STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1884.

A. *Exclusive of Building Fund.*

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st December, 1884 ..	3,115	2	5			
Less prepayment by School Commissioners to be deducted from capitation allowance for 1885 ..	589	8	9			
				2,525	13	8
Due from scholarships				435	14	2
Balance				1,435	1	9
				£4,396	9	7

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Due to teachers	4,208	8	3
Due to Flavell	50	0	0
Due to school libraries	15	0	0
Due for printing	26	1	8
Due for advertising	17	15	9
Due for rents	45	14	0
Due for stationery	25	8	3
Due for sundries	8	1	8
	£4,936	9	7

B. *Building Fund only.*

	£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on Playgrounds Account, 31st December, 1884	1,500	0	0
Due from grant, 1884-85	10,682	0	0
	£12,182	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Balance of account, 31st December, 1884 ..	4,492	0	5
Balance of amounts due or to fall due under contracts	216	0	0
Due on account of furniture	30	0	0
Due on account of playgrounds	1,500	0	0
Balance	5,943	19	7
	£12,182	0	0

VINCENT E. RICE, Secretary.

TARANAKI.

SIR,— New Plymouth, 7th March, 1885.

In compliance with the provisions of clause 102 of "The Education Act, 1877," I have the honour to submit the following report of the Taranaki Education Board for the year ending 31st December, 1884.

BOARD.—The vacancies caused by the retirement, in March, of Messrs J. Kelly, W. M. Syme, and E. Veale, were filled by Messrs. R. G. Bauchope, F. Bluck, and E. Veale. About the same time an extraordinary vacancy was caused by the resignation of the Chairman, the Venerable Archdeacon Govett, who was about to visit the Home-country. This vacancy was filled by the election of Dr. O'Carroll to the Board. Mr. E. Veale was elected chairman. The Board held twenty-four ordinary meetings and one special during the year. The following are the attendances given by each member: J. Andrews, 23; J. Elliot, 22; H. Faull, 23; H. Govett, 2; B. C. Lawrence, 22; E. Veale, 22; J. Wade, 23; R. G. Bauchope, 18; F. Bluck, 18; and P. J. O'Carroll, 17. The three last-named gentlemen held office for nine months only. Standing orders were framed, which have greatly facilitated the transaction of business. The Board regrets to record the resignation, through advancing years, of Mr. William Northcroft, who has filled the position of Secretary since the origin of the Education Board in Taranaki, and wishes to express their appreciation of his long and faithful services.

SCHOOLS.—The number of schools open during the year was thirty-seven, but this number was reduced by one owing to the closing of the Smart Road School, the attendance having fallen below the minimum.

TEACHERS.—The number of teachers on the staff at the end of the year was sixty-two; their classification being as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Head teachers...	21	17	38
Assistant teachers	1	7	8
Pupil-teachers	1	15	16
	23	39	62

Of the above number, sixteen hold certificates, two are provisionally certificated, three "partial success," two "license to teach," twenty-three are uncertificated; four pupil-teachers are in their second year, and twelve in their first. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable certificated teachers and assistants. The pressing necessity of providing accommodation diverts a very large portion of the General Fund, so that the Board is not in a position to offer sufficient to induce properly qualified persons to apply for vacancies as they occur. The sum of £758 2s. has been granted to the Building Fund during the year. The Board is, however, desirous to remedy this state of matters as soon as the wants of the district can be fairly met by the subsidy to the Building Fund. During the month of May a circular was forwarded to all uncertificated teachers in the district, intimating that, unless they obtained "partial success" or a "license to teach" from the department at its annual examination in January, they would receive notice that their services would be dispensed with. In accordance with the new regulations, the examination of pupil-teachers was held in July: of the fourteen who were examined, five passed the requirements of the first year. The papers of three were so unsatisfactory that the Board determined their engagements.

ATTENDANCES.—The attendance for the year under review showed a slight increase over 1883. The number of scholars on the rolls at the end of December, 1884, was 2,113. The working average also shows a slight increase, the average for the last quarter of 1884 being 1,548, against 1,458 for the corresponding quarter of 1883. The irregularity and want of punctuality in the attendance of