E.—9.

39

on at the time of my visit. My impression is that the work that was being done while I was there will be somewhat disappointing to the masters; but I understand that the papers were set with the view of sifting out the prize-winners. The staff has been strengthened during the year by the addition of a third master and a visiting master. The programme of the highest class is as follows: Æneid, II., 300 to 804; V., 1 to 480; repetition, 350 lines: Bradley's Arnold, 112 pages: Simpson's Cæsarian Prose, eight pieces. Lazare Hoche, pages 60 to 113; Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, I., II.; Chardenal's First Course. Otto's German Grammar, pages 1 to 199; Grimm's Kinder und Haus Märchen. Milton's Lycidas, &c., for paraphrase. Euclid, to Book XI., 6. Trigonometry, to ratios of sum of two angles. Algebra, to problems on simple equations. The Physics Primer. Petrie's Geography. Bright's History, III., pages 806 to 1,018. Mrs. Fawcett's Political Economy. In the lowest division: Via Latina, Exercises 1 to 20, and the active verb; Chardenal's First French Course, exercises 1 to 40; arithmetic, including fractions, stocks, and interest; algebra, to multiplication; Euclid, to I., 12; Gardiner's History, pages 195 to 336; Petrie's Geography, pages 1 to 50; Hall's Primary Grammar, pages 1 to 50; composition; drawing; botany.

OTAGO HIGH SCHOOLS.

1. Report of the Board of Governors.

Sir,—

In accordance with section 8 of "The Otago Boys' and Girls' High Schools Act, 1877," and in terms of your circular dated Wellington, 20th November, 1885, I have the honour to forward herewith report of the Board of Governors of the Otago Boys' and Girls' High Schools for the year

ended 31st December, 1885.

The Board reports that, owing to continued ill-health, Dr. Macdonald, the rector of the Boys' High School, was compelled to send in his resignation, which the Board received with the greatest regret. With a view to the appointment of a successor, the Board availed itself of the invaluable services of Sir F. D. Bell, the Agent-General for New Zealand in London, who, in conjunction with Dr. James Macdonald, of Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow, selected the Rev. Henry Belcher, M.A., LL.D., who held a responsible position in King's College School, London, from a large number of candidates. Dr. Belcher arrived in Dunedin in March of the present year, and entered at once on his duties.

The Board, with a view of providing more thorough instruction in arithmetic in the Lower School, arranged to place this important subject under the care of a highly-qualified master, who is

responsible, under the rector, for its efficiency.

The Board is sorry to state that, in consequence of the serious depreciation in the value of wool and all descriptions of farm produce, its tenants, both agricultural and pastoral, have experienced the greatest difficulty in paying their rents and instalments of purchase-money; while a number are in arrear. Owing to these circumstances the Board has been forced to make a considerable reduction in the salaries of the teaching staff. The Board has received numerous applications from its tenants for reduction of rents; but, having no power under its Act to take them into consideration, it is of opinion that the Government should amend the said Act in the direction of giving the Board a power similar to that conferred on the Church Board of Property by section 21 of "The Presbyterian Church of Otago Land Act, 1866."

With reference to technical education, the Board fully recognises its importance, and the advisability of its introduction into the High School curriculum. With this end in view it appointed a committee to make inquiries on the matter; but, owing to its financial state, it has been precluded

from taking any definite action. The matter, however, has not been lost sight of.

The following tables [not printed] give the information asked for in circular of date 20th

November, 1885.

Annexed hereto are reports from the acting rector of the Boys' School and the principal of the Girls' School, showing the work done in the schools during the year; also reports of the examiners, as well as particulars of scholarships held at the schools. The audited statement of receipts and expenditure was forwarded to the Education Department on the 22nd instant.

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

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
D. M. STUART, D.D., Chairman.

0								
Receipts.			£	s.	d.	$Expenditure,$ $\mathfrak L$	s. d	
To Price of reserves sold			6,275	19	9	By Balance at beginning of year 1,262 1		
Rents	• •	• •	3,188	8	8		0	
Interest	• •	• • •	569		0	Other office expenses 8	6 8	5
School fees	••	• •	2,565		0	Other expenses of management 102	6 8	3
Boarding-school fees		• •	1,875		0	Teachers' salaries and allowances 7,961 1	0 7	7
Refund from Gray Russell School Fund				0	0	Boarding-school account—		
Proceeds of building m	aterials sold			19	6	Disbursements 1,564 1	1 10)
Balance at end of year	••	• •	2,833	7	0	Furnishing 623	4 4	1
					- 1	Prizes 33 1	1 8	3
						Printing, stationery, and advertising 109 1	6 7	7
					ı		3 8	3
					- 1	Janitors' wages, &c 206 1	8 11	L
						Rents, insurance, and taxes 198 1	1 8	ó
					- 1	Interest on current account 125 1	5 2	3
						Expended on buildings 4,684	4 2	3
						Destroying rabbits 81 1	0 0)
•					ł	Discount on promissory notes 149	2 7	7
						Refund, Receiver, Land Revenue 25	2 6	;
C1E 004 0 44							-	
£17,394 6 11				£17,394	6 11			

D. M. STUART, D.D., Chairman.

C. Macandrew, Secretary.

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