

Schools and Attendance.—Nineteen schools were closed and twenty opened or reopened, so that at the end of the year there were in operation 257 schools. The following figures show the average roll and average attendance for the years 1920 and 1921 :—

					Average Roll Number.	Average Attendance.
Year 1921	..	..	..	..	25,549	23,275
Year 1920	..	..	..	..	24,760	21,642
		Increase	..	..	789	1,633

The average attendance was 91 per cent. of the average roll, a welcome improvement of 3.5 per cent. The following are the percentages in successive years : 1916, 89.2 ; 1917, 90.6 ; 1918, 90 ; 1919, 91.5 ; 1920, 87.5 ; 1921, 91. It was found necessary to take proceedings in forty-nine cases of persistent irregularity. The convictions recorded were thirty-eight, one was dismissed, and the remainder of the cases were withdrawn on condition of future regularity.

Teaching Staff.—The following were the numbers of teachers, pupil-teachers, and probationers in the service of the Board at the end of the year :—

	Head Teachers.			Sole Teachers.			Assistants.		
	Certifi- cated.	Licensed.	Uncertifi- cated.	Certifi- cated.	Licensed.	Uncertifi- cated.	Certifi- cated.	Licensed.	Uncertifi- cated.
Males ..	85	..	2	19	2	4	62	..	2
Females ..	13	..	0	49	3	79	317	..	51
Totals, 1921 ..	98	..	2	68	5	83	379	..	53
Totals, 1920 ..	97	1	..	84	9	67	356	..	66

Grand totals, 1921 :—						Males.	Females.	Totals.
Certificated	..	..	..	..	..	166	379	545
Licensed	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Uncertificated	..	..	..	..	..	8	130	138
Total adults	..	..	..	..	..	176	512	688
Pupil-teachers	..	..	..	..	..	8	39	47
Total teaching staff	..	..	..	..	..	184	551	735
Probationers	..	..	..	..	..	17	62	79
Grand totals	..	..	..	..	..	201	613	814

In addition to the numbers included in the table, the staff also included the following : Organizing teachers, 2 ; instructors—agriculture, 3 ; woodwork, 6 ; home science, 5. The Training College staff is not included above.

Instruction of Teachers.—Arrangements were made for the following courses of instruction : (1.) Week-end classes at Wellington in drawing and handwork, home science, hygiene, and physiology, and singing ; and at Masterton in drawing and handwork, hygiene, physiology and first aid, and singing. (2.) A correspondence course, held throughout the year in preparation for the certificate, and open to all uncertificated teachers within the district, was carried on under the supervision of the Vice-Principal of the Training College, and was much appreciated. Very general regret has been expressed that for financial reasons this course has been discontinued during the current year. (3.) A fortnight's course in preparation for the certificate was held at Blenheim during the last fortnight of the year. (4.) A course in agriculture and nature-study extending over a fortnight was held at Masterton by the Supervisor and assistant instructors during the second-term holidays.

Training College.—The following are the essential statistics : The total number of students was 196—49 men and 147 women. First-year students, 106 ; second-year students, 90. Students classified : Division A, 145 ; B, 44 ; C, 2 ; D, 5. The Board is pleased that definite decision has been reached regarding the site of the future hostel. The Board commends to most careful study the unanswerable argument of the Principal that house accommodation should be provided without delay for outside students. In no other city is the difficulty of accommodation so great. To the public-spirited proprietors of the Friends', Y.W.C.A., the Students', and the Household Orderlies' Hostels, who have done so much for the women students, the Board records its most grateful thanks.

Secondary Education.—The average attendances for the year 1921 at the district high schools in the district were : Carterton, 44 ; Eketahuna, 47 ; Greytown, 20 ; Hutt, 33 ; Levin, 39 ; Masterton, 100 ; Martinborough, 32 ; Pahiatua, 27 ; Petone, 39 ; Total, 381. The Board is of opinion that as soon as the financial conditions permit the high schools at Lower Hutt and Masterton should be erected.