

Euclid.—Fifteen papers were excellent, nine were very good, six were good, and one was fair. Such results in algebra and Euclid are proof of the zeal and skill of the teacher, and of rare diligence on the part of the scholars.

Temuka.

English.—One paper was excellent, five were very good, three were good, one was fair, and one was moderate. The scholars did well in *viva voce* work.

French.—Two papers were excellent, five were very good, and three were good. All the papers showed that the work was carefully prepared.

Latin.—Four papers were excellent and nine were very good, a result that speaks well for the quality of the instruction.

Algebra.—Eleven papers were excellent, two were very good, one was good, and one was moderate.

Euclid.—Seven papers were excellent, six were very good, one was good, and one was moderate. The quality of the work in algebra and Euclid reflects great credit on the teacher and the pupils.

I have, &c.,

JAMES GIBSON GOW, M.A., Inspector.

The Chairman, South Canterbury Board of Education.

OTAGO.

SIR,—

Education Office, Dunedin, 31st March, 1899.

In accordance with the provisions of section 102 of "The Education Act, 1877," the Education Board of the District of Otago has the honour to submit the following report of its proceedings for the year 1898 :—

BOARD.—At the beginning of the year the Board was composed of the following members: Mr. John F. M. Fraser, the Hon. John MacGregor, Messrs. Henry Clark, Donald Borrie, Andrew McKerrow, John McRae Gallaway, John J. Ramsay, William Snow, and the Rev. P. B. Fraser. Messrs. Borrie, Clark, and McKerrow retired in terms of section 15 of the Education Act. Mr. McKerrow did not offer himself for re-election. Nine candidates were nominated by the School Committees for the vacancies, and the voting in February resulted in the election of Dr. William Brown, Messrs. Henry Harraway and James Sim. At the first meeting of the Board in April Dr. Brown was appointed Chairman. In May Mr. J. F. M. Fraser resigned his seat, and Mr. James Mitchell was elected to fill the vacancy. The Board held twenty-five meetings during the year.

Mr. J. F. M. Fraser and Mr. John M. Gallaway were reappointed members of the Board of Governors of the Otago Boys' and Girls' High Schools, and Mr. Donald Borrie was reappointed the Board's representative on the Waitaki High Schools Board. Mr. James Green continues to represent the Board as Education Reserves Commissioner.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.—At the close of 1897 there were 220 schools in operation in the district. Five schools were permanently closed, and four new schools opened. The schools at Round Hill, Waiwera, Adam's Flat, Kawarau, and Inch Valley were closed owing to the removal of the children of school age from the district. New schools were opened at Tarara, Purakauiti, Sutton, and Clydevale. The number of schools in operation at the end of the year was 219. In addition to the schools opened during the year, the Board has sanctioned the establishment of schools at Momona, Tokarahi, Akatore Coast, and Deep Stream. At the end of the year buildings were in course of erection at Momona and Deep Stream.

TEACHERS.—There were in the Board's service on the 31st December 543 teachers (223 male and 288 female) and 88 pupil-teachers (28 male and 60 female). The examination of applicants for employment as pupil-teachers was held in December, when no fewer than 122 candidates presented themselves. Out of this number fifty-seven passed the prescribed tests, and six boys and thirteen girls received appointments.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The following is an abstract of the attendance at the public schools of this district from the institution of the Otago education scheme, in the year 1856, to the present time. At the beginning of 1878 the new Education District of Southland was created, and thirty-seven schools were handed over to the newly formed Board :—

Year.	Number of Schools. Number of Teachers		Number of Pupils who attended at all in the Course of the Year.			Average Daily Attendance for the Year.			Attendance at the Close of the Year.		
			Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.
1856-57	5	7	...	...	...	115	121	236	...	...	...
1867	56	85	1,216	3,151	4,367	897	2,045	2,942	919	2,436	3,355
1877	173	356	3,191	16,422	19,613	2,176	9,573	11,749	2,585	11,943	14,528
1887	183	511	6,136	22,742	28,878	4,148	15,110	19,258	4,648	18,032	22,680
1897	220	559	5,277	22,104	27,381	3,717	15,643	19,360	4,060	17,727	21,787
1898	219	543	5,232	21,733	26,965	3,622	14,914	18,536	3,979	17,205	21,184