The following is a summary of the receipts and payments of all secondary schools (lower departments included, Wanganui Collegiate and Christ's College Grammar Schools excluded) for the year 1919 :—

SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1919 FURNISHED BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

(Wanganui Collegiate and Christ's College Grammar Schools not included.)

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Endowments—			
Sales and mortgage-money repaid ..	7,944	15	0
Lands vested in High School Boards ..	44,261	0	7
Secondary-education reserves ..	7,209	7	7
Interest on moneys invested.. ..	1,042	10	0
Government grants—			
Grants for buildings, sites, rent, apparatus, &c., and subsidies	23,347	9	5
Capitation for free places (including annual grant)	114,858	4	11
Capitation for manual instruction ..	2,825	9	7
School fees	11,696	4	0
Lower Department Account	4,608	9	3
Hostels Account	43,289	11	7
Loans, interest, &c.	579	1	8
Technical Classes Account	2,841	18	2
Voluntary contributions, income from property not reserves, refunds, and sundries	8,754	12	5
	£273,258	14	2

Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Endowments (including proportion of office expenses)	11,731	9	11
Teachers' salaries and allowances ..	122,510	14	9
Incidental expenses of secondary departments—			
Office expenses and salaries (excluding endowments)	3,564	14	10
Printing, stationery, and advertising ..	2,472	17	5
Cleaning, heating, lighting, and care of school-grounds	9,306	2	6
Material, examinations, prizes, games, and other incidentals	3,295	17	1
Manual instruction (excluding buildings, &c.)	1,803	19	6
Sites, buildings, furniture, apparatus, taxes, &c...	53,989	12	8
Lower Department Account	4,448	12	2
Hostels Account	41,985	3	3
Investments, loans repaid, and interest..	6,916	10	11
Technical Classes Account	2,855	16	6
Scholarships, advances to pupils, and miscellaneous	3,696	1	9
	£268,577	13	3

The receipts for the year exceeded the payments by £4,684, while the payments included an investment of £1,000, and repayment of loans and interest thereon amounting to over £5,000.

The payments on account of salaries (secondary departments only) were £122,511, as compared with £99,482 in the previous year; and on account of incidentals (comprising administration, caretaking, school material, &c.), £18,640, compared with £16,064 in 1918. The receipts for capitation show a corresponding large increase of £32,341 compared with the previous year.

The payments on account of buildings, sites, and equipment, amounting to £53,990, were much greater than in recent years, owing to extensive building operations taking place in connection with several schools and the hostels attached to them. It will be observed that the direct Government grants towards this expenditure amounted to £23,347, the Government's expenditure on this account for the year ending March, 1920, being £42,948, as compared with £5,057 in the year 1918–19.

The total receipts on account of lower departments exceeded the payments, but in one or two instances these departments were not self-supporting, and controlling authorities are warned of the illegality of such a position, and of their possible liability to make good any shortage.

The combined Hostels Accounts show an excess of receipts over payments of £1,304. As several of the hostels are only in an initial stage, and there have been considerable payments on account of furniture, utensils, &c., larger profits from these establishments may be looked for in the future, although the object of their establishment is not profit-making, but the provision of good accommodation for country pupils at as reasonable a figure as possible.

Taking into account the monetary assets and liabilities of twenty of the twenty-two Boards of public secondary schools in operation (the returns from two Boards being outstanding), it appears that the total debit balance at the end of 1919 was £58,543, eleven Boards having a debit and nine a credit balance. The debit balances are for the most part due to loans raised or overdrafts incurred on account of the erection of necessary buildings; one school alone is responsible for a debit of £29,000 on account of recent large purchases of land, and another school