

Boards it was—Wanganui, 4·2; Hawke's Bay, 4·3; North Canterbury, 4·4; Wellington, 4·6; Auckland, 4·8; Otago, 5·3; Southland, 5·8; Nelson, 6·0; South Canterbury, 6·8; Taranaki, 7·0; Marlborough, 7·6; Westland, 9·2; and Grey, 10·5.

TABLE H1.—GENERAL ACCOUNT.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF BOARDS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

Education Districts.	Assets and Deficits.			Liabilities and Balances.				1902.	
	Cash.	Due from all Sources	Deficits.	Over-drafts.	Due to Government.	Other Liabilities.	Balances.	Deficits.	Balances.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	181	2,238	..	..	1,059	588	772	..	3,090
Taranaki ..	125	447	306	..	565	313	..	213	..
Wanganui ..	1,472	1,515	..	..	583	1,119	1,285	..	198
Wellington ..	..	304	1,518	294	652	876	..	2,762	..
Hawke's Bay ..	2,363	663	..	..	971	116	1,939	..	1,678
Marlborough ..	629	30	..	..	100	67	492	..	553
Nelson ..	..	748	313	205	318	538	..	510	..
Grey ..	..	62	469	245	74	212	..	285	..
Westland ..	..	148	..	71	..	62	15	36	..
North Canterbury	2,780	1,712	2,090	..	5,271	1,311	..	2,405	..
South Canterbury	1,715	532	..	..	1,245	529	473	..	311
Otago ..	4,750	607	..	..	4,010	432	915	..	608
Southland ..	1,206	936	..	..	..	1,258	884	..	402
Totals ..	15,221	9,942	4,696	815	14,848	7,421	6,775	6,211	6,840

TABLE H2.—BUILDING ACCOUNT.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF BOARDS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

Education Districts.	Assets and Deficits.			Liabilities and Balances.			1902.	
	Cash.	Due from all Sources	Deficits.	Over-drafts.	Other Liabilities.	Balances.	Deficits.	Balances.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Auckland ..	1,412	7,011	..	..	4,850	3,573	1,012	..
Taranaki ..	399	2,721	..	..	1,412	1,708	..	1,469
Wanganui ..	..	3,897	..	632	2,532	733	..	1,126
Wellington ..	..	3,707	2,162	4,446	1,423	..	7,651	..
Hawke's Bay ..	253	2,862	..	..	308	2,807	..	3,208
Marlborough ..	..	950	..	7	255	688	..	816
Nelson ..	551	2,477	..	..	938	2,090	..	1,907
Grey ..	252	855	..	..	114	993	..	947
Westland ..	22	745	..	..	75	692	..	481
North Canterbury	384	7,265	..	..	3,964	3,685	..	3,771
South Canterbury	517	2,524	..	..	975	2,066	..	1,701
Otago ..	..	7,838	1,738	7,285	2,291	..	456	..
Southland ..	662	4,602	..	..	1,060	4,204	..	3,245
Totals ..	4,452	47,454	3,900	12,370	20,197	23,239	9,119	18,671

THE NEW SYLLABUS.

Among the many changes that have recently been introduced into the education system of the colony probably the amended regulations for the inspection and examination of public schools and the new syllabus of instruction are calculated to have the most far-reaching effect. The most important feature of the former is the abolition of the individual standard pass, except in Standard VI., and in a few other cases in which certificates of lower standards are required. The classification of the schools will now be, generally speaking, in the hands of the head teachers, and the Inspectors, set free from this task, will have more time for their proper functions of testing the efficiency of the schools, devoting themselves at the annual visit mainly to the "investigation of the character of the teaching and of the degree to which the intelligence of the pupils has been developed," and at their other visits to a co-operation with the teachers in the development of better methods of instruction. The syllabus, while making allowance for the special difficulties of small schools, encourages in all schools alike the adoption of methods of teaching in accordance with the modern spirit of education. The necessity of a sound training in the mother tongue is fully recognised; and the instruction of the children in the elementary principles of civic life and their privileges and duties as citizens of the colony and of the Empire is provided for. In arithmetic, geography, nature-study, and other subjects it is suggested that the methods of instruction should be