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ALFRED GREENFIELD, Provincial Secretary.

VOL. XX.

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No. 23.

Superintendent's Office,  
Nelson, 11th August, 1871.

THE SUPERINTENDENT directs the publication of the following Report and Returns for general information.

ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
Provincial Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR  
OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

SIR,—I have to record, for the first time, a slight falling off in the number of children entered on the Annual Return (3298), as compared with the last year's roll, which showed 89 more names. This apparent decrease is mainly due, I believe, to the more stringent regulations that have been adopted lately, with the view of checking the purposeless changes of scholars from school to school. These were at one time so frequent as to form a serious hindrance to discipline and progress in some schools, and had the effect of unfairly swelling the yearly returns, by causing the same names to be repeated several times. In proof of this view of the case, the average number on the rolls during the four last quarters is 2620, an increase of 125 on last year's returns, the daily attendance for the same period, 1797, being greater by 69.

On the whole, a fair advance has been made in the most important subjects taught in our schools, the "good" readers and "good" writers for this year numbering respectively 75 and 63

more than they did in 1870, while those who have passed in the higher rules of Arithmetic, from Practice upwards, count 857 against 631 last year. The numbers under the heads Geography, History, and Grammar, are about stationary.

When the satisfactory nature of these results is considered, the fact that the number of children who remain at school after the completion of their twelfth year is steadily decreasing, and indeed, is less now than it was in 1869,—not relatively, but actually less—must be admitted to tell in favor of our teachers as a body, just as much as it reflects discredit upon such parents as persist in withdrawing their little ones from school with a maimed and imperfect education. It would almost seem as if the superior teaching of late years has in many cases merely had the effect of abridging the pupils' school life.

I have for some time felt that the columns showing roughly the educational proficiency of our schools, though corrected to a certain extent by my brief estimate of each school, do bare justice, either to our system as a whole, or to the best of our schools. My meaning will be best explained by an illustration. It has been my practice, at each annual examination, to set the same Arithmetic paper, containing perhaps eight questions in Fractions, Decimals, &c., to the more advanced classes in every school. All who can work one or two of the sums are recorded in Column 4. But in some schools the whole of the first class may succeed in solving almost every question on the paper, and yet take no higher position on the return than those who have barely passed. These returns, therefore, furnish but an imperfect measure of the comparative excellence of our schools, and tend somewhat to encourage mediocrity. I am aware that no system of tabulated statements, however elaborate, will fully represent what may be termed the inner life of a good school,

and I should be loath to alter materially the form of return that has now been in use for so many years as to form a convenient standard of comparison with the past; but, with the view of obtaining more exact comparisons, I have drawn up a list placing 14 of our most advanced schools in order of merit in the four subjects that are at once of the greatest importance, and admit of being most easily gauged,—Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Dictation. I have found no difficulty in applying an uniform and precise test of proficiency in the two latter branches, while in Reading and Writing, where the estimate made must be to a certain extent arbitrary, I am satisfied that I have made a pretty close approximation to the truth. I may state that no schools have as yet approached the lowest of the 14 on the list by several marks.

Comparative estimate of 14 Provincial Schools, for 1871.

	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Dictation.	Total Marks.	Relative Position.
Bridge-street Boys,—1st Division	6	5	6	4	21	1st.
Haven-road	5	6	4	5	20	
Richmond—Boys	5	4	6	5	20	2nd.
Richmond—Girls	6	5	3	6	20	
Hardy-street Girls,—1st Division	6	6	4	4	20	3rd.
Motueka—1st Division	5	5	5	4	19	
Lower Moutere	5	5	4	5	19	4th.
St. Mary's—Boys	5	5	5	3	18	
Spring Grove	5	5	4	4	18	5th.
Lower Wakefield	4	6	3	2	15	
Waimea West, North Division	4	5	4	2	15	6th.
Cobden	5	3	3	2	13	
St. Mary's—Girls	2	3	4	4	13	6th.
Hampden-street	4	2	4	3	13	

The remarks that I felt it my duty to make last year, upon the uncouthness of manner so apparent in many of the children attending our schools have not been without effect, if I may judge by the general improvement in the demeanor of the scholars, both when in and out of school, which is so marked that no one who has had much opportunity of observing them can have failed to notice it. The use of foul language is still, I regret to say, more common than it ought to be.

The formation of the Teachers' Association I regard as an unmixed good. Something of this kind was evidently wanted to bring together a body of men whose interests and pursuits have so much in common, and who have so much to learn from one another, but who, before the formation of the Association, had no means of communicating their various experiences. I venture to submit to the consideration of Local Committees a plan which will still further promote the main object of the Association,—mutual improvement,—and which, in spite of its novelty, has, I think, much to recommend it. Let each teacher in turn be allowed a week's holiday, to enable him to visit as many of the neighboring schools as possible, when they are at work. If he travels in a candid and enquiring spirit, he cannot fail to return, not only fresher, but with his mind stored with new ideas and new methods, such as he would never have gathered from mere reading, or from the monotonous practice of his own school. Some of our oldest teachers have never seen a Provincial school but their own at work.

