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to 41, and the introduction of a staff allowance modelled on that of Otago in schools with an average above 150. It is hoped that the new arrangement will bring the Board's ordinary expenditure fairly within the income, with the necessary margin for contingencies, and will turn out no greater number of teachers than are likely to obtain appointments in a reasonable time. In the latter part of the year a change was made in the pupil-teacher regulations, more exactly defining the Board's intentions with regard to payment for the instruction of pupil-teachers in the largest schools. The question of corporal punishment engaged the Board's attention during the year, especially as to the substitution of a strap for the cane as an instrument of punishment, and the corporal punishment of girls.

Inspection.—The Inspectors' report for the year 1894, with the usual statistical information and tables, giving the results of the year's examinations, accompany this report. The returns show that the schools are generally well conducted, and are doing satisfactory work. A particularly gratifying feature is the steady increase in the number of children in the higher standards, with a proportionate reduction in the number of those who still remain in the lower division—Eight years ago only 17 per cent. of the total roll-number had passed the Third Standard, four years ago the proportion had risen to 22 per cent., and in 1894 it was 30 per cent. This increase is creditable to the efficiency of the mistresses who have charge of the lower standards, and is a proof that every year more and more of the children in the district are gaining the full benefits of our educational

system.

Normal School.—The number of students who went through the course of training in the Normal School and obtained training certificates was forty-four—sixteen males and twenty-eight females. Of these, one passed for Class C, fifteen out of sixteen presented passed the matriculation examination, and all, with three exceptions, passed entirely or in all but one subject the examination for teachers' certificates. The practising school had a very successful year The Inspector's report was highly satisfactory, showing that in every department the school was in a most efficient condition. On the 1st September a change occurred in the staff of the boys' department through the resignation of Mr Pitcaithly who had accepted an appointment in another district. The Board decided on promoting Mr Aschman and Mr Evans to be first and second assistants respectively, and on the 8th October appointed Mr. J R. Sinclair, then assistant master at Southbridge, to be third assistant master

Scholarships.—The annual examination for scholarships was held on the 18th December and following days. The number of competitors for the junior scholarships was 145 (79 boys and 66 girls), and for the senior scholarships the number was 14 (9 boys and 5 girls). Of the 145 competitors for junior scholarships, 91 came from schools defined in the Board's regulations as town schools, and 54 from country schools. The results showed an exactly equal division of the scholarships, each class of schools sending up the winners of six. The scholarships current at the end of 1894 were held as shown in the following table [not reprinted]

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

I have, &c., R. MEREDITH, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1894.

Receipts.	£	s.	đ.	Expenditure.	£	s.	
To Balance at beginning of year—				By Office staff—Salaries	1,184		5
On Building Account	1 708		6	Departmental contingencies .			3
On General Account	5,138		7	Inspectors' salaries	1,400	0	0
Government grant for buildings	7,250	0	0	Inspectors' travelling expenses, print-			
Other receipts for buildings—				ing, &c.	297	1	<b>2</b>
Heathcote Valley Contribution				Examination of pupil-teachers	126	1	8
towards cost of addition to house	10	0	0	Teachers' salaries and allowances	56,346	11	6
Christchurch East—H. G. Sheppard,				Incidental expenses of schools	6 958	1	2
half cost of fence at Gloucester				Training of teachers	2,069		5
Street	1	5	6	Scholarships-	,		
Belfast—Contribution towards cost of				Paid to scholars	898	5	4
additional site at Main School	10	0	0	Examination expenses	122	17	9
Contractors' deposits	180	7	0	School buildings—			
Government statutory capitation	53,583	4	2	New buildings	2,685	4	8
Government scholarship grant	992		6	Improvements of buildings .	1,654		9
Inspection subsidy .	500		0	Furniture and appliances	254		
Payments by School Commissioners	12,418	6	9	Sites	155	0	Ō
Other receipts—	,	-	•	Plans, supervision, and fees	447		
Rent of Mandeville Plains site	6	0	0	Other expenses—			
Rent of strip of land at South Town	*	-	-	Contractors' deposits	231	13	0
Belt School	1	0	0	Interest		18	
Education Acts			ŏ	Expenses in connection with Reserve			•
	•		٠	777	6	4	9
				Exchange on cheques		$1\overline{9}$	
				Refund of amount paid in error by			
				the Marlborough School Com-			
				missioners .	30	8	10
				Balance at end of year—	-	•	
				On Building Account .	3,731	17	3
				On General Account	2 723	-i	
	<u></u>						
	£81,800	5	0		£81,800	5	0
			_		<u> </u>		=
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R. MEREDITH, Chairman. J V COLBORNE-VEEL, Secretary