

SESS. II.—1884.
NEW ZEALAND.

COST OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND
AND OTHER COUNTRIES
(COMPARATIVE RETURN OF).

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives, dated 10th September, 1884.

Ordered, "That a return, compiled from the latest authentic information, be laid before this House, showing the cost per scholar of primary education in New Zealand, in the Australian Colonies, and in England; also the school age as established by law in the above-mentioned places and in America; and also the cost of primary education in New Zealand from 1877 to 1883, both years inclusive."—(Mr. Montgomery.)

No. 1.

MEMORANDUM of the SECRETARY for EDUCATION.

Education Department,
Wellington, 26th August, 1884.

HON. MINISTER of EDUCATION.

IN accordance with instructions received from you, I submit the following notes relating to expenditure on public (primary) schools. The secondary schools, the University of New Zealand, and the University Colleges have been constituted and endowed by Acts of the Legislature, and have been severally placed under the independent control of local governing bodies; the Education Department is in no way responsible for their administration.

The following tables are extracted from the seventh annual report of the Minister of Education, (Appendix to Journals of House of Representatives, E.-1, 1884). They supply a considerable amount of information concerning the expenditure on the public schools.

Tables F1 and F2 show, under different heads, the income and expenditure of the Education Boards since the abolition of the provinces to the year 1883 inclusive. The year 1877 was a year of transition; the provinces were abolished towards the close of 1876, and the Education Act of 1877 did not come into operation till January, 1878. Table A2 should be examined along with Tables F1 and F2. It shows the yearly increase in the average daily attendance since 1877. As the attendance has increased every year since the Act of 1877 came into operation, the aggregate yearly current expenditure has necessarily increased also.

In Table F2 the current expenditure on the public schools is shown under the three heads (1) Management by Boards, (2) Inspection and Examination, and (3) Maintenance of Schools. The amount of expenditure on school buildings has varied from year to year, having been mainly dependent upon the amount of the parliamentary special vote. Table F3 shows the average cost per scholar for the year 1883, under the same four heads as those specified in Table F2.

TABLE F1.—SUMMARY OF BOARDS' INCOME. (E.-1., 1884, p. vii.)

Principal Heads.	Year 1877.		Year 1878.		Year 1879.		Year 1880.		Year 1881.		Year 1882.		Year 1883.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance 1st Jan., 1877 ..	32,490	7 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parliamentary grants,—														
Maintenance ..	157,392	15 10	216,666	4 0	217,876	2 0	241,555	14 0	233,587	0 9	250,853	10 9	266,967	12 11
Buildings ..	46,812	7 6	101,237	2 11	150,581	4 7	104,436	16 8	64,318	0 0	45,265	10 9	83,322	10 9
Education reserves ..	16,604	4 3	8,862	3 9	21,330	7 1	19,749	0 4	23,533	6 7	21,258	13 4	24,714	18 9
Local receipts,—														
School fees, &c. ..	*41,955	11 4	3,005	0 6	1,799	5 9	924	8 6	1,415	8 5	2,354	13 6	1,221	13 6
For buildings ..	1,190	7 1	1,284	14 3	1,231	7 9	1,965	12 3	599	1 2	1,411	10 0	2,155	1 2
Interest ..	..	..	..	..	3,048	17 2	1,739	5 0	380	0 0	439	3 5	858	4 0
Ordinary income ..	296,445	13 6	331,075	5 5	395,867	4 4	370,370	16 9	323,832	16 11	321,583	1 9	379,240	1 1
Deposits, refunds, &c. ..	2,798	10 11	6,361	1 4	2,708	13 10	2,893	9 5	2,269	8 11	5,425	11 9	2,886	13 5
Total receipts ..	299,244	4 5	337,436	6 9	398,575	18	2373,264	6	2326,102	5 10	327,008	13 6	382,126	14 6
Add—Public libraries ..	..	..	..	..	†6,179	2 1	4,945	8 0	453	10 9	258	13 5	230	10 9
Secondary schools† ..	9,025	7 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Balances, 1st January ..	..	..	23,323	0 9	58,173	3 11	42,437	1 6	32,419	10 9	37,400	15 9	11,532	15 4
Totals ..	308,269	11 10	360,759	7 6	462,923	4 2	420,646	15 8	358,975	7 4	364,668	2 8	393,890	0 7

* Including sums raised by School Committees and expended on education without going through the Boards' books, as follows: New Plymouth, £750 is.; Hawke's Bay, £314 4s. 5d.; Otago, £20,828 3s. 2d.

† Including balances excluded from summaries of former years.

‡ The Auckland College and Grammar School and the Otago High School were under the charge of the Education Boards during the year 1877.