It is scarcely possible, I believe, to over-estimate the good effects of the scholarships and the free education at Nelson College, now thrown open to annual competition by the liberality of the Provincial Council and the Governors of the College, provided only a fair representation of the most promising boys in our schools enter into the lists each year. I trust that no cowardly dread of defeat will deter a large proportion of the first classes of our most advanced schools from measuring themselves with those who have been brought up under the same system, and pretty nearly the same circumstances, and who will, therefore, contend upon tolerably equal terms. The fear of the unknown, which may have deterred some from competing last year, can no longer serve as an excuse; and no school, pretending to anything more

than mediocrity, can, in future, well remain unrepresented in the educational tournament. Even should private reasons prevent a successful candidate from availing himself of the opportunity thus proffered, it should not be forgotten that this may probably be the only opportunity that a well-taught boy will have of showing his gratitude to his master and his regard for the reputation of the school at which he has been brought up, by endeavoring, at least, to win a respectable place for himself. It is not too much to say, that the success or failure of the scheme (which is as yet quite in the experimental stage) will depend entirely upon the number and quality of the candidates who may come forward at the next examinations.

Both Local Committees and teachers inform me that the comparative precision and definiteness of a short detailed account of the present status of each school, offers so many advantages over a more general form of report, that I have decided upon again laying before the Board a separate review of each school.

*Bridge-street (Boys), First Division*—Mr. Smith.—This school which enjoys, it must be acknowledged, exceptional advantages, both in the careful preparation of the drafts set up periodically from the Second Division, and in other respects still maintains well its rank at the head of our schools. The Reading, formerly hesitating and dissonant, is much better than it was, the Writing being the only department with which no fault can reasonably be found. The exhibitions to Nelson College, two of which fell to the share of the boys here in the year, would seem to have a stimulating effect already. With the praiseworthy intention both of familiarising future winners of scholarships with the kind of work that would await them on their promotion, and of raising the standard of his school generally, Mr. Smith has opened a Latin class of 15 boys, whom I had the pleasure of examining lately. I found that very little progress had been made, considering the shortness of the time that could be spared daily for teaching this subject. And, by way of re-assuring the large class of parents who imagine that the few minutes given daily to Latin are just so much subtracted from the time that ought to be devoted to more important matters, I may remark that the Latin boys not only passed a better examination in English Grammar, but wrote better English than those who know nothing of the Grammar of any language but their own. It is also obvious that this school could not long hold its present high position, if other subjects were neglected for the sake of a little Latin.

*Bridge-street (Boys)*—Mr. Sudd, assisted by Mr. Barnett.—This continues to deserve the character that it has long held,—that of being a well-taught and remarkably well-ordered preparatory school for boys from 7 to 10 years old. Its Arithmetic and Dictation are, on the whole, better than the were last year, the attempt to teach the beginners a smattering of Geography and Grammar, to which I referred in my Report, having, very properly, been discontinued.

*Hardy-street (Girls), First Division*—Mrs. Sait, assisted by Miss Johnson.—This, like the First Division of Bridge-street school enjoys several advantages, which are improved to the utmost, the results being that the school takes a high place in almost every respect. The Reading and Writing are excellent, the Spelling and Arithmetic being, however, only moderately good this year. The numbers allowed to attend this formerly over-crowded school, have been restricted by regulation framed by the Local Committee, which also provides that no girls shall be admitted who have not undergone a certain amount of preliminary training either in the Second Division or in some other school. The reproach of disorderliness, by these means—seconded by the unremitting efforts of the teachers—been entirely taken away from this Division, which now a pattern of good behaviour.

*Hardy-street (Girls), Second Division*—Miss Galland.—Owing to the failing health of the Mistress of this deservedly popular school, its management has for some months devolved upon a substitute, from whom it would be too much to expect that she should not fall somewhat below the high standard of efficiency that only long practice, coupled with a thorough knowledge of the capacities and dispositions of her scholars, can enable a mistress to attain. Temporary appointments are unfortunately, unavoidable, but, as a rule, the school suffers. *Hardy-street Preparatory*—Mrs. Cook assisted by Miss Cocher.—Nothing that untiring energy and patience on the part of the teachers can supply is wanting to make this school a success, but several defects that I pointed out last year are still unremedied, while others of scarcely less importance are

apparent. It is within the power of the Committee to deal at once with the greatest drawback to the welfare of the school, the undue length of the school hours; but no establishment intended for children, nine-tenths of whom have not reached their seventh year, can be considered at all complete without a large play-ground attached to the premises, where half of the scholars should be constantly found. The present cramped yard is almost worse than nothing. It must be admitted that the great cost of a suitable site for a play-ground, which ought to be at least half an acre in extent is a serious obstacle. The matter ought not, however, to be entirely lost sight of.

*Haven-road*—Mr. J. L. Hodgson; assistant, Miss Dement; pupil teacher, J. Burn.—This is still the most numerously attended school in the Province, 110 scholars being present daily. Writing and Arithmetic are the strong points here, the Reading and Spelling being also of more than average merit. It is, however, almost impossible to maintain good order in this school with the present insufficient accommodation. For want of space, it has been found necessary to crowd more than 50 children into a class-room under the charge of the assistant, while the size of the school-room does not admit of the master and the pupil teacher bringing up their classes at the same time, without interfering with one another. The addition of a few feet to the building would obviate much confusion and loss of time.

*Hampden-street*—Mr. McIntosh, assisted by Miss Tucker.—Some improvement has been made both in the Reading and Writing here, and the discipline, in both divisions, is better than it was; but it is exceedingly difficult to restore public confidence in a school after it has once been withdrawn—and withdrawn not without reason. The numbers have continued to diminish, notwithstanding the amendment that I have recorded, until the daily attendance, in both divisions, has fallen to 60, last year's average being 84. In every branch, except Arithmetic, Hampden-street compares unfavorably with the other Town Schools. It is to be hoped that the appointment of a new master may in time have the effect of raising it to its proper position in the front rank of our schools.

