

may be transferred to other schools; (3) backblocks teachers who are doing good work can be brought into central positions, whereby the chance of securing promising young teachers is enhanced; (4) teachers who have special qualifications for certain subjects can be placed in positions where their talents can be used to the greatest advantage.

The following is an abstract showing the number of schools, teachers, and pupils attending the schools in the district, beginning with the year 1877, to the present time (table condensed into five-yearly periods from 1877 to 1905):—

Year ending.	Schools.	Head Teachers.	Assistants.	Pupil-teachers and Probationers.	Total.	Roll Number.	Average.
1877	23	23	7	2	32	726	496
1882	37	37	11	6	54	1,985	1,290
1887	35	35	9	26	70	2,395	1,597
1892	46	46	12	27	85	3,148	2,351
1897	60	60	18	29	107	3,845	3,018
1902	71	70	38	22	130	4,706	3,904
1905	76	73	45	20	138	4,952	4,249
1906	80	77	42	24	143	5,040	4,346
1907	81	78	45	23	146	5,096	4,246
1908	88	85	48	19	152	5,370	4,653
1909	90	86	60	30	176	5,836	5,131
1910	93	91	58	32	181	6,021	5,177

CONCLUSION.—The relations of the Board with the Education Department, its official and teaching staff, and with the School Committees, have been most cordial and pleasant throughout the year.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

JAMES WADE, Chairman.

WANGANUI.

SIR,—

Education Office, Wanganui, 31st March, 1911.

I have the honour to submit a report of the proceedings of this Board for the year 1910.

BOARD.—At the beginning of the year the Board consisted of Messrs. Fred. Pirani (Chairman), A. Fraser, and G. H. Bennett (Southern Ward), D. H. Guthrie, M.P., F. M. Spurdle, and F. Purnell (Middle Ward), P. O'Dea, J. P. Aldridge, and E. Dixon (Northern Ward). The retiring members were Messrs. O'Dea, Guthrie, and Fraser, all of whom were re-elected unopposed for their respective wards. Mr. Pirani was re-elected Chairman. Fifteen meetings were held during the year, the average attendance of members being eight.

SCHOOLS.—At the close of the year there were open 194 main schools and two side schools. During the year the schools at Pueroa, Pukekaha, Aratika, Middle Road, and Kaukatea were closed, the last-named being closed temporarily. New schools were opened at Kaitieke, Pukekaha, Main South Road, and Tangiwai, and the schools at Pipiriki and Manui were reopened. Eleven private schools with an attendance of 863 were under the supervision of the Board's Inspectors.

ATTENDANCE.—The roll-number on the 31st December was 14,269, and the average attendance for the last quarter 12,453. Compared with the year 1909 there was an increase in the roll-number of 420, and in the average attendance of 139. The average attendance for the year expressed as a percentage of the average weekly roll-number was 86, which is 0·8 lower than for the previous year. The attendance at many schools suffered owing to the prevalence of whooping-cough and other diseases to which children are prone, and there is no doubt also that many parents took advantage of the absence of a Truant Officer and failed to send their children to school regularly. The amendment to the Act, which requires that children not exempted shall attend on every half-day on which the school is open, together with the appointment of Mr. C. J. Skinner as Truant Officer, should have a beneficial effect on the attendance for the current year.

TEACHERS.—There were on the 31st December 195 male and 243 female teachers in the Board's service, excluding six relieving teachers. Of these, eighty-nine were head teachers, 105 sole teachers, 159 assistant teachers, fifteen probationers, and seventy pupil-teachers. 232 adult teachers were certificated, nine were holders of licenses to teach, and 112 were uncertificated. At the end of the year seven pupil-teachers and two probationers intimated their intention of proceeding to the training college. It will be seen from the above figures that, of the adult teachers, over 30 per cent. are uncertificated. The Board feels in duty bound to find positions for those teachers who return from the training college with a satisfactory record. It will therefore become necessary from time to time to dispense with the services of a number of uncertificated teachers. Four of such teachers were relieved of their duties at the close of the year and ex-training-college students appointed to the vacancies. A scheme for the instruction of uncertificated teachers by correspondence is now engaging the attention of the Board. The qualifications of the certificated teachers were as follows: Three with A certificates, twelve with B, fifty-nine with C, 105 with D, fifty-three with E.