Boulder Bank
Brancott
Cowslip Valley
Dillion's Point
Fairhall
Fairhall Valley
Grovetown
Hawkesbury
Omaka
Renwick
Riverlands
Springlands

Boulder Bank (1884-1885)

Near the lagoon at the Mouth of the Wairau River

1884	5	Boulder Bank	Budge	Richard	Master	£	15.00
1885	6	Boulder Bank	Budge	Richard	Master	£	17.10

1900/7112 Budge Richard 77Y

6th March 1883 Mr Bulliff, Pilot, Wairau Bay, applied for assistance in educating his children. He had employed Mr Richard Budge as his tutor until Christmas last, hut had to dispense with him then as he found he was not in a position to bear the expense.

6th May 1884 Letter from the Department asking for full particulars of the schools -at Upper Pelorus, Starborough, and Boulder Bank.; The Secretary was instructed to give the required-information

Brancott (1917, 1921-1923)

A Sheep Station just South West of Blenheim at the end of Brancott Road

1917	2	Brancott	Burton	Barbara	Sole	£16.00
1921	2	Brancott	Kelly	May	Sole	£30.00
1923	2	Brancott	Brown	Alma	Sole	£30.00

The Ward family were at Brancott Station

23rd January 1918 Miss B Burton

16th March 1918 Advertisement in the Dominion: Wanted a teacher for two children. Salary £40 apply Mrs Ward Brancott, Blenheim

21st March 1918 Miss T Nieper Sole Teacher Brancott

National Archives:

Brancott

Wellington Education Board

24th April 1917

Application for a school by Gilbert J Ward Nearest School Renwicktown 6 miles away Children Alexander Ward 11 and Clare Ward, 7

Taught in room of Mrs E W Ward's residence
At Bottom: Inspector Sturrock approves
1921, 1922, 1923, 1924 2 Girl pupils
Brancott Attendance register lists 2 Pupils 1924
Jean Newman aged 10.8
Merle Newman aged 6.8
Only ever the 2 pupils at school Annual examination held and marks allocated
Log Book
1921
2nd June School opened
19th August School closed
26th September Dominion Day
30th September Thomas Warren Inspector Roll 2
24th October Labour Day. School open Closed show Day
22nd December School closed for summer holidays
1922
6th February School opened instead of 7th February
22nd February Closed in place of February 6th
23rd March First Visit Roll 2 Present 2 Thos. Warren Inspector
25th April School closed for Anzac Day
30th June M Kelly resigned
31st July Reopened School Margaret Boyce
23rd October Labour Day School opened closed Show Day
23rd November Visited School Roll 2 Present 2 Thomas Warren
1923
19th September School Opened Alma Brown
29th March School closed Easter Holidays
10th April First Visit Roll 2 Present 2 Thos. Warren
25th April School closed Anzac Day
24th September Dominion Day school closed
22nd October Labour Day
25th October Show Day
1st November Anniversary Day School closed
20th December School closed Annual Holidays
1924
5th February School reopened Alma Brown
25th February Visited School Roll 2 Present 2 Thos. Warren
Last record in Log

Cowslip Valley (1909-1911)

On the Tynsefield Road, South West of Blenheim

1909	2	Cowslip Valley	Watson Mrs	Sara	Female	£	12.00
1910	2	Cowslip Valley	Watson Mrs	Sara	Female	£	12.00
1911	1	Cowslip Valley	Watson Mrs	Sara	Female	£	80.00

12th October 1909 Mr C. Newman applied for the recognition of a household aided school at Cowslip Valley, and stated that he had secured the services of Mrs Arthur Watson as teacher, and enclosed her sixth standard certificate. It was decided to establish a school as requested
12th September 1911 Mrs Watson was appointed teacher of the Cowslip Valley School (Sarah)

Dillion's Point (1915-1923)

Dillon's Point
1915 192 Square feet plus 16 square feet
1922 Additions 312 square feet
1930 192 Square feet added
As at 31st January 1951Part Section 4 Block XVII Cloudy Bay SD
Area 1 acre was acquired in 1922
Total Area 1 acre 2 Roods 0 Perches

On Dillon Point Road leading east to Opawa River from Blenheim

1914	9	Dillon's Point	Wells	Olive M		Female	£ 90.00	£10.00
1915	9	Dillon's Point	Wells	Olive		Female	£ 110.00	£20.00
1917	13	Dillon's Point	Clouston	Constance E		Sole	£110.00	
1919	14	Dillon's Point	Clouston	Connie		Sole	£160.00	
1921	16	Dillon's Point	Clouston	Connie		Sole	£200.00	
1923	19	Dillon's Point	Clouston	Constance E	D-196	Sole	£233.00	

16th April 1914 DILLON'S POINT DISTRICT. A deputation representing the settlers of the Dillon's Point district addressed the Board as to the need for a school in that locality. Mr J. Morrin agreed to give half an acre for a site. There were ten children of school age to be provided for. It was resolved that the request for an aided school be granted; and that the Government be asked for a grant for the establishment of a new school on the land offered by Mr Morrin
12th May 1914 Unforeseen complications having arisen in connection with the appointment of a teacher to the Dillon's Point Board school, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Town Committee
16th September 1914 Dillon's Point 5/3 to the ambulance fund
10th November 1914 DILLON'S POINT. Mr J. Morrin discussed with the Board the arrangements necessary for the establishment of a school in the Dillon's Point district on half an acre of land donated by Mr Holdaway - The Secretary was instructed to make application to the Minister for a grant of £120
12th January 1915 DILLON'S POINT
It was intimated that the Minister for Education had agreed to a grant of £120 for the establishment of a school in the Dillon's Point district.
It was resolved that tenders be called for the erection of a building, and that steps be taken for the dedication of the half-acre donated by Mr Holdaway.
9th February 1915 Dillon's Point: "Wemyss Bros., £91: Ward and C 0, £111 13s 6d; Nicol Bros. £114.3.6 , J. A. Moreland, £116'16. Tenders for new school
25th October 1916 Miss Wells Sole Teacher resigned
19th July 1922 The Education Department wrote stating that £60 had been granted for the site. at Dillon's Point, and £122 for the extension of the site
16th November 1925 A further anomaly under the existing regulations was pointed out, this time a school in Marlborough (Dillon's Point) and one in the North Wairarapa, (Dreyer's

Rock) being considered. Dillon's Point School has an average attendance of 21, a floor space of 372 square feet, and receives a Government grant of £23. Dreyer's Rock has an average attendance of 10, a floor space of 388, and receives a Government grant of £15. Under the new scheme the difference of the amount for these two schools would be reduced to £2

7th September 1933 Mr J E Willett Sole Teacher Appointed

National Archives

1915 School 192 Square foot

1922 Addition of 104 square foot

1930 Addition of 192 Square foot

Still same as 31st February 1951

Part Section 4 Block XVII Cloudy Bay Sub division

Area ½ and acre acquired in 1922

Total area 1 acre 2 Rood 0 Perches

9th December 1914 Application to start Dillon Point School

James Morrin Farmer Blenheim School 4 ¾ Miles Donald 8 and Mildred 7
Ernest Philpotts, Farm Manager 4 miles Blenheim School Ernest 11. Allan 9
Harold Lucas Farmer 3 ½ miles Blenheim Raymond , 8
Frank Pattie Farmer 4 ¾ Miles Blenheim School Mary 6
William Dick 6 Miles Blenheim School Marjorie 6, Isabel 5
Thomas Cameron Blenheim 4 ½ Miles Gwyneth 5
O Lakin Blenheim 3 miles Thelma Lakin
Only 5 of these children attending school
Blenheim 4 ¾ miles Springlands 6 ½ miles Riverlands 8 miles
Section ½ acre owned by James Morrin
The school is at present held in a room of one of the settler's houses/ It was established on 22nd May 1914 and the average attendance is 9 to the moment
D A Sturrock writes approving of the application. I consider this district will more closely settled in the near future and the small building proposed should meet requirements for a few years
4th January 1915 Application approved School to be built for £120
10th May 1915 Marlborough Education Board asked for a special grant to put in a water supply it is necessary to sink a two inch pipe to a department of 145 feet
Owing to the small rainfall in this area storage of water is out of the question
31st of August Marlborough Education Board notifying Director of Ed that a splendid flow of good water has been obtained.
4th August Shelter and Tool shed erected
More land added to site
13th December 1931. Current land only ½ an acre
Roll 1918, 15, 1919, 14 1920 13
1921 15
17th July 1922 Additions were made to the school
3rd May 1923 Extra land finally purchased
23rd July 1924 New Latrines built
18th April 1929 School to be enlarged Roll 1925, 21 1926 21, 1927, 24
15th June Application to rent hall at £1 per week while alterations are being made
However by 22nd June 1929 Application for remodelling turned down as the Wellington Education Board was providing actual classrooms
5th February 1930 Telegram from Minister of Education Harry Atmore. Last Evening Deputation from Dillon Point waited upon me and urged extension of school on account of overcrowding. It was stated there is a proposal before Department which was deferred. Please telegraph particulars stating amount involved understand there are over 30 pupils and that teacher is working under great difficulties
Reply Dillon's Point 312 square feet Attendance 26 in 1929 But case not on urgent list
6th May 1930 £190 put aside to enlarge classroom
27th June 1930 Additions approved with an extra payment of £22

19th April 1939 Further remodelling carried out
School Closed in February 1956 for lack of pupils
15th September 1959 Disposal of Dillons Point School approved by Department
31st March 1960. Approval for sale land and buildings
8th August 1956 Letter to Mr. N C Packham Secretary of Dillon's Point School Committee asking him to send back Cash Books and all papers together with a cheque to clear the bank account
Before cleaning out the building I would like an opinion from you whether the school could reopen. If not could the radio and other goods go to some other school?

