

TABLE H.— -BUILDINGS EXPENDITURE.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	No. of Schools in December Quarter.	No. of Residences attached.	No. of School Buildings not belonging to Boards.	Expenditure in 1883 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	192	106	33	9,539 18 2	3,813 11 0	1,735 16 9	2,043 13 3	855 7 4	17,988 6 6	
Taranaki	36	21	4	1,001 4 7	140 11 10	70 10 6	376 6 8	100 0 0	1 688 13 7	
Wanganui	67	52	5	1 471 13 3	3,319 15 11	7 9 9	35 17 6	403 5 3	5,238 1 8	
Wellington	53	30	5	2 036 10 0	2,554 10 11	408 16 4	1,019 10 0	229 11 5	6 248 18 8	
Hawke's Bay	36	24	6	2,559 10 0	876 0 11	587 11 10	197 0 0	236 1 1	4,456 3 2	
Marlborough	29	15	8	1,226 19 6	724 6 7	182 5 0		98 4 9	2,231 15 10	
Nelson	82	33	10	1,550 12 1	497 3 10	144 13 3	131 10 0		2,323 19 2	
North Canterbury	143	133	4	6,726 14 9	7 713 19 1	997 16 7	233 12 0	1,007 2 0	16,685 4 5	
South Canterbury	39	32	..	4,805 4 6	349 0 7	562 4 6	492 11 2	338 5 2	6 547 6 2	
Westland No. 1	35	18	2	675 4 2	296 13 5	47 14 5	..	223 7 6	1 242 19 3	
Otago	159	156	5	12,331 3 9	1 927 16 10	362 9 11	957 18 3	714 5 10	16,293 14 7	
Southland	72	67	1	4,405 5 8	1,004 10 0	84 18 6	90 0 0	218 15 10	5,803 10 0	
Totals for 1883	943	687	83	48,330 0 5	23,218 0 11	5,192 7 4	5,583 18 10	4,424 6 2	86,748 13 0	
Totals for 1882	911	636	92	35 581 9 2	22,866 8 11	4,957 5 5	5 129 13 2	3,317 8 1	71 852 4 9	
Increase	32	51		12,748 11 3	351 12 0	235 1 11	454 5 8	1 106 18 1	14,896 8 3	
Decrease			9							
*Westland, No. 2				2 422 19 6	1 676 4 11	119 1 6		416 2 6	4,634 8 5	
Do. excess of No. 2				1 747 15 4	1,379 11 6	71 7 4		192 15 0	3,391 9 2	

* See note to Table F3, and notes prefixed to Westland returns, Appendix, pp. 35 and 82.

Nearly all the Boards continue to represent the amounts placed at their disposal for school buildings as quite inadequate to their several requirements.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

The Education Act requires that the accounts of the School Committees shall be audited annually as prescribed by regulations under the Act, and that a copy of such accounts shall be forwarded to the Board of the district after they have been audited, together with the auditor's report thereon. Formerly the appointment of auditors was vested in the School Committees themselves; but by amended regulations, dated September 18th, 1883, each Board is now required to appoint an auditor, or auditors, to audit the accounts of the School Committees within the district for which the Board is constituted. The change has proved a satisfactory one, and there is reason to believe it has led to considerable improvement in the keeping of the school fund accounts. In most cases the Boards have appointed their Secretary, or other officer, to perform the duties of auditor. The Boards of Auckland and North Canterbury were able to secure the services of the Provincial District Auditors. It would no doubt be acceptable to the Boards themselves if an arrangement could be made whereby the services of the Provincial District or other Government Auditor might be made available in every district for the auditing of the School Committees' accounts. Abstracts of these accounts have been received from all the Boards except that of Westland, a summary of them is contained in the Appendix, pages 106-7

Several of the Boards, in their annual reports, bear testimony to the satisfactory manner in which the School Committees have performed the duties devolving upon them. It is reported by the Taranaki Board that "the Committee for the Town of New Plymouth have taken great interest in their work during the past year," that "the country Committees are gradually taking more interest in their work," and that "the new regulations for auditing School Committees' accounts will be found an improvement." The Hawke's Bay Board "again desires to express its appreciation of the work done by the majority of the School Committees. In most of the districts the compulsory clause is nominally in force, and there is generally a visiting Committee appointed in each district to see to the wants of teachers and pupils. There is a growing pride among them in regard to the neatness and satisfactory state of the residences, school-houses, and grounds, and comparatively large sums are annually collected by them for the improvement of the school buildings and supplying gymnastic apparatus for the physical training of the pupils. During the past year, Napier, Meanee, and