

for drill instruction on Saturdays. With this end in view Government has been asked for the services of a drill instructor, and, as soon as the Board has ascertained the number of teachers who will attend at each centre, the information will be forwarded to the Defence Department for the purpose of completing arrangements.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.—The Board has received application from the School Committees of Wanganui and Hawera for the establishment of District High Schools at those places, and as a fair number of pupils are promised the Board purposes to comply with the request, provided that no claim for extra staffing is made upon the funds for primary education. Application has been made to the Minister for his sanction as required by the Education Act, 1877.

PUPIL-TEACHERS.—The annual examination of pupil-teachers was held in June. Eighteen candidates presented themselves in the first class, twenty in the second class, and twenty-one in the third class, making a total of fifty-nine. In the first class seventeen passed and one failed. Of the seventeen who passed, eight were boys and nine girls, and a boy headed the list. In the second class fifteen passed and five failed. Of those who passed seven were boys and eight girls, and a girl headed the list. In the third class sixteen passed and five failed. Of those who passed, four were boys and twelve girls, and a girl headed the list.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—The usual scholarships competitive examination was held in December, when seventy-four candidates presented themselves—viz., thirty-six for the senior and thirty-eight for the junior class. Of the seniors, thirteen qualified and twenty-three failed to score the necessary percentage. Three girls secured the highest places in this class, and were awarded scholarships of £40 a year each for three years. Two of these competitors were pupils of the Wanganui Girls' College, and one a pupil of the Terrace End School, Palmerston North. Of the junior competitors, ten qualified for scholarships and twenty-eight failed to obtain the necessary percentage. The boy who headed the list did not take up the scholarship offered him. Four scholarships were awarded to the next highest competitors, one of £15 a year to a Wanganui girl, and three of £40 each to pupils of country schools. To qualify for a scholarship candidates must obtain not less than 65 per cent. of the possible number of marks. The Board has found it necessary to comment on the folly of parents or teachers presenting candidates who are quite unprepared for such a contest, a course which entails useless trouble and expense.

FINANCE.—The statement of receipts and expenditure shows a debit balance in the General Account of £262 3s. 3d. and there are liabilities (principally for School Fund) amounting to £475 12s. 7d., making a total of £737 15s. 10d. Of this sum £610 4s. 11d. is a debit on account of the Wanganui, Palmerston North, and Hawera Technical Schools, which, if deducted from the above gross amount, would leave a net debit balance on the General Account of £127 10s. 11d.

The Building Account shows a credit balance of £3,117 13s. 4d., with liabilities, on account of contracts accepted, amounting to £2,968 6s. 2d., leaving a credit balance of £149 7s. 2d. There are, however, contingent liabilities for buildings promised, but for which contracts have not yet been entered into, which will more than absorb this nominal balance.

With reference to the balance against the technical schools, the Board trusts that Government will make a special grant to clear off the deficit.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

GEO. J. S. BRIDGE, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1900.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance—				Office staff—Salaries	505	0	0
On Building Account	2,371	14	9	Clerical assistance	1	0	0
On General Account	61	19	2	Departmental contingencies	219	14	3
Palmerston North Technical School, fixed deposit	200	0	0	Inspectors' salaries	777	2	10
Government grant for buildings	5,867	0	0	Inspectors' travelling-expenses	291	8	7
Subscriptions and donations for buildings	3	10	0	Truant Officer's salary and expenses	200	0	0
Other receipts for buildings—				Examination of pupil-teachers	67	5	9
Contractors' deposits	122	4	0	Teachers' salaries and allowances (including rent, bonus, &c.)	28,828	14	10
School-sites leased	25	15	8	Incidental expenses of schools	1,736	12	3
Government statutory capitation	30,810	15	1	Training of teachers	200	15	0
Scholarship grant	422	8	6	Scholarships—			
Inspection subsidy	300	0	0	Paid to scholars	562	0	0
School Commissioners	1,922	11	8	Examination expenses	21	7	0
Other receipts—				School buildings—			
Rent	1	5	0	New buildings	2,562	4	7
Truant-inspection fines	2	14	0	Improvements of buildings	1,670	1	7
Training of teachers	16	5	0	Furniture and appliances	411	16	0
Technical School—				Sites	371	8	4
Rees bequest	10	10	0	Plans, supervision, and fees	141	8	7
Government capitation	152	4	10	Contractors' deposits	115	12	0
Government grant	50	0	0	Members' expenses	105	12	6
School fees	550	12	3	Standard examination	47	5	9
Cookery fees and capitation	30	15	5	Technical School—			
Palmerston North Technical School, interest on fixed deposit	6	0	0	Salaries and travelling-expenses	775	1	1
Balance	262	3	3	Scholarships	8	2	6
				Building	12	19	2
				Furniture and apparatus	18	13	2
				General expenses	113	7	1
				Cookery class expenses	102	2	5
				Balance—			
				On Building Account	3,117	13	4
				Palmerston North Technical School	206	0	0
	£43,190	8	7		£43,190	8	7

A. A. BROWNE, Secretary.

Examined and found correct.—J. K. WARBURTON, Controller and Auditor-General.