

distribution of grants according to population, contending that special consideration is due to districts that were ill-provided with schools when the Education Act came into operation. The Otago Board also objects to the principle, and would prefer a distribution according to school attendance.

TABLE L.—SCHOOL-BUILDINGS EXPENDITURE.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	No. of Schools in December Quarter.	No. of Residences attached.	No. of School-buildings Not Belonging to Boards.	Expenditure in 1881 upon					Total.
				New Buildings.	Improvements, Enlargements, Repairs, &c.	School Furniture and Appliances not included in the preceding.	Purchase of Sites.	Plans, Supervision, and other Expenses.	
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ...	194	89	43	8,522 14 6	3,913 2 0	1,798 7 5	2,045 10 7	709 3 11	16,988 18 5
Taranaki ...	30	15	...	667 5 11	164 2 9	80 11 11	46 2 1	75 0 0	1,033 2 8
Wanganui ...	57	42	4	628 19 8	1,453 19 3	1 2 0	...	57 1 3	2,141 2 2
Wellington ...	48	27	5	2,501 19 9	2,828 3 5	726 14 7	...	374 8 0	6,431 5 9
Hawke's Bay ...	36	23	8	2,567 14 7	313 10 10	198 8 5	200 0 0	370 8 3	3,650 2 1
Marlborough ...	20	14	5	130 0 0	448 2 0	47 15 6	...	22 14 9	648 12 3
Nelson ...	70	40	8	1,036 5 8	522 8 4	214 19 3	49 10 0	38 16 9	1,862 0 0
North Canterbury	129	122	3	5,245 17 1	4,007 3 6	912 11 9	251 10 0	739 0 1	11,156 2 5
South Canterbury	33	28	2	449 10 6	546 6 8	131 14 6	...	22 19 5	1,150 11 1
Westland ...	35	14	4	1,661 5 9	1,850 9 9	429 17 7	291 17 0	208 2 9	4,441 12 10
Otago ...	154	138	11	2,461 19 7	2,568 3 5	207 13 0	65 10 0	502 11 2	5,805 17 2
Southland ...	63	52	3	1,485 11 0	936 10 2	152 4 4	...	371 0 2	2,945 5 8
Totals for 1881...	869	604	96	27,359 4 0	19,552 2 1	4,902 0 3	2,949 19 8	3,491 6 6	58,254 12 6
Totals for 1880...	836	569	89	71,441 9 5	30,476 7 4	8,210 4 10	1,832 11 7	5,449 8 8	117,410 1 10
Decrease ...	...	...	...	44,082 5 5	10,924 5 3	3,308 4 7	...	1,958 2 2	59,155 9 4

At the end of 1881 the Boards had balances in hand on building account alone amounting to £18,390 4s. 3d., beside which they were entitled to receive balances, since paid to them out of last year's vote for buildings, to the amount of £43,582, so that there was altogether £61,972 4s. 3d. at their disposal for building purposes. Against this is to be set £35,349 10s. 1d. for works in hand at the end of the year, leaving £26,622 14s. 2d. for proposed new works. The Boards have supplied estimates of works which they think should be undertaken, the total cost of which would be £172,065 5s. 6d. Deduct from this amount the above stated sum of £26,622 14s. 2d., and there remains £145,442 11s. 4d. as the estimated cost of proposed works for which no provision has yet been made. Table No. 4A, Appendix, page 4, shows the receipts and expenditure of each Board during five years on account of buildings, and the balances above referred to; and Table No. 4B gives a summary of each Board's proposals and estimates for buildings, together with some statistics which afford the means of judging to some extent of the reasonableness of the demands.

The table No. 4B shows that in every district, except that of Wellington, there is sufficient accommodation for all the children on the school-rolls if it were distributed with perfect suitability, but that there are about 1,000 children (most of them being in Otago and Southland) in excess of the accommodation in a few crowded schools. To make room for these children, and to provide for about 6,500 others who are at present either unprovided for or taught in hired buildings, enlargements and new buildings are proposed, with space for between 12,000 and 13,000 children. The districts that anticipate the largest proportional additions of new scholars are South Canterbury, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, and Otago. The proposals include 135 schools altogether new, additions to 45 old ones, and new schools to take the places of 6 old ones condemned as unfit for use. The number of hired schoolrooms is 96, of which 43 are in Auckland district alone, and a large proportion in the districts of Marlborough and Hawke's Bay. It is also proposed to build masters' houses in connection with 190 schools: at present there are 266 schools without residences, 105 of them in Auckland district, and a large proportion in the districts of Westland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Nelson.

The estimate of capitation grants for the present financial year is the same as that for the last financial year, which, from the causes that have been already stated, proved to be £12,000 in excess of what was actually paid. Several of the Boards in their reports, express the opinion that the principle of payment accord-