

number, never for two consecutive quarters falling sufficiently below the required number to warrant the Board in reducing the staff to the scale allowed. Other cases there were where the attendance over a considerable period was only one or two under the requisite number. These cases demand and have received from the Board special consideration. While adhering as closely as possible to the scale, the Board effected the necessary reductions with due deliberation, and exercised care that the withdrawal of the teacher or teachers should not, by disorganizing the staff of the school concerned, imperil the efficiency of the instruction imparted. In some cases a temporary teacher was granted to relieve the pressure on the staff, although the requisite attendance had not been maintained for the prescribed period. For the first time for some years the Board is able to report that its expenditure on maintenance has been kept within its receipts. Although the deficit is still heavy (about £2,750) the bank overdraft has been reduced by some £573 during the year. The Building Account was £2,639 9s. in credit at the end of the year, but there were liabilities for buildings considerably in excess of that sum. With the probability of a decided increase in the average attendance, and the certainty of the cost of secondary instruction at the District High Schools being wholly provided for by extra grants from the Government, the financial outlook of the Board is brighter than it has been for some years.

By order of the Board.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

P. G. PRYDE, Secretary.

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

[illegible]

P. G. PRYDE, Secretary.

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

INSPECTORS' REPORT ON THE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

We have the honour to submit the following report on the higher work of the District High Schools for the year 1900. The tabulated statements show the subjects taught, the number of pupils examined, and the amount of work done in each subject.

Balclutha District High School.

Subject.	Class.	Number of Pupils.	Number Present.	Work done.
English	...	27	21	Julius Cæsar (Blackie's) ; The Vicar of Wakefield (Globe Readings, Macmillan and Co.), 20 chapters ; Meiklejohn's Spelling Book, 104 pages ; Goyen's Composition.
Latin	I.	8	6	Principia Latina, Part I., 87 pages ; Fables, Part II.
	II.	9	7	Via Latina, to page 66.
French	I.	2	0	Chardenal's First French Course, the exercises, and the extracts from the Appendix.
French	II.	3	3	Same book, 90 exercises.