Fairhall (1878-1923)

6 Kilometres West on Highway 6 from Blenheim

Fairhall Site and Buildings National Archives
1896: 600 square foot written off 1914 Say 9.144 metres x 6.096 metres
1915: 480 square foot new school
1945 Portable army hut 2 807 square feet
1945 Garage 180 square foot
Residence 1904 6 rooms Bathroom Washhouse 1154 square feet Plus washhouse 128 square feet
Part Section 20 Block XV Area 1 acre additional ½ acre acquired 1923
Total Area 1 acre 2 rood 0 perches
Septic Tank 25/7/1925

1876-1877

6th December 1876 Marlborough Education Board : That the Board appoint the following gentlemen as a School Committee for the Fairhall school, namely: Messrs G-. Graham, N. Kelly, H. Hammond, W. Jeffries, and W. Avery and that the Board advertise for a schoolmaster at a salary of £100 per annum. That the teachers should be requested to send their certificates to the Board, with a .view to their classification. That the Chairman be requested to get a report of the state of the school buildings and that the Board at its rising do adjourn till the 16th Dec. to consider the report.
23rd December 1876 A SCHOOLMASTER is wanted for the Fairhall School. Remuneration £100 per annum, and use of Dwelling House. Applications, with certificates of competency, to be sent to the Chairman of the Board. A. P. Seymour, Chairman.
10th January 1877 Fairhall School. The Chairman stated that applications had been received from Mr Ball, Mr Amner, and Mr Maclure for the appointment of Master at the above school. Mr Hodson moved and Mr Ingles seconded That Mr Maclure be appointed. Captain Baillie moved as an amendment and, Mr Ward seconded— That Mr Amner be selected. The amendment was agreed to without a division
3rd February 1877 Mr Amner, the newly appointed master of the new school at Fairhall has arrived, and we learn that this much required school will be opened on Monday next.
7th February 1877 THE Fairhall School will open for instruction on Monday 5th inst. under the superintendence of Mr Amner. John T. Robinson, Secretary Marlborough Education Board

21st February 1877 The Fairhall School opened the other week with two scholars, but on the third day the number had increased to 21. We are glad to find that the inhabitants of the district are availing themselves of this opportunity, although we are told there are still a number of children who are not attending any school
9th May 1877 A sum of £2 for the Fairhall School clock was then passed for payment. Marlborough Education Board
6th June 1877 A new school-house and teacher's residence have been erected at Kaikoura and a small school-room with teacher's residence attached at Fairhall. Inspectors report to Marlborough Education Board
9th June 1877 Inspector's report: 16.— Fairhall.— Nine out. of the 22 children attending had previously received instruction in Blenheim. In the lower classes two are learning to read letters, 6 short words, and 7 the Primer. The school, so far as I can at present judge, appears satisfactorily taught. Should the numbers increase, the room will be useless. The master requires a small table. The desks should all be turned towards the teacher.
23rd June 1877 It was resolved that a small table be obtained for the Fairhall School.
7th July 1877 Mr Amner is classified as Class III, Division III which appears to be the bottom classification. 16 teachers classified in all of Marlborough

1878

1878	Fairhall	Amner	Henry Charles	Head	£	120.00

30th January 1878 t this meeting Messrs Kelly, W. Jeffries, T. Jeffries, Terrill, Avery, H. Hammond, and Graham were elected. School Committee
9th October suggested rate for payment to school
Fairhall 26 pupils at 14 ½ pence £1.11.5
Blenheim 204 pupils at 6d £5-2-0
6th November 1878 FAIRHALL. Mr Amner. (31 present.) The progress made in this school since its opening, only eighteen months ago, has been remarkable. Taking the mere passes as a test, the whole of the 22 scholars who were presented succeeded, most of them with many marks to spare. What is more to the purpose, I found the Reading throughout very good, the Arithmetic being ready and correct. The school-room is much too small, and is badly supplied with maps and blackboards. Many of the scholars who ought long ago to have been writing, are without copybooks. The children are very orderly
9th November 1878 FAIRHALL. It was agreed that the Fairhall School be enlarged, and plans and specifications be prepared for next meeting of the Board.
Scholars passed in Standard 3

Name	Age	School	Marks
Minnie Terrill	14 years 9 months	Fairhall	173
William Kelly	14. 7	"	122
Jane Kelly	12 7	"	163

4th December 1878 Plans of new school at Tua Marina, of additions consisting of kitchen and shed at Blenheim school, and additions at Fairhall were laid before the Board. It was resolved to call for tenders for the above works
18th December 1878 Fairhall, enlargement of school building. E. Bythell £87 19s D. Wemyss £75 (accepted)

1879

1879 Fairhall Amner H C Master £ 120.00

1880

1880 Fairhall Amner H C Master £ 120.00

7th December 1880 Inspector's report included Fairhall 90% of scholars presented passed 64% of Scholars at the examination
Renwick 78% and 65%
Blenheim 67% and 52%

1881

1881 21 Fairhall Amner H C Master £ 108.00

2nd March 1881. In a long report on the failings of the Blenheim School Mr Parker, a member of the Education Board, claimed he found Blenheim Children on the road coming from the Fairhall school

6th December 1881 Fairhall.— Mr Amner. Present, 25; on the roll, 30. Fairhall fully maintained at the late examination its reputation as a well taught and well-disciplined school. The subjects in which the scholars did best were arithmetic, grammar, and spelling. The reading was somewhat indistinct, the. writing rather slovenly. Science had been carefully taught

1882

1882 25 Fairhall Amner Henry C Master £ 120.00

4th April 1882 The Fairhall School Committee wrote requesting that Mr Amner, the master, be removed, the principal ground being that he was subject to fits.

2nd May 1882 A deputation from the Fairhall School Committee, consisting of Messrs Storey, Avery, and Jeffreys waited on the Board in accordance with a resolution passed at last meeting, to explain their reasons for wishing to dispense with the services of the teacher, Mr Amner. Mr Amner was also present.

Mr Avery said that there had been a considerable amount of dissatisfaction in the neighbourhood with the, school, though no formal complaints had been made to the. Committee. At length the Committee decided to take some action, a majority being dissatisfied with the school, There was also the other. reason, namely Mr Amner's ill-health. They had requested him to resign, and he had declined to accede to the request. He was of opinion that the matter had been brought rather, hastily before the Board. Members were of opinion that the school was in a disorderly state and not sufficient attention had been paid to the manner in which the children did their work, He regretted :that the Committee, had not made a formal complaint to Mr Amner, and given him an opportunity of amending.

In reply to a question, Mr Amner stated that the Committee were not unanimous in bringing the matter before the Board. Those who did not vote for the resolution would prefer to wait and see how things, worked.

A petition was read as follows from a number of Fairhall residents

To the members of the Education Board.; We, the inhabitants of the Fairhall District, knowing that some of the Committee are about to request Mr Amner's removal, beg to present this petition which is, to say the least, unjust and unkind, as during the five years of. his sojourn with us as a master, not a single complaint has ever been raised against him, while

