

The returns of school accommodation, compared with those relating to attendance, show that there is an increase for the year in the number of overcrowded schools, which has risen from 56 to 81. On the other hand the number of schools without residences has been reduced from 366 to 339; and the number of schools not belonging to Boards from 94 to 88. Nine Boards had assets amounting to £8,500 available for the provision of new accommodation, and the other four Boards had nothing specially applicable to this purpose, but deficits amounting to £5,000 on account of buildings. A comparison of Table Q with the corresponding table in the last report shows, by the example of Marlborough and Nelson, that a small increase of attendance suffices to bring a considerable number of schools into the category of overcrowded. Last year in the two districts named there were no overcrowded schools, and now there are six in Marlborough and nine in Nelson.

TABLE Q.—DEFICIENCY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Education Districts.	Schools in Operation.	Schools not belonging to Boards.	Schools without Residences.	Schools with less than 10 sq. ft. for each Child (but more than 8 sq. ft.).	Schools with less than 8 sq. ft. for each Child.	Available in 1890. (Tables O and P.)
Auckland	231	31	101	4	..	£ s. d. 2,903 16 3
Taranaki	39	1	15	2	..	294 19 9
Wanganui	84	3	24	3	..	[-2,255 0 10]
Wellington	74	8	38	6	3	1,163 2 4
Hawke's Bay	47	3	16	8	7	[-13 8 9]
Marlborough	36	13	17	6	..	213 2 0
Nelson	91	9	50	7	2	541 11 10
Grey	21	..	9	1	1	[-18 10 9]
Westland	28	4	11	1	1	516 11 2
North Canterbury	161	5	16	4	..	1,314 9 5
South Canterbury	51	1	9	..	1	750 0 0
Otago	190	4	8	10	1	[-2,681 5 6]
Southland	102	6	25	9	4	819 16 9
Totals.. ..	1,155	88	339	61	20	8,517 9 6 [-4,968 5 10]

An infant school with less than 8 sq. ft. is placed in the column for less than 10 sq. ft.

By a circular issued in January of this year the Boards were invited to send in estimates of the cost of supplying accommodation adequate to the necessities of the districts. When all assets applicable to the purpose have been deducted the estimates amount to about £44,250, as follows:—

Auckland,	about	...	...	...	...	£3,500
Taranaki,	"	...	...	...	...	750
Wanganui,	"	...	...	...	...	7,500
Wellington,	"	...	...	...	...	1,600
Hawke's Bay,	"	...	...	...	...	5,100
Nelson,	"	...	...	...	...	3,800
Grey,	"	...	...	...	...	1,150
North Canterbury,	"	...	...	...	...	5,600
South Canterbury,	"	...	...	...	...	1,000
Otago,	"	...	...	...	...	12,250
Southland,	"	...	...	...	...	2,000
						<u>£44,250</u>

In some cases the estimates include all that would be required to complete the supply of residences, &c., while in others only urgent needs are recognised. If all the estimates were made on the larger scale the total would apparently be about £100,000.

BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS.

The number of Education Board Scholarships current at the end of the year was 241, of which 137 were held by boys and 104 by girls, and the expenditure on these scholarships for the year was £6,655 18s. 7d., as shown in detail in Table R.