As no part of this last distribution was made in 1887 the whole of the money will appear in the Boards' accounts for 1888. It is included, however, in the assets of the Boards at the end of 1887.

In the following tables (N and O) account is taken of all money due to the Boards from the Government, including the sum of £31,107 from the Public Works Vote, as stated in the paragraph last preceding; and of all money received by the Boards from School Commissioners on account of reserves in the last quarter of 1887, and therefore deducted from the payments made by the Department in the first quarter of 1888:—

TABLE N.—MONEY ASSETS (AND DEFICITS), DECEMBER, 1887.

Education Districts.	Cash.	Due from		Deficit on Account of		Totals.
		Government.	Other Sources.	Building.	Other Purposes.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	5,239 17 11	6,091 8 0	48 6 8	..	27 0 4	11,406 12 11
Taranaki	702 16 0	668 7 0	44 10 11	..	..	1,415 13 11
Wanganui	893 16 4	1,889 8 4	..	493 11 9	..	3,276 16 5
Wellington	1,360 16 4	3,542 1 0	..	..	1,536 8 9	6,439 6 1
Hawke's Bay	..	1,994 8 0	..	..	..	1,994 8 0
Marlborough	295 14 11	1,328 17 10	..	..	..	1,624 12 9
Nelson	3,530 2 11	1,108 8 0	..	..	..	4,638 10 11
Grey	..	436 8 0	60 0 0	..	589 0 0	1,085 8 0
Westland	614 8 8	727 5 9	14 19 2	..	..	1,356 13 7
North Canterbury	9,240 0 3	..	9 4 6	..	747 13 2	9,996 17 11
South Canterbury	1,712 5 4	1,405 4 0	..	..	..	3,217 9 4
Otago	1,503 1 5	5,804 18 8	..	..	..	7,308 0 1
Southland	1,477 13 4	1,957 10 0	..	..	..	3,435 3 4
Totals..	26,570 13 5	26,954 4 7	177 1 3	493 11 9	2,900 2 3	57,195 13 3

TABLE O.—MONEY LIABILITIES (AND BALANCES), DECEMBER, 1887.

Education Districts.	Liabilities for		Balances for		Totals.
	Buildings.	Other Purposes.	Buildings.	Other Purposes.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	2,496 4 9	5,110 13 3	3,799 14 11	..	11,406 12 11
Taranaki	313 14 0	334 0 1	766 16 7	1 3 3	1,415 13 11
Wanganui	187 2 1	*1,086 15 0	..	2,002 19 4	3,276 16 5
Wellington	206 7 0	..	6,232 19 1	..	6,439 6 1
Hawke's Bay	†937 19 0	..	95 3 9	961 5 3	1,994 8 0
Marlborough	123 1 8	404 12 10	459 0 11	637 17 4	1,624 12 9
Nelson	683 2 0	1,387 10 10	1,166 6 2	1,401 11 11	4,638 10 11
Grey	137 0 5	649 0 0	299 7 7	..	1,085 8 0
Westland	46 15 0	60 0 0	772 18 4	477 0 3	1,356 13 7
North Canterbury	921 11 0	5,077 7 6	3,997 19 5	..	9,996 17 11
South Canterbury	..	1,645 18 7	1,542 1 3	29 9 6	3,217 9 4
Otago	2,728 16 0	150 0 0	2,733 4 0	1,696 0 1	7,308 0 1
Southland	155 0 0	416 8 8	2,834 9 7	29 5 1	3,435 3 4
Totals	8,936 12 11	16,322 6 9	24,700 1 7	7,236 12 0	57,195 13 3

* Not including £588 1s. due to Rees bequest account. † Difference between building liabilities (£2,399 4s. 3d.) and balance in general account (£1,461 5s. 3d.)

The peculiar construction of these tables is due to the desire to show the distinction between balances (or deficits) on account of ordinary current expenditure, and balances (or deficits) on account of the special grants made out of Public Works votes for the building of schools. If this distinction be disregarded it will appear that only one Board is without sufficient assets to cover its liabilities. That one Board is the Board of the Grey District, which shows a deficit of £289 12s. 5d., and is in that respect in a worse position—to the extent of £889 2s. 5d.—than it was a year ago, when it had a balance of assets over liabilities to the amount of £599 10s. But when the distinction in question is observed it is found that the Grey Board has during the year exceeded its means for ordinary expenditure to the extent of more than £416, and is in debt on its ordinary account to the extent of £589; so that in order to get its ordinary account into a solvent condition by the end of the year it must reduce its rate of expenditure on maintenance and administration by over £1,000 a year, while its whole income, at £3 15s. capitation allowance, is only about £4,700.

Besides Grey there are three other districts whose ordinary account shows a debtor balance, the liabilities exceeding the assets. In the case of Auckland, the deficit (£27 0s. 4d.) is insignificant in comparison with the income; and the