

*Whangaruru* (examined 8th May, 1903: Mr. Bird).—The regularity of the attendance at this isolated school is very pleasing indeed. Every child on the roll was present at inspection. The parents also turned up in full force. Children work honestly, behave well, and are on the whole clean in their habits. A new time-table is necessary, as the one in use seemed to be old-fashioned. Miss Patrick gave a satisfactory lesson to the juniors in English. It is desirable that from the very beginning the children should be trained to speak in sentences. The examination results were very good, arithmetic and geography being the best subjects. The master takes considerable trouble with medical work, and keeps careful records of all cases.

*Poroti* (examined 2nd October, 1903: Mr. Bird).—The attendance here has, with exceptions, been fairly good; all the children (thirty-two) were present at examination. Records are well kept. Time-table neatly made out and providing satisfactorily for all school work except handwork. The tone in school is decidedly improved, though one or two were inclined to copy. Extra subjects are good, singing especially so. Teaching-methods are on the whole satisfactory. Better reading should be aimed at in the preparatory class, and the aid of fingers in arithmetic should not be evident in standard classes. The examination results were good, there being nineteen passes, showing that the teachers have taught intelligently and well during the year.

*Takahiwai* (examined 11th May, 1903: Mr. Bird).—This school was opened in September quarter, 1902, and had therefore not been very long at work. The grounds had not yet been taken in hand with a view of forming a garden. The time-table should provide for English as a subject by itself and not in conjunction with other subjects. At least five half-hours per week should be devoted to English. The discipline is not quite up to the mark; some of the children are inclined to presume. They will soon, however, get into school form. They must also learn to speak out, one or two of them being extremely backward. The teaching of English requires constant effort and attention, as also does the pronunciation of the English consonants. Extra subjects are only fair. The examination results were fairly satisfactory. The higher work was good on the whole. The lower or preparatory class should be worked in two divisions if possible.

*Otamatea* (examined 15th May, 1903: Mr. Bird).—The relations between teacher and people here are very cordial. Attendance is fairly good. Records should, if possible, contain no corrections. Order and tone are both all that can be desired. The children, taken unexpectedly, were neat and clean. Extra subjects are fair. The teaching was good, and the particular lesson given was all the more pleasing in that it showed that the children were accustomed to this sort of thing, and that it occurred more than once a year. Examination results are very good. The kindergarten work exhibited showed that this branch of school work is very satisfactorily taught. The appointment of an assistant would enable Miss Lloyd to devote more time to the preparatories. As it is, she has done remarkably well single-handed.

*Thames, Hot Lakes, Waikato, and King-country.*

*Manaia, Coromandel* (examined 18th May, 1903: Mr. Bird).—There were present at examination thirty-three out of a roll number of thirty-seven. This does not represent the ordinary state of the attendance, which might be much better. There should be, if possible, no corrections made in attendance registers. The time-table is old-fashioned and should be remodelled to make better provision for the cardinal subject. The elder children were very good all day; the younger ones were at times restless. Maori is spoken in the school by some of the children. This should not be allowed. The school has undoubtedly had a good influence on the settlement generally. The children came to school clad very sumptuously in cases, their clothing varying from green plush and red velvet down to khaki and white duck. Of the extra subjects, drawing is exceedingly good. Plenty of vigorous English conversation is needed in the teaching. The examination results were somewhat disappointing. Irregular attendance and illness are given as contributory causes. Standard I. did well, and much of the work in the upper classes was good. Handwork is fairly well done.

*Te Kerepehi* (examined 19th June, 1903: Mr. Pope).—There were thirty-one children on the roll, of whom twenty-four were present at examination. Typhoid fever prevalent in the settlement explains the absence of several. The master, Mr. Hope, himself had, unfortunately, been laid aside during the year from the same cause. The organization of the school is very good indeed, and the tone is excellent. The master has done much to improve the grounds connected with the school. The examination results were highly satisfactory, and show that the teacher has taken to Maori-school teaching very rapidly and successfully.

*Rakaumanga* (examined 23rd March, 1903: Mr. Pope).—The attendance at this school had improved just prior to the examination, at which fifty-three children out of sixty were present. A very great improvement was noticeable in the external tone of the school, in which very great interest is now taken. The order and discipline were satisfactory, though the very little ones were too noisy at times. In methods of teaching it is important that complete sentences—the unit of language—should be insisted on. The assistant teaches very clearly and well, and maintains the interest of her pupils. Kindergarten work is here very well taught. The workshop has not so far been a conspicuous success, there being no big boys available. Various kinds of handwork are done, however, and this should form a good preliminary training. The examination results were somewhat uneven, English and writing being the weakest subjects, geography and arithmetic the strongest. The institution is now a great boon to the district in which it is situated, and is doing good work in various directions.

*Raorao* (examined 27th March, 1903: Mr. Pope).—The attendance had here been somewhat irregular, otherwise there is little to find fault with as regards tone. Children are much tidier than of yore. Extra subjects are good, especially drawing and singing. The methods of teaching are such as should produce good results. English conversation lessons have since last report received the careful attention of the teacher, and she had made excellent use of this work. The