	390	16 6	School-Buildings—		
Public library deposits ...	271	16 7	New buildings ...	16,930	18 8
Interest on credit balances ...	576	17 5	Enlargement, improvement, and re-		
			pairs ...	5,468	5 2
	£89,347	10 0	School furniture and appliances (not		
Amount overdrawn in Bank of New			included in preceding) ...	897	0 1
Zealand ...	1,580	11 1	Purchase of sites ...	460	0 0
			Plans, supervision, &c. ...	985	17 7
			Rent allowances ...	537	17 8
			Library Committees, out of Public		
			Libraries Vote ...	674	1 0
			Drawing-master's department—		
			Salaries and expenses ...	876	5 10
	£90,928	1 1		£90,928	1 1

P. G. PRYDE, Secretary and Treasurer.

I have examined the above abstract, and compared it with the treasurer's books and records, and I certify it to be correct.—H. LIVINGSTON, Auditor.