85 E.—1.

WESTLAND.

Sir,— Education Office, Hokitika, 21st January, 1902.

I have the honour to submit the report of the Westland Education Board for the year ending 31st December, 1901.

THE BOARD.—In August Messrs. Chesney, Hudson, and Smith retired, and Messrs. J. S. Benyon, T. W. Beare, and G. Perry were elected to fill the vacancies. In the same month, owing to the death of Mr. J. McWhirter, who for eight years had with distinction occupied the position of Chairman, the election of another member became necessary, and Mr. H. A. Baucke was appointed by the School Committees to fill the vacancy. During the year twelve ordinary and two

special meetings were held.

Schools.—During the year thirty-five schools have been in operation, the decrease being due to the closing of the Bruce Bay aided school. In addition to the ordinary primary work of the schools, the secondary class of the Hokitika School, with an average quarterly roll-number of twenty-six pupils, and the class for manual instruction connected with the Kumara School, have been maintained.

ATTENDANCE.—The total roll-number for the district at the end of the year was 1,184, a decrease of ninety-four compared with that of the previous year. The average attendance was 85.9

of the average roll-number.

Teachers.—The total number of teachers employed at the end of the year was 55, including 8 head teachers, 27 sole teachers, 11 assistants, 9 pupil-teachers. With the exception of one assistant, all teachers in schools with an average attendance exceeding seventeen possess certificates.

The number of teachers granted by the new colonial scale of staffs is greater by one assistant

and less by one pupil-teacher than that required by the Board's regulations.

Scholarships.—During the year seven scholarships have been in force, six of the holders attending the Hokitika District High School. In addition, five scholars who qualified by obtaining 60 per cent. of marks at the preceding examination have received free tuition at the former school. At the examination at the end of the year there were twenty-eight candidates, of whom sixteen qualified. The four heading the list have been awarded scholarships tenable for two years—one of £23, and three of £8 per annum.

Manual Instruction.—Although instruction in hand-work has not during the year formed a prominent feature of the syllabus, preliminary arrangements have been made for its general introduction. All the teachers and pupil-teachers, with the exception of those of South Westland, attended, at the invitation of the Board, a series of lectures by one of the Inspectors appointed by the Education Department under the Manual and Technical Instruction Act. The necessary

material and books will be provided as soon as they are obtainable.

FINANCE.—In connection with the Building Fund the total expenditure has been £1,010 6s. 10d., including a credit balance at the beginning of the year of £246 15s. 4d., a grant of £750, and a debit balance at the end of the year of £13 11s. 6d. The General Account shows a debit balance of £78 1s. 9d., but as in the total the balance of a special grant for the training of teachers has been included, the ordinary revenue has been exceeded by the expenditure by £120 14s. 2d. The cause of the Board's financial difficulties has been removed by the adoption of a colonial scheme of staffs and salaries. The former method of distribution by capitation was an injustice to the teachers and a source of continual anxiety to the Board, and the gratitude of both is due to those who provided relief.

The amount allotted to the Board for the expenses of administration will provide a small balance for contingencies, but if the debtor balance referred to (£120 14s. 2d.) must be met out of ordinary revenue there will still be for several years a considerable difficulty, though not perhaps of so serious a character. Seeing that under the former system teachers suffered reduction in salary, and the most rigid economy was necessary owing to unfavourable conditions and to an inequitable method of the distribution of the grant for educational purposes, the Board desires to express the hope that it will not be penalised for what was unavoidable, but that the Government

will provide specially for the payment of the deficiency at the end of the year 1901.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

I have, &c., Joseph Grimmond, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1901.

Receipts.	Receipts. £ s. d.		Expenditure.			8.	d.
Balance—Building Account	246 15	Balance	-General Account		166	11	7
Government grants—		Office st	aff—Salaries		369	6	8
Buildings	750 0 (nental contingencies		205	9	4
Statutory capitation	4,006 17 6	Member	s' travelling-expenses		58	5	0
Increases in salaries	389 16	Inspecto	r's travelling-expenses	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	71	5	0
Scholarships	81 13 13	Examin	ation of pupil-teachers	and scholar-			
In aid of District High Schools	200 0 0	ship c	andidates		17	12	6
Capitation for District High Schools	75 10 (Scholars	hip payments		90	0	0
Training teachers	75 O (of teachers		32	7	7
Inspection subsidy	150 0 (Teachers	s' salaries and allowand	ces	4,345	15	8
Capitation for manual and technical			al expenses of schools		134	9	8
instruction	21 12	School b	uildings (improvemen	ts, furniture,			
Encouragement of swimming	3 1	&c.)			878	8	5
District High School fees	183 10 (Capitation	on grants (Kumara Tec	chnical Class)	21	12	8
High School Board subsidy	100 0 (Material	for manual and tech	nical instruc-			
Other receipts (rents, deposits, &c.)	36 14	tion			8	0	4
Balance—		Deposits	returned		8	0	0
General Account	78 1 9	District	High School fees refu	ınded	5	0	0
Building Account	13 11						
•							
	£6,412 4				£6,412	4	5
			T 0				

J. GRIMMOND, Chairman.

A. J. Morton, Secretary.