

pupil-teachers who have passed their final examination, and teachers who have been more than a year in charge of a public school (Regulations II., 2); all others must pass the entrance examination held about a month after the results of the pupil-teachers' examination are published. A number of both seniors and juniors had obtained a partial success in the Class E examination, and they, along with a few juniors who at once gave evidence of good working power, were classed with the candidates for Class D. In some cases this proved unsatisfactory, and for the future a class will be formed for completion of E certificate, and students will be advanced from it only on giving evidence of ability to take up the D subjects.

In order to qualify for the Board's £60 exhibitions at the University of Otago in conjunction with the Normal School, a number of ex-pupil-teachers formed a class for the special study of several matriculation subjects, and were joined by others to whom the exhibitions are not open. Excellent work was done by this class, and it is probable that several of its members will apply to the Board for permission to continue their studies at the University after completing the ordinary normal-school course. Should the Board grant their request I have no doubt but they will make good use of the opportunity. Miss Tracey, to whom the privilege was last granted, took high places in her classes, secured the Scott Scholarship, and at the recent University entrance examination succeeded in taking a junior scholarship.

Mr Wilkinson as tutor, and Mr Earle as master, of the model school, entered on duty at the beginning of the session. To Mr Wilkinson were assigned Latin, mathematics, and science, and valuable assistance was given by him in the superintendence of the practice in teaching, especially teaching of elementary science. Mr. Earle was placed in charge of two of the model rooms described in previous reports. One room had an average attendance of forty boys and girls, and was organized as an ordinary small country school such as the male students may be required to take charge of on completing their training. The other had an average attendance of thirty, and was organized as an infant room in a country school with a master and mistress. For the last five months of the session the latter was placed under the superintendence of the Matron, Mr. Earle remaining in charge of the former. The students in turn spend at least a week in these rooms, giving special attention to the organization and management. During the week they are expected to keep up their home preparation for class work, and they arrange with their classmates for exchange of notes of work done in class during the week's absence.

Mr. Braik immediately on appointment began his course of instruction in music according to the Tonic Sol-Fa method. Arrangements have been made for examinations for certificates of the Tonic Sol-Fa College, London. The first was held towards the end of the session, and eight students were successful in taking the elementary certificate. Candidates for appointment presenting these certificates will naturally be expected by School Committees to teach music in the schools to which they are appointed, and arrangements have been made for practice in teaching music under Mr Braik's direction. Since the withdrawal of the School of Art staff from the public schools, the drawing in the practising department has been taught chiefly by students elected by Mr Hutton. One of the weekly drawing hours is spent by these in teaching, the other in being taught. The majority of the students will thus be prepared to teach both music and drawing in the schools to which they are appointed. With the exceptions above noted, the practice in teaching has been conducted much in the same lines as formerly.

The session closed with an attendance of 60—27 males and 33 females.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, Education Board.

W. S. FITZGERALD, Rector

REPORTS OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

AUCKLAND.

SIR,—

Auckland, 27th March, 1884.

I have the honour, in reply to your circular of the 20th December last, to state that the administration of education reserves in this provincial district during the year 1883 calls for no special remark. The reserves let were but few, comprising 10 acres 2 roods 2 perches of town and suburban land, and 126 acres of rural land, which were leased for twenty-one years at an aggregate rental of £16 7s. per annum.

The Commissioners' title to reserves mentioned in the Schedule to the Education Reserves Amendment Act of 1882 has been duly registered, so that there is no longer any difficulty in dealing with these lands or in recovering rent due upon them. There are, however, many blocks and sections of land on the East Coast, in Cook and Wairoa Counties, temporarily reserved for primary-education purposes, which would let readily were the reservation completed, and the land thereby vested in the Commissioners. I have the honour to draw your attention to the remark, in my report for 1882, that there seems to be unnecessary delay in completing the reservation of these lands.

The statement of accounts for 1883, duly certified by the auditor, is enclosed herewith.

I have, &c.;

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

JOSEPH MAX, Chairman.