

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Government grant for build- ings	£2,917 1 0				By Balance of account on 31st December, 1882		2,487	15	5
Advance deducted	480 0 0				Office staff, salaries (11 months)		237	17	6
		2,437	1	0	Clerical assistance		47	3	0
Government capitations, at £3 15s. and 5s.	£8,429 13 5				Departmental contingencies		837	7	10
Advance deducted	60 0 0				Inspector's salary (11 months)		441	13	4
		8,369	13	5	Inspector's travelling expenses		133	6	8
Scholarships grant, at 1s. 6d.	174 15 7				Teachers' salaries and allowances (includ- ing rent, bonus, &c. (11 months)		7,198	19	11
Inspection subsidy (11 months)	275 0 0				Incidental expenses of schools..		806	13	0
Payments by School Commissioners for primary education	127 18 1				Scholarships—Paid to scholars	..	180	0	0
School books..	414 0 6				School buildings—				
Refunds	206 19 7				New buildings		2,422	19	6
Rent	2 9 0				Improvements of buildings		1,676	4	1
Balance of account on 31st December, 1883		5,572	6	6	Furniture and appliances	..	119	1	6
					Plans, supervision, and fees		416	2	6
					Union Bank of Australia, interest		112	12	11
					School books, &c.		362	5	8
		£17,580	3	8			£17,580	3	8

I hereby certify that I have examined the above account, and have compared the same with bank pass-book, ledger, and vouchers, and find the same to be correct, with the exception of some items under the heading of "Departmental contingencies," amounting to £158 17s. 10d. (concerning which I will make a special report), and to the best of my knowledge and belief to be according to law.—W A. SPENCE, Auditor. Greymouth, 4th March, 1884.

SIR,—

As required by section 102 of "The Education Act, 1877," the Education Board of the District of Otago has the honour to present the following report of its proceedings for the year 1883.

THE BOARD.—At the beginning of the year the following members constituted the Board: James Fulton, Henry Clark, Thomas Fergus, John Shand, William Elder, Alexander C. Begg, Michael Fraer, Keith Ramsay, and James Green. Messrs. Fulton, Clark, and Fergus retired, in terms of section 15 of the Education Act. Five candidates were nominated by the School Committees for the vacancies, and the voting resulted in the re-election of Messrs. Clark and Fergus, and the election of Mr. John McKenzie in the room of Mr. Fulton, who did not offer himself for re-election. At the first meeting of the Board in April, Professor Shand was re-elected Chairman. There were held during the year fourteen meetings of the Board, twelve meetings of the Finance Committee, and twelve meetings of the Appointments Committee.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.—The last report of the Board showed that there were in operation on the 31st December, 1882, 159 schools. During the year new schools were opened at Macandrew Road (South Dunedin), Totara, and Waianakarua. The schools at Eweburn and Lower Kyeburn had to be reduced to the half-time system, owing to the falling-off in the attendance at the former school, and the school at Ida Valley had to be closed, owing to the falling-off in the attendance, and the apparent indifference of the settlers to the education of their children. The Shag Valley School was also closed at the end of 1882, as the improved state of the roads in the district, and the bridging of the river, enabled the children who attended it conveniently to reach the Palmerston School. There were consequently 159 schools in operation in this district at the end of December. The new school districts of Maerewhenua, Tahora (Hindon), Waiwera Township, Coal Creek Flat, and Lowburn, were proclaimed, and when the year closed school buildings were in course of erection in all but the first. The City of Dunedin, which hitherto formed one school district, was divided into five districts—an alteration which the Board hopes will ultimately be of advantage to the schools of the city.

TEACHERS.—There were employed at the close of the year 446 teachers, being an increase of four as compared with the preceding year.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The following is an abstract of the attendance at the public schools of this district:—

[illegible]