*St. Mary's (Boys)*—Mr. Richards.—The upper classes here Read and Cipher well, but the Writing, with a few exceptions, is indifferent, and the Spelling of decidedly less than average merit. The older boys are, as I remarked last year, much better taught than the beginners, the school having quite outgrown the teaching capacity even of its present experienced master, who has hitherto had no better assistant than a monitor. I am glad to learn that this obstacle to the complete success of the school is being removed by the appointment of a competent assistant.

*St. Mary's (Girls)*—Taught by Sisters of Charity.—A large influx of children from other schools has swelled the numbers in this school since it was re-opened under the present management, the average attendance for December, 1870, being 59, as against 83 in June, 1871. Considerable allowance must be made for this disturbing element in estimating the present state of the school, as well as for the time necessarily lost in the work of re-organisation. The teaching appeared to be judicious and remarkably methodical, the discipline being perfect. The Reading and Arithmetic of the upper classes were, upon the whole, very creditable; the Handwriting, though somewhat improved, still far below the average, and the Spelling bad throughout. I noticed a marked improvement in the lower division of the school.

*Clifton Terrace*—Mr. Gilbert.—The extreme irregularity of the attendance, which, during two quarters of the past year averaged only 56 per cent., must, so long as it continues, prevent Clifton Terrace from rising above a very low level. I was not therefore surprised to find, at my last examination, that children who did not come to school on an average, for three days a week, read indifferently, knew very little of Arithmetic, and that little almost entirely by rote—and spelt badly. In Geography, the children in the first class were quite unable to say wherabout Great Britain was but thought that it might be in the Mediterranean. The only redeeming point was the particularly neat Handwriting. All that care and attention on the part of the master can do has been tried, but it is pretty clear that nothing can make up for such a wretched attendance as I have recorded above.

*Hillside*—Mr. Collins.—The children attend here somewhat better than at Clifton Terrace, but the average of the last two quarters, 60 per cent., contrasts unfavorably with the attendance of former years, when Hillside took a high place

among our country schools. I find, for instance, the daily average for the corresponding quarters of 1867, set down as 80 per cent. The Reading of the first class, though fluent, is very indistinct, that of the other classes lacks both fluency and distinctness, and the Spelling is incorrect. Writing and Arithmetic are fairly taught, considerable pains having evidently been taken with the latter branch. It would be for the interest of the school if the discipline were stricter.

*Stoke*—Mr. and Mrs. Smith.—Having lately laid before the Board a special report on Stoke school, I need only state generally that I find the Reading neither better nor worse than it was last year, that the Arithmetic has so much improved as to be now decidedly above the average, and that the penmanship is fair. On the other hand the children spell badly, know little about Geography, and can give but a poor account of what they have been reading.

*Richmond (Boys)*—Mr. Harkness, assisted by Mrs. Harrington.—This school is undoubtedly unfortunate in having lost the services of Mr. Harrington, under whose care it had made remarkable progress. His successor, though comparatively new to the work, promises well, and has the great advantage of taking the school in the highest state of discipline and efficiency, and of being supported by an experienced assistant. The disadvantages of inexperience are obvious enough, but it is usually forgotten that there are certain compensations in the superior energy and adaptability of youth. A novice, who has the gift of teaching, and is thoroughly in earnest, will not be long in developing into a good schoolmaster.

*Richmond (Girls)*—Miss Spencer, assisted by Monitors.—Little more need be said about this excellent school than that it fully sustains this year its former well-earned reputation. The Reading and Spelling are especially deserving of praise, the latter being, indeed, almost faultless. The Writing is also good throughout; the Arithmetic (though by no means bad) being, perhaps, the weakest point in the school.

*Ranzau*—Mr. and Mrs. Combes.—The Reading of the older scholars is much better than it was, owing partly to the great pains evidently bestowed upon this branch by the master, but mainly to the circumstance that these children, instead of being withdrawn altogether from school for several months in the year, are now allowed to attend the public school in the afternoons. I am glad to find that the remarks that I felt it my duty to make on this subject last year have been taken in good part, and have produced some practical effect. In other respects, the school, though well conducted and orderly, has not made much progress.

*Hope*—Mr. Ladley.—A great stride has been made here during the past year in almost every branch. Though several of the older children have come to the district only lately, and quite untaught, the number of readers recorded as "good" has increased considerably, the good writers and arithmeticians having increased in a still higher ratio. English Grammar, which is too often made a matter of mere routine, is very intelligently taught here, as, indeed, is almost invariably the case where the teachers' knowledge of his subject is not limited to the grammar of his own language.

*River Terrace*—Mrs. Bryant, assisted by Miss Bryant.—The attendance at this school for the last half-year has been at the rate of only 59 per cent. It redounds, therefore, to the credit of the teachers that, in spite of this drawback (the serious nature of which no one who has not been actually engaged in the work of teaching can fully realise), the Reading and Writing, throughout, should be of more than average merit. The Arithmetic is still by no means what it ought to be.

*Spring Grove*—Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds.—As all my visits to Spring Grove during the past year have been made in wet weather, I am unable to do justice to an exceedingly well-taught and successful school, not half the scholars being present at any one of my inspections. I saw enough, however, to satisfy me that the teaching is thorough, the Reading and Writing being, as hitherto, particularly good, and the Arithmetic and Dictation unmistakably above the average. Geography and Grammar are also intelligently taught.

