WAITAKI HIGH SCHOOL.

1. Secretary's Report.

Sir,— Oamaru, 4th March, 1886.

I have the honour to forward herewith the annual report of the Waitaki High School.

As was anticipated last year, the numbers of the school have continued to increase steadily term by term. They now stand at fifty-eight, as against forty-eight for last year. The numbers at the beginning of next session—judging from the applications received—will stand at about seventy boys, and there is no reason to suppose that the increase of numbers which has continued every term since the school was opened will be checked.

The growth of the attendance has enabled the Board to make two additions to the staff. Mr. Sidney Gilbert, of King's College, London, has taken the duties of house master and the English work of the second and third divisions. He has also taken the lower half of the school in chemistry and drawing. The partition of the school into three divisions has greatly improved the progress of the boys; but one more master at least is necessary for the complete graduation of the school. M. Ledez has undertaken the French work of the two highest divisions. He is a good disciplinarian, and has shown energy and skill in his teaching. Botany, geology, physical geography, and physics have been taught by Mr. Gifford, the latter subject with the help of apparatus procured from England. The average age of the lowest division is over thirteen years, of the Second Division fourteen years eleven months, and of the highest division sixteen years.

Two excellent fives courts have been built to the south of the main building. They have been paved with asphalt, and are in constant use. Some gymnastic apparatus has also been put up, and the boys are now able to occupy themselves during the intervals and dinner hour, much to the advantage of the tone of the school. The cadet corps has made very good progress under the care of Sergeant Macpherson, and the members have won their share of the prizes offered by the Government to the cadets of the district. If the numbers of the school continue to increase a large schoolroom will be required, in which all the school can be assembled for public purposes. In the daytime it could be divided into class rooms, and it would thus fully provide for some seventy more boys. The health of the school has been excellent.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, Education Department. George Sumpter, Secretary.

2. Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1885.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand and in bank at beginning of year	0	7	9
Grant from vote of the General Assembly	500	0	0
Reserves sold	240	0	0
Current income from reserves	711	5	8
Interest on Endowment Account	76	5	0
School fees	452	6	6
Books, &c., sold, and other refunds	71	18	1
Building Society's debentures withdrawn	379	11	11
	£2,431	14	11

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Balance at beginning of year	275	16	3
Office—Salary	15	0	0
Other office expenses	17	16	4
Teachers' salaries and allowances	927	19	4
Printing, stationery, and advertising	36	19	6
Cleaning, fuel, light, &c.	67	9	5
Book and stationery account and other temporary advances	81	9	10
Works	215	6	6
Fencing, repairs, &c.	119	11	2
Rents, insurance, and taxes	28	17	8
Interest on current account	10	9	8
Expenses of endowments	6	3	6
Interest on loan on school buildings	280	0	0
School appliances	24	0	0
Balance in hand and in bank at end of year	324	15	9
	£2,431	14	11

H. J. Miller, Chairman.
George Sumpter, Secretary.

I have compared this abstract with the treasurer's book and vouchers, and I certify it to be correct.—H. Livingston, Auditor.

Note.—At last audit I left a printed form of school roll, to furnish a means of ascertaining the amount of uncollected fees, and asked the Chairman to get it filled in. This was not done, and consequently that part of the accounts cannot be audited. I will supply another form, and I trust it will be used during the current year. There is no available check on the amount received from sale of school books. I may mention that the practice of the other high schools in Otago is to make the pupils procure their books direct from the bookseller.—H. L.

3. Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December, 1885.

Assets.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Colonial Bank	322	4	10
Petty cash in hand	2	10	11
Rents uncollected	394	15	0
Fees uncollected, per Rector's returns	207	1	0
Deferred-payment balance	696	16	0
School buildings			
Reserves vested in Board by "Waitaki High School Act, 1878"			
	£		

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Loan on mortgage	4,000	0	0
Home Commissioner, *re* headmaster	212	16	0
Salaries	74	10	0
Scholarship Fund	100	0	0
	£		

The items, "Cash in hand," "Bank," "Rents uncollected," "Deferred-payment balances," "Loan on mortgage," and "Scholarship Fund," are correctly stated.—H. Livingston, Auditor.

4. Report of the Inspector-General to the Hon. the Minister of Education.

Oamaru) Waitaki High School.—Inspected 7th December. The school examination was going