

occupied at Bainham and Kaituna; a considerable addition has been made to the Millerton School, where increased accommodation was much needed; and new cottages have been built at Hillside and Appleby, in both cases to replace very old and worm-eaten structures, rendered quite unfit for habitation by decay. It is unfortunate that almost before the completion of the new school at Kaituna several of the settlers with large families—men who had been mainly instrumental in obtaining the new building—sold out their properties and left the district, so that it may be some time before the expenditure will be justified by the attendance. The repairs and improvements of buildings during the year absorbed £962 1s. of the building grant. The Board regrets that the Department has not seen its way to grant the necessary funds for the removal and enlargement of the school buildings, &c., at Coal Creek, where increase of settlement consequent on the Government's work at the State Coal-mine has rendered increased accommodation in a more central position very urgent.

MANUAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.—Handwork of various kinds has been taught at twenty-four of the Board's schools during the year, modelling in plasticine still being the subject most favoured by the teachers. Cookery classes have been held in Nelson under the management of Miss M. Tendall (diplômée of the National Training-school of Cookery, London); but they have been carried on at a loss, and it is doubtful whether they can be resumed this year unless the grant of 15s. a head be continued. A technical school, containing two rooms, one for woodwork and one for cookery, has been erected at Reefton, and arrangements are already made for the teaching of cookery, and it is expected that woodwork classes will be begun very shortly. The site for the building was purchased by a grant from the Inangahua County Council. A very excellent and valuable site for a technical school has been presented to the Board by the Nelson City Council, and it is expected that the new building will be erected, and it is hoped, ready for use before winter. Efforts have been made to secure a site for a technical school in Westport, and the Board regrets that the Westport Borough Council has not yet seen its way to present one to the Board.

GENERAL.—While the teachers of this district have generally benefited by the operation of the Public-School Teachers' Salaries Act, School Committees complain bitterly of the way in which their allowances have been reduced. The Board's grant to Committees formerly ranged from 5s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. a head on the average attendance, but now, owing to the altered method of payments to Boards, the amount has had to be largely reduced, with consequent discontent.

BOARD'S FUNDS.—At the beginning of the year the Board's General Account showed a debit balance of £147 1s. 2d., other liabilities being £578 1s. 9d., while grants were due from Government to the amount of £215 1s. 2d. At the end of a year this account had a credit balance of £197 8s. 9d., grants due from Government £427 5s. 11d., and liabilities £621 10s. 6d. The Building Account at the beginning of the year had a credit balance of £1,406 10s. 9d., a year's building grant was due from the Government besides special grants for new buildings of £570, and the liabilities were £2,319 8s. 1d. At the end of the year there was a credit balance of £148 15s. 2d., amount due from Government £2,402, and from various other sources £381, while the liabilities were £1,252 10s. 6d.

I have, &c.,

GEO. TALBOT, Chairman.

The Right Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1903.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance at beginning of year	1,214	19	7	Staff salaries and clerical assistance	942	0	4
Grants from Government for—				Office contingencies	679	2	11
Teachers' and pupil-teachers' salaries and allowances to pupil-teachers	18,090	10	8	Teachers' and pupil-teachers' salaries and allowances to pupil-teachers	18,735	14	8
Reserves revenue for primary education	635	4	0	Relieving-teachers' salaries	46	15	5
Capitation on 11s. 3d. and grant of £250	2,878	19	8	Drill-instruction	50	0	0
Capitation at 6d. for relieving-teachers	116	17	0	Incidental expenses of schools	1,081	4	2
Drill-instruction	50	0	0	School-books	228	14	6
Receipts from other sources—				Scholarships and examination expenses	359	10	0
Refund	1	7	8	Salaries of staffs of District High Schools paid out of special receipts	733	7	1
Sale of school material	271	19	0	Manual and technical instruction—			
Grants from Government for—				School classes	117	5	0
Scholarships	347	15	9	Special classes	68	6	10
District High Schools	677	0	0	Maintenance of school buildings, &c.	1,202	0	9
Reserves revenue for secondary education	168	15	0	House-allowances	477	12	1
Grants from Government for manual and technical instruction—				New schools, additions, sites, &c.	2,509	1	5
Capitation on attendance at classes	82	9	9	Buildings, class-rooms, furniture, &c., for manual and technical purposes—			
Subsidies on voluntary contributions and bequests	100	0	0	School classes	599	17	10
Grants from Government for—				Special classes	51	18	2
Maintenance of school buildings, &c.	2,280	8	3	Credit balance at end of year	346	3	11
House-allowances	477	12	2				
New schools, additions, furniture, &c.	554	10	0				
Technical-school buildings, fittings, &c.	249	5	0				
Other receipts—							
Sale of old house, Eighty-eight Valley	15	12	0				
Rent of old school building	15	10	0				
	£28,228	15	1		£28,228	15	1

2nd May, 1904.

GEO. TALBOT, Chairman.
STEAD ELLIS, Secretary.