



THE COUNTY OF
WESTLAND GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

HOKITIKA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1868.

WESTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Hokitika,
12th June, 1868.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith the Report of the Westland Board of Education up to the 31st March last.—A supplementary Report up to the 9th instant is also enclosed. Accompanying the latter are copies of the Reports made by members of the Board who inspected the schools mentioned below in the month of May last; viz:—

1. Hokitika and Kanieri schools.
2. Greymouth school.
3. Stafford Town and Waimea schools.
4. Ross school.
5. Okarito school.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. S. REID,
Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman of the
County Council,
Hokitika.

*Report of the Westland Board of
Education for the year ending
31st March, 1868.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

SIR,—I have the honor to present the Annual Report of the Westland Board of Education for the year ending 31st March, 1868.

An Ordinance of the Superintendent and Provincial Council of the Province of Canterbury (Session 26, No. 6 of 1867) established this Board under the name of "The Westland Board of Education" for the formation and management of schools in that part of the Province of Canterbury called Westland.

In the month of June, 1867, the under-mentioned gentlemen were appointed by the Superintendent to be members of the Board, viz:—

- Mr Robert Abbott, Hokitika.
- Mr Andrew Mowat, Hokitika.
- Mr Joseph Francis Byrne, Hokitika.
- Mr Samuel Wesley Alcorn, Hokitika.
- Mr George Harper, Hokitika.
- Mr James H. O'Loughlin (then of) Greymouth.
- Mr John Kissling.
- Mr Joseph Collyer (then of) Waimea.
- Mr Joshua Gibson, Ross.
- Mr Robert Caldwell Reid (then of) Okarita.

Mr Abbott was also appointed to be Chairman.

The Board entered on its duties on the 13th September, 1867, and the last meeting in that year was held on the 10th of December. On the 14th of the same month Mr Abbott resigned his office as Chairman of the Board.

A meeting was called for the 31st December, but lapsed for want of a quorum. No further business was transacted for some time, and on the 28th February, 1868, the present Chairman (Mr W. S. Reid) was appointed. Mr W. H. Harrison and Mr G. W. Moss of Greymouth were also appointed at the same time to be members of the Board, certain vacancies having occurred in the meanwhile.

A meeting was convened for the 26th of March, but a quorum was not in attendance. At this particular period considerable excitement prevailed in Hokitika consequent on the threatened disturbance of the public peace. Most of the town members were assisting the civic power in the maintenance of order by acting as special constables. It was found impossible to get a quorum together, and no meeting was called till the month of April.

The Ordinance requires that in the month of March, in each year, the Board shall "render to the Superintendent a full report of all things done by them by virtue of this Ordinance during the year preceding such Report."

Inasmuch, however, as the work of the Board (for the purposes of this Report) virtually terminated with the end of the year, it was thought advisable that the late Chairman should report on the proceedings of the Board up to the date of his resignation, and that its subsequent transactions should form the subject of a supplementary report.

Resolutions to this effect have been respectively passed by the Board.

Mr Abbott, with much courtesy, consented to accede to the wishes of the Board, and the subjoined letter to the present Chairman having been adopted by the Board, is now submitted as its report up to the 31st March, 1868.

It will be noticed that this report of the late Chairman is exceedingly full, and together with the information furnished by the schedules, supplies a complete record of the proceedings of the Board up to the end of the year 1867.

The supplementary report which accompanies this, shews the work of the Board up to date, and endeavours to explain the position it has hitherto occupied with regard to education in Westland.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. S. REID,
Chairman of the Board.

Hokitika,

11th June, 1868.

Hokitika, 7th June, 1868.

To W. S. Reid, Esq.,

Chairman of the Westland Board of
Education.

SIR,—

I regret I was not able before Saturday to attend to your request in your letter of 1st June, that I would report the doings of the Board of Education up to the date of my resignation as Chairman, last December. And I have to thank you now for kindly giving me the use of all the books and papers of the Board for the purpose, else I should not have been able to comply with your request so soon.

The Board originally contained ten members, of whom Mr R. C. Reid, Okarito, resigned on the 8th October, and Mr J. Kissling, Greymouth, left the district some time in December. My resignation was accepted on the 23rd December, 1867.

The Ordinance had been passed in January, 1867, but the members of the Board were not appointed till the middle of June, and then for various reasons they could not begin work as a Board till September. A letter from the Provincial Secretary, dated 12th August, first informed them what funds they had to administer; but even at that time, as

the Ordinance makes five members a quorum, without any exception, and also requires "due notice" of every sitting of the Board "to be given by advertisement in one or more local papers," it was requisite first to learn, by writing at least a fortnight beforehand, when each member could attend, and then to advertise a notice that the Board was going to sit, in newspapers. On the 6th of September the notice was advertised accordingly of a sitting to be on the 13th September.

At the first sitting on 13th September, it was considered among other things, that the period for which the Board then had funds to administer was only of nine months' duration altogether (from July, 1867 to March, 1868) of which some months were already wasted; and therefore the Board could not well initiate any large new scheme of Public Education, even if the "Westland Board of Education Ordinance, 1867," under which the Board acted (and remembering that Westland was yet a part of Canterbury) would allow them to do so, or even if it might be discovered to be desirable for reasons unconnected with their Ordinance, that they should attempt to do so. A resolution of Mr Kissling's was carried, that the schools already in active operation ought to receive the primary consideration of the Board; and then a resolution of Mr Collyer's, that public notice should be given by advertisement in the newspapers, of the readiness of the Board to receive applications.

A copy of the public notice which was given in consequence will be attached to this letter. A portion of it was directed to meet several errors which a few applicants already appeared to have fallen into with regard to the proper functions of the Board, and I believe the notice was serviceable to that end. They appeared to think the funds entrusted to the Board might be used to reimburse them for expenses which they had gone to in past time—no doubt very praiseworthy—to advance the education of the public, or that the mere fact that they were proprietors of a school became a ground not only for public recognition and for the remuneration which they had gained, but when a Board of Education was created, for bonuses in money from it.

In the meantime accurate information about the numbers and the manner of distribution of all the population of Westland and especially of the married people and children was sought to be got by communicating with the ministers of the several religious denominations, the Wardens of the several districts, and the police. Mr Broham, the Inspector of Police, made a very complete detailed statement which became of much use to the Board, as it was found to be verified by the independent statements—so far as they went—of others. (The Census, since made, also would seem to bear out the accuracy of Mr Broham's statement). The Venerable Arch-deacon Harper assisted the Board in this manner respecting Hokitika, the Reverend

Father Royer respecting Greymouth, and the Reverend Father M'Girr respecting Ross, Mr Warden Price respecting Okarito and Mr Warden Keogh respecting the Waimea district. The Reverend Isaac Zachariah communicated the residences of all the Jewish inhabitants of Westland, who in Hokitika are a large—and from the great number of children, 70—important element to be considered by an Education Board.

At the next sitting on the 16th October, (see Schedule 2 of sittings of Board and attendance of members) various applications for aid which had been received (see Schedule 3, containing all applications) were considered and in some cases aid was granted (Schedule 4 of expenditure showing what aid was granted to each school.) But first a resolution of Mr. Mowat's was carried, to guide the Board when considering applications, how far they might go in aiding with money schools in one part of Westland as against schools in another part; the whole funds in hand being of limited amount, and the action of the Board entirely of a provisional character, as has been already explained. The resolution made, in a rough, but, I believe, perfectly fair way, the proportion of the fund to be expended in each of certain districts, depend on the number of children ascertained to be resident and wanting schools.

Thus £550 was apportioned for the country between the Arahura and the Totara, Okarito for a special reason affecting it being included; £250 for the country between the Grey and the Teremakau; £100 for the Waimea District, and £100 for Ross and Donohue's: Total £1000.

Of the sum of £550 mentioned, £175 was to be spent if necessary, in Kanieri, Woodstock, Blue Spur, and South Spit; or to be available for any fresh applications in the Hokitika District; and the Chairman was asked to procure information to guide the Board in that expenditure.

A resolution of Mr. Gibson's was carried, that if the fund of any District remained unexpended for whatever reason—whether the population had shifted or the conditions imposed by the Board were not fulfilled—the balance not expended was to become part of a general fund again.

A resolution of Mr. O'Loughlin's was then carried, that conditions should be imposed to be fulfilled by schools asking aid, such conditions in all cases to have relation to (among other things)—

1. The use made of school premises and furniture.

2. The average attendance of scholars (accurate register of attendance and fees being always required.)

3. The liability of the school to be visited at any reasonable time by a person authorised by the Board.

Sub-committees were then appointed for the several districts who were empowered to decide upon the mode of expending grants for building and for school apparatus; and

after the applications for aid already referred to had been dealt with the Board adjourned to 18th November.

On the 18th November there was not a quorum.

On the 9th December there was not a quorum.

