

1943
NEW ZEALAND

EDUCATION OF NATIVE CHILDREN

[In continuation of E.-3, 1942]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

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No. 1
REPORT OF THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF NATIVE SCHOOLS

SIR,—23rd March, 1943.
I have the honour to present the following report on Native schools for the year 1942 :—

1. POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Considerable difficulty was encountered during the year with the post-primary education of Maori boys, owing to the fact that two of the colleges approved for scholarships were closed for military reasons. At the end of March, St. Stephen's College, Bombay, was taken over as an auxiliary hospital, and of the thirty-seven Government scholars twenty-two were transferred to Te Aute College, eleven to Wesley College, while four boys continued their education at Government post-primary schools. Then early in August the Military authorities took over the buildings at Wesley. It was impossible at such short notice to find alternative accommodation for all these scholars. The influx of pupils from St. Stephen's had almost filled Te Aute, and it was found impossible to send more than three of the twenty-four scholarship-holders to that college. Four boys were allowed to remain at Wesley, three boys were accommodated at Feilding Agricultural High School, and the remainder attended district high schools in their home districts.

Steps were at once taken to ensure that suitable education could be provided for those winning scholarships at the end of the year. The High School Boards at Dannevirke, Feilding, and New Plymouth readily agreed to find room for six Maori boys each. With the assistance of these schools, together with the normal vacancies at Te Aute, it was possible to find accommodation for all our scholarship-holders at the end of last year. I should like to express my thanks to the Principals and the Boards of Governors at Feilding, New Plymouth, and Dannevirke for their ready assistance to us in this emergency ; also to the Headmaster and the Board of Trustees of Te Aute College for the help they rendered by taking in such a large number of extra scholars at very short notice.

In the three Native district high schools established by the Department in 1941, there was a decline in the average enrolment of the secondary departments from seventy in 1941 to fifty in 1942. This can be attributed to the demand for male labour on farms. Staffing difficulties were encountered at both Te Araroa and Tikitiki, where the secondary assistants were called up for war service and there was a dearth of applicants for the war vacancies. The boarding problem for assistants in these three localities is very acute, as houses for married assistants are unprocurable. The Department has endeavoured to meet this problem by purchasing a cottage at Ruatoria and by making use of the old residence at Tikitiki for assistants in these districts, but this is insufficient to meet all requirements. Nevertheless, the aim of the Department in establishing these district high schools—that of providing a good cultural and practical education based on home-making and home-management—has been maintained and fostered.