

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.—The district high school at Cambridge was closed for six months during the year. The school at Hamilton was continued without interruption. The number of pupils in the higher subjects was—at Hamilton, fourteen, and at Cambridge, twelve. A grant of £250 was voted by the Commissioners of reserves for secondary education in aid of the cost of maintenance. The number of pupils has fallen very far short of the promises made by the residents previous to the establishment of these schools.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—The Board gratefully acknowledges the assistance and co-operation afforded by School Committees during the past year. It has been the constant endeavour of the Board to allow the fullest freedom to Committees in the exercise of their functions, and to give due consideration to their wishes and recommendations. The grants voted to Committees have for the most part been expended by them with care and discretion; and due forbearance has been exercised by them in refraining from making claims upon the Board at a time when the funds of the Board were low. The grants paid to Committees during the year were: (1) incidental expenses, £3,425 8s. 9d.; and (2) for special objects, £1,676 4s. 5d.; making a total of £5,101 13s. 2d. The total income of Committees from all sources was £5,255 11s. 4d., and the total expenditure was £4,177 1s. 5d., leaving a balance of £1,078 9s. 11d. unexpended at the end of the year. Reference was made in last year's report to the frequent disputes arising at the elections of School Committees, owing to the imperfect definition of the term "householder" in the Act. It is satisfactory to report that very few disputes of the kind arose at the elections held in January last, and that in no single instance has the Board found it necessary to order a fresh election.

SAMUEL LUKE, Chairman.

[illegible]

VINCENT E. RICE, Secretary.

* On all the Board's accounts the year 1884 began with a credit balance of £1,016 5s. 5d., and closed with a credit balance of £123 2s. (See Appendix, Tables 1 and 2.)