

Substantial additions have been provided at the Otahuhu, Pukekohe, Wanganui, Petone, and Wellington Technical Schools, a new Art School has been erected at the Dunedin Technical School, the new Technical School at Papanui, Christchurch, has been completed, as well as new workshops at Nelson Boys' College. Considerable progress has been made in the erection of up-to-date buildings for the accommodation of both high-school and technical-school pupils in a combined school at Masterton, additional accommodation is being provided at the Marlborough High School, Blenheim, the Girls' High School, and at the Avonside High School in Christchurch. A new science block is being erected at Auckland University College, and arrangements are proceeding for the building of new biology and administration blocks at Victoria University College. A considerably accelerated building programme is in hand.

An item was provided on the Consolidated Fund estimates to meet the cost of works costing under £200. These works included small additions and alterations, the total expenditure for the year being £13,012, which figure is included in the table given below. During the year it was necessary to provide £7,861 for the replacement of school buildings destroyed by fire. Of this amount, £6,831 was recovered from the Government Fire Insurance Fund.

The following table shows the capital expenditure on new buildings, additions, sites, and teachers' residences for the financial years ended 31st March, 1934, 1935, 1936, and 1937 :—

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£
Public schools ..	57,664	35,105	87,908	162,894
Secondary schools ..	2,568	14,679	23,516	24,092
Technical schools ..	1,504	12,851	59,350	77,836
Training colleges ..	..	..	610	6,730
Native schools ..	2,698	5,419	8,399	12,172
University Colleges ..	..	..	..	3,022
Massey Agricultural College ..	..	..	..	525
Child-welfare institutions ..	..	..	221	..
Schools for feeble-minded ..	..	..	..	2,473
Gross total	64,434	68,054	180,004	289,744
Less credits-in-aid ..	7,778	10,894	48,547	7,848
	<u>£56,656</u>	<u>£57,160</u>	<u>£131,457</u>	<u>£281,896</u>

5. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

The following table gives the number of public schools classified according to grade and the average attendance for the year ended 31st August.

Although the table shows the grades of schools and the range of average attendance, public schools were not graded on average attendance for the year 1936. Owing to the re-entry of children five years of age into public schools at the beginning of the year, the schools were graded on 95 per cent. of the number of pupils on the roll on the 31st day of March instead of on the average attendance for the year ended on the 31st August preceding.