On the 10th December additional and some fresh grants were made. It was also resolved on the motions of Mr. O'Loughlin and Mr. Byrne respectively, that all the moneys promised to be paid by the Board should be paid forthwith to school-managers; the grants for buildings upon the managers depositing satisfactory plans and specifications and estimates and agreeing to carry them out and complete them within a limited period, not to be later than March, 1868; and the grants for teachers for the purpose of being paid by the managers to the teachers, on the 31st March, 1868, unless on inspection of the school (if the teacher appeared to have failed in any manner) the managers should be authorised by the Board to withhold a portion not exceeding half; the portion of the teacher's augmentation grant thus withheld to go to the general fund of the school.

A resolution of Mr. O'Loughlin's was then carried—appropriating £50 for the payment of the expenses of an inspection of Schools in March; and authorizing the Chairman to secure, if possible, the services of the Inspector of Schools of the Province of Canterbury for that occasion.

Of the grants thus made, two, to aid in establishing schools in Greymouth, were not accepted, because the promoters in each case deemed the grant too small. It might have been possible, perhaps, to expend the money in some other way to the satisfaction of the parties; but the coming into operation of the County of Westland Act, which was to be on the 1st of January, 1868, put some stop to the further proceedings of the Board—as it was indirectly the cause of my resignation, and has been allowed to interrupt business in other ways, it would seem; probably unavoidably.

All the various appropriations which the Board had made were respected, and the grants paid at the Treasury; even those (amounting to £530) which were not be paid to the proper recipients—the teachers—until an Inspection of Schools had been made in March, 1868, as contemplated in the grants themselves; but the appropriation voucher for £50, to defray the cost of an Inspector, was prevented from being presented to the Treasury by the Gold Fields Secretary, who returned it to me, saying—“*The Provincial Government could not possibly pay it, as it was for an expenditure to be incurred after 31st December, 1867.*” I regarded the Inspection of the Schools by some competent officer as of really more importance to the well-being of public education than the large grants of money which were being paid to School Managers by the Board, and thought it should be rendered as certain of happening

in due time as the grants to which the Inspection related very much were certainly received. It appearing, moreover, that the interference of the Gold Fields Secretary was not justified by the Ordinance, and that the Board could never do its work if one part of its plan might thus unexpectedly be hindered from execution by some person not sharing the Board's responsibility; and as—especially in the present case—I feared the interference might be most mischievous in its consequences, I thought I ought to quit the Board. I was not prepared to solve such a problem as was now suddenly set before me, and I resigned the office which I had thus been hindered from fulfilling in the manner which, I believe, was both necessary and proper. It has seemed to me requisite while making a report of this kind to mention why I resigned my post at such a time.

I am not aware that I have anything further to report to you, but I will gladly give any explanation in my power to give which you may desire.

I do not know whether the action of the Board, up to the end of last year, has been salutary in its effects on education in Westland, or otherwise, as I have not learned the results of any trustworthy examination of the schools; but I am very pleased to learn that an attempt is to be made to establish some sound, definite principle for the action of the Board in future to rest on, and I hope the attempt, though present circumstances may be difficult, will soon really succeed.

In any case the present Ordinance must be superseded. It gives hardly any powers; but has evidently been devised to meet exceptional cases only,—such as all those in Westland were deemed to be with regard to Canterbury,—by a management wholly of a makeshift kind. If the Assembly will consent on the recommendation of the Board to the establishment of any scheme that is not to have the effect of conveying public funds intended for education to the ministers of the several denominations, the sites of some of the existing schools will have to be granted to the Board or local committees, according to what may be the constitution of the Board in future.

While alluding to a "national system" of education, I venture here to point out what seems to me ground for caution; that the absolute exclusion of the Bible from a school in Westland might cause the school to become *not* a "national school." Public aid to education is based on the fact—else we certainly should not witness public aid—that parents wish to have the education of their children seen to by the Government, because—for this must be so too—they cannot see to it properly themselves. They admit this. But it may not be said to them in one breath that they are too ignorant to manage the "secular instruction" of their own children, and yet ought to be trusted to impart say even the merest elements of what may be deemed to belong to "religious teaching." A great majority, or

the whole of the parents, may even desire that the Bible should often be read in school. It seems to me, therefore, that a "national system" must always be relative; and may be expected to become a better "national system" in proportion as education dissipates prejudice.

I mean to say that it might be quite fit, without at all deviating from the main course which the Board is disposed to hold in Westland to let a portion of the Bible be read each day, at one end of the day, under the direction of the teacher alone, who must be presumed to be competent for that; but with liberty for children, whose parents expressly desire it, to be withdrawn during the Bible reading. Then if ministers of religious denominations insisted—in answer to a proposition of such a kind—that more religious teaching than this must be done in elementary schools for children usually less than 14 years old, and that the ministers themselves are to do it, at any rate those ministers would appear to be actuated more by a desire of aggrandising their party than of advancing education; and the issue between them and the Education Board would become raised in a more intelligible shape.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) ROBERT ABBOTT.

SCHEDULE 1.

WESTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Board will sit on Wednesday, the 16th October next, at 7 o'clock p.m., in the Supreme Court House, Hokitika.

Applications for aid must be made in writing not later than the end of this month, the letters being addressed to the Chairman, at Hokitika.

To save themselves trouble and delay, persons applying for aid should be careful to render their statements explicit, keeping the facts distinct from mere expression of opinion.

The following are some of the particulars of information required:—Name of school, the tenure, situation, way of approach, size of playground, all the dimensions of buildings, provision for light, warmth, ventilation, offices; inventory of school furniture, books, maps; statement of attendance, the highest number on the books and the average for each week or month since commencement; accounts of income from all sources and of expenditure, with as much detail as possible; school hours, subjects taught, school fee; name of teacher, his various qualifications, testimonials, remuneration, nature of his contract with managers; names of managers, by whom appointed; whether any denominational catechism is used and its use enforced, or whether the school is exclusive in any manner.

School-managers are requested to add any other particulars they think fit, and to submit what comments they wish to make.

The Board cannot administer the funds which have been voted, in rewarding past efforts of school-managers, no matter how

meritorious; but the information now supplied may become a good basis for a grant in aid afterwards.

Owners of private adventure schools, who claim to be assisted out of public money, had better when they apply to the Board, state the whole of the grounds why they do so.

(Signed by most of the Members of the Board.)

16th September, 1867.

SCHEDULE 2.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

1867.

Sept. 13, Byrne, Collyer, Gibson, Mowat, O'Loughlin, Kissling, Abbott - 7

Oct. 16, Collyer, Gibson, Mowat, O'Loughlin, Alcorn, Abbott - - - 6

Nov. 18, O'Loughlin, Alcorn, Abbott - 3
(Collyer and Gibson came late, when some of the others had gone away, so a quorum was not formed.)

Dec. 9, Collyer, (Gibson, O'Loughlin, Abbott (not a quorum) - - - 4

„ 10 Byrne, Collyer, Gibson, O'Loughlin, Alcorn, Abbott - - - 6

„ 31, Mowat, Harper, Alcorn, Abbott 4
(not a quorum)

MEMO.—Alcorn, Byrne, Mowat, were each absent from the Colony during a portion of the whole period shewn above.

SCHEDULE 3.

Drawn from Statements of School Managers and Promoters.

Hokitika All Saints Church of England School.

First application dated 26th July, 1867.—On Church of England Reserve, under Committee consisting of Incumbent and Churchwardens of All Saints Church, viz., Archdeacon Harper, Messrs. Prichard and Browning, and of Messrs. Winter, Rochfort, Beswick, Sale, South; Teacher, Mr. Lorenzo Tindall, who has been engaged nearly two years in same school, and has received during year ending 1st October, 1867, about £250, derived from school fees. Dimensions, 28 x 16 feet; require enlarging for present actual attendance, which is expected to increase, if allowed. Building in bad repair, without play-ground attached. (Grant asked to remove school to better site behind the present one.) Average attendance during last 10 months, 50 weekly; mixed school of boys and girls.

(Grants for removal of building to better site, and for repairs and enlargement to double the size, and for school apparatus were made—See Schedule 4.)

Hokitika St. Mary's Roman Catholic School.

Date of first application, 13th September, 1867. Managed by a Committee consisting of Rev. Father McDonough, Messrs. Lynch, Cassidy, O'Driscoll, Fitzsimmons—held in Catholic Church, a portion of which is divided off for the purpose by a large curtain.

Teachers, Mr. Benjamin Hamill, who has very satisfactory testimonials, and Mr. James Hays, and Mrs. Mary Hamill. Mr. Hamill receives the school fees for his remuneration. There is also a teacher of music, who, like Mr. Hays, is paid by Father McDonough. School, a mixed one, with an average attendance of 70. Fee, 2s 6d; but many scholars cannot, and do not pay.

