

SIR,—

I have the honour to forward you the report of the Board of Education for the Marlborough District for the year ending the 31st December, 1889.

SCHOOLS.--I had to report last year the loss of the large Blenheim School by fire, and that the teaching was carried on with much difficulty and inconvenience in temporary premises hired for the purpose. I have now to report that the new school, having been completed earlier than was anticipated, was opened for teaching on the 27th January, 1890. This school is a very substantial brick building, built to accommodate a little over five hundred children, commodious and well fitted up, and appears satisfactory in every respect. I regret to have also to report the loss by fire of the head teacher's residence in Blenheim, which occurred on the night of the 22nd April, 1889. This building has also been replaced by a more suitable dwelling-house. The cost of both of these buildings has been practically borne by the department,—in the case of the residence, which was erected by the Board, acting under instructions from the department, at a cost of £459, of which £450 was the amount applied for by the Board, and granted for the purpose. In regard to the school, the Board has no information of its cost, this building having been constructed by the department entirely. Thirty-six schools were at work at the end of the year, of which nineteen were aided schools.

TEACHERS.—The staff consisted of fifty-seven teachers of all grades, twenty-eight being males and twenty-nine females.

FINANCE.—The balance-sheet shows a balance to debit at the beginning of the year; but this was more apparent than real—sufficient money was in the hands of the department at this time to make up a credit balance, but had not been paid over, in consequence of certain returns which should have been furnished not having then reached the department.

Chairman, Marlborough Education Board.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1889.

JOHN T. ROBINSON, Secretary
(Per E. W. Bridge).

Examined and found correct, except as regards the payment of interest on overdraft, £10 7s. 9d., the overdraft having been illegally incurred owing to neglect on the part of the Board and its officers; and also a payment of £10 19s. twice paid for the same work.—JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD, Controller and Auditor-General.