

OTAGO.

SIR,—

Dunedin, 31st March, 1923.

In accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, 1914, I have the honour to present the following report of the Education Board of the District of Otago for the year 1922 :—

Board.—The constitution of the Board is now as follows: Urban Area—Messrs. James Wallace, J. H. Wilkinson, R. H. S. Todd, and Leonard Sanderson; North Ward—Messrs. George Livingstone and A. E. Lawrence; Central Ward—Messrs. James Smith and James Horn, M.P.; South Ward—Hon. D. T. Fleming, M.L.C., and Mr. George W. K. Wood. Mr. James Wallace was elected Chairman (his third term in office). Thirty-nine meetings of the Board were held during the year, the average attendance being eight. The following were the Board's representatives on various educational bodies: Council of the University of Otago—Mr. J. Wallace; Otago High Schools Board—Hon. D. T. Fleming, M.L.C., and Mr. W. R. Brugh; Waitaki High Schools Board—Mr. James Mitchell; Boards of Management of Technical Schools—Dunedin, Messrs. J. Wallace, J. H. Wilkinson, and James Horn, M.P.; Oamaru, Messrs. George Livingstone and James Mitchell; Milton, Mr. John Bowie, B.A.

Number of Schools.—The number of schools open at the end of the year (including four household schools) was 259, or five more than in 1921. One hundred and fifty-four schools were sole-teacher schools, forty-eight had two adult teachers, twenty-eight had three adult teachers, and twenty-nine had four or more adult teachers.

Attendance of Pupils.—The average roll, average attendance, and percentage of average attendance for the year were as follows: Average roll, 22,022; average attendance, 20,271; percentage, 92.05. The figures show an increase over the previous year of thirty-one in the roll number, a decrease of four in the average attendance, and a decrease of 0.15 in the percentage of attendance.

The following table shows, since the institution of the Otago education scheme in 1856, the number of schools, teachers, and pupils :—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	On the Roll.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance, Otago District.	Percentage of Attendance for Whole of Dominion.
1856-57	5	7	..	236	..	..
1886	181	510	22,255	18,583	83.8	79.3
1916	261	754	21,880	20,237	92.4	88.6
1921	254	797	21,991	20,275	92.2	89.8
1922	259	812	22,022	20,271	92.05	..

The average attendances in the secondary departments of district high schools were: BALELUTHA, 68; NORMAL, 52; TOKOMAIRIRO, 49; ALEXANDRA, 44; LAWRENCE, 37; PORT CHALMERS, 29; TAPANUI, 23; PALMERSTON, 23; and OWAKA, 19; total, 344—an increase of 33 over the previous year. Owing to decrease in attendance the Mosgiel District High School was disestablished at the end of June. Secondary classes were started at the Owaka School at the beginning of the year. Grants have been sanctioned for equipping the cookery and science rooms erected last year at the Alexandra District High School, and it is hoped that instruction in these subjects will shortly be commenced.

Teachers.—On the 31st December there were in the Board's service 812 teachers, classified as under :—

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Head teachers	..	..	..	..	98	2	100
Sole teachers	..	..	..	..	41	118	159
Assistant teachers ..	..	..	..	..	68	273	341
Organizing teacher ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Training College staff ..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
Total of adult teachers	..	..	..	..	214	395	609
Pupil-teachers	..	..	..	..	17	45	62
Probationers	..	..	..	..	23	72	95
Teachers of needlework ..	..	..	..	..	..	32	32
Manual and technical (special teachers) ..	..	..	..	..	8	6	14
Total of all teachers for 1922	..	..	..	..	262	550	812

The following table shows the position with regard to the number of teachers who held teachers' certificates in 1921 and 1922 :—

Year.	Classified Teachers.		Holders of Licenses.		Unclassified and Unlicensed.		Total Number.
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	
1921	500	82.1	13	2.1	96	15.8	609
1922	520	85.4	5	0.8	84	13.8	609