(Grant for building a school on ground adjoining was paid. The school under Mr. Hamill, held in the Church, appeared to be cheerful and efficient, and well cared for, when some of the members of the Board visited it—See Schedule 4.)

Hokitika Tancred-street Mr. Malcolm's School.

First application, October, 1867. Established 25th September, 1865, by Alexander Malcolm, present teacher and owner.

Attendance on roll, Christmas 1866, 69; average for year, 57; in 1867, on roll, 105; average, 65. Subjects taught include Scripture, History, French, Latin, Mathematics. Fee, 2s 6d, with an allowance in some cases; hours, 10 to 12.30, and 2 to 4. Bible is read during first half hour of the morning, but attendance of scholar then is optional.

School well supplied with requisite furniture, books, and maps; no playground; dimensions, 32 x 20 feet. Several gentlemen, including the Rev. Mr. Gow and Mr. Bonar, the then Mayor, strongly recommended Mr. Malcolm to favourable notice. He has a certificate as a teacher from the Otago Board of Education.

(Mr. Malcolm's school when visited appeared to the Board to be conducted in a very efficient manner in all the details, and he was asked to put himself under some Local Committee, and thus obtain the assistance of the Board. This was effected. See Schedule 4.)

Hokitika Miss Petrie's School.

First application, 16 October, 1867; conducted by Jane and Isabella Petrie.

(As, at the time of visiting this school, situated on the beach, it was just being washed away by the sea, it is not necessary to say more about it.)

Hokitika Weld-street Mr. Prince's School.

First application, 24th September, 1867; conducted by Charles Prince, formerly a certificated teacher in England and in Canterbury.

(As the school fee was 3s 6d to 5s a week, according to age, the case did not appear to be one for the Board to deal with. The school was in temporary premises, and Mr. Prince wanted help to erect a building somewhere else. He soon afterwards left Westland.)

Greymouth St. Patrick's School.

First application dated 5th October, 1867. Established February, 1866, by the Rev. E. Royer, Catholic Priest, not only for giving

"a good and solid education, but also for teaching religious training; but a few days after the last object was modified in order to give Protestant children also a chance of obtaining education." Irish National school books used. Site, in Arney-street, belonging to Catholic body in Grey district. Playground, half acre; dimensions, 50 x 20 feet; well-lighted, well ventilated, with fire-place. Double offices, desks for 40 to 45 children, forms for 60, black-board, maps. Books well supplied. Attendance of 50, gradually reduced to 25 weekly. Income in 1866, £2 15s a week, but since February last, 12s to 15s only, expenditure, £6 a week. Hours, half-past nine to twelve, and half-past one to half-past three.

Subjects taught include Geography, History, English grammar, Composition, Latin, French. Teachers: Mr. Joseph Beaupré, with very high testimonials to his abilities and good character, and Mr. William Wood, who teaches music. Catechism formerly used was soon discontinued, Catholic children being now taught after school hours and on Sunday.

(Grant made in aid - See Schedule 4.)

Greymouth—Miss Heaphy's School.

First application dated 27th September, 1867. School commenced, 29th October, 1866. Subjects taught—"All the branches of a thorough sound English education and music." Dimensions, 20 x 12 feet; well lighted, warmed, and ventilated. Fees, 2s 6d over seven years old, others, 2s. Attendance average, formerly 30, now 20, and increasing again.

(Mr O'Loughlin visited and reported on this school; and it was ultimately placed in charge of a local committee. Rev. Father Royer, chairman, and Messrs M. Kennedy, and P. Griffin; and aid was given to it. See Schedule 4.)

Greymouth Grammar School.

First application dated 13th September, 1867. Mr Henry Warren, teacher and proprietor. Fees, 2s 6d a week. Hours, 9 to 12, and 2 to 4. Attendance, 36 on books, 30 in average attendance. Aid sought for a proposed new school.

(Mr Warren was requested to procure a committee, who would manage the proposed school, to communicate with the Board, but nothing resulted.)

Greymouth Albert-street Church of England School.

First application, 19th October, 1867, by Rev. G. P. Beaumont, who proposed to build a school 40 x 20 feet, for 70 children, with master's house. Estimated cost, £250.

(The grant of £62 10s offered by the Board for the purpose, was declined by the School Committee as inadequate.)

Greymouth Wesleyan School.

At the sitting of the Board on 9th December, 1867, Mr Alcorn, in behalf of the committee of the school, applied for and obtained

a grant of £62 10s to aid in building suitable premises, but the amount of grant was deemed too small by them—represented by the Rev. J. T. Shaw—and the help was declined. There was not time before the end of the year for further steps, though plans and specifications were received by the Board from Mr Shaw in connection with a fresh application which he made on the subject.

Stafford Town St. Patrick's School.

First application, dated 5th October, 1867. Site and buildings purchased from occupant, under a business license by Rev. W. J. Larkin, Catholic priest, who is sole owner and manager, and who occupies part of buildings for his own dwelling. Play ground of two acres, well drained; three close; school-room, 30 x 20 feet, with fire-place and class-room 18 x 16 feet, all well lighted, built of wood, roofed with iron, wainscoted and ceiled; school furniture, books, maps, &c., wholly inadequate (a grant being asked for them); school hours, 9 to 12 and 1 to 4. Subjects taught—Reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, dictation, elements of Natural History and singing. Fees, 2s 6d a week—those who cannot pay, free. No denominational catechism used; religious instruction imparted outside school hours; children of all sects come. Teachers, Mr Moses Fitzpatrick (but afterwards he left) and Miss Reagh, first-class certificates from Sydney Model Schools; testimonials most satisfactory. Instruction imparted under the daily superintendence of the Rev. W. J. Larkin. Income, £5 a week, paid in school fees to teachers, who have board, washing, and lodging on the premises. Attendance, 75 on roll; weekly average, 50.

(Grant was made for school furniture; and a gallery for small children, a press for books and hats, four long writing desks, four forms, and a black board were purchased by the means of it. See Schedule 4.)

Waimea School.

A grant of £30 was made to Mr Mowat and Mr Collyer, members of the Board, to be expended in starting a school, if possible, in the Old Waimea Township. No application from the inhabitants there had been received, but on Mr Collyer's representation it was thought the grant could be very usefully expended, the population being numerous, and a school being desirable.

Ross Grammar School.

First application, dated 14th February, 1867. School held in Wesleyan Church, Park Terrace, by Mr Walter Hill, sole teacher and manager, who rents building for the purpose from Wesleyan community. Dimensions, 20 x 30 feet, well lighted. Play-ground, half-acre of church reserve adjoining. Furniture consists of church furniture, with writing-desks added; Irish National school books, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and grammar, geography, history; and arithmetic; and three school maps of World, Europe, and America. Attendance, highest number on

books, 43; average, rising rather steadily from 10, first week in July, 1867, to 35, last week before application. Income, £21 19s; expenditure, £13 19s 3d. School hours, half-past 9 to 12, 2 to 4. Subjects of instruction, besides ordinary ones—English Grammar, geography, history, book-keeping, drawing, &c. Fees, 1s 6d to 2s 6d, according to classes, but allowance made to several scholars from one family. No denominational catechism used. Scripture read on Fridays.

(The school was placed under a Local Committee of Messrs Aylmer, Cornish, Nyulasy, and Joshua Gibson, and a grant paid in aid. See Schedule 4.)

Okarito School.

First application, 24th September, 1867. Conducted by Mr Ralfé (whose case was represented to the Board by Mr Warden Price, the statements being verified by Mr R. C. Reid, member in Okarito of the Board.) School opened 21st May, 1867. Attendance average first quarter, 20 weekly; afterwards, 16.

The Board required the school to be placed under the management of a local committee, who were accordingly chosen, viz., Messrs Heron, Adamson, Tizard, Price, and Mueller, and to them a grant in aid was paid. (See Schedule 4.)

Kanieri Wesleyan School.

First application, 8th November, 1867. Conducted by Mr Jones Cooper in Wesleyan church, 33 by 16 feet, lent for the purpose by the Wesleyan community. The subjects include grammar and geography. Average attendance, 18; fee, 2s and 1s 6d. Six children do not pay.

Mr Abbott visited this school, and ascertained teacher had not been trained for a teacher. No register kept. Highest number in attendance at any time, 26; but a large number of children, 40 to 60, in the neighbourhood want schooling. Whole income hitherto about £70 a-year, but yet fee too high.

Irish national books used. Desks sufficient. No method.

The Rev. W. Cannell, and Messrs Learmont and Henderson, became a committee to watch over the school, and a grant was paid in aid. (See Schedule 4.)

South Spit—Mrs Cameron's School.

First application, 18th November, 1867. A small school in Mrs Cameron's house, on the Hospital reserve, being the only resource for those living on the South Spit. Attendance has ranged from 12 to 3; but if school is supported so that fees, 2s 6d a-week, may be reduced, attendance of 13 constantly may be expected.