*Lower Wakefield*—Mr. and Miss Chattock.—The most noticeable feature here is the Handwriting, which is so uniformly good as to call for special commendation. The Reading in the Upper Division is very fair, and the scholars, generally, seem to understand what they are reading, but the children in the Lower Division are by no means so well taught as those above them. This defect unless speedily remedied, must ultimately

tell against the success of the school.

*Eighty-eight Valley*—Mr. Roby.—This school, which was re-opened, quite as an experiment, little more than a year ago, has proved a success, the daily attendance having risen to 25, 75 per cent of the number on the books attending daily, though the roads are far from being good, and the distance to be travelled by the scholars, in some instances, very great. Extraordinary progress has been made by the children in every branch; but, at the risk of seeming to check, ungraciously, the zeal of an earnest and indefatigable teacher, I venture to hint that there is some danger of exacting too much from children whose school-life has been so very short, and that a backward school like this cannot be expected for several years, to vie with older establishments.

*Upper Wakefield*—Mr. Phillips, assisted by Miss Tunnicliffe.—I find it difficult to account for the backward state of this school, which the present master, who has been appointed only seven months, and who appears to be quite up to his work, can hardly be considered responsible for. The lowness of the percentage of attendance, 63, will scarcely afford a solution of the question, since schools where the rate of attendance is still lower succeed in taking a fair position. The fact remains, that the Reading throughout is drawing and monotonous, the Spelling very incorrect, and the Arithmetic so weak that only four of those present at my last examination could work an easy sum in Practice. The Geography and Grammar of the upper classes are about on a par with their other attainments.

*Fox Hill*—Miss Hinde.—The numbers in daily attendance here during the past year have fallen off from 16 to 12, the scholars being withdrawn, as a rule, from school at a very early age, only one having attained her twelfth year. Those who have attended with anything like regularity show the results of careful teaching, but the facilities now afforded by the erection of a bridge over the Wai-iti suggest that the removal of the Upper Wakefield school buildings to a point immediately south of the river would enable the Board to dispense with another of those small schools, the costliness of which is almost invariably found to be in inverse ratio to their efficiency, and whose gradual extinction cannot well be regarded with regret. It is also obvious that the distance between the Upper and Lower Wakefield schools (less than three miles) might be considerably increased, without injury to either.

*Motupiko*—Mrs. Fugle.—The attendance in this isolated district has increased to 15 since the appointment of the present teacher, the per centage for the year being 70. The attendance previously had fallen as low as 6. The children read and write much better than they did formerly, but as yet, can do very little in Arithmetic. The mistress appears to be thoroughly efficient.

*Waimea West (North Division)*—Mr. Thorburn, assisted by Miss Thorburn.—The present room is too small to accommodate the numbers that now attend, increased as they are by the closing of the school at Appleby. The most striking characteristic of the teaching here is its thoroughness, and its freedom from any thing like cramming. The excellence of the Handwriting deserves special notice.

*Waimea West Village*—Mr. Larchin, assisted by Mrs. Hansen.—This school has been for some years so singularly unfortunate in its masters, that many people have begun to despair of its ever again taking a respectable place among our schools. It must be admitted that an attendance of only 50 per cent for the last two quarters does not promise well. The present master, though comparatively unaccustomed to school work, is painstaking and systematic, and has the school completely under control. Already some improvement is perceptible both in the Reading and the Writing, and I believe that, if his efforts are properly seconded by the parents, he may yet restore the reputation of the Village School.

*Upper Moutere*—Mr. and Mrs. Cook.—The opening of a school at Neudorf has not lessened the attendance here so much as was anticipated, the present number, 45 (10 less than last year), being about as many as the school-room will accommodate with comfort. In every respect the school continues to reach the moderate standard of attainment aimed at. The method of teaching is very judicious, the greatest pains being taken to teach the German children, who compose the majority of the scholars, to read first, to the exclusion of every other subject.

*Neudorf*—Mr. and Mrs. Désaunais.—An average daily attendance of 41 during the last half-year, has fully justified the establishment of this school. As a large proportion of the scholars had been prevented by the distance from availing

themselves of the Saran School, they had everything to learn when they came to Neudorf. It is not surprising, therefore, that the classes are unusually backward. The vigorous and energetic style of teaching pursued by the master struck me as being exactly suited to the somewhat phlegmatic pupils with whom he has to deal, a want of intellectual activity being the pervading feature of the school.

*Lower Moutere*—Mr. Robson, assisted by a Monitor.—It will be sufficient to say of this school that it continues to deserve the high reputation that it has now held for many years under the management of its valued and experienced master.

*Motueka (First Division)*—Mr. Bisley, assisted by J. Guy.—The appointment of a pupil teacher, rendered necessary by the increasing numbers, has enabled the master to devote more of his attention to the upper classes, with excellent results. The Geography and Arithmetic seem to me the best points in the school where, however, the teaching is sound and practical throughout.

*Motueka (Second Division)*—Miss Halpin.—The people of Motueka, in losing the services of Miss Halpin, lose perhaps the most efficient and successful teacher of a junior division that I have yet met with in our Provincial schools, though there are several in the service of acknowledged merit.