he has always obtained excellent reports from the Inspector, which we consider ought to give every satisfaction.
Signed Thomas Jeffries, H. C. O'Leary, W. Brooke, D. Herd, H. Hammond, B. Duffy, S. Huggart, R. Ronowiez, and W. Ronowiez. Mr Conolly asked whether the parties who: had signed the petition had children it the school.
Mr Amner replied that all had children with the exception of two.
Mr Storey stated that there was only one dissentient voice for the resolution in the Committee. Mr Jeffries thought that the matter had been gone into too hastily. The Education Act provided that three day's notice should be given to members of the Committee when any question of the dismissal of a teacher was to be brought forward,: any when he attended the meeting he was quite taken aback when the matter: was brought on.
Mr Amner stated that he had neglected this through, ignorance.
Mr Ward thought that if a Committee found any fault with a teacher, they should first speak to him, and then if failed.to amend, then to take their complaint before the Board;
Mr Jeffreys said that during the whole five years Mr Amner had been at Fairhall no complaint had ever been preferred against him by the Committee; as follows
Fairhall May 2nd,. 1882. We, the undersigned, are in favor of the dismissal of Mr Amner from the Fairhall District -C. Gomez, G, Storey; D. Bishell, G. Graham, F. Hammond, IN. Connor IN Horgan.
A counter petition was read from residents in the- Fairhall district in favor of Mr Amner's dismissal
Captain Baillie said that the Inspector's reports on the school were amongst the most satisfactory in the province,.
Mr Storey stated that the first petition was signed by persons, under a misapprehension of what it, was, whereas the other petition had only been sent out that morning and had more time been given, the signatures of nearly all the parents in the district could have been obtained,
The Chairman, at Mr Jeffreys' request, read the inspector's report,
The Board agreed that the reports were very good
Mr Storey, stated that he only wished to do his duty to the public.
Mr Amner produced the Inspector's reports on his school. He had had no complaint from the Committee. and had regularly passed the children under his care in the Standards. He thought, too, that if; any complaint was to be made it should have been made to him first. During the five years the only complaint he had received' was one from a settler stating that if he could not have his children's copybooks kept clear from blots and their writing made better he would remove them.
In a reply to Mr .Conolly, Mr Amner said that the attendance at the school was very irregular'
Mr Avery said that many families had left the district
Mr Storey said that several parents had expressed the opinion that unless a change of teacher was, made they would remove their children.
Mr Ward said he had visited the school at the request of one of the Committee and had seen how the work was done, and in his mind the Inspector's report was confirmed. He must say in justice .to the teacher that the teaching was above the average. He had no hesitation in giving his testimony in favor of Mr Amner.
Mr Conolly said the request of the committee was a very serious one. , There seemed no proper ground for the dismissal of Mr Amner. In every place there were to be found persons grumbling because their children were not at the top of the, tree. The reports of the school were very, good and there appeared to be no complaints as to his neglecting his, work or anything .else. Even the reason concerning, his health had not been advanced nor had it been shown his ill-health had interfered with his work., Mr Avery himself, had admitted .that he

was willing to accept Mr Amner for the future. Nothing had been shown that Mr Amner was even deserving of censure. He moved that the Board decline to accede to the request of the Fairhall School Committee recommending Mr Amner's dismissal.
Mr Ward seconded the motion, which was, put and carried

Henry Charles Amner

He was born Henry Adolphus Charles Amner in London in 1843, to Thomas Amner and Eliza Harriet nee Glasgow, who married in Quebec in 1830. Looks like only one sister and a brother survived to adulthood and she also became a teacher, running her own girls school in England, he a banker. The family are incredibly hard to trace, I cannot find them on the census until 1861 when the father is dead. I believe he was a Merchant and they probably travelled through the world for his work, judging by the Quebec marriage, which may be why it is hard to find them. Seems a reasonable wealthy family.
It looks like he joined the Civil Service in 1867, on which form his mother says his birth was never registered, which is correct, since I cannot find it.
Probably arrived in NZ in 1876
After teacher at Fairhall from 1878 to 1882
In 1883 and 1884 Henry Amner was the first teacher at Cross Creek on the Wairarapa Rail line. The teacher was the only non-rail worker in the settlement and often got a bad time. Cross creek was where the Fell engines were changed to go to the summit
In 1886 Henry was in Taupo teaching at the only school in Taupo with 9 pupils He was there for 1887 and 1888

In 1889 He arrived at Napier and is not teaching instead he is a vagrant who is constantly charged with drunkenness . The police arrest him because they believed he would otherwise have died
The people of Napier eventually had enough of him and raised enough money to send him back to Marlborough
In Marlborough he lived in the hospital, destitute because of his epilepsy and drinking
His Family (In England) paid for him to return to England
In 1893 He is travelling back on the Tongariro bound for London, still described as a Schoolmaster
In 1895 he is in the workhouse before being sent from there to the Metropolitan Destruct Asylum . In 1901 he was listed as being born about 1844 and described as a lunatic
He dies, still in the Asylum, In 1906, having never married, nor did his brother or sister have any children.
Research assistance from Grandson, Sam Percy

1883

1883	36	Fairhall	Clare	Arthur B	Master	£	120.00

29th January 1883 Fairhall School.— The Committee of this school for the current year consists of Messrs Storey, Goemz, O'Connor, Bishell, F Hammond, Brooks, Avery
6th March 1883 Mr Amner, master of the Fairhall school, wrote that on account of the passing of a resolution by the Fairhall householders requesting him to resign, he solicited the Board's advice on the matter. He had been six years in the school, and could not see that his

ill-health was as bad as represented. Nevertheless, if a change could be effected he would be pleased if the Board would consider him.
Mr Ward stated that the inhabitants with one or two exceptions thought it was desirable that Mr Amner should go. There was nothing against him as a teacher. That was shown by his reports. The only ground of complaint against him was that he had fits occasionally.
Mr Sinclair said that he had heard a good deal about the matter, and the reports were most conflicting. He moved that Messrs Seymour, Ward, and Henderson be a committee to inquire and report on the matter at next meeting.
Mr Parker agreed that people at Fairhall had very divergent opinions concerning Mr Amner,
The motion was put and carried
31st March 1883 THE FAIRHALL SCHOOL.
(contributed.) The second tea and entertainment in connection 'with the school in this district, was held on Wednesday, the 28th March. About sixty children were present, three-fourths of whom belonged to the district, and about the same number of adults attended. The tea was under the supervision of the school committee,, and was prepared and given, by the ladles in the wants of the juveniles were attended to first. Between four and five o'clock they were mustered for tea, when a most bountiful supply of those good things they delight in was set before them. After their appetites were satisfied, preparation- was made for the adults. A most substantial repast had been provided; Ham, poultry in abundance and variety, sandwiches, bread and butter, and confectionery of the best quality, invited the longing taste. Great credit is due to the ladies, who worked so enthusiastically for the success of the festival. In the evening Mr H Jellyman gave a magic lantern exhibition. This is the third time Mr. Jellyman had kindly favored, Fairhall in this way. First we had interesting and. graphic pictures of places in the land of Palestine, familiar and sacred from their scriptural association, reminding us of important events connected with them/ Then those comic pictures, which never fail to delight the young, and incite, them to manifest their approval in the most boisterous manner. J. Ward, Esq. who was present, kindly read extracts from, the .connectional readings of the views of Palestine and by invitation of .the School Committee gave the children a short, address. Mr Ward said he felt much pleasure in being with them on that occasion, and. gratified in seeing them enjoy themselves, so, much, He would not detain them long; but would just give them a little advice upon the necessity of doing what they had to do in a thorough manner. Nothing would contribute more to their success in life than this thoroughness in what they did, It was just this way of doing things which made many the eminent men they were in the world therefore he would ask them to do what they had to do in a thorough manner. He was present as a member of the Board, and felt an especial 'interest' the country schools. He would soon be gone from among them and all who now took so much interest in their welfare would, pass away and, they would; do for another generation what had been done for them to-day; and gave: them warning that the next time he met them would probably be at an examination.
The tea was free for the ladies and children, but a charge of Is 6d was made for gentlemen, in order to defray incidental expenses. -As most people like to know where the money goes, the Chairman of' the Committee gave a short financial statement: Collected at tea last year, £2 2s paid for lollies;14shillings; leaving a balance of £1 8s paid this year 14s for lollies and £2 for cricketing requirements collected at tea this year, £2 6s, leaving at the present time of £1 Is, which may be used for the benefit of the school and the district. The chairman said he did not see any reason why they should not have a half day sometimes to enjoy a game of cricket, and suggested that they should muster for that purpose on the Queen's Birthday. The- hearty thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr Jellyman , to those ladies who provided the tea, and to all who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

3rd April 1883 The special committee of the Board reported that, after making full enquiries, they were of opinion that a change in the mastership of the Fairhall School was desirable. H C mass of correspondence was also read from the Committee, together with a letter from Mr Amner, expressing his willingness to resign. The Chairman moved that the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr Amner, informing him that it will be necessary to send also to the Secretary notice of his intention to resign at the end of June, and that such resignation be accepted by the Board ., Captain Baillie seconded the motion,; which was carried.

14th April 1883 What teacher would resign **a** certainty for an uncertainty Mr. Clare, schoolmaster at Johnsonville, Wellington, has become bankrupt. At the last meeting of the Wellington Board the Ven. Archdeacon Stock wrote explaining the circumstances under which he had been recently induced to advance Mr. A. B. Clare, master at Johnsonville, **a** sum of money. After some discussion it was resolved to give Mr. Clare three months notice of dismissal.

