

WELLINGTON.

SIR,—

Wellington, 6th February, 1899.

I have the honour to forward herewith the twentieth annual report and balance-sheet of the School Commissioners for the Wellington Provincial District, for the year ended the 31st December, 1898.

There has been no change in the *personnel* of the Commissioners during the year, and they therefore still consist of Messrs. J. R. Blair (Chairman), A. W. Hogg, M.H.R., F. Pirani, M.H.R., John Duthie, M.H.R., and J. W. A. Marchant, Commissioner of Lands.

During the year sales of leases have been held at Palmerston North, Marton, Wanganui, and Pahiatua, with the result that reserves containing 4,871 acres and 8 perches were leased to twenty-three tenants at a rental of £213 5s. 2d., and, in addition, 2,305 acres and 30 perches have been since taken up by twelve tenants at a rental of £91 2s. 3d.; or a total of 7,176 acres and 38 perches to thirty-five tenants, at £304 7s. 5d., or an average of 205 acres to each tenant at 10d. an acre. The total number of tenants on the rent-roll is 349. These sections are for the most part hilly bush country, and the leases are for twenty-one years. As pointed out in last year's report, no compensation is given for bushfelling or grassing at the end of the term.

Under the heading of printing, stationery, and office contingencies are included such items as expenses in connection with printing and circulating notices of sales, office rent, stamps, insurance premium, &c.

You will note that the arrears of rents due at the end of the year only amounted to £103 12s. 7d. As £30 16s. of this amount was paid into Court before the end of the year, although not received by the Commissioners until after the 31st, it practically reduces the arrears to £72 16s. 7d. As rentals are payable in advance, and some of these only fell due in December, the smallness of the amount must be considered satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

J. R. BLAIR, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ended 31st December, 1898.

Nature of Receipts.	Primary.	Secondary.	Total.
<i>Receipts.</i>			
To Balances on 1st January, 1898	£ s. d. 326 19 0	£ s. d. 86 5 8	£ s. d. 413 4 8
Receipts on account of previous years	77 11 4	...	77 11 4
Receipts on account of year 1898	2,718 18 10	250 15 7	2,969 14 5
Receipts on account of year 1899	205 17 8	0 2 0	205 19 8
Interest on improvements	32 1 4	...	32 1 4
Preparation and registration of leases	92 10 0	...	92 10 0
Receipts on account of improvements	37 16 10	...	37 16 10
Receipts on account of stamp duty	0 5 6	...	0 5 6
Total receipts	3,492 0 6	337 3 3	3,829 3 9
<i>Expenditure.</i>			
By Payments to Boards—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wellington Education Board	1,673 13 8	...	...
Wanganui Education Board	926 6 4	...	...
		...	2,600 0 0
Wellington College	...	64 13 1	...
Wellington Girls' High School	...	64 13 1	...
Wanganui Girls' High School	...	70 8 0	...
Auckland Girls' High School	...	0 0 4	...
Napier High School	...	0 5 6	...
			200 0 0
Salaries of officers	261 12 5	21 14 3	283 6 8
Printing, stationery, and office contingencies	113 9 11	9 8 9	122 18 8
Allowances to Commissioners	5 18 10	0 9 10	6 8 8
Commissions on sales of leases	26 6 0	...	26 6 0
Advertising	50 3 9	...	50 3 9
Fencing	85 13 0	...	85 13 0
Law (including transfers, renewals, &c.)	10 18 6	...	10 18 6
Preparation and registration of leases	92 10 0	...	92 10 0
District Land Registrar	73 14 1	...	73 14 1
Travelling-expenses of Secretary	49 4 10	...	49 4 10
Masterton Town Lands Trust	2 0 0	...	2 0 0
Surveys	4 10 0	...	4 10 0
Destruction of rabbits	24 0 0	...	24 0 0
Land and Survey Department	0 15 0	...	0 15 0
Valuation and arbitration	16 18 3	...	16 18 3
Balance	74 5 11	105 10 5	179 16 4
Total expenditure	3,492 0 6	337 3 3	3,829 3 9