*Ngatimoti*—Mr. Sutcliffe.—The children here, though apparently carefully taught, are still very backward. It must not be forgotten, however, that children in secluded and thinly peopled districts are at a great disadvantage as compared with those who have been brought up in towns, or even in hamlets, if only for this reason, that their intercourse with one another, so valuable an element in school life, is necessarily very limited. They see and hear little beyond their own contracted family circle. The numbers in daily attendance for the last half-year have risen to 21, and, in spite of execrable roads and a scattered population, the rate of attendance during the winter quarter was 67 per cent. These facts tell well for both parents and scholars.

*Dovedale*—Mr. Severno.—The master has done as much for the school as could fairly be expected from him, when the difficulties with which he had to contend are considered. The daily attendance, 12, is exactly the same as last year, the percentage, 55, being even less than it was. Under these circumstances it is creditable to the teacher that he has effected some improvement both in the Handwriting and Dictation. In other respects, I can see but little progress.

*Pangatotara*—Mr. Brown.—The rate of attendance at this school continues to be very low, and though large allowances should be made for the badness of the roads, and the distance that some of the scholars have to travel, I cannot help suspecting that the inhabitants hardly make sufficient use of their opportunities. I have observed, for instance, that in weather all the children, even such as live within easy distance of the school, are in the habit of absenting themselves. All this has naturally disheartened the teacher, who feels that his best efforts are thus neutralised. The children still write very neatly, and have a better knowledge of Arithmetic than they should have expected, under the circumstances.

*Riwaka*—Mr. Cowles, assisted by Miss Gaskell.—This school, which, partly owing to the illness of the late teacher had fallen off in every respect, has begun to revive under the energetic management of the present master, who is seconded by a very efficient assistant. The daily average has risen from 34 to 40, but the percentage of attendance, 61, is still lower than it ought to be, and much remains to be done before Riwaka can again take the place that it once held, almost at the head of our country schools.

*Takaka*—Mr. Bow.—No pains have been spared by the present master to raise his school to a respectable status, but his efforts, hitherto, have met with but scanty success. The daily attendance is still only 20, the percentage, even during the summer quarter, 56. The scholars are lamentably backward in every branch, and it is to be regretted that a considerable sum (that it is now clear enough might have been better laid out elsewhere), was expended three years ago in enlarging the school-room. I see no reason why a mistress should not be substituted for a master at Takaka, where the expenditure has been for some time wholly disproportionate to the results obtained.

*Long Plain*—Mr. A. Langford.—The daily attendance here, 14, is just what it was last year, the number of good readers being rather greater than at Takaka. The Dictation is also decidedly better. In other respects, these neighboring schools

are about equal. The teaching is careful and methodical.

Motupipi and Clifton—Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.—The fate of the former of these small schools should be a warning to the Board not to yield lightly to local pressure, however persistent, either in favor of opening or of retaining schools within short distances of each other. After rejecting repeated applications from the inhabitants of Motupipi for a new and more central school, for the want of which, it was alleged, 33 children were being deprived of an education, the Board, towards the close of 1868, built a school, at a cost of more than £150. Although this has now been at work for more than two years, and the master is both popular and fairly competent, the attendance during the last quarter averaged only 9. Bad roads will, doubtless, partly account for this; but during the summer months, when the roads are comparatively good, the attendance reached only 12. Nevertheless, the Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic of both schools are suprisingly good.

Collingwood—Mr. and Mrs. O'Sullivan.—48 children were present at my last examination of this school, which had increased so much as to render the appointment of an assistant necessary. No marked improvement was perceptible in the Reading, but much had been done in both Writing and Arithmetic, while the first class answered readily the questions put to them in Geography. The rate of attendance, 74 per cent. for the year, is high, when the state of the roads and the distance of the homes of many of the children from school are considered.

Westport—Mr. and Mrs. Fraser.—I am glad to be able to report that in several respects this important and numerously attended school, to which I made such unfavorable reference last year, has shown some improvement. Fifteen good readers now appear upon the return, this column being formerly a blank as far as Westport was concerned. The first and second classes can also give a tolerably clear account of what they have been reading. The Handwriting is still, however, by no means what it ought to be, and the Arithmetic is singularly backward, being, apparently, of the kind known to schoolmasters as "rule of thumb." In justice to the teachers, I must again notice the significant fact that only 5 out of 135 scholars, 1-27th of those on the roll, are allowed by their parents to remain at school after they have completed their twelfth year, the usual proportion of children over 12 in our schools being a sixth.

Addison's Flat—Mrs. Duffy.—Although the discipline here struck me as being lax, and the method of teaching as rather primitive, the results for the past year are, on the whole, very satisfactory. The scholars read smoothly and distinctly, spell well, and show good training in their tables. The percentage of attendance, 78, is unusually high, and is of itself a sufficient test of the estimation in which the teacher is held by the parents.

Charleston—Mr. and Miss Mitchell.—When I examined this

school last, the master had been for some time disabled by illness. I found, nevertheless, that the upper classes read and spelt better than they did formerly, and that the Geography was of more than average merit. It should also be recorded, to the credit of the children, that they had the good feeling to maintain perfect order among themselves during my examination, in the absence of their master.

Charleston—Mr. Moore.—An average daily attendance of 40, and a percentage of 89 during the last half-year, are evidences of the flourishing state of this school. The Reading throughout is better than the tender years of the scholars would lead me to expect, two-thirds of those on the roll being under nine years. The outlines of Grammar, Geography, and History are also successfully taught. On the other hand, both the Writing and Arithmetic have fallen below even last year's very moderate standard, while the preposterous system of teaching boys and girls attending a mixed school, and learning the same subjects, in separate classes, is retained, to the manifest injury of both teacher and taught.