17th April 1883 To the Editor of the Express. Sib,— I see in the report of the. last meeting of the Education Board that, in reference, to the Fairhall School, one of the members asked if it would be necessary to advertise for a teacher and the Chairman replied that he thought it would be time enough next month. I have often wondered why the Board delayed advertising, and I must say that I have never been able to see any reason for it, though I see very strong reason why vacancies should be advertised as soon as it is known that a muter intends to leave. Suppose the vacancy in the Fairhall School is advertised in May, applications to be sent in by June 5th, the day of the meeting of the Board, the Board considers the. Applications and forwards them to the Committee the Committee selects one, and return it, and we will say that on July 3rd, the next meeting of the Board, that selection is confirmed (if not there would be a further delay the successful candidate has to be written to, and, if he is in a school, which is very probable, he has to give his Committee a month's notice, and it would probably be the beginning of September before he could get to work at Fairhall. Now the Fairhall master will have left on June 30th, and therefore the school is two months closed. I am not writing this at all as wishing to find fault with the Board, as I think it does its work very well I merely suggest that it would be well to advertise as soon, as possible,— l am, etc.., Sigma.

1st May 1883 Mr Amner resigned the mastership of the Fairhall School. . Applications were directed to be invited for a female teacher for the Fairhall School, at £80 a year

2nd May 1883 Mr W. Avery wrote intimating, that the Fairhall Committee would prefer a married man as teacher of the Fairhall School.

Mr Amner, of the Fairhall School, wrote tendering his resignation. He added Certainly it is time same change was effected, seeing that the master cannot at his discretion inflict a slight corporal punishment on a child without the mother coming into the schoolroom and striking him in the face with her fist before the whole children. This was done on Tuesday, the third inst. by Mrs I Bishell, of Renwick New Road, the wife of a Committee-man.

Captain Ballie moved that applications be invited for a female teacher for the Fairhall School at £80 a year and house. Mr Paul seconded, and the motion was carried on a division, the ayes being 5, Messrs Seymour, Baillie, Dive, Paul, Hutcheson, and noes 2, Messrs Henderson and Ward

4th May 1883 Laura Jeffries of Fairhall School failed in her pupil teacher examination

Laura Jeffries Fairhall, aged 14 years and three months.— Arithmetic 90, geography 65, grammar and composition 100, reading 60, dictation 70, writing 60, total 1 for general examination- 445, art of teaching 30, total 475.

5h May 1883 A public meeting of the householders of the Fairhall district is convened for Tuesday evening next by Mr Avery, the Chairman of the Fairhall Committee. The object of the meeting is to consider the action of the Education Board on Tuesday last in deciding to appoint a female teacher to the School at a salary of £80 a year, in the place of Mr Amner, whose salary was £120

10th May 1883 PUBLIC MEETING AT FAIRHALL.

(CONTRIBUTED) The public meeting advertised to take place on Tuesday evening was attended by most of the householders interested in the school. Mr Avery was appointed chairman, and said, as the convener of the meeting it was necessary he should inform them why he had called them together. The School Committee had experienced a great deal of trouble and unpleasantness in the discharge of their duties in endeavouring to get another master, as they all very well knew. They had been as lenient and forbearing us possible, but felt impelled by a sense of duty, and a desire to promote the welfare of the school, to take the . steps they had. But just when they hoped this unpleasant business would be satisfactorily settled, a new cause of dissatisfaction arose. The Education Board, at their last meeting, decided to advertise for a mistress, at a salary of £80 a year, thus reducing the salary of the teacher £40 per annum. He was not aware what reason had influenced the Board. He was told it was for economy they had reduced the expenditure but lately the Board seemed to have plenty of funds, as the salaries had been raised in many places. Perhaps it was owing to the low average of attendance of late bat that could be satisfactorily accounted for. He had not come to the meeting prepared to advocate any course of action. or with any resolution for them to adopt, but had convened the meeting for the purpose of assessing their views and feelings on the subject, Mr Graham said he did not approve of the action of the Board in deciding to appoint a female teacher. Very few mistresses of any experience were available and a young inexperienced person would not be suitable. He considered the district treated unfairly by having the salary so reduced, while in other places not so large teachers' salaries had been considerably raised. The district contained enough children to entitle them to a master at the former salary.

Several other persons present spoke to the same effect in a conversational way. The meeting was most unanimous and decided on condemning the proposed change, and determined to stand up for their rights. A calculation was made of the number of children in the district between the ages of 5 and 14 years, and was found to amount to 50.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously 1. That this meeting is of the opinion that a female teacher would be unsuitable. That the District contains enough children to entitle it to a master at the former salary, and that the Education Board be asked to re-consider their decision.

2. That a deputation consisting of two members from the Committee and two householders attend thon next meeting of the Board, Messrs Avery, Storey, Herd, and H. Hammond to be the deputation. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

12th May 1883 To the Editor of the Express. Sir,— l see that the Education Board has resolved to appoint a female teacher to the Fairhall School. Does it not strike you, Mr Editor, that in view of the disgraceful doings that have recently taken place there, that the appointment of an ex-pugilist would be more appropriate One who, when attacked by a virago, could (without, of course, striking his assailant) neatly and gently fold her up and seat her outside on the door step to cool, and who, if subsequently assaulted by any of her relations of the male persuasion, could render a good account of herself and them What can the victim or the Education Board be doing to know such a gross outrage to pass unnoticed if any female can be found, with more nerve than discretion, to accept the appointment, all I can

say is "God help her," for she'll need it, end also a plentiful supply of Ticopherous (Sic). I am, etc., Civis. Blenheim, May 10th, 1883.

5th June 1883 The minutes were read. Mr Sinclair wished to point out that it seemed to him that the resolution passed at last meeting affecting the Fairhall school was ultra vires, that the Board had no power to pass it without previous notice of motion. The matter would, however, come up for discussion later on.

Mr Avery, Chairman of the Fairhall School Committee, wrote stating that a meeting had recently been hold in the Fairhall district, to protest again at the action of the Board in giving a female instead of a male teacher to the school He enclosed the following resolutions passed at the meeting

1. That this meeting is of opinion that a female teacher would be unsuitable. That the district contains enough children to entitle it to a master at the former salary, and that the Education Board be asked to re-consider their decision.

2. That a deputation consisting of two; members from the Committee and two householders attend the next meeting of the Board, Messrs Avery, Storey, Herd, and H. Hammond to be the deputation. Mr Sinclair said that there could be no doubt that the motion at last meeting had been illegally carried, and was therefore none at all. If the Board held that it was an, illegal motion. the state of the school would remain as it was before; and the Board could call for applications for a master at the old salary. The Chairman held that the objection raised by Mr Sinclair was fatal to the resolution passed at last meeting. Mr Avery, who attended with a deputation from tie householders of the Fairhall district, explained to the Board the feelings of the people in his district. He defended the Committee from the accusation that they had been ill-treating the late teacher. There are now about 60 children over the age of five years in Fairhall, and believed that if a suitable master were obtained the school would now become one of the best min the district, and could safely say that the average attendance would be 35. If it did not come np to that number the Committee would be quite willing to take a reduction of salary, or make np the difference themselves. Mr S Corey thought after the very fail statement made by Mr Avery that the Board should not hesitate to allow the school to have a male teacher. He stated that it was the wish of the people in Fairhall, and of the Committee, to appoint Mr McCallum temporarily to the school. Mr Sinclair moved that applications be invited for a master at a salary of £120 a-year. Mr Parker seconded. Captain Baillie said he had moved the resolution at last meeting, looking at the average attendance of the last few months. But after hearing the very fair offer made by Mr Avery, he had no objection to support the motion. The motion was put and carried. Mr Avery expressed the thanks of the deputation and Fairhall people to the Board.

3rd July The Fairhall Committee recommended the appointment of Mr A B Clair of Auckland as teacher of the Fairhall School

14th July 1883 Mr Clair, lately of Auckland, the new teacher for the Fairhall School, has arrived, and will immediately enter, upon his new duties

Mr Clare was actually teaching as head of Johnsonville School Wellington (Not Auckland) with Mary Ann Clare as his assistant. So he came from a two teacher school to a sole charge school. In 1879, Sole charge at Johnsonville,1880 and 1881 he was also at Johnsonville with a Martha Jane Clare has his assistant

4th September 1883 The Chairman of the Fairhall Committee drew attention to the necessity for meeting some improvements to the master's residence.

Mr Avery, who waited on the Board explained the improvements' required. In reply to an inquiry 'Mr Avery 'said that the teacher, Mr Clare, was giving general satisfaction in the district, though it was a difficult one to please. The children also seemed to like school and the master.

On Mr Henderson's motion the request made was agreed to be compiled with

7th September 1883 Cricket.— We understand that the Borough School boys are going to open the cricket season to-morrow by playing a match against an eleven from the Fairhall School. We trust that older, but apparently more apathetic, cricketers will follow the example set them by the juniors.

To the Editor of the Express. Sir, I wish to correct a paragraph which appeared in your issue of Tuesday last, in connection with your report of the Education Board meeting. You state that in reply to an enquiry, Mr Avery said that the teacher, Mr Clare, was giving general satisfaction in the district, though it was a difficult one to please. What I said was that Mr Clare was giving general satisfaction in the district, but it was o> difficult one to please everyone. I have never regarded the district as being a difficult one to please, but wo all know it is quite impossible for a master to please everyone at all times.— l am. etc.,

WILLIAM AVERY Fairhall, Sept. 7, 1833.