(A sum was granted for Mrs Cameron to a Committee of the Board appointed for the purpose, but the progress of the school did not come up to the expectations formed of it, and on 5th February, 1868, Mrs Cameron stated the grant would not be usefully applied if given to her, and she declined to receive it. The Committee agreed in Mrs Cameron's view of the matter, and the money was therefore repaid by them to the Treasury.)

Woodstock.

On 16th November, Mr Abbott ascertained that no prospect existed at present of successfully establishing any school.

The houses are few and widely scattered over rough ground. There are fewer than 20 children in the whole township, including a good many babies.

Mr Mitchell, a storekeeper resident there two years, said he would communicate with the Board if a better prospect for a school should at any time appear.

Blue Spur.

On 17th November, Mr Abbott ascertained that neither at Blue Spur, Little Paddock, nor Big Paddock, is there any demand for a school. The population is most numerous at Blue Spur, but there the houses are few and widely scattered, and the children do not exceed 15 or 16 of all ages. The population appeared to be diminishing.

SCHEDULE 4.

GRANTS TO SCHOOLS.

	Teachers.			Building, Furniture, &c.			Totals.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Hokitika All Saints Church of England School -	50	0	0	91	13	4	141	13	4
„ St Mary's Roman Catholic School -	50	0	0	91	13	4	141	13	4
„ Presbyterian School - - - - -	50	0	0	91	13	4	141	13	4
Kanieri School - - - - -	30	0	0	—	—	—	30	0	0
South Spit School - - - - -	20	0	0	—	—	—	20	0	0
Okarito School - - - - -	75	0	0	—	—	—	75	0	0
Greymouth St Patrick's School - - - - -	50	0	0	50	0	0	100	0	0
Waimea School - - - - -	30	0	0	—	—	—	30	0	0
Ross Grammar School - - - - -	100	0	0	—	—	—	100	0	0
Greymouth, Mackay-street, Miss Heaphy's School	25	0	0	—	—	—	25	0	0
Stafford Town St Patrick's School - - - - -	50	0	0	—	—	—	50	0	0
							£855	0	0

SCHEDULE 4. (CONTINUED.)
EXPENSES OF BOARD.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
<i>Travelling Expenses</i>	J. H. O'Loughlin—September, October, December	10	9	6						
	J. Kissling—September	4	0	0						
	J. Gibson—September, October, November, December	13	13	0						
	Joseph Collyer—September, October, November, December	5	12	0						
	R. Abbott—November	1	1	0						
					34	15	6			
<i>Stationery</i>	J. Crerar & Co.				8	18	6			
<i>Postages</i>					0	10	0			
<i>Clerical Assistance</i>					2	2	0			
<i>Messenger</i>					1	5	0			
<i>Advertising</i>	"West Coast Times"	9	7	6						
	"Evening Star"	9	5	0						
	"Grey River Argus"	5	14	0						
					24	6	6			
					£71	17	6			
Sums Voted by Provincial Council to be Expended during Nine Months, from June, 1867, to 31st March, 1868.				Sums Expended up to the 23rd December, 1867.			Balance Unex- pended on 23rd December, 1867.			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grants to Schools	- - -	1,000	0	0	855	0	0	145	0	0
Expenses of Board	- - -	500	0	0	71	17	6	428	2	6
		£1,500	0	0	926	17	6	£573	2	6

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Of the Westland Board of Education accompanying Report for the Year ending 31st March, 1868.

To the Chairman of the County Council.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a supplementary report of the Westland Board of Education up to the 9th of June, instant.

The report of the proceedings and working of the Board up to the 31st of March, 1868, explains why no meeting was held till the month of April last. At this meeting (held on the 29th), after some discussion as to obtaining the services of an inspector, it was resolved that the various schools receiving aid should be inspected by members of the Board, and the following gentlemen were accordingly appointed to the several districts mentioned below:—

Hokitika and Kanieri : Messrs Reid, Alcorn and Byrne.

Greymouth : Messrs Harrison and Moss.

Waimea and Stafford Town : Messrs Mowat and Collyer.

Ross : Mr Joshua Gibson.

In the case of Okarito, exception was made. No member of the Board resides there, and Mr Price, the Warden of the District, was requested to conduct the inspection. The inspecting members were directed to report to the Board regarding the efficiency of the schools, and the manner in which the money granted by the Board had been expended,

such reports to be furnished on or before the 20th of May (then next). A resolution was also carried to the effect that until such reports were received no further aid should be paid to any school in respect of which such reports had not been furnished.

At the same meeting Mr Harrison gave notice of motion that at the next sitting the Board do go into committee for the purpose of drawing up and adopting resolutions on the subject of Government aid to education in Westland, such resolutions to be forwarded to the Chairman of the County Council and the Chairman of the Select Committee on Education.

The next meeting was fixed for the 21st May.

Meanwhile, due notice having been given to the committees managing the various schools before mentioned, the members appointed conducted the inspection.

On the 27th May the Board met again. It should be stated that the meeting intended to have been held on the 21st of May was postponed to the 23rd, in consequence of the rivers being flooded, and the members unable to attend. On the latter date, it having been ascertained that a quorum would not be present, the meeting was further postponed till the 27th May.

The meeting of the 27th May was continued on the 28th, and the reports of the members who inspected the schools at Hokitika, Kanieri, Ross, Greymouth, Stafford Town, and Waimea, were read and received.

The report from Okarito had not then arrived. The sum voted by the County Council for educational purposes having been ascertained to be £300, upon the motion of Mr Mowat an appropriation thereof was made, the sums so appropriated to be expended by the respective Committees of each school in aid of teacher's salary. In the balance sheet hereto appended marked A, is shewn this apportionment, together with the expenditure by the Board of the grant at their disposal.

An intimation was directed to be given to the managers of each school that such grant must be taken advantage of before the end of June, when further provision was expected to be made by the County Council.

At the same meeting certain resolutions (hereafter given at length (with respect to Government aid to education in Westland were adopted by the Board.

The last meeting was held on the 9th June, the business being chiefly confined to the adoption of the report made by the late Chairman, for which a vote of thanks was passed to him. The supplementary report was also adopted, and the report of Mr Price, as to the inspection of the Okarito school was also read.

Certain applications for further aid to existing schools, and others asking for assistance in the establishment of new schools, have been received from time to time. A summary of their requests is set forth in the appendix B hereto annexed.

To all these applications replies have been given to the effect that the Board could not entertain them at present for want of funds.

Copies of the reports made by the members who inspected the several schools, are herewith enclosed for your information.

A perusal of the reports furnished by the members of the Board shows that the schools hitherto receiving aid are more or less of a primary character—being chiefly mixed schools of both sexes: the ages of the children in attendance varying from four to twelve years (with occasional exceptions.) Indeed a large portion are under seven years.

In most cases the school fees paid by the children are received by the teachers; in some instances, however, the teacher receives a regular salary from the committee of management in connection with the school.

Reference to the appendix C will furnish information as to the names of the schools inspected, the number attending, the subjects taught, and the mode in which the school is managed. The details are not so full as could have been wished, a result attributable to the fact that the members were inexperienced in the work of inspection. Whilst no doubt it would have been desirable that a thorough inspection should have been made by some person accustomed to the duty, the result appears that education has made some progress in Westland.

The Board, however, has believed itself to be acting only in a provisional capacity, until some general and well-defined scheme of education was adopted.

It has been found impossible to regulate the grants made by any fixed principle, and the Board has been guided chiefly by the merit or necessity of particular applications for aid.

Schools in active operation at the time the Board entered upon its duties have chiefly received support. All these schools relied more or less on the aid to be given, and the funds at its disposal being only a limited amount, the Board have never been able to do more than to afford temporary help in places where the necessity seemed greatest.

The Board thus feels itself in a false position, and it is often compelled to refuse applications which, as compared with others that have been conceded, were equally worthy of consideration, but which the smallness of the funds prevented being granted.

The necessity of supplying the advantages of education to all classes on a common basis, irrespective of denominational distinction, has been strongly felt. The Board thought it incumbent on them to devise some system under which they could administer the funds granted by the Government in the most efficient and impartial manner, and after mature deliberation at the meeting of the 28th May, the following resolutions were adopted:—

A. That the experience of this Board has shewn that the system under which Government aid to education in Westland has been carried on is unsatisfactory, and that it does not accomplish the end which it is the object of the Government to secure. And the Board is further of opinion that a broad scheme of education, on a national basis, is the only system which should be fostered by the Government.

B. That such scheme of national education should be entirely free from denominational distinctions, and should be of a purely secular character.

C. That such a scheme should be founded on the following general principles:—

1. That there shall be a central Board of Education, in whom, as a body corporate, shall be vested all lands and tenements purchased by the Board, or which may become vested in them, such Central Board to have the power of appointing a Secretary and Inspector of Schools, and shall issue yearly reports on the schools.

