Teaching Staff.—The teaching staff of the Board consisted of 134 teachers of all grades at the end of 1884. Fifty of these were male and eighty-four female teachers. They were again subdivided into forty-two male and forty female head teachers, and eight male and forty-four female assistant teachers.

Attendance of Scholars.—The number of scholars on the roll at the close of 1884 was 4,808, the working average being 3,641. At the close of the corresponding quarter of 1883 the roll-number was 4,550, the working average 3,424, the increase to the number on the roll being 258, the working average being increased by 217.

Probationers.—The number of teachers of this class, which four years ago was only two, has increased to twenty-six. Several of these, having completed their three years' term of service, have gone up for the teachers' examination, with what success cannot yet be ascertained. The question of providing probationers with systematic instruction is still in a very unsettled state, as it has not been formally decided what, if any, assistance in their studies head teachers are bound to give to the probationers in their schools. The result is a great diversity of practice, some probationers getting large gratuitous help from the head teachers, others paying for what help they get, and not a few struggling on quite unaided. Having an opportunity of testing the attainments of the probationers by half-yearly examinations, the Inspector reports that, as might be expected, those who pursue their studies unaided are by far the most backward of the class. A danger seems to be arising, however, from the very popularity of the probationer system. Probationers are becoming so numerous that difficulties in placing them suitably when their three years' engagement has expired are likely to arise, especially if any considerable addition be made to their present numbers. This difficulty has been already felt both in England and some of the colonies with regard to pupil-teachers, who have been trained in such numbers that the teaching profession is beginning to be seriously overcrowded.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education. J. W. Barnicoat, Chairman.

General Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1884.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance on 31st December, 1883—			
On Building Account	716	19	0
On General Account	1,471	3	11
Government grant for buildings ..	2,307	0	0
Bank interest	6	0	0
Refund exchange	1	14	6
Government statutory capitation (£3 15s.)	12,892	16	4
Special capitation (5s.)	886	11	3
Scholarship grant (1s. 6d.)	225	15	6
Inspection subsidy	300	0	0
Grant for training of teachers	19	10	0
Payments by School Commissioners—			
For primary education	369	18	7
For secondary education	12	10	0
Sale of school-books	615	12	8
Refunds, exchange, &c.	9	11	4
	£19,835	3	1

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Office staff salaries	299	0	4
Departmental contingencies	228	2	5
Inspector's salary and travelling expenses	572	1	8
Examination of probationers and young assistants	6	15	6
Teachers' salaries and allowances, including rent, bonus, &c.	12,442	3	7
Incidental expenses of schools	1,263	7	8
Rents of schools	89	7	0
Training of teachers	19	10	0
Scholarships—			
Paid to scholars	270	15	0
Examination expenses	34	0	9
School-buildings—			
New buildings	2,010	13	2
Improvements of buildings	495	9	0
Furniture and appliances	67	15	5
Sites	22	10	0
Purchase of school-books, &c.	492	10	10
Balance of account on 31st December, 1884—			
On Building Account	435	5	11
On General Account	1,085	14	10
	£19,835	3	1

J. W. Barnicoat, Chairman.
Stead Ellis, Secretary.

The above accounts examined and found correct.—H. E. Curtis, Provincial District Auditor. 24th March, 1885.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1884.

A. *Exclusive of Building Fund.*

Assets.	£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st December, 1884	1,085	14	10
Due from department for scholarships ..	51	7	6
Due from School Commissioners	6	5	0
	£1,143	7	4

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Due to Government on reserves revenue ..	177	16	3
Due for rent of Port School	5	0	0
Credit balance to next year	960	11	1
	£1,143	7	4

B. *Building Fund only.*

	£	s.	d.
Cash in bank on this account, 31st December, 1884	435	5	11
Balance to next year	360	1	1
	£795	7	0

	£	s.	d.
Due on account of votes to Commissioners..	343	7	0
Balance of purchase-money for site of Haven Road School, and interest	452	0	0
	£795	7	0