

of the year, which were reduced in the course of the twelve months from £37,400 15s. 9d. to £11,532 15s. 4d., or to the extent of £25,868.

The Boards' general statements of accounts appended to their annual reports include information respecting the grants received from the special vote for school-buildings, and the amounts expended by them during the year. A summary of these accounts is contained in the Appendix, Tables Nos. 1 and 2. The following table, compiled from the Boards' statements of expenditure, shows, under different heads, the amounts expended on school-buildings by the several Boards during the year :—

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 1882 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	189	102	36	5,656 14 0	4,206 15 4	1,448 0 4	2,195 12 10	631 11 8	14,138 14 2
Taranaki	37	19	3	1,611 14 0	197 6 3	5 8 0	88 12 8	97 15 6	2,000 16 5
Wanganui	61	46	4	3,038 0 1	2,008 7 3	329 15 3	...	278 7 1	5,654 9 8
Wellington	50	30	5	1,843 13 0	1,107 5 0	418 5 3	200 0 0	180 0 9	3,749 4 0
Hawke's Bay	35	21	7	1,259 5 3	742 5 1	371 4 0	460 0 0	137 13 11	2,970 8 3
Marlborough	26	14	7	874 19 9	393 16 11	66 0 0	207 0 11	61 16 0	1,603 13 7
Nelson	78	29	9	1,613 15 9	2,138 0 6	160 13 6	22 13 0	...	3,935 2 9
North Canterbury	134	122	3	3,170 11 2	7,678 8 5	995 12 6	201 1 6	646 0 4	12,691 13 11
South Canterbury	39	32	1	2,851 15 6	1,095 9 3	217 15 2	131 5 6	233 13 3	4,529 18 8
Westland	37	15	4	223 0 0	973 1 3	270 13 4	222 18 7	119 0 9	1,808 13 11
Otago	159	147	10	10,592 9 2	811 16 4	580 12 5	1,340 15 0	772 14 4	14,098 7 3
Southland	66	59	2	2,845 11 6	1,513 17 4	93 5 8	59 13 2	158 14 6	4,671 2 2
Totals for 1882	911	636	92	35,581 9 2	22,866 8 11	4,957 5 5	55,129 13 2	3,317 8 1	171,852 4 9
Totals for 1881	869	604	96	27,359 4 0	19,552 2 1	4,902 0 3	32,949 19 8	3,491 6 6	658,254 12 6
Increase	42	32	...	8,222 5 2	3,314 6 10	55 5 2	2,179 13 6	...	13,597 12 3
Decrease	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	173 18 5	...

Table L shows that, while the sum of £35,581 9s. 2d. was expended on new buildings, no less a sum than £22,866 8s. 11d. was devoted to the enlargement and improvement of existing ones, and that the cost of plans, specifications, supervision, &c., was at the rate of 4·6 per cent. on the gross expenditure on buildings.

Nearly all the Boards in their reports refer to the inadequacy of the moneys placed at their disposal for the erection and improvement of school-buildings.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The annual reports made to the several Boards by the Inspectors furnish a large amount of information respecting the state of education in the public schools of the different Board districts. In addition to the information supplied by the Inspectors with regard to the passes in standards, an annual return is obtained from the Boards showing the classification according to standards in the last quarter of the year. This classification is given in Table M, and sets forth the teachers' judgment of the proficiency of the scholars at the time it was made. The Appendix, Table 5, furnishes the same information respecting the several Board districts :—

TABLE M.—CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO STANDARDS IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1882.

Standards.		Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentage.	
					1882.	1881.
Too young for line next following	...	12,631	11,188	23,819	27·32	25·45
Preparing for Standard I.	...	8,853	7,834	16,692	19·15	20·32
" " II.	...	7,151	6,902	14,053	16·12	16·83
" " III.	...	7,081	6,821	13,902	15·95	17·14
" " IV.	...	5,108	5,106	10,214	11·72	11·44
" " V.	...	2,694	2,724	5,418	6·21	5·73
" " VI.	...	1,158	1,141	2,299	2·64	2·38
Passed Standard VI.	...	401	381	782	0·89	0·71
Totals for 1882	...	45,082	42,097	87,179	100	...
Totals for 1881	...	43,484	40,103	83,587	...	100

This table shows that, in the judgment of the teachers, 46·47 per cent. of their scholars were not yet fit to pass in Standard I. This proportion is somewhat