2. That the Central Board shall have power to constitute educational districts, and to distribute amongst the district schools the rates that may be levied and the sums granted by the County Council.

3. That in every educational district there shall be a local committee, with power to appoint teachers, and to superintend the working of the schools; such committee to be elected by the inhabitants of the district.

4. That the schools shall be maintained by a yearly general rate levied in each district, supplemented by grants in aid from the County Council. Special rates may, however, be raised by the householders in educational districts, and be expended by the local committee.

5. All schools to be open to the inspection of the local committee and the central board.

The forgoing resolutions embody the opinion of the majority of the Board, and it

is submitted that a scheme of national education on the basis proposed is the only one suitable for the circumstances of this county.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. REID,

Chairman of the Board.

(Signed)

Hokitika,

11th June, 1868.

STATEMENT shewing the appropriation of the sum of £300 voted by the County Council for Educational purposes in Westland, in February, 1868.

Date of Appropriation.	GRANTS TO SCHOOLS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1868.	<i>In aid of Teacher's Salary.</i>		
May 27th	To All Saints School, Hokitika	30 0 0	
	" St. Mary's " "	30 0 0	
	" Hokitika Academy	30 0 0	
	" Ross Grammar School, Ross	25 0 0	
	" St. Patrick's School, Greymouth	25 0 0	
	" Mackay-street " "	15 0 0	
	" Waimea School, Waimea	20 0 0	
	" Okarito " Okarito	25 0 0	
	" Kanieri " Kanieri	15 0 0	
			215 0 0
	Vouchers for these amounts were made out on June 9, 1868		
	<i>Expenses of Board.</i>		
	Mr Harrison, Greymouth, travelling and hotel expenses, 4 attendances	20 0 0	
March to June	Mr Moss, Greymouth, the like, 2 attendances	10 0 0	
	Mr Gibson, Ross, " 5 attendances	15 0 0	
	Mr Collyer, Waimea " 5 attendances	6 10 0	
	Stationery, Telegrams, and Postage		51 10 0
	Clerical Assistance { Creighton 2 0 0		1 5 0
	{ Middleton 1 19 0		
	{ Strasser 2 2 6		6 1 6
	Messenger attendance at meeting of Board		1 10 0
	Advertising—West Coast Times 4 2 9		
	Evening Star 3 0 0		7 2 9
			282 9 3
	Balance unappropriated		17 10 9
			300 0 0

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS

For aid to existing schools, and in the establishment of new schools, referred to in the Report.

April 27.—Application from Mr J. Phelan (formerly a professor in the Lyndhurst College, Sydney) for aid in establishing a school in Stafford Town, for all classes, irrespective of creed; the establishment of the school to be contingent on receiving the aid of the Board. The applicant states he

had ascertained such a school would succeed probably because the existing schools were in connection with certain denominations, were conducted by females, and, it might be concluded, did not receive a liberal share of the patronage of the people.

April 29.—Application from the Rev. John Gow and others, managers of the Hokitika Academy, states that the school was completed; that in erecting this school it was intended to aim at providing a superior English and commercial education,

APPENDIX C.

Specify Names of the Schools inspected by Members of the Board in the month of May, 1868, together with other particulars referred to in the Supplementary Report.

Date of Inspection.	Name of School, and by whom Managed.	No. of Children on roll Both sexes.	Average daily attendance.	Subjects Chiefly Taught.	Name of Teacher, and how paid (irrespective of aid by the Board.)	Fees Chargeable.
1868. May 18.	ALL SAINTS SCHOOL, HOKITIKA.— Managed by a Committee of the Church of England.	96	65 to 70	1, Reading; 2, Writing; 3, Dictation; 4, Geography (from the Irish National School Books); 5, Arithmetic.	Male—Mr. L. Tindall. Female—Miss Johnston. Both receive salary from the School Committee.	2s. per week for a single child; two or more in a family each 1s 6d
	ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, HOKITIKA.— Managed by a Committee of the Church of Rome.	Boys 61 Girls 26 } 87	Boys, 52.8 Girls, 25	1, Reading; 2, Writing; 3, Arithmetic; 4, Geography; 5, Music. French is taught to one boy.	Male—Mr. B. Hamill. Female—Miss Oakes. Paid by School Fees.	1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week in both Schools.
	HOKITIKA ACADEMY.—Under the Presbyterian Body.	89	53	1, Reading; 2, Writing; 3, Arithmetic; 4, Geography; 5, History, Ancient and Modern; Latin and the higher Mathematics are taught, also French.	Only Teacher, Mr. Alex. Malcolm. Paid by School Fees.	2s. 6d. per week each child.
	THE KANIERI SCHOOL.—Under a Committee of the Wesleyan Body	18	16	Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.	Only Teacher, Mr. Jones Cooper.	2s. per week for elder children, 1s 6d. for junior.
	ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL, GREYMOUTH.— —Under the Management of a Committee of Members of the Church of Rome.	Not stated.	29	Reading, Writing, Orthography, Grammar, History, and Geography.	Teacher, Mr. Shaw. Paid by fees received.	2s. 6d. per week for elder children, 2s for younger.
	MACKAY STREET SCHOOL, GREYMOUTH.—Under the Control of a local Committee.	25	Not stated.	Not stated, but said to be entirely of a preparatory kind.	Miss Heaphy. Paid by School Fees.	Not stated.
	WAIMEA SCHOOL. — Under the Management of a local Committee.	25	22	Not stated, but the pupils are said to be very young.	Mrs. A. F. Tougher. Paid by School Fees.	1s. and 1s. 6d. per week.
	ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL, STAFFORD TOWN.—The Rev. W. J. Larkin is Patron of the School, and it is not managed by any local Committee.	13	13	Not stated.	Miss McMahan. Paid by School Fees.	2s. 6d. boys, and 1s. 6d. girls.
" 19	ROSS GRAMMAR SCHOOL — Under the Management of a local Committee.	In March, 62	Weekly, 48	Not stated.	Mr. Walter Hill. Paid by School Fees.	Not stated.
" 29	OKARITO SCHOOL. — Under the Management of a local Committee.	Not stated.	13 April & May	Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography (Ancient and Modern), History (General and Sacred), and Poetry.	Mr. J. A. LaMothe Ralfe. Paid by School Fees, which are said to be inadequate for the purpose, and the Committee have to make up deficiency.	For one child, 4s. per week; for two children, 7s.; for three children, 9s.; and so on in proportion.

which was much required in town; that a superior teacher would be required for this purpose, but a suitable salary would be necessary, and £200 per annum was suggested as the amount requisite for this purpose.
For the supply of suitable school apparatus a further sum of £30 would be required.
May 6th.—Application from Mr. Price, the chairman of the school committee at Okarito, asking for a renewal of the former grant to the school (£75). It was stated that without further assistance the school would have to be closed.

May 18th.—Application from Mr (or Miss) M. A. Tronson, requesting assistance in the support of a school, at the Hon Hon Lead. Applicant has from eight to ten pupils.
May 27th.—Application from the Rev. S. H. McDonough, stating that there was a school at Ross Town, in connection with the Roman Catholic Church, and desiring to know what steps would be requisite to place it under the Board. Supplementary aid was requested.

APPENDIX C. (CONTINUED).

Remarks on the Schools referred to in the foregoing table.

All Saints School, St. Mary's School, Hokitika Academy, and St. Patrick's School, Greymouth.—Information as to the Religious Instruction given in these Schools will be found on reference to the Report of the Members inspecting them.

Waimea School.—The children at this School are Roman Catholics.

St. Patrick's School, Stafford Town.—The Report on this School is furnished by the present Teacher. Miss Reagh, the late Teacher, has made a statement to the Board as to her dismissal by the Patron of the School (Rev. W. J. Larkin), and, also, that the money granted by the Board in augmentation of the Teacher's salary (£250) had not been paid to her. Enquiry into this matter is now pending. Vide, also, the Report of the Members—Messrs. Mowat and Collyer—who inspected the School.

Okarito School.—For full information as to the position and prospects of this School vide Report furnished by Mr. Price.

REPORT OF MEMBERS

Of the Westland Board of Education who inspected the schools receiving aid in Hokitika and at Kanieri.

Inspecting members, Messrs Reid, Alcorn, and Byrne.

Date of inspection 18th May, 1868.

The first school visited was All Saints School, which is situated in Fitzherbert-street, and is managed by a committee of members of the Church of England, of which the Venerable the Archdeacon is chairman. The school building is large and sufficiently commodious for the number of scholars in attendance; separate conveniences exist for the different sexes, and the playground is moderately dry, but improvements in the way of additions and drainage are contemplated by the committee. The portion of the playground now in use, however, has a good exposure to the sun.

