

increase the salaries of such teachers as are at present inadequately remunerated, or towards providing for better instruction in country schools.

ATTENDANCE.—The following were the attendances for the year :—

Quarter.				Schools.	Teachers.	Roll.	Average Attendance.		
							M.	F.	Total.
March	..	..	..	81	176	5,436	2,532	2,263	4,795
June	..	..	..	82	176	5,470	2,525	2,230	4,755
September	..	..	..	82	176	5,576	2,545	2,239	4,784
December	..	..	..	83	176	5,684	2,711	2,453	5,164

The roll-number at the end of the year is 144 higher than at the end of 1909, and the yearly average attendance (4,875) is 108 higher, and constitutes another record for the district. The average attendance expressed as a percentage of the mean average weekly roll-number for the four quarters is 88·2. This is slightly higher than last year and equal to the previous highest in 1905, and shows that the children attended more regularly than during the previous two years. It remains to be seen what effect the provisions of the Education Amendment Act, 1910, requiring attendance every time a school is open will have upon the regularity of school attendance. The following table* shows the attendance at the schools of the district since the Board was established at the beginning of 1878 :—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Roll-numbers.					Yearly Average Attendance.			Average for Year as Percentage of Mean of Average Roll.
			Beginning of Year.	Admitted during Year.	Left during Year.	End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll for Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
1878 ..	17	56	..	..	..	2,666	..	941	813	1,754	..
1883 ..	39	95	3,644	1,797	1,521	3,920	3,907	1,535	1,417	2,952	75·0
1888 ..	50	125	4,375	1,696	1,368	4,703	4,726	1,902	1,773	3,675	77·7
1893 ..	60	143	4,096	1,755	684	5,167	5,169	2,120	1,996	4,116†	79·6
1898 ..	67	144	4,914	1,493	1,210	5,197	5,182	2,351	2,141	4,492	86·7
1901 ..	71	145	4,925	1,833	1,684	5,074	5,128	2,334	2,104	4,438	86·6
1902 ..	71	148	5,075	1,506	1,453	5,128	5,129	2,347	2,108	4,455	86·9
1903 ..	71	144	4,899	1,468	1,372	4,995	5,054	2,244	2,036	4,280	84·7
1904 ..	74	144	4,787	1,648	1,321	5,114	5,077	2,331	2,113	4,444	87·5
1905 ..	74	147	4,888	1,524	1,266	5,146	5,104	2,360	2,141	4,501	88·2
1906 ..	77	152	4,884	1,700	1,389	5,195	5,176	2,396	2,169	4,565	88·2
1907 ..	76	153	4,894	1,625	1,234	5,285	5,244	2,389	2,117	4,506	87·8
1908 ..	76	156	4,888	1,741	1,241	5,388	5,350	2,475	2,181	4,656	87·0
1909 ..	80	175	4,960	1,758	1,178	5,540	5,462	2,522	2,245	4,767	87·3
1910 ..	83	176	5,068	1,886	1,270	5,684	5,525	2,578	2,296	4,874	88·2

BUILDINGS.—The system of carrying out all repairs and painting to the Board's buildings by day-labour was continued during the past year, with results that gave the greatest satisfaction when the quality and thoroughness of the work are taken into consideration. The Board frequently receives letters from Committees speaking of the new system in terms of the highest praise. Often the cost is below former contract prices, and occasionally it may be greater, but on the average it may be taken as not exceeding the cost under the contract system. The following school buildings were thoroughly repaired and painted: Burke's Pass, Claremont, Esk Valley, Fairlie, Gapes's Valley, Hilton, Kakahu Bush, Kohika, Orari Bridge, Orari South, Otaio, Salisbury, Silverstream, Springbook, Timaru Main (residence and cottage), Waimataitai (residence), and Waituna Creek. During the past year the Board decided to build some additions and new schools by day-labour, and most of the work on the new schools at Pareora, Washdyke, and Orari Gorge, and on the addition at Albury, were carried out by the Board's men. The results more than justify the experiment, and reflect credit on the foreman and his staff. Besides the buildings already mentioned, the following are the principal works undertaken during the year: An addition to the secondary department at Temuka, a new infant-room at Waimataitai, and the removal of the Redcliff School to Ikawai.

FINANCE.—A statement of the Board's receipts and expenditure is sent herewith.

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The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

W. M. HAMILTON, Chairman.

* Table condensed into five-yearly periods, from 1878 to 1898.

† Strict average.