

ENLARGEMENT OF DISTRICT.—Owing to the creation of a new county in the Taranaki Provincial District—viz., the Stratford County, which altered the boundaries of the Taranaki and Hawera Counties—it became necessary to reconstitute the boundary between the Taranaki and Wanganui Education Districts. This change of boundary added to this district three schools—viz., the Ngaire, Bird Road, and Cardiff Road Schools, which are now under the administration of this Board. If the extension had included the whole of the Taranaki Provincial District it would have made a compact and easily-administered district, and the larger grants due to such a district would, under economical administration, have done much to remove the difficulties the Board has to encounter in securing good, permanent teachers for small schools.

ATTENDANCE.—The roll-number on the 31st December, 1890, was 2,629, on the 31st December of this year it had increased to 2,997. A portion of this increase, viz. 185, is due to the three new schools taken from the Wanganui District, leaving a net increase of children on the roll of 183, as against an increase of sixty-four for 1890. The average attendance for the year 1890 was 1,897 = 72 per cent., and this year 2,094 = 72·3 per cent., showing a slight increase in the average attendance. In many of the schools the attendance is very irregular, and it is to be hoped that in the future the several Committees concerned will make strong endeavours to remedy such an unsatisfactory condition of affairs.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—Four scholarships have been awarded by the Board to competitors who complied with the Board's regulations—viz., one B and three A Scholarships. These, together with the scholarships current at the end of the year, represent a money value of £142 yearly.

BUILDINGS.—The small building grant made to the Board was only equal to making additions to the Okato and Stratford Schools, and a new residence at Urenui. Additions and repairs were also made to several schools and residences. Settlement is advancing rapidly in our forest lands, and large demands will soon be made on the Board for new schools, additions to existing schools, and also for residences in out-districts. To keep pace with actual settlement will be impossible in this district, so long as the Building Fund is mainly allocated on a population basis. Density of population is not the true measure of educational requirements.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—The various Committees, as a general rule, take an active interest in school work, and aid the Board in administration by undertaking all purely local work. Where the powers of the Board and of Committees overlap, and concurrence of action is required, difference of opinion must occasionally arise. The Board has endeavoured to work in harmony with Committees, and no serious difficulties have arisen during the year in administration arising out of dual authority. The total payments made by the Board to the various School Committees during the year was £611 16s. 11d.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

THOMAS KELLY, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1891.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at beginning of year—			By Office staff—Salaries	150	0 0
On Land Account	40	0 0	Departmental contingencies	82	0 0
On General Account	249	14 4	Inspector's salary	300	0 0
Government grant for buildings	1 790	0 0	Inspector's travelling expenses	50	0 0
Subscriptions and donations for build- ings	8	14 0	Teachers salaries and allowances (in- cluding rent, bonus, &c.)	6,050	0 0
Government statutory capitation	7,170	12 4	Incidental expenses of schools	783	0 11
Scholarship grant	146	10 0	Training of teachers	154	15 0
Inspection subsidy	200	0 0	Scholarships—		
Payments by School Commissioners	668	4 3	Paid to scholars	145	15 0
Lost cheques	4	5 0	Examination expenses	0	15 0
Interest on Land Fund	4	2 10	School-buildings—		
			New buildings	105	2 0
			Improvements of buildings	438	10 0
			Furniture and appliances	40	15 0
			Sites	44	15 0
			Plans, supervision, and fees	81	0 0
			Balance at end of year—		
			On Building Account	1 146	17 3
			On Land Account	44	2 10
			On General Account	664	14 9
	£10,282	2 9		£10,282	2 9

THOMAS KELLY, Chairman.

E. VEALE, Secretary

Examined and found correct.—JAMES EDWARD FITZGERALD, Controller and Auditor-General.

WANGANUI.

SIR,—

Education Office, Wanganui, 15th February, 1892.

In compliance with the provisions of the Education Act, I have the honour to forward you an account of this Board's proceedings for the year 1891.

BOARD.—Mr James W Baker, Mr Henry Sanson, and Mr George Hurley were the retiring members in December, 1890, and were all re-elected; and subsequently Mr Gilbert Carson was re-elected Chairman. Since then no change has taken place in the Board's constitution. The present members consist of Gilbert Carson, Esq. of Wanganui (Chairman), Henry Sanson, Esq., of Campbelltown, Sandon, George S. Bridge, Esq., of Waverley, Rev J Ross, of Turakina, James W