Cobden—Mr. Ray.—No single master, however skilful and energetic he may be—and the master of Cobden school is both—can long continue to do justice to the 47 scholars who now crowd his small school-room daily. Assuming even that the numbers will remain just as they are, an addition to the room and the employment of an assistant appear to me to be urgently required. By dint of extraordinary exertions, Mr. Ray has largely added to the number of good readers and writers during the past year, the Arithmetic, Grammar, and Geography being at least equal to what they were formerly. The discipline is also very good.

Brunnerton—Mr. Young.—Good use has been made of the fifteen months that have elapsed since Brunnerton was opened as a public school, though it cannot be expected to compete with older establishments for some time to come. Arithmetic is the branch in which the scholars have progressed the most palpably, though in other respects they show signs of careful teaching. The daily attendance is now 26, the rate of attendance, 84 per cent., being exceptionally high.

Brighton—Mrs. West.—This school, which was closed for a time, owing to the thinness of the attendance, has been re-opened lately, under better auspices, in a convenient building midway between Brighton and St. Kilda, formerly used as a hospital, but now lent by the Provincial Government for school purposes. The daily attendance for the past quarter is 16, the per centage being 72.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
W. C. HODGSON,  
Inspector of Schools.

Nelson, August 3rd, 1871.

Faint, illegible table with multiple columns and rows, possibly a ledger or record book.

RETURN of the NUMBERS and ATTENDANCE for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1870.

SCHOOLS.	SEPTEMBER QUARTER.						DECEMBER QUARTER.					
	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	School Days.	Daily attendance.	Percentage.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	School Days.	Daily Attendance.	
1. Bridge-street Boys, 1st Division	51	...	51	61	39	76	49	...	49	49	40	
2. " " 2nd " "	92	...	92	62	72	78	94	...	94	50	74	
3. Hardy-street, Girls, 1st Division	...	101	101	63	71	70	...	92	92	50	71	
4. " " 2nd " "	...	75	75	52	52	69	...	67	67	51	54	
5. " Preparatory " "	...	41	41	62	82	67	...	77	77	51	80	
6. Haven-road, 1st Division	81	41	122	62	82	67	77	43	120	51	80	
7. " 2nd " "	105	58	163	61	105	64	106	52	158	51	116	
8. Hampden-street, 1st Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
9. " 2nd " "	60	32	92	62	67	72	23	50	78	53	53	
10. St. Mary's, Boys	83	...	83	58	62	74	79	...	79	52	61	
11. " Girls	...	99	99	51	68	68	...	93	93	51	59	
12. Clifton Terrace	23	17	40	66	22	55	23	13	36	60	26	
13. Hillside ...	13	18	31	55	16	51	13	20	33	55	21	
14. Stoke ...	29	27	56	58	36	68	20	27	56	59	38	
15. Richmond, Boys	64	...	64	48	55	85	64	...	64	53	55	
16. " Girls	...	72	72	47	62	86	...	68	68	52	50	
17. Appleby ...	6	12	18	55	8	44	...	9	11	59	9	
18. Ranzau ...	33	35	68	64	24	69	38	36	74	53	47	
19. Hope ...	16	19	35	59	35	63	17	21	38	48	25	
20. River Terrace	16	39	55	58	68	63	16	37	53	55	33	
21. Spring Grove ...	45	62	107	54	68	63	52	60	112	58	68	
22. Lower Wakefield	36	39	75	42	52	69	32	44	76	56	51	
23. Upper Wakefield	26	25	51	61	36	70	29	30	59	55	37	
24. Fox Hill...	10	7	17	58	13	78	10	7	17	58	11	
25. Waimea West, North Division	30	22	52	66	34	67	32	20	52	59	38	
26. " Village...	32	39	71	62	52	72	28	24	52	54	39	
27. Upper Moutere...	21	19	40	62	27	68	28	29	57	57	46	
28. Lower Moutere...	32	31	63	59	41	65	23	22	45	55	37	
29. Motueka, 1st Division	15	22	37	60	44	74	32	29	61	53	39	
30. " 2nd " "	29	24	53	56	22	59	25	37	62	53	45	
31. Pangatotara	13	18	31	63	28	52	17	21	38	49	22	
32. Riwaka ...	16	11	27	52	20	64	26	25	51	41	34	
33. Takaka ...	19	20	39	45	13	48	16	19	35	48	20	
34. Long Plain	20	29	49	54	21	53	16	11	27	42	14	
35. Motupipi and Clifton	32	26	58	57	27	55	19	18	37	41	24	
36. Collingwood	52	46	98	60	45	78	27	30	57	51	38	
37. Cobden ...	10	11	21	61	15	71	30	23	53	58	44	
38. Westport	17	10	27	53	14	54	56	51	107	52	75	
39. Motupiko	18	14	32	58	29	90	9	10	19	56	15	
40. Ngatimoti'	22	27	49	66	32	65	21	13	32	47	19	
41. Charleston (Moore's)	9	12	21	54	...	...	25	29	54	58	22	
42. " (Mitchell's)	9	21	30	62	16	76	...	...	...	...	...	
43. Brighton...	8	12	20	48	22	73	17	...	29	59	22	
44. Eighty-eight Valley	24	18	42	60	12	61	11	20	31	53	22	
45. Addison's Flat	26	17	43	56	28	70	6	16	22	53	13	
46. Dovedale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
47. Brunnerton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
48. Neudorf	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
TOTALS ...	1295	1290	2585	53	1774	68	1285	1277	2562	52	1723	67

RETURN of NUMBERS and ATTENDANCE for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1871.