10th December 1883 Eva A Hammond 14 years old. Eliza IN Avery Fairhall 12 years old were candidates for the Nelson College scholarships

The Renwick and Fairhall school boys met on Friday last at a game of cricket, and' the result proved a victory for the Renwicktonians by 22 runs. W Lodge; with (13) was the highest scorer for the. victors, while Gomes and Graham with (7) each were the highest for the losers. H, Roberts and IN, Carroll bowled well for the Renwick team. The return match will be played at Christmas.

1884

1884	45	Fairhall	Clare	Arthur B	Master	£	140.00
1884	45	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Female Probationer	£	16.00

29th January 1884 At the .householder meeting at Fairhall, the chair was taken by Mr Avery, who read the following report

"Your Committee, in giving a report of their proceedings .for the past year, are pleased to be able. to. congratulate the householders in the district on the improved state of the. school; during the last: six months.

When your Committee took office the average attendance had very much decreased; the, school occupied a pauper position arid a great deal of dissatisfaction existed in the district with the schoolmaster; necessitating, in the opinion of the Committee, some immediate. action being taken in the matter.

At the first meeting of the Committee it was resolved that a meeting of householders be called to ascertain their wishes' with regard to obtaining another master. The meeting was well attended, and was unanimous in recommending a change, as the only way to promote the prosperity of the school. In agitating for this change the Committee felt they had a very unpleasant duty to discharge. "Eventually the matter had to be brought before the Board, with the request that the master be removed' The Board appointed a deputation to visit the district, make enquiries, and report. The result of their investigation confirmed the actions of the Committee as necessary, and their request was complied with, Subsequently it was decided by the Board advertise for a mistress for the Fairhall School at £80 per annum, instead of a master at £120,

We believe the board was influenced in their decision by the low average attendance returned not fully understanding the cause. Of' course we could not quietly submit to this proposed change and material alternative; A public meeting was called by the Chairman of the Committee to consider the action of the Board. Nearly all the householders attended. A

resolution condemning the proposed change was carried, and a deputation ,consisting of two of the Committee and two householders were appointed to interview the- Board, and request them to reconsider their decision and advertise for a master at the former salary. The Board very courteously complied with our request, and advertised for a master, resulting in the appointment of Mr Clare. Since the appointment of our present teacher ,the number on the roll and the average attendance has very much improved. The returns for the last quarter showing number on the roll 49, average attendance 41 which we consider very satisfactory. As the annual examination for standards has not been made during the past year, we. are unable to report what progress ,has been made by the children.

".We think the alteration in the time for this examination will be very inconvenient for .some country districts, and unfair to school teachers. The Committee have made several -improvements- in the school property during the year and have endeavoured to make the best use of the means at their disposal. We have spent more money than usual during the past year. But still have a respectable balance in hand, as you will see from. the financial statement we have to submit to you. All receipts and expenditure properly belonging to 1883 are included in the balance sheet although some, items were not actually received and paid within the year

The following is an abstract of the School fund accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1883

£1 in January 1883 was worth $167.20 in December 2015 (£ = pound, s = shilling d=pence) There were 20 shillings to a pound and 12 pence to one shilling

Receipts

	£	s	d
Balance from 1883	23	19	8
Receipts from Education Board	15	13	4
Total	39	13	0

Expenditure	£	s	d
Cleaning school and outbuildings	4	10	0
Repairing school fence and cutting wood	2	5	0
Fuel for school use	1	10	0
Books kept in stock	4	5	6
School bell and fixings, carting timber	4	18	0
Buying and planting 104 assorted trees	1	10	0
Forming and gravelling path, culvert, digging ground	4	7	6
Advertising	0	9	0
Stationery	0	14	3
Sundry small expenses	2	7	2

Balance	12	16	7
	39	18	0

William Avery Chairman Henry Hammond Auditor

The following were elected the Committee for the year. Messrs G Storey, H Hammond, Avery, T Jeffries, S Hoggart, IN Horgan, IN Connor

5th February 1884 From Mr Clare, master of the Fairhall School asking for the assistance of a pupil teacher. It was decided to forward the letter to the School Committee,, intimating that the appointment, should not be made.

1st April 1883 Letter from Mr. Avery, requesting the appointment of a pupil teacher at the school, as .the teacher stood in need of assistance. Mr Clare wrote also asking for assistance,_ as the average attendance was steadily increasing. Mr Avery said that the Committee had already pledged itself to appoint Misa Jeffries, who had just passed her examination, The Committee Were authorised to appoint a pupil teacher.

2nd April 1884 THE FAIRHALL SCHOOL. The third annual Tea in connection with .the school in this district was .held on Tuesday April 1st The day 'was beautifully fine with a .temperature, exactly suitable, for the active enjoyment of a holiday. Early in the afternoon most of the neighbourhood was 'deserted,' and quite a picturesque scene was presented in Mr Storey's paddock adjacent to the school, where different kinds of field sports were being enjoyed- People of all ages, from venerable grandparents of more than three score years and ten infants of a few weeks old had assembled in honour of the occasion. In addition to residents of the district,, a number of friends were present from. other localities, and apparently enjoyed themselves very much. The provision made for the tea could not easily be. excelled, and great .credit is .due to the .ladies who prepared the repast. In addition sandwiches bread and butter, cake, and all kinds of confectionery of the best quality provided on such occasions, there was the usual accompaniment in this place of beef, ham and poultry. The abundance that ..adorned the tables Indicated that the people possessed many of the good things of this life and knew how to enjoy them. The school-room was very tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, Which had a very pleasing effect; First the wants of the children ware attended to, arid-more than 100 juveniles were satisfied with the good things provided. In addition to these,' a group of infants, in charge of their mothers, remained outside. Probably about three Quarters were visitors. As Speedily as. possible the tables were prepared for the adults, who, occupied all available space, and gave ample evidence or possessing a healthy appetite The evening- was spent in a very enjoyable manner, although no preparation had been made for the entertainment. Probably as the place progresses, some programme will be arranged for such occasions. Mr. Jellyman again kindly favoured us with an exhibition, of his magic lantern views taken. from Livingstone's travel's in Central Africa,, Beautiful scenery, thrilling events in' connection with the great explorers travels, places, the people, their manners and customs, were very graphically illustrated delineated on the canvas subject was very interesting and instructive. Views were also given of important places in. ,the Old Country, very interesting to those who recognised -the Land and buildings they were familiar with years ago. The Exhibition concluded with some comic pictures for the amusement of the children

At. the invitation 0f the chairman of the School Committee, Mr Ward gave a short practical address stating his gratification in being present on that occasion, reminding the children of the advice he 'had 'given them last year, that what they did they should try to; do in a thorough manner and gave them further instructions further on why this should be done. The Chairman of the Committee addressed a. few words; to the parents,. Informed them of the appointment of a .pupil teacher , and expressed a hope they would send their children to

school regularly, and urged the children to make good use of their opportunities. Cheers, were heartily. given for the ladies who had provided the tea, Mr Jellyman for his kindness and f or Mr and Mrs Clare Exit was. then made from the crowded schoolroom, and the people left 'for home

9th July 1884 A B Clare graded D3

7th October 1884 Mr Sinclair moved, pursuant to notice, that Mr Clare's salary ;at Fairhall be increased from £l2O to £l5O. Mr Ward moved and Mr Hutcheson seconded an amendment that, before finally settling the matter, the opinion of the Committee be obtained. Mr Parker said he had informed by members of the Committee that they were so satisfied with the Board having granted them a pupil teacher that they could not recommend an increase to Mr Clare's salary at present. Mr Sinclair in reply pointed out that, considering the salary paid to such schools as Tua Marina and Waitohi, common justice required either that Fairhall should be more: or that the two former should be decreased. The Chairman considered that this was not a matter to be referred to the Committee, as the duty of dealing with money was thrown solely on the Board. Mr Sinclair had made out a good case for an increase of Mr Clare's salary. He would suggest that Fairhall and Grovetown, which, were schools of the same size, should be put on the same footing, and the salary fixed at £140. Ultimately the amendment was withdrawn, and on the motion of Mr Henderson, seconded by Mr Parker, the salary was increased to £140, by a majority of four to two. On the motion of Mr Sinclair, seconded by Mr Ward, the increase was fixed from the 1st August

5th August 1884 FAIRHALL SALARY. Mr Clare, teacher of the Fairhall School, wrote applying for his salary to be raised to that paid in schools of equal standing. His salary was stated to be £120, and the attendance 49. Mr Sinclair gave notice of motion for the next mooting that Mr Clare's salary be increased to £150.

