

officio member of each committee. The following standing committees were elected: Buildings—Mr. Hardy, Mr. Banks, Mr. Rennie, Dr. Russell, Mr. Studholme; Appointments—Mr. Adams, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Banks, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Opie; Normal School and Technical—Mr. Opie, Mr. Adams, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Rennie, Dr. Russell, Mr. Studholme. The Board held nineteen meetings during the year, including two special meetings; the Buildings Committee met nineteen times, the Appointments Committee thirty-four times, while the Normal School and Technical College held sixteen meetings.

The Board's Representatives.—On the several Boards of Managers of Technical Classes the Board was represented as follows: Christchurch—Mr. C. H. Opie, Mr. H. Langford, Mr. T. S. Foster; Banks Peninsula (Akaroa)—Mr. J. D. Bruce; Ashburton—Mr. W. H. Collins, Mr. J. Tucker; Kaiapoi—Mr. J. H. Blackwell, Mr. W. D. Bean. For Lyttelton and Rangiora no local Boards of Managers were elected, the work at Lyttelton during the year being confined to school classes, and in the case of Rangiora the control having been transferred to the Rangiora High School Board. Several changes took place as regards the Board's representatives on the several High School Boards. In the case of Akaroa, Mr. W. H. Montgomery having resigned, Mr. H. W. Piper was elected in his stead, while Mr. R. Latter, the retiring member, was re-elected to fill the ordinary vacancy. Ashburton—Mr. W. B. Denshire and Mr. J. Tucker were re-elected; Rangiora—Mr. H. Boyd and Mr. A. S. Bruce continued to represent the Board until towards the close of the year, when Mr. E. R. Good was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Bruce.

Buildings.—The total expenditure under the heading of buildings during 1912, exclusive of cost on technical buildings, was £16,910 12s. 8d., made up as follows: Maintenance, £10,405 9s. 4d. (including architect's office expenses and salaries); replacing worn-out schools, £1,947 2s. 1d.; new buildings, £2,745 9s. 8d.; sites, £1,812 11s. 7d. New schools have been erected at Glen Kowhai, Scargill, and Te Pirita, and the unused school at Huntingdon has been removed to Lynnford (near Hinds). The building previously in use at Scargill is now used for school purposes at Leader (Mount Parnassus). In the following cases substantial additions to schools have been made: Burwood, Cashmere, Horsley Downs, Le Bon's Bay, Mead, Templeton, Sumner, Spreydon, and Woolston. In the latter case the new building takes the place of two large rooms erected many years ago, and no longer suitable for school purposes. A teacher's house has been provided at Puaha, and the residences at Gebbie's Valley and Le Bon's Bay have been enlarged and improved. A large expenditure on repairs and improvements has also been incurred, notably in connexion with the following schools: Addington, Akaroa, Ashburton, Christchurch East, Hampstead, and Woolston. The Elmwood School being overcrowded, and the Board being of opinion that no further additions should be made, a site in the vicinity of Bligh's Road has been secured for a new school, and the Department has been applied to for the necessary grant with which to proceed with the work. A new site has also been purchased in the Beckenham locality, where a new school will be required in the near future.

A statement showing the amount spent in each school district is appended (Table No. 1) [table not reprinted]. The very large expenditure on maintenance, having regard to the sum granted by the Department for this purpose, is a matter for the Board's careful consideration. On the other hand, the expenditure on rebuilding was approximately £2,500 less than the amount provided by the Government for this purpose.

Schools.—The number of schools in operation at the end of the year, including twenty-two aided schools, was 218, classified as follows: 1 to 8, five (all of which were aided schools); 9 to 15, twenty-five (of which seven were aided schools); 16 to 25, forty-nine (of which six were aided schools); 26 to 35, thirty-two (of which three were aided schools); 36 to 80, fifty-three (one of which—Midland Railway—was an aided school); 81 to 120, eighteen; 121 to 160, eight; 161 to 200, two; 201 to 250, five; 251 to 300, four; 301 to 350, three; 351 to 400, one; 401 to 450, one; 451 to 500, three; 501 to 550, one; 551 to 600, one; 601 to 650, four; above 650, three.

The following table* shows the number of schools, the number of children on the rolls, the number in average attendance, and the percentage of attendance for each year since 1878. As was the case last year, in calculating the percentage of attendance the mean average roll number and the mean average attendance for the year have been taken.

Quarter ended 31st December.	District Schools.	Aided Schools.	Total of Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attend- ance.	Percentage.
1878	106	4	110	13,781	9,641	69.96
1883	139	4	143	17,475	12,844	73.50
1888	155	1	156	20,301	15,920	78.41
1893	175	4	179	21,279	17,543	82.44
1898	186	16	202	20,836	17,580	84.37
1903	183	22	205	19,569	16,227	82.92
1904	184	22	206	19,440	16,712	85.97
1905	187	23	210	19,492	16,923	86.82
1906	189	20	209	19,472	16,876	86.67
1907	192	14	206	19,252	16,232	84.31
1908	195	14	209	19,942	17,536	87.94
1909	196	14	210	20,427	17,634	86.33
1910	194	15	209	20,755	18,063	87.03
1911	193	19	212	21,196	18,847	88.99
1912	196	22	218	21,616	19,205	88.85

School Staffs.—The number of teachers at the end of 1912 shows an increase of sixteen over the previous year, there being 635 teachers in the Board's service at that time. The number of

* Condensed into five-yearly periods from 1878 to 1903.