SCHOOLS.	MARCH QUARTER.						JUNE QUARTER.					
	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	School Days.	Daily attendance.	Percentage.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	School Days.	Daily attendance.	Percentage.
1. Bridge-street, Boys, 1st Division ...	50	...	50	48	38	77	48	...	48	55	39	81
2. " " 2nd " ...	106	...	106	48	90	84	110	...	110	56	90	81
3. Hardy-street, Girls, 1st Division ...	...	82	82	48	66	80	...	85	85	56	69	81
4. " " 2nd " ...	...	71	71	49	45	63	...	62	62	56	43	62
5. " Preparatory ...	97	45	142	49	101	71	91	42	133	56	94	70
6. Haven-road, 1st Division ...	105	50	155	48	110	70	113	47	160	56	109	68
7. " 2nd " ...	46	45	91	49	58	64	41	48	89	56	62	69
8. Hampden-street, 1st Division... }	46	45	91	49	58	64	41	48	89	56	62	69
9. " 2nd " ... }	46	45	91	49	58	64	41	48	89	56	62	69
10. St. Mary's, Boys ...	82	...	82	49	62	76	77	...	77	52	60	76
11. " Girls ...	...	121	121	49	69	57	...	125	125	52	83	66
12. Clifton Terrace ...	21	12	33	54	26	78	23	14	37	59	21	57
13. Hillside ...	14	19	33	57	20	60	16	20	36	58	23	61
14. Stoko ...	27	26	53	49	34	63	27	24	51	61	38	74
15. Richmond, Boys ...	57	...	57	38	46	67	56	...	56	54	47	84
16. " Girls ...	...	62	62	43	52	83	...	64	64	54	57	89
17. Ranzau ...	33	35	68	48	42	77	33	35	68	60	40	67
18. Hope ...	18	20	38	45	24	63	23	21	44	48	27	62
19. River Terrace ...	17	42	59	44	35	59	18	39	57	57	33	59
20. Lower Wakefield ...	34	29	63	43	45	70	37	29	66	58	45	68
21. Upper Wakefield ...	34	29	63	55	38	60	33	29	62	56	37	60
22. Eighty-eight Valley ...	13	18	31	48	20	64	12	21	33	60	25	75
23. Fox Hill... ...	9	8	17	60	12	70	8	9	17	46	13	76
24. Motupiko ...	10	11	21	45	13	61	9	8	17	55	13	76
25. Waimea West, North Division ...	34	24	58	43	44	75	37	23	60	60	46	78
26. " Village... ...	27	29	56	40	24	42	30	34	64	54	38	59
27. Upper Moutere ...	30	27	57	47	42	70	31	29	60	54	47	78
28. Neudorf... ...	32	23	55	47	35	64	31	23	54	53	36	67
29. Lower Moutere... ...	22	25	47	49	36	76	23	25	48	60	33	68
30. Motueka, 1st Division ...	37	39	76	53	50	65	38	36	74	62	46	62
31. " 2nd " ...	20	30	50	53	39	78	21	32	53	61	33	62
32. Ngatimoti ...	20	13	33	45	22	66	18	10	28	49	19	67
33. Dovedale ...	6	18	24	53	12	49	8	18	26	47	13	52
34. Pangatotara ...	13	18	31	49	20	64	17	18	35	39	17	48
35. Riwaka ...	31	35	66	63	42	64	32	48	80	56	46	61
36. Takaka ...	16	20	36	55	20	56	13	18	31	55	19	61
37. Long Plain ...	17	13	30	41	18	60	15	13	28	43	13	47
38. Motupipi ...	16	19	35	50	23	69	17	18	35	43	20	57
39. Clifton ...	23	29	52	44	39	75	24	31	55	55	40	73
40. Collingwood ...	63	55	118	54	85	72	65	55	120	58	79	65
41. Westport ...	12	17	29	53	26	99	13	17	30	57	20	66
42. Addison's Flat ...	21	15	36	59	32	89	33	20	53	65	47	89
43. Charleston (Moore's) ...	22	23	45	57	31	69	16	17	33	62	25	75
44. " (Mitchell's) ...	33	29	62	49	51	81	33	29	62	53	45	73
45. Cobden ...	21	13	34	50	23	76	17	14	31	57	26	84
46. Brunner-ton ...	50	51	101	47	62	60	52	50	102	44	70	68
47. Spring Grove ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	10	22	61	16	72
48. Brighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	1339	1290	2629	52	1822	69	1371	1310	2681	52	1872	69

ANNUAL RETURN of the NELSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS for the Year ending June 30th, 1871.

