

	Number presented.	Number passed.	Average Age.	Percentage of Passes.	No. of Schools at which Scholars were presented.
			Yrs. mos.		
Standard I.	2,482	2,317	8 7	93	133
Standard II.	2,301	1,977	10 0	86	133
Standard III.	2,147	1,606	11 4	75	120
Standard IV.	1,378	956	12 7	69	103
Standard V.	587	398	13 4	68	70
Standard VI.	237	183	14 3	77	43
Totals	9,132	7,437		81	

As compared with 1883, this return shows a considerable increase in the number of children presented in the Sixth Standard, and a marked reduction in the age at which the First Standard is passed; the average falling from 9 years 6 months to 8 years 7 months. In other respects, and in the general average of passes, the results (except in Standard V., in which there is a falling-off) do not differ materially from those arrived at in the preceding year.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—As was stated in the last report, the lady who was brought out from England to take charge of the girls' department of the practising school resigned in December, 1883, on account of her marriage. The Board engaged another English teacher—Miss Strudwich—to fill the position. She arrived in September last, and has since performed her duties as mistress to the Board's entire satisfaction. The improvements in the organization of the practising school, mentioned in the last report, have answered well and contributed much to its harmonious and efficient working. The following is a return of the number of students who entered or left during the year, and of their present employment:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Students in 1884—			
Remaining from 1883	14	29	43
Admitted in 1884...	6	26	32
Left during 1884 ...	11	24	35
On the books, December, 1884	9	31	40
Left during 1884—			
Teaching in public schools	10	16	26
Teaching in other schools	1	2	3
Left the service ...	0	1	1
Occupation not known	0	5	5

SCHOLARSHIPS.—The usual examinations were held in June. The number of competitors was 51. Of these 9 (6 boys and 3 girls) were in Class A, 17 (9 boys and 8 girls) in Class B, 20 (12 boys and 8 girls) in Class C, 3 (all boys) in Class D, 2 (1 boy and 1 girl) in Class E. Scholarships were awarded to Hilda Lewis and Arthur Flower in Class A, Harriet Fricker and Robert M'Iroy in Class B, Thomas Clarkson and Stella Henderson in Class C, Edwin Norris in Class D, and Janet Prosser in Class E. The two remaining scholarships were divided between William Joyce and Cyril Williams in Class A, and Frank Flower and Thomas Gibson in Class B. As Arthur and Frank Flower were unable to comply with the regulation as to attendance at a secondary school, they resigned the scholarships awarded to them, which the Board then divided between W. Joyce, C. Williams, and T. Gibson, so as to make the half-scholarships held by them into full ones.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

H. R. WEBB, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1884.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Balance on 31st December, 1883—		By Office staff, salaries	1,023 0 0
Building Account	1,509 11 9	Departmental contingencies	232 12 4
General Account	7,736 18 6	Inspectors' salaries	950 0 0
Government grant for buildings	9,439 0 0	Inspectors' travelling expenses	330 2 9
Contractors' deposits	72 16 6	Examination of pupil-teachers	149 10 0
Government statutory capitation (£3 15s.)	41,878 5 5	Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)	44,727 17 4
Special capitation (5s.)	3,373 0 0	Incidental expenses of schools	6,431 14 1
Scholarship grant (1s 6d.)	909 16 8	Training of teachers	2,199 9 9
Inspection subsidy	500 0 0	Scholarships—	
Grant for training of teachers	2,000 0 0	Paid to scholars	780 0 0
Payments by School Commissioners—		Examination expenses	147 18 3
For primary education	9,683 0 9	School buildings—	
Other receipts—		New buildings	5,469 12 1
Rent of school site, Mandeville Plains	2 10 0	Improvements of buildings	3,319 4 5
Interest	598 10 8	Furniture and appliances	679 2 8
Training fees	25 0 0	Sites	157 15 6
Canterbury College on account of drill instruction	35 0 0	Plans, supervision, and fees	674 4 0
		Refund of deposits on contracts	139 6 6
		Drill instruction	398 11 7
		School of Art	301 17 8
		Public libraries refund to Government	6 13 9
		Balance of account on 31st December, 1884—	
		Building Account	532 3 1
		General Account	9,062 14 6
	<u>£77,763 10 3</u>		<u>£77,763 10 3</u>

H. R. WEBB, Chairman.

J. V. COLBORNE-VEEL, Secretary.