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1st December 1884 FAIRHALL SCHOOL

[To the Editor of the. Express Sir,— Can you give me any idea to whether children who have passed the 6th Standard should occupy most of the time of. our schoolmaster, to the detriment of younger children who are absolutely neglected. Also, that, after he (the school master) has rang the school bell frequently from a quarter of an hour to half an hour too late— and then taken his departure, would it not be desirable to have telephone communication with Blenheim, so as to let him know of any impropriety in the education or otherwise of the school that he has been placed in charge of- Yours etc. A Fairhall Parent

2nd December 1884 THE FAIRHALL SCHOOL.
[To the Editor of the Express Sir,— l should like to make a few remarks upon a letter signed A Fairhall Parent," which appeared in your issue of yesterday. It seems to me to be an unjust and spiteful attack on oar schoolmaster, and most untruthful in its insinuations. There is only one pupil in the school who has passed the fifth Standard, and as to whether the pupil should have further tuition or not, is perhaps a proper question to submit to the Committee or the Education Board. As to the master leaving the school and going to Blenheim, -I am not aware that he has ever done so, except on two of three occasions, after obtaining my permission as Chairman of the Committee, and then only for an hour in the afternoon I have no hesitation in saying the impression conveyed by this letter of A Fairhall Parent is altogether false. The only, bit; of truth in it, as far as I know, is l believe the school bell has frequently been rung late.-I am, etc. William Avery, Fairhall Committee. Fairhall December . 2nd, 1884.
11th December 1884 Scholarship Examinations.— The examinations for the Marlborough scholarship to the Nelson College are proceeding to-day, and will be continued to-morrow. Mr Pasley, Collector of Customs, has been appointed Supervisor. There are eleven candidates, seven being boys and four girls. The boys are all from the Borough schools, and of the girls one is from Havelock, one from Picton, and two come from Fairhall. The examination papers are sent from the College.

1885

1885	43	Fairhall	Clare	Arthur B	Master	£	140.00
1885	43	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Female Probationer	£	24.00

17th February 1885 Fairhall School Committee.— At a meeting of the Fairhall School Committee held last night a letter was read from Mr Joseph Ward, chairman of the meeting of householders, enclosing copy of a letter he had sent to the Education Board stating that Mr Sinclair, who had been elected by the meeting, was not a resident and therefore not eligible. Mr Ward added that the greatest number of votes, excluding Mr Sinclair, was obtained by Mr H. Hammond, and that the Committee would therefore be Messrs G. Storey, O'Connor, Brooks, Hoggard , T. Jeffries, Horgan, and Hammond. The Committee balloted for the election of members of the Education Board Joseph Ward obtaining 6 votes, J. IN. Hutcheson 6, T. Horton 4, and W. B. Parker 2. The Committee will therefore vote for the three first named candidates. It was resolved' that the teacher, Mr Clare, be asked for an explanation of his absence from school on three Monday morning's recently. After dealing with some other business the meeting adjourned
3rd March 1885 FAIRHALL. Mr Joseph Ward, as chairman of the meeting of householders, wrote pointing out that Mr W. Sinclair, elected as a Committee man, was nonresident and therefore ineligible. Mr. Hammond had the next largest number of votes, and would take Mr Sinclair's place
11th March 1885 Fairhall School.— The result of Inspector Hodgson's examination of the Fairhall School on Monday is that 100 per cent of the 38 children who were presented in the Standards duly passed. These 38 represent 95 per cent of the whole school exclusive of infants under eight. The result is creditable to Mr Clare the Teacher.
24th April 1885 Fairhall School.— The Annual Tea Meeting and Entertainment for the children and their friends will take place in the Fairhall School on Tuesday afternoon and evening. This gathering has always been of a very festive and successful nature, and will be rendered more so this year by an exhibition of magic lantern views which Mr H. Jellyman has kindly agree! to give.

29th April 1885 The annual Tea and Entertainment at the Fairhall School took place last night, and was attended by over 100 children, and a large number of parents and friends, A sumptuous tea had the fullest justice done to it. Mr H. Jellyman exhibited his magic lantern views, which were much enjoyed and applauded, a hearty vote of thanks being awarded to Mr Jellyman for his kindness

2nd June 1885 Mr Ward reported that he had visited the Fairhall School, and found that extra accommodation was absolutely necessary. The attendance, when, he visited it, was 55. The average last quarter was 44 and the roll number 60 According to the 10ft scale, there was existing accommodation for 53, There was very poor accommodation in the house for the teacher. The architect was instructed to confer with the Committee with a view to increasing the accommodation for the master, and report ns to the probable cost. accounts.

31st July 1885 For additions to the Fairhall school tenders are to be sent in to the Education Hoard by Monday next.

4th August 1885 Following tenders were opened (for additions to the Fairhall .School P. Council, £84 15s A. G. Mills, £103 John Miller, £107 9s IN. Carroll, £120 10s Lipscombe and Lusty, £120 123 J. Aston, £135. Mr Council's tender was accepted.

1886

1886	50	Fairhall	Poole	John	Head Master	£	130.00
1886	50	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Female Probationer	£	32.00

10th March 1886 Death. Mr A. L. Clare, who for some years past has been teacher at the Fairhall School, died yesterday after a long illness. He was suffering from lung disease and a brain malady. He leaves a widow and one child, utterly unprovided for. It is said that Mr Clare had a presentiment that he would die on the 9th March, the very day on which he passed away. Deceased formerly held a Captain's Commission in the l6th Foot. He was a member of the Marlborough Hussars, Death has removed him at the early age of 30 years. The funeral will leave the Fairhall School at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, and it is hoped that the Volunteers will be called out to attend.

1886/1587 Clare Arthur Ball 32Y

18th March

20th March 1886 Ethiopians.— Our local Minstrels, the Ethiopians, intend giving another of their popular and amusing entertainments at Ewart's Hall, on Thursday the l0th April. The proceeds will be given to Mrs Clare, widow of the late teacher at the Fairhall.

6th April 1886 Letter from the School Committee asking the Board to call for applications for a master to succeed the late Mr Clare, and stating that in the meantime they had appointed Mrs Clare. Mr Henderson moved and Mr Watt seconded, That applications be called for a master at £140. An amendment was proposed by Mr Lambert, That Miss Bary, as a teacher trained and certificated, and educated at the expense of the Board, and as highly recommended by the Inspector for appointment of this kind, should be appointed to the room of the late Mr Clare, on probation for six months, at £100 a year, Major Baillie seconded the amendment. Marlborough people had a sort of prejudice against female teachers but in Nelson schools of equal standing to the Fairhall were officered by females. Mr Ward denied that he was actuated by any prejudice. His simple idea was that the Committee's decision should not be overridden. It would be just as well to say that the mover and the seconder were prejudiced in favor of female teachers. Major Baillie did not deny that he was, and pointed to

the strong preference they had in the States for female teachers. Mr Lambert had no prejudice, bat could point to Kaituna and other places in favor of the good work done by appointing females. He did not wish to> override the Fairhall people, he was willing that his amendment should take the form of asking them to appoint a female. If they would not do so, he, for one, should oppose the Board educating any more female teachers, for it was ridiculous to train them, and then set them on one side when a chance of promotion came, in favor of someone whose sole superior qualification was that he was a man. Mr Henderson admitted the desirability of finding promotion and advancement for any of the young ladies trained by the Board, but he strongly opposed setting aside the wishes of the Committee who were the best judges of their own Business. An insuperable objection to appointing Miss Bary was that, not being 21, she could not hold the certificate she had passed in while the Board were bound if they carried out the Act to appoint persons of full age.
In reply to Mr Lambert, Mr Henderson would not dispute that the Board had over and over again broken the law he had referred to. Mr Lambert instanced the case of Okaramio, where an uncertified teacher had been recently appointed. Ultimately Mr Lambert's amendment, asking the Fairhall Committee to temporarily appoint Miss Bary, was put and carried unanimously. In the meantime Mrs Clare was authorised to carry on the school, at her late husband's salary
13th April 1886 The Late Captain Clare. The performance which will be given in Ewart's Hall on Thursday, April l0th, by the Blenheim Ethiopians, for the benefit of the widow of the late Captain Clare, Her Majesty's 16th Foot, promises to be a big success. The deceased captain served with Lord Gifford when he won the Victoria Cross, and for some years was adjutant of his regiment. The patronage of the officers and members of the various district corps has been accorded, and they have determined to appear in uniform.
6th April 1886 A long article on young teachers (especially women) not getting jobs included There is a vacancy at Fairhall School, which could be efficiently filled-there is no doubt about that fact by one of the young teachers in question, but the Committee decline, as we understand the matter, to have a female, and insist upon a male teacher being appointed……in this particular case, that the Fairhall school is justified in requiring a master at £140, instead of a mistress at £100……..
20th April 1886 The performance given in Ewart's Hall last night for the benefit of Mrs Clare attracted a tolerably good house, the back seats being crowded and the front ones fairly filled. The programme was very well rendered throughout, and applause and encores were frequent……..
3rd May 1886 Fairhall.— The annual meeting of householders in the Fairhall district took place on Tuesday last, when the following gentlemen were elected Messrs F. Hammond, D. Bishell, Thomas Jeffries, Duffy, O'Connor, J. H. Black. and H. Hammond. The Committee subsequently met and appointed Mr F. Hammond Chairman, Owing to the absence of a minute book no other business could be done, and the meeting adjourned.— The adjourned meeting was held in the Schoolroom on Saturday night, all the members being present. The Committee considered the letter received from the Education Board addressed to the old Committee, asking them to take Miss Bary temporarily for 6. months, as successor to the late Mr Clare. The meeting condemned the action taken by the old Committee in agreeing to accept this offer, and passed resolution unanimously requesting the Board to advertise for a schoolmaster at the salary of the late teacher. After transacting some routine business, the Committee adjourned.

