

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1909.*

[illegible]

GEO. H. MASON, Registrar.

SOUTH CANTERBURY.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION BOARD.

*Agricultural Instructor.*—During the year the Government decided to make special grants to those district high schools which make a special feature of the teaching of agriculture. This Board, recognizing the great importance of the subject in an agricultural and pastoral district like South Canterbury, at once set to work to secure the services of a properly qualified instructor to organize and supervise the teaching of agriculture in its primary, secondary, and technical schools. The co-operation of the County Councils, High School Boards, and agricultural and pastoral associations was secured, and promises of financial assistance were readily given. Applications for the position of organizing instructor were obtained from the Dominion, America, and Britain, and early this year Mr. John Brown, B.Sc., of the West of Scotland Agricultural College, was appointed. The Board hopes soon to devote to the teaching of agriculture the attention it deserves.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Elementary handwork was taken up at thirty-five different schools. In most of the schools the same definite course of instruction was carried out as has been adopted in previous years. There seems, however, a tendency in this district to drop brushwork out of the course of instruction. The following course is generally adopted in schools where the Standard V and Standard VI take woodwork and cookery: Paper-folding, stick-laying or brick-laying in the infant classes, plasticine or paper-folding in Standard I, modelling or paper-folding in Standard II, carton-work in Standard III, cardboard modelling in Standard IV, woodwork and cookery in Standards V and VI. In some of the schools agriculture is taken in the upper standards as well. In the smaller schools one subject was often taught right through the standards, while in some schools elementary handwork was taken in the lower standards only. This seems rather a pity, as much of the value of the work was lost by not being continued in the upper standards. Last year sixteen sole-charge schools having no female teacher took advantage of the financial assistance given under the regulations for manual and technical instruction, and appointed sewing mistresses, and at four of these schools the boys took needlework as well as the girls. In addition to the above, 68 classes for manual instruction were recognized by the Department—viz., cookery, 18; woodwork, 17; elementary agriculture, 18; advanced plain needlework, 1; botany, 4; swimming and life-saving, 7; chemistry, 2; scientific beekeeping, 1. Cookery classes were conducted at Timaru, Waimate, Temuka, Pleasant Point, and Fairlie centres. The new room recently erected at Pleasant Point proved a great convenience to the cookery instructor. At Fairlie the classes had to be carried on under great disadvantages, as the only available room was the public hall. This will be obviated during the coming year, as a new cookery room is in course of construction, and it is hoped that it will be ready for the opening of the classes. The average attendance at cookery classes for the year was 357. Woodwork classes were also conducted in conjunction with cookery classes at Timaru, Waimate, Temuka, and Fairlie. The average attendance at the woodwork classes for the year was 357. Benches and woodwork tools have now been supplied to Pleasant Point, and it is proposed to conduct woodwork