

151. *The Chairman.*] Coming to the allowances to be made to students at the training college: Clause 2 says that the following allowances shall be paid: "For the first year—To those under clause 1"—that is, the pupil-teachers who enter the training college—"the salary and allowances of a fourth-year pupil-teacher, together with university college fees." How much does that come to approximately for each pupil-teacher? What are the salary and allowances of a fourth-year pupil-teacher?—For about three-fourths of the teachers the allowances would be £50, and fees about £6 or £8—together, about £56 a year for the majority of the pupil-teachers, and £5 a year more for those who are away from home.

152. How much would those in the town get?—Fifty-six pounds, and the others £61.

153. I suppose that is suggested because you do not want to put them on a worse footing while training at a college than they were on as pupil-teachers?—Yes.

154. Do you not think, especially with regard to the town ones, that the payments might be less, and that they would still be induced to come, the inducement being advancement in after-life?—That is a sort of thing which is rather difficult to tell without having experience, but I think it is quite possible.

155. You know what the Boards have said about it?—Yes.

156. How many students would be likely to come into the training colleges to keep up the supply of teachers?—Of course I drew this document up in order to bring in the number required. I think 160 all over the colony.

157. One hundred and sixty would keep up the supply?—Yes. Some people think that number is too high and some think it too low. The number I have set down is the mean of the different estimates.

158. How many of those would come in under clause 1 as pupil-teachers?—I think about 120.

159. And they would cost, say, from £56 to £61 a year each?—Yes.

160. Forty would come in under clause 2?—Yes, costing about £16 a year. Some of those would be second-year students. Those who did the second year would naturally satisfy clause 2. I reckoned that the cost would be £8,400 altogether for allowances to students.

161. That is for the first year. How can you modify those payments in the first year to provide something more for the second?—Of course you cannot at first give them all two years, or you will have another shortage. If you at once took all the ex-pupil-teachers and kept them out of the schools for two years you would have a shortage in the next two years, because you would cut short the supply for the ensuing years. In 1905, presumably, there would be 160 fresh teachers required in the colony; but there would be only, we will say, sixty or seventy that had been going to the training colleges, so that there would be ninety going straight from the schools. If you took those ninety and put them in the training college for two years you would cut short your supply for one year. Then if you kept them for two years you would take not only a year but the succeeding year, and it would be some time before you could recover the shortage. You would have to fill vacancies from the uncertificated teachers and semi-efficients. On this account the difficulty would have to be overcome gradually. You would hardly prevent a teacher going out who had spent only one year at the college if the Boards could not get teachers otherwise.

162. With regard to the salary for the first year, how would you modify this suggestion of yours to set free some money for the second year, more especially with reference to those living in towns?—There is a precedent that appears to work, and that is in connection with the University junior scholarships and the senior National Scholarships. The amount is £20 to a student not obliged to live away from home, and £50 to one who is. I think that is too low—£20 and £50.

163. What do you suggest for those living in the towns? What sum do you suggest between £20 and £56?—I think it should be not less than £30 and university fees.

164. And for those from the country?—I think logically you ought to add £30.

165. That would be £60 and fees?—Yes.

166. Would that take more money, or would it set some free?—It would set some free.

167. Do you think that £30 and university fees for a boy or girl in the town who had been a pupil-teacher for four years would be sufficient, together with the prospect of advancement in after-life, to induce them to come?—I am doubtful about it. I look at it in this way: Dunedin and Christchurch have offered just as good an inducement as that for some years and they have not got the young people. In North Canterbury it is £30 and £37 10s., and in Dunedin practically the same.

168. The amount suggested is sufficient for the country boy?—Yes.

169. What amount do you think would induce the town boy to offer?—If I had thought any less sum would induce him I should have put down a lower amount. It is rather difficult to get the elements to judge what would induce boys to come. It depends upon so many circumstances—on employment in other ways. I should not like to try the experiment myself with less than £40.

170. Very well, then, will you work it out on the £40 and £60 basis and let us know what it will be?—Yes.

171. And will you give us your estimate of what it would be under the proposals of your letter?—My estimate is £8,400. I can give that now.

172. What we want to get is the estimate of what this will work out at, at £40 and £60?—Yes.

173. "To those under clause 2, nil." That is, you propose to give nothing at all to those who have matriculated and who enter direct from the University or from a secondary school. Do you not think you should give some inducement to those lads to come in?—I think you should, but I did not see where the money was to come from. I had only a certain amount to go upon and I had to provide for all the pupil-teachers first. I reached the total without coming to those under clause 2. I suggest, at all events, university fees for them.