SCHOOLS.	NUMBERS.	AGE.				READING.			WRITING.			ARITHMETIC.				GEOGRAPHY.	HISTORY.	GRAMMAR.
		Under 7.	7 to 9.	9 to 12.	12 and upwards.	Beginning.	Moderate.	Good.	Beginning.	Moderate.	Good.	Simple rules.	Compound rules.	Proportion and Practice.	Fractions, Decimals, &c.			
1. Bridge-street, Boys,—1st Division	63			21	41			63										
2. " " 2nd "	146	2	85	54	6													
3. Hardy-street, Girls,—1st	117		16	66	35	60	72		72	30	33		6	57	28	63	63	
4. " " 2nd "	67	16	26	23	2		16	101		66	8		79	8		72	72	
5. " " Preparatory	221	202	19			53	14		39	42	75		30	52	21	117	51	
6. Haven-road,—1st Division						221				11			26				117	
7. " " 2nd "	198	57	52	57	32	115	28	55										
8. Hampden-stret,—1st Division																		
9. " " 2nd "	108	23	48	30	7	53	32	23	46	39	23		50	16	42	14		
10. St. Mary's—Boys ...	109	17	27	47	18	51	34	24	55	13	12		26	11	34	17	58	
11. " " Girls ...	165	57	43	41	24	51	34	24	46	24	15		26	11	34	17	34	
12. Clifton Terrace	45	13	12	11	9	22	13	10	45	40	7		24	21	38	18	38	
13. Hillside	39	11	6	15	7	17	12	10	10	7	7		30	29	19	15	43	
14. Stoke	64	10	18	26	10	24	31	9	11	12	5		8	12	9	3	21	
15. Richmond—Boys ...	73	9	20	26	18	28	10	35	19	16	10		6	5	12	3	21	
16. " " Girls ...	82	20	10	23	29	28	10	35	38	21	13		10	7	23	15	21	
17. Ranzau	85	18	14	29	24	19	17	46	17	11	40		12	21	21	14	23	
18. Hope	52	13	15	13	11	42	19	24	39	22	12		18	20	24	12	21	
19. River Terrace	67	19	22	18	8	22	19	11	39	22	12		25	25	10	3	45	
20. Spring Grove	144	27	42	49	26	35	26	6	17	7	12		16	8	12	2	24	
21. Lower Wakefield ...	87	19	22	24	22	40	18	29	15	10	15		17	17	6		17	
22. Upper Wakefield ...	76	22	22	22	10	36	30	10	15	15	24		42	25	39	21	23	
23. Eighty-eight Valley	35	13	12	4	6	24	10	1	20	16	4		11	19	15	8	39	
24. Fox Hill	20	3	10	6	1	8	8	4	14	1			25	9	7	2	16	
25. Motupiko	19	5	4	5	5	11	5	3	9	1	2		8	5	6		12	
26. Waimea West, North Division	69	13	17	24	15	23	37	9	6	5	1		7	4	2	6	6	
27. " " Village	82	23	22	25	12	36	31	15	19	16	10		5	3		6	2	
28. Upper Moutere	64	16	16	25	7	32	17	15	17	18	6		17	6	11	9	3	
29. Neudorf	55	13	13	12	17	33	21	1	26	13	2		20	4	16		9	
30. Lower Moutere	54	6	13	22	13	22	10	1	18	10	1		26	11	6		18	
31. Motueka—1st Division	89	43	30	4		77			10	15	7		16	10			17	
32. " " 2nd "	77	16	39	34	1	55	34	22	18	10	1		16	10			13	
33. Ngatimoti	35	10	7		8	23			24	27	15		11	11	13	7	27	
34. Dovedale	27	9	5	12	1	11			8				23	44	36	72	16	
35. Pangatotara	30	5	8	9	8	11			7								52	
36. Riwaka	82	17	19	27	19	15	6	5	7	2			8				12	
37. Takaka	27	8	5	9	4	28	12	30	15	5	11		6	6			9	
38. Long Plain...	29	10	8	7	4	19	7	5	15	5	4		10	13			6	
39. Motupipi	32	5	7	16	4	12	8	9	8	3	11		6	3	1	1	13	
40. Clifton	65	15	23	12	32	18	15	12	8	7	15		7	7	1	5	4	
41. Collingwood	32	4	36	25	20	40	15	18	14	12	16		13	6	3	13	4	
42. Westport	135	32	36	35	30	40	15	18	20	12	17		17	6	3	13	5	
43. Addison's Hill	135	32	36	35	30	40	15	18	20	12	17		17	6	3	13	5	

## NELSON GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ABSTRACT of GENERAL ACCOUNT of the CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION from June 30th, 1870, to June 30th, 1871.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Provincial Grant ... ..	7,460	0	0	By Salaries ... ..	6,648	16	5
„ Rents and Interest ... ..	305	16	5	„ Repairs and Committee allowances ... ..	361	7	5
„ Share of Land Revenue ... ..	66	2	6	„ Purchase of sites and new buildings ... ..	321	18	0
„ Sale of School-house... ..	10	0	0	„ Rents ... ..	97	0	0
				„ Books, Maps, and School Fittings ... ..	306	10	5
				„ Expenses of Central Board (printing, law, &c.) ... ..	82	9	11
				„ Balance in Union Bank of Australia ... ..	23	16	9
	£				£		
	7,841	18	11		7,841	18	11

### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT, 1870-71.

Dr. 1870.	£	s.	d.	Cr. 1871.	£	s.	d.
July 1. To Overdraft in Union Bank of Aus- tralia ... ..	14	5	4	May 12. By Cash from Land Office ... ..	14	5	4
	£				£		
	14	5	4		14	5	4

Examined and found correct,  
**H. D. JACKSON,**  
*Provincial Auditor.*

D. ROUGH, Chairman,  
J. W. BARNICOAT,  
M. CAMPBELL.