There is a fireplace in the building, and it is intended to use the same in winter months.

The school is primary, the age of the pupils averaging from four to ten years, with occasional exceptions.

The subjects taught are :—

1. Reading.
2. Writing.
3. Dictation.
4. Such geography as is contained in the Irish national school books, which are used in the school.
5. Arithmetic.

The girls are taught plain needlework, for which a small charge is made.

The fees payable are :—For a single child, 2s per week; for two or more in a family, each, 1s 6d.

The children appear to be healthy, and well under the control of their teachers.

Time did not permit us to do more than inspect the writing of the boys, which on the whole was good; their writing from dictation, as to the orthography, was also very good. A sufficient supply of books, maps, &c., exists for all present purposes. All denominations are received, and the only religious instruction given, is reading from the Bible and catechism. Prayers are also read daily by the Venerable Archdeacon Harper.

The number of children on the roll is 96.

Daily average attendance is from 65 to 70.

All Saints School has been in existence about two years, and during that period has been under the immediate management of Mr. L. Tindall. This gentleman is well spoken of by the committee, and although not previously engaged in teaching he appears to have given every satisfaction. The salary paid to him is £250 per annum, with residence.

The female teacher (Miss Johnston) receives £100 per annum, without residence.

Hereto annexed (marked A) is the statement of the treasurer to the school fund, shewing the disposal of the grants in aid received from the Board.

The inspecting members have to express their satisfaction at the manner in which this school is conducted, and also with the appearance of the children. They also desire to express their thanks to the Venerable the Archdeacon, who takes a personal interest in the school, and gave the members every assistance in their enquiries.

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

Stafford-street, Hokitika.

Date of inspection, 18th May, 1868.

Is also a primary school, and is managed by a committee of members of the Church of Rome, of which the resident clergyman (at present Father M'Donough) is "ex officio" chairman.

The statement of the chairman of committee as to the mode in which the grants received from the Board have been expended is hereto annexed (marked B).

It will be noticed that the debt existing for the erection, &c., of this school is very large, amounting to £221 1s 8d, and does not appear that any efforts have been made by the committee to make up the deficiency.

The school-building is large and well lighted; there are two rooms, one for boys, and the other for girls, and in these it is intended shortly to erect fire-places. The conveniences outside are at too great a distance from the school-house, but this will soon be altered.

The playground is wet and requires to be well drained, while the approaches from

street are much in need of repair. The low state of the funds is the reason why these evils have been suffered to continue, although we must observe that our remarks with reference to the existing debt are equally applicable here.

The report of Mr Hamill, the teacher of the male school, showing the daily average attendance of scholars, and the number on the rolls is also annexed (marked C). From this it appears that—

The number on the roll is	-	61
Daily average attendance	-	58
The number on the roll of the female school is	-	26
Daily average attendance	-	25

The weekly charge is from 1s 6d to 2s 6d in both schools. The fees are received by the teachers, and are often in arrears and difficult of collection.

The Female School had only been opened about three weeks at the date of inspection, and some of the children in this school are paid for by the Rev Mr M'Donough.

Mr Hamill, the teacher of the Male School, appears to be well qualified for the instruction of the pupils in his charge, and has had previous experience in teaching.

Miss Oakes, the teacher of the Female School, has also been engaged in teaching at Wellington and in Christchurch.

The subjects taught are chiefly—

1. Reading.
2. Writing.
3. Arithmetic.
4. Geography.
5. Music.

One boy is learning French. Some of the boys' classes being examined before us, appeared to evince a fair degree of intelligence and progress, and the writing of many is specially to be commended. The average age of the pupils is from four to ten years, with occasional exceptions. We must remark, however, that there was a want of tidiness about some of the boys, which ought to be remedied.

A deficiency of school furniture and requisites, especially maps, was apparent; and the books of many of the children were in a very dilapidated condition.

At this school all denominations attend, but religious instruction is only given to members of the Roman Catholic Faith, at a special interval in the day time, when the other children are absent.

THE HOKITIKA ACADEMY

Date of inspection, 13th May, 1868.

Is situated in Tancred-street, Hokitika, and is under the charge of Mr Alexander Malcolm, who has been engaged in teaching in some of the principal schools in Scotland, and has also been one of the masters in the High School at Dunedin.

There is no female teacher in this school.

The building at present occupied is the property of Mr Malcolm, but is rather small for the number of children in attendance.

The playground is rather confined, but is dry. The new school house erected by the Presbyterian body (partly by the aid of the Board) is not quite finished, but is constructed on a model principle, well calculated to facilitate an efficient supervision of the pupils.

No playground has yet been made, nor have any conveniences been erected.

Mr Malcolm's report (marked D), hereto annexed, specifies the course of instruction carried on at the Hokitika Academy. The scholars are of both sexes; the number on the roll, 89.

The daily average attendance, 53.

The fees charged are 2s 6d per week for each child. In this school also the fees are often in arrear, and the attendance fluctuates considerably. All denominations are received, but religious instruction is confined chiefly to the historical portions of the Bible and the main doctrines of Christianity.

From an examination of some of the classes by their teacher, we found the children attending this school are more advanced than in the other schools inspected by us. The senior boys appeared to be well grounded in history, English grammar, geography, and the chief elements of an English education.

Latin and the higher mathematics are taught; also French, but only to one or two boys.

On the whole, the inspecting members were much pleased with the school, and are satisfied that in the hands of a painstaking teacher, such as Mr Malcolm apparently is, much good may be effected amongst the rising youth in our midst.

The statement of the Treasurer as to the disposal of the grant-in-aid is hereto annexed (marked E).

THE KANIERI SCHOOL, Kanieri.

Date of inspection, 19th May, 1868.

(Note.—Mr Byrne did not take part in the inspection of this school.)

Is managed by a committee of the Wesleyan body, of which the Rev W. Connell is Chairman.

The school has been established about twelve months. Mr Jones Cooper, the only teacher, has had no previous experience in teaching.

The school building belongs to the Wesleyan community, and is given for use rent free. It is a well-lighted room, but although amply large for the attendance, has no fireplaces. Being situated on a hill, the playground for the children is not good.

The manner in which the money granted by the Board has been disposed of is shown by the statement F, hereto annexed.

All denominations are received; the school is of a very primary character, some of the elder boys but just learning to write. The elder boys read before us from the Third Book, and managed tolerably; their spelling was better. The writing, considering the

length of time the children had been learning, was promising.

The number on the roll is 18, inclusive of both sexes.

The average daily attendance, 16.

The children are all very young. The fees charged are 2s per week for the elder children, and 1s 6d for juniors. The fees are received by the teacher, who states that the payments are much in arrear, many of the parents being very poor.

Of school furniture, there is sufficient; but large printed placards for the instruction of the younger branches, blackboard, &c., are required.

Mr Cooper appears to be deserving of encouragement in an undertaking which does not present the most hopeful aspect.

W. S. REID.

J. F. BYRNE.

Hokitika, 28th May, 1868.

Note.—Mr Alcorn is at present absent in Melbourne.

A.

ALL SAINTS SCHOOL.

STATEMENT shewing the amount of grants received from the Education Board for Building purposes, and for salary of Teachers, and the total expenditure on building, &c., in the School since the grant.

HENRY W. HARPER,

Treasurer to the School Fund

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1868	Grant for Teachers's Salary	50	0	0			
January 4	Do Building and other purposes	77	13	4	50	0	0
" 20	Do do do	14	0	0			
" 22					91	13	4
					141	13	4
Cr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1868	Morissey, for gravel	6	0	0			
January 4	Gunn, building new portion of school	25	0	0			
4	Clapham, work on school ground	4	6	0			
9	Ditto whitewashing interior of school	2	19	0			
10	Gunn, building new portion of school	68	7	0			
22	Clapham, clearing ground and fencing	14	0	0			
22	Holmes, painting school	12	10	0			
Feb. 4	Gunn, additional desks	6	0	0			
March 30	Holmes, painting Master's house	3	10	0			
April 7	Crerar, books	8	15	6			
15	Ditto, books, stationery	6	9	3			
May 5					157	16	9
	Paid during the first quarter of the year to schoolmaster and mistress out of the grant of £50 for salaries				25	0	0
					182	16	9

B.

J. H. M'DONOUGH in account with the WESTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
1868	To cash for Building purposes	91	13	4
	Do. Received for Teacher	50	0	0
	Do. Balance	221	1	8
		362	15	0
Cr.		£	s.	d.
1868.	By Cash paid to Carpenter, for building and providing part of materials for St. Mary's School	110	0	0
	Do. Paid to Teacher	50	0	0
	Do. Paid for Two-roomed Cottage for Teacher	12	0	0
	Do. Due to Timber Merchant for School	98	5	0
	Do. Due to Teacher, advanced for School	35	0	0
	Do. Due for Clearing and Draining Ground	20	0	0
	Do. Due for Fencing 15 chains, at £2 10s per chain	37	10	0
		362	15	0

GENTLEMEN—In submitting to you the statement of accounts of St. Mary's School, I beg to call your attention to the large balance still due by me on account of the School, and request that you will further subsidize your former liberal Grant, to enable me to pay off the debt, and complete the necessary improvements.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

St. Mary's Presbytery, Hokitika, 21st May, 1868.