4th May 1886 FAIRHALL,. Letter from the old School Committee, conveying a resolution agreeing to accept Miss Bary's services as suggested by the Board. Letter from the new Committee, disapproving of the old Committee's action, and asking the Board to call for applications for a male teacher at the same salary which the late Mr Clare enjoyed. Letter from Mr Harold E. Ayes, applying for the vacancy. Resolved, on the motion of Mr Henderson that a male teacher be advertised for at a salary of £130.

Pick a Name

Arthur Clare Ball
Born in Perth Australia to William Clare Ball CB and Mary Ann Hook in 1855 as Arthur Clare Ball
His father was a Paymaster in the army and retired as a Colonel.
Attended the prestigious Stonyhurst College in England, there on the 1871 Census
Next record seen joining the Merchant Navy in North Shields in 1874
Deserts in Rangoon in 1875, unsure how he returns to England
Marries Martha Ann Sutterby in London, Nov 11 1876. Occupation as Civil Servant.
Martha Ann was 9 years his senior and had a 5 year old illegitimate daughter whom he seems to have adopted.
Martha was the daughter of a publican turned servant from rural Suffolk, she seems to have been a servant most of her life prior to marriage. It is possible that Arthur eloped with the family servant, or met her in a less than respectable way, especially since she has already had an illegitimate child. This is possibly one of the reasons for his leaving for NZ as this would have been incredibly scandalous to such a respectable family.
Name as Arthur Benjamin Beresford Clare in court case
Name Arthur Benjamin Clare teacher registration Form

6th May 1886 A Good Result.— After paying all expenses, the Blenheim Ethiopians have banded over to Mrs Clare the sum of £13 1s, proceeds of the late entertainment
8th June 1886 Fairhall School —At a meeting of the Fairhall School Committee last night Mr Poole was selected from among the applicants for the teachership. The selection will no doubt be confirmed by the Board; Mr Poole is a certificated teacher of large experience, and had charge of the Waipukurau School, Hawkes Bay, for many years.
6th July 1886 The Sub-Committee reported that, in accordance with- the wishes of the School Committees, they had appointed Mr Poole to Fairhall
FAIRHALL. Application from Fairhall Committee for a grant of £5 towards sinking a well. Request granted.
7th December 1886 he following tenders for porch at the Fairhall School were opened J. Lusty and Co., £ 35, J. Peddie £ 37 17s, D. Wemyss £ 32, R. Dixon £29 9s, Woodham and Co., £ 36 6s 6d, F. Watson £ 34, and Peter Connell £32 ss. The amount was deemed too high, and no tender was accepted

1887

1887	47	Fairhall	Poole	John	Head Master	£	130.00
1887	47	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	40.00

18th July 1887 Mr J Poole had a classification of E3 *With E being the lowest grade and there were 5 steps within E*

1888

1888	46	Fairhall	Poole	John	Head Master	£	130.00
1888	46	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	40.00

25th February 1888 Partial E Examination pass Miss Jeffries Fairhall
13th March 1888 Miss Maud Clare *(Presumably daughter of the late teacher)* Top mark for admission as a pupil teacher with 561
Laura Jeffries passed fourth year examination with 640/ 925
5th April 1888 FAIRHALL School. The children attending the Fairhall School were entertained last night at tea, which was provided for them by the School Committee, Mr Frank Hammond, the Chairman, being particularly prominent. Mr C. Patchett, who was entrusted with the catering, provided an excellent spread, -which was partaken of by 87 rosy cheeked, well-clothed, and well-conducted children. Tea was laid on the tables at 4 o'clock, and whilst the parents were partaking of theirs races were got np in Mr G Storey's paddock, near the school, for both boys and girls, who entered heartily into the various competitions. Mr A. Rogers kindly provided lime-light views of scenes in the North Island, Zululand, and other places, which were much enjoyed by the children, especially the comic Pictures which Mr Rogers had amongst his collection. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Rogers for his kindness. There was a large attendance, and that whole affair was most enjoyable and successful.
10th April 1888 FAIRHALL SCHOOL. A letter was read from the teacher, Mr J. Poole, applying for an increase of salary, on the ground that during the year and nine months he had been in charge of the school he had been receiving £10 per annum less than his predecessor and, secondly, he understood that no teacher in the district with a similar school was so poorly paid as he was. He therefore hoped the Board would place him on an equal footing with his predecessor and the other teachers in the district.
In reply to Mr Ward and Mr Paul, the Secretary stated that Mr Poole received £130. The Spring Creek teacher also received £130. The Chairman pointed out that Mr Pools had written without reference to his Committee. Mr Pool's former application had been sent to the Committee. In reply to Mr Henderson, the Secretary stated that the Okaramio teacher received £120. Mr Ward was afraid they would have to reduce, rather than increase. Mr Paul said that Boards in other parts of the colony were reducing, not increasing.
Mr Henderson moved, and Mr Paul seconded— That the Board regretted they were unable to comply with the request. Carried
24th April 1888 FAIRHALL. There was a fair attendance of householders at the Fairhall School last night. Mr Joseph Ward, who attended at. the request of several members of the Committee, was voted to the chair. An abstract of accounts up to the 31st December last was laid before the meeting, the Committee being under the impression that was sufficient. The following were elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year Messrs T. Jeffreys, H. Hammond, F. Hammond, B, Duffy, D. Bishell, W. Brookes, and J. Fitzgerald
1st May 1888 Mr Ward drew attention, at the meeting of the Education Board to-day, to a difficulty that cropped up at the meeting of householders at Fairhall. He said that the Education Act Amendment Act laid it down that the report and balance-sheet must be prepared to the end of March in each year, while the forms sent to the Committee were made

put to the end of December. Mr Henderson said that the Fairhall Committee presented their accounts duly audited to the end of December, and had a supplementary balance-sheet made up to the end of March. After consulting the Amendment Act, the Chairman pointed out that it provided for the report being made up to 'the end of March but nothing was said as to the balance-sheet. Mr Ward said he could not conceive the one without the other. Mr Henderson suggested that it was a case of slipshod- legislation, and so the matter dropped, nothing being done to elucidate the knotty point.

7th August 1888 VINDICATION. Mr Poole (Fairhall) wrote a long letter in vindication of himself from the charges against him of having caused the attendance to fall off. In this letter he referred to the Inspector's reports and his own record of work, and argued that the sixth standard failures were to be expected, when the children had only attended half time. Mr Poole appended a copy of a letter from the Committee, calling on him to resign aid of his reply thereto. As there was up report from the Inspector the matter was ordered to stand over till next meeting

2nd October 1888 The Fairhall Committee wrote asking for the Inspector's special report to be sent them. The Board thought the Chairman might see it, but the Board regarded it as a private communication from their officer not intended to be made public.

4th December 1888FAIRHALL. The Fairhall Committee applied for repairs to window sashes. referred to the architect with power to act

1889

1889	44	Fairhall	Poole	John	Head Master	£	130.00
1889	44	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	40.00

14th March 1889 Fairhall.— Mr Poole, assistant Miss Jeffreys. On roll 58, present 51. I regret that the improvement which I was able to record last year has not continued, and that this school, as tested by my late examination, has gone back most unmistakeably. The redeeming point is the reading, which is good throughout, and in the two first standards, under the charge of the assistant, excellent. In other respects the results were lamentable, one only of the twenty scholars comprising the third and fourth standards succeeded in passing, the failures throughout the school actually outnumbering the passes.

24th April 1889 FAIRHALL. The following gentlemen were elected Messrs F. Hammond (chairman), H. Hammond, Jeffries, Bishell, Brooks, Duffy, and O'Connor. School Committee

7th May 1889 From the Fairhall School Committee requesting the Board would take steps to restore the school to its former high position. Mr Poole, the master, wrote also in reference to the examination, for the inferior result of which he. could not account. Mr Poole analysed the. Work of the school, and gave such accounts as he could of the various departments of the work and-expressed the belief that there were good grounds for expecting better results next year. He also enclosed a report from Mr Inspector Hill and Rev. J. Grant of Hawke's Bay. The matter was discussed. Mr Ward moved That the teacher of the Fairhall school have notice of the termination of his engagement. Mr Lambert seconded this and it was carried.