J. H. M'DONOUGH.

C.
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

Hokitika, 21st May, 1868.

Average attendance for quarter ending March, 1868	...	...	...	£ 72 9
No. on Roll at end of quarter	...	...	...	91
School Fees received during quarter	...	...	...	£64 10 6
This amount includes arrear from previous quarter.				
Average attendance for current quarter up till 15th May—Daily Average	...	...	...	52 8
On Rolls	...	...	...	61
School Fees received	...	...	...	£17 1 0

BENJAMIN HAMILL, Teacher.

D.

REPORT of the Presbyterian School, Hokitika, for the past year, to date May 11, 1868.

The hours of attendance at this school are from 10 o'clock a.m. to 4 p.m., with one hour and a-half of interval at 12-30 p.m.

The number of pupils on the Roll is 89; the average attendance being 53: of these 81 pupils are and were learning Reading and

47	"	"	"	Spelling.
45	"	"	"	Writing.
45	"	"	"	Arithmetic and Mathematics.
39	"	"	"	Scripture
27	"	"	"	History.
27	"	"	"	Geography (general.)
25	"	"	"	English
20	"	"	"	Grammar.
20	"	"	"	British
20	"	"	"	History.
17	"	"	"	English Com- position and Dictation.
17	"	"	"	Etymology and Orthography.
2	"	"	"	Algebra and Latin.
1	"	"	"	French, &c.

The Books in use are those of the Irish National Board of Education with the exception of Collier's British History, Butler's Spelling, Lennie's Grammar, &c.

Geography is studied by means of the School Atlas in the absence of Maps which have not been provided.

Half an hour is devoted to Scripture History in the morning; the rest of the time to secular branches.

The attendance is somewhat irregular and the number for any one week is no criterion for another—the *weekly* fee may in a measure account for this. But the constant changing about so prevalent in every gold-fields Township renders the weekly fee imperative.

The time is chiefly occupied in the English department, the parents of children objecting to the classical, which the enclosed tabular view will show.

ALEXANDER MALCOLM,
Teacher.

P.S.—I would most respectfully recommend that a deputation from the Education Board wait upon the Members of the County Council, at its first sitting, to represent to them the advisability of more liberally providing for the educational wants of the district, and that the Board issue some rules and regulations for the observance and guidance of school committees and their respective teachers or sub-teachers.

A. M.

Hokitika, 2nd June, 1868.

Account of Cash Received by Samuel Boyle on account of Presbyterian School Committee.

1868.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jan.	13.	Received from Mr. Winter, on account of Provincial Government	...	...	91	13	4
		Received from Mr. Winter, on account of Provincial Government	...	...	50	0	0
		Account Collected by T. Boyle	...	...	141	13	4
		Do. Mr. Bonar, jun.	...	...	39	2	0
		Do. Mr. Scott	...	...	5	0	0
		Do. Mr. Patterson	...	...	2	2	0
		Do. Mr. Jack	...	...	14	5	0
		Do. Mr. Jack	...	...	16	5	0
		Do. Mr. Jack	...	...	4	3	0
		Do. Mr. Whytlaw...	...	...	8	12	6
		School Committee Acceptance...	...	...	231	2	10
			...	...	50	0	0
			...	...	281	2	10
ACCOUNT OF PAYMENTS MADE.							
March	5.	Mr. Livingston, Contra	...	...	220	0	0
		Mr. Malcolm	...	...	50	0	0
		Mr. Smith	...	...	11	10	0
			...	...	281	10	0
		Due to S. Boyle, Treasurer	...	...	0	7	2
		Interest on Acceptance	...	...	0	12	4
			...	...	0	19	6

Attested as a correct state of the School Account by

JOHN GOW, Chairman.

DR. KANIERI SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

1867.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	To Grant from Education Board	30	0	0
Cr.				
1867.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	By Desks	2	0	0
	" Clock	1	17	6
	" Stove	1	10	0
	" Maps (ordered)	1	10	0
	" Books	2	0	0
	" Teacher's Salary	21	2	6
			30	0
			0	0

W. CANNELL,
Chairman of Local Committee.

REPORT on the Schools in Greymoth, receiving aid from the "Westland Board of Education.

The only schools in Greymoth which have been assisted by the Board of Education are St. Patrick's Catholic School, conducted under the management of the Rev. E. Royer, and the Mackay Street School, conducted by the Misses Heaphy. To St. Patrick's School, a sum of £100 has been granted by the Board, and £20 to the Mackay Street School.

With regard to the appropriation of the money so granted we find that in the case of St. Patrick's School, £50 was applied towards the cost of school buildings. The remaining £50 intended, we understand, towards the augmentation of the teacher's salary has not all been expended. We are informed by the Rev. Mr. Royer, that, at the time the money was paid over to him, the teacher (Mr. Beaupré) had received the sum £12 10s., being one quarter's allowance at the rate of £50 per annum. The balance, we are informed remains in the bank, but we are of opinion that under the circumstances it should be allowed to remain at the disposal of the Rev. Mr. Royer, for this reason, that up to the period of the receipt of the money from the Board, the stipend of the teacher had been paid out of the Rev. Mr. Royer's pocket.

In our inspection of the school, we did not enter into all the minutiae of an examination. Our object being to gain a general idea of the character of the school and the course of education pursued, we requested the teacher to call up his various classes and put them through their ordinary exercises. The school comprised children of ages varying from five to twelve years. The teacher first examined the third class, consisting of boys from nine to twelve years of age. Their reading we considered very good, their spelling also was creditable, and they showed a fair knowledge of Grammar.

The first and second classes included boys of from ten to thirteen years of age. Their reading and spelling was really excellent, and some of the pupils displayed great aptitude for history, which branch of instruction the class have only been taught a short time. In

Geography, the scholars in these classes evinced considerable proficiency. In Grammar there were only two pupils who appeared to be acquainted with this branch of education. The teacher informed us that Arithmetic had only been taught to the pupils since he took charge of the school three months ago and that they were entirely ignorant of it when he commenced to teach it. Bearing this fact in mind we must consider the progress they have made to be satisfactory.

Our general impression of the school was a favourable one, the teacher appears to be a person of considerable intelligence and skill in teaching. The behaviour of the boys was perfectly respectful and orderly.

The average attendance at the school for the last three months was twenty-nine.

The average age of the scholars is ten to eleven, the youngest being six and the eldest fifteen.

The branches of education taught in the school are Reading, Writing, Orthography, Grammar, History, and Geography.

The children are not all of Catholic parents but are denominationally about equal. No religious instruction is imparted except twice a week when the Protestant children are dismissed.

The fees charged are 2s. 6d. per week for the elder children and 2s. for the younger. The amount of fees actually received averages about £3 per week.

THE MACKAY STREET SCHOOL.

This school had the sum of £2 granted as augmentation of teacher's income; and this sum has so been appropriated.

The school contains about twenty-five pupils of ages from four to ten years.

The course of instruction is quite of a preparatory kind, and we found that many of the scholars displayed considerable excellence in reading, writing and spelling.

The instruction books used both in the St. Patrick's School and in this, are those of the Irish National Schools.

In conclusion, we may express the opinion that so long as the present system of apportioning aid to schools is continued, the two schools reported on are each entitled to the consideration of the Board.

(Signed) { W. H. HARRISON,
G. W. MOSS.

Hokitika, 27th May, 1868.

REPORT of the Stafford Town and Waimea Schools.

"To the Westland Board of Education."

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honor to report to you, that as instructed, we have visited the before-mentioned schools, and beg to report that at St. Patrick's School the attendance has fallen off considerably, and that the scholars at present only number thirteen.

That at the time of our inspection (in January) there were over thirty scholars in attendance. We found Miss Reagh, the teacher in charge at the time, has since left, having been dismissed by the Rev. W. Larkins; and we also find from the report of the teacher who was in charge of the school in January last, that the moneys voted for the teacher's salary were not applied to that purpose, and were the more surprised as when we inspected the school in January, Mr Larkin expressed himself as highly satisfied with the teacher. We beg to say that in this particular instance we consider that the funds of the Board were improperly dealt with, and that the Board should institute a rigid inquiry.

The Waimea School, which is under the control of a local committee, and has only been in existence for three months, has made very rapid progress indeed, as far as securing a fair attendance of scholars, although most of them are very young, and the education must only be considered primary.

We consider it is entitled to the consideration of the Board under the present regulations; and we further consider that in the country districts only one school in each locality ought to receive Government aid, and ought to be under the control of a local committee, and the education ought to be entirely on a national principle.

We find that under the denominational system each body endeavours to establish a school of their own, and the consequence is there are two or three indifferent schools in place of one good school.

We cannot too strongly condemn placing any school, where the children of the general public are to be educated, under the control of clergymen, and trust the Board will keep the matter clearly in view in dealing with the country districts.

We have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,
(Signed) { JOSEPH COLLYER,
 { ANDREW MOWATT.

Ross, May 12th, 1867.

"To the Chairman of the Westland Board of Education."

SIR,—In accordance with a resolution passed by the Board of Education, on the 29th ult., I have the honor to submit the subjoined report on the working of the Ross Grammar School, together with a statement of the expenditure of the grant in aid.

I have this day had the honor to inspect the school, and have much pleasure in reporting upon its general efficiency, as also the zeal and ability displayed by Mr Hill in the discharge of his duties as teacher.

The average attendance and total number of scholars on the books, as taken from the school register, is as follows:—

Average Weekly Attendance.		Highest Number on the Books.	
1867-8.		1867-8.	
October	- 38	October	- 53
November	- 42	November	- 55
December	- 40	December	- 53
January	- 48	January	- 64
February	- 46	February	- 66
March	- 42	March	- 62

The apparent disparity between the total number on the school register and the average attendance is in a great measure attributable to the inclemency of the weather during the past six months, and the great distance at which some of the children reside.

The total amount derived from fees during the six months ending 31st March, 1868, was £84 15s 6d; but in many instances where the parents have been unable to pay, children have been admitted without any charge being made.

During the past half-year a sum of £45 13s 6d has been expended for books and school furniture, of which £7 13s 10d has been received for books sold to pupils.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the school, for the six months ending March 31st, 1868.

Receipts and Expenditure of the Ross Grammar School.

DR.	£	s.	d.
To Westland Board of Education	100	0	0
„ School Fees	-	-	84 15 6
„ Books sold	-	-	7 13 10
			<hr/> £192 9 4

CR.	£	s.	d.
By School Furniture	-	-	12 10 9
„ Books, Spiers and Siuger	-	-	25 0 8
„ Do., Crerar and Co.	-	-	7 12 0
„ Rent, Church Committee	-	-	16 5 0
„ Mr Hill, School Fees	-	-	84 15 6
„ Do., in augmentation	-	-	36 5 5
„ Cash in Bank of New Zealand (reserve to pay for maps and globes, ordered from Crerar and Co.)	-	-	10 0 0
			<hr/> £192 9 4

In conclusion I have the honor to submit the following consideration: that at the present time the only building suitable for school purposes is the Wesleyan Chapel, which has been rented by the committee of management.

That there are at present other schools being conducted in this district having an

aggregate attendance equal to that of the Ross Grammar School, and that it is desirable that a building should be erected for school purposes exclusively, to be conducted on the national system of education, under the direct control of the Board of Education.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Yours respectfully,

(Signed) JOSHUA GIBSON.

Report of the Okarito School.

Okarito, 29th May, 1868.

SIR,—Your letter, dated 2nd instant, did not reach me until the 19th instant, too late to enable me to forward you a report on the state of the school at Okarito, by the 20th instant, as our postal communication is only bi-monthly.

The enclosed report from Mr Ralfe, the present master, who first opened the school on the 27th of May, 1867, affords correct information on the subject therein referred to.

I held an examination this day and find the course of education pursued is generally of an elementary kind, consisting of reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar (English), geography, (ancient and modern), history (general and sacred), and poetry.

The scholars appear to have made fair progress in the various branches.

The grant of £75, placed at the disposal of the school committee, by the Board of Education for the year ending 31st March last, has been expended as follows:—

Allowance to master to make school fees up to the rate of £200 per annum as salary, commencing from January, 1868, to 31st of May	£34 14 0
Purchase of School Books, &c.	9 0 0
Sundries	1 1 11

£44 15 11

Leaving a balance in the hands of the committee of £30 4s 1d.

The average attendance of children, since the school was first opened, was in 1867, (daily average) from May 27th to August 24th, 23; from August to 31st of December, 19. In 1868, from January to March, 18; from April to May, 13. There has been a gradual falling-off in consequence of the parents having left the district.

The sum placed last year at the disposal of the committee was not sufficiently large to enable them to purchase a building for a school-house. That in use at present they have free; but it would not be advisable to purchase it, as it is on Maori land, for which they would have to pay rent.

The consequence of the falling-off in the attendance of the children will be (unless the Board give a grant for the ensuing year) that the school cannot be kept up, as the fees are not sufficient to pay the master's salary. They may at present be reckoned at £1 10s per week. The committee have,

therefore to make up the balance, £2 6s, so that the funds at their disposal will scarcely be sufficient to meet the expenses for the next quarter, ending the 31st of August.

The fees charged weekly for one child are 4s; two children, 7s; three children, 9s, and so on in proportion.

In conclusion, I would suggest that Government should be asked to set aside a piece of land for a school-reserve and playground—say one acre—when, with a grant of £120, a building might at the present time be purchased and moved on it, so as to make a creditable school-house; and considering the little demand there is for land down here, and that none has yet been sold, I should suppose Government could have no possible objection to give a piece for a purpose so intimately connected with the future well-being of the country.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) M. PRICE,

Chairman,
Okarito School Committee.

Okarito,
May 27, 1868.

The Chairman,
School Committee.

SIR,—At your request I have prepared the following report, which I have endeavored to render as complete as possible. I have taken as a basis the form which I have been accustomed to furnish to the Board of Education of Canterbury.

The building at present in use as a school-room was formerly an hotel. It consists of two rooms, the largest of which, being well ventilated and spacious, is, in some measure, adapted to the purpose of teaching; but there is a deficiency in light, and no provisions for heating it. Therefore I have, from the commencement of the last quarter, used the other portion of the building, which is better lighted, and is furnished with a chimney, though the latter is in a ruinous condition and smokes badly; the rain also beats in under the doors in some winds.

The furniture is sufficient for the use of the pupils in attendance, consisting of three tables and four forms. It is true, these are not of the form usually found in schoolrooms, but are, in my opinion, better adapted to the use of children who have no better appliances at home.

The apparatus for teaching, by which I mean maps, &c., is very deficient, consisting of only four maps: one of the World (Glo-bular and Mercator's projection), one of the British Isles, and one of England; with a very small one of New Zealand. I possess also an Abacus and Blackboard.

The supply of school books has been very irregular and unsatisfactory, from the difficulty of obtaining them in the County, and the expense of importing them.

I have used, as a rule, when I could obtain

A REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AT STAFFORD TOWN, FROM 2ND MARCH, TO THE 26TH MAY, 1868.

Date of the Opening of the School.	No. of Pupils Registered.	Religious Denomination of Pupils.	No. of Pupils on the Rolls.	Ages of Eldest and Youngest Pupil.	Average Age of Scholars.
	Boys ... 10 Girls ... 3 Total ... 13	Catholics.	Thirteen.	Twelve years and four years.	Six years.
Average Daily Attendance.	Highest Average at any time.	Lowest Average at any time.	Established Rate of School Fees.	To what purpose devoted.	
Thirteen.	Fifteen.	Nine.	2s. 6d. per week Boys. 1s. 6d. per week Girls.	Payment of Teacher.	
Name of Teacher.		Account of Cash Received for School Fees.			
McMahon.		From 2nd March to 26th May, 1868 ... £5 4 0			

GENERAL REMARKS.

A mixture of Boys and Girls, and the School is visited and is under the direction of the Rev. Father Larkin. Children healthy. Progressing favourably.

(Signed) JOSEPH COLLYER.
ANDREW MOWAT.

A REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AT WAIMEA, FROM 1ST MARCH TO 26TH MAY, 1868.

Date of Opening of School.	No. of Pupils Registered.	Religious Denomination of Pupils.	No. of Pupils on the Roll.	Age of Eldest and Youngest Pupils.	Average Age of Scholars.
1st March, 1868	Twenty-five.	Catholics.	Twenty-five.	Twelve years, Three years.	Six years.
Average Attendance.	Highest Average at any time.	Lowest Average at any time.	School Fees—Established Rate.	To what purpose the School Fees are devoted.	
Twenty-two.	Twenty-seven.	Twenty-one.	1s. 6d. per week, and 1s. per week.	Payment of Teacher.	
Name of Teacher.		Amount of Cash Received through School Fees.			
Mrs. Tougher.		From 1st March to 26th May, 1868 ... £9 0 0			

(Signed) A. F. TOUGHER.

GENERAL REMARKS.

A mixed School of Boys, Girls, and Infants, and managed and visited by a School Committee. Children healthy, and progressing favourably.

(Signed) JOSEPH COLLYER.