5th June 1889 Mr C. Simson (Blenheim) wrote asking for an increase of salary. He had been six years in the Boards service. Mr J. P, Lucas (Head Master *Blenheim*) strongly urged that application. Mr Conolly thought this a good opportunity-for promotion. He would suggest offering Fairhall school to Mr Simson. It was a better plan than training teachers and then letting them go. Mr Paul concurred, but committees would not always agree. It was decided to write to Mr Hughes (Starborough) who had once before applied for the appointment, and

to Mr Simson and also to the Committee, asking whether they would choose from these two gentlemen

6th June 1889 A long letter from Mr Hodgson inspector on the failings at Spring Creek was followed with the following comments on Fairhall

The treatment I received at Fairhall, under very similar circumstances, presents a striking contrast to that of which I wrote. Two members, of the committee were present during the examination, and were, therefore, in a position to give an intelligent and cordial assent to my unfavorable verdict. And it should be recorded in favor of the master of the Fairhall school that though he must have known that his retention of office largely depended upon the nature of his defence, he disdained the baseness—for it is nothing short of that —of attempting to cast on the examiner the burden of the children's shortcomings. It is clear that if not only teachers (for whom there is some Shadow of excuse), but also school committees, are to bring forward unchallenged, accusations of unfairness in this reckless and partisan fashion, whenever an unfavorable estimate of a school is sent to the Board, the task of framing reports that shall be. at once accurate and acceptable —already sufficiently difficult —will soon become impossible.

2nd July 1889 From the Fairhall School Committee, re the vacant mastership, preferring that the vacancy should be advertised. From Messrs Hughes and Simson, the former declining the offer of Fairhall, and the latter expressing his willingness to accept it.— Mr Simpson was appointed at £120. From Mr Murray, applying for Fairhall. From Mr Hill ditto.

From Fairhall asking for fireplaces

5th July 1899 John Poole, a well-known resident of Marlborough, died at Blenheim on Friday at the age of 72 yean; Mr Poole came out to New Zealand in 1863, and for 17 years held the position of schoolmaster at Waipukurau, under the Hawke's Bay Education Board. He was also for some time a teacher in Marlborough. He was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church and also in Masonic circles Hawkes Bay Herald

12th July 1889 The Fairhall School Committee met on Wednesday night to consider the action o£ the Education Board in appointing Mr C. Simson, master of the school, without consulting the Committee in the matter, and in face of their request that the Board should advertise for applications for the position. After considerable discussion it was decided that Messrs Bishell, Jeffries, and F. Hammond should wait on one of the local solicitors to get legal opinion as to the Board's action

2nd August 1889 Blenheim School Committee The Secretary to the Education Board I wrote (1) notifying the Committee of the appointment of Mr Simpson to Fairhall, (2) enclosing copy of new pupil-teacher regulations. •Mr C. Simpson wrote notifying the Committee of his transfer to Fairhall. *(Mr Simson's name is spelt without the P. Simson not Simpson)*

6th August 1889 THE FAIRHALL SCHOOL. Eight or nine strangers entered the room while the minutes were being read, and it being understood that they came (accompanied by Mr Win. Sinclair as their legal adviser) as a deputation in support of a letter to the Board, the Chairman observed that this business had better be taken first. The Chairman then read a letter from the Committee.

The Committee wrote acknowledging the Secretary's notification of the appointment of Mr Simson as master. The' letter continued: "The Committee have considered the action of the Board, and taken legal advice in the matter on which they intend to act. The Committee are advised and are of opinion that they have been completely ignored by the Board, which has evidently overlooked section 45 of the Act. The Committee do not wish to 3ay anything

against Mr Simson, and will be happy to consider his' application with others, or if he is the only competent certificated teacher who applies, to give him the position, but it cannot shut its eyes to the fact that he is very young, arid has only for a few years been teaching in Blenheim school in standards not higher than the second." After again urging that applications ought to be called the writer (the chairman of Committee, Mr F. Hammond) says the action of the Board " is neither more nor less than an infringement of its rights, and it is determined to resist this arbitrary conduct by refusing to accept Mr Simson."

Mr W. Sinclair requested to be heard on the- legal aspect of the case, and permission being granted, that gentleman proceeded to say that the Committee thought they had not been technically consulted. He briefly recapitulated the proceedings already recorded. Counsel submitted that the Act provided that the Committee should be "consulted" in reference to appointments, and that in this case the submission to the Committee of one candidate is not a "consultation." In this case the local body wanted a married teacher. Counsel said the Committee were not fractious, but they asked for re-consideration of the subject by the Board. He thanked the Board for having heard him.

The Chairman asked whether the Chairman of the Committee wished to add anything.

Mr Hammond, Chairman of the Committee, said it was understood the Board believed in promoting teachers. Well, they had a lady teacher whom they considered just as competent as Mr Simson.

Mr J. Ward remarked that the Board only desired to do the best for all, bat the case of this lady had never been before the Board. The Committee at onetime would not have Miss Bary. When a highly qualified teacher like Mr Simson came forward the Committee now turned round, and said they wanted a married teacher! He did not agree with Mr Sinclair altogether as to the meaning of the work consulted." He did not like the idea of the Committee setting a lawyer at the Board.

The Chairman said he was not here as a lawyer, nor as the Board's legal adviser, but he might remark that the Act did not provide that the Board could be bound by the result of a consultation with the Committee. He did not wish to see any friction, for the Board would quite believe the Committee was acting bona fide for the best, and they hoped the Committee would do. the Board equal justice. He thought the objection that Mr Simson was a young and unmarried man should have been urged earlier. There had been no advertising of the vacancy, and in fact advertising had at times led to injustice. He would ask members of the Board to express their ideas on the subject.

Mr Hammond was permitted to add that when the letter was sent to the Committee there were no applications.

Mr Mills asked whether it was true that the Committee had barricaded the schoolroom.

The Secretary in reply to the Chairman said Mr Poole had informed him that the Committee had committed a technical burglary, having entered the school building -while, he (Mr Poole) held possession on the Board's behalf.

The Chairman of Committee said when Mr Poole closed the school for the holidays he said he would take the key. As the Committee wanted the room they were told that they might go into the school and come out when they had finished when Mr Poole would lock it up. The Committee did not feel inclined to submit to this, and had secured the school and he now held the key.

The Secretary said Mr Poole had the key. What other keys there were he did not know.

Mr Mills, regretting the pass things had come to, pointed out that the Board possessed the power to appoint teachers, subject to the clause for consulting the Committee. He thought however, that the teacher and Committee and not the Board and Committee had to live together, and should waive a good deal on that account. He quite believed in the principle of promoting deserving teachers. Clause 84 of the Act provided for the school being kept open

five hours a day and no permission was given to the Committee to- take forcible measures. He thought the Committee should have spoken to the Board before acting so. He would move: "That the Fairhall Committee be requested to remove any obstructions in the building and hand over the .keys to the Board's Secretary.
The Chairman thought this had nothing to do with the subject.
A committeeman said they had been locked out of the school and this they regarded as a cruel act on the part of the Board.
The Chairman thought the appointment was the matter before them.
Mr Hutcheson said they were wandering away from the matter in hand. As to the consultation, he maintained that they had consulted the Committee. As to the advertising they had done that with very discouraging results sometimes. They had advertised before for that very Fairhall school, and others, and had got men with B.A.s and D.D.'s and strings of academical titles, yet who had been kicked about from Dan to Beersheba, and were drunkards and disreputable. Why condemn the appointment of Mr Simson before he had been tried.
Mr Ward thought the Committee were not entirely to blame (when shut out) for forcing the school open.
The Secretary What, the residence?
Mr Ward: Oh, I did not know about that.
Mr Parker moved, "That the appointment be suspended until after next meeting of the Board." He thought the Committee had probably done no more than any other committee would have done under similar circumstances.
Mr Mills' motion had lapsed for want of a seconder, as also did Mr Parker's now.
Mr Paul pointed out that the Board had always done its best in all interests, and it had sent to the Fairhall Committee now a teacher most highly recommended. They had not thrust him on them, nor had the Committee till afterwards say they wanted a married man. Of course the Board had it open to them to retract what they had done, but that they would discuss in private. The Chairman of Committee took exception to the statement that the Committee had said anything against Mr Simson. Quite the contrary; they had. not, for they could not
Mr Ward moved That consideration of the letter be deferred to next meeting, to ensure a fuller Board."
Mr Sinclair said he was instructed to say that if Mr Simson were sent, number of parents would keep their children away. The Committee wanted a married teacher.
The question was discussed in a conversational way, and Mr Ward's motion seconded by Mr Mills, was carried, Miss Jeffreys to be left in charge of the school
Mr Ward observed that it might be satisfactory to appoint Mr Simson temporarily.
The Chairman was of opinion that the Committee had a right to the schoolroom
The deputation and their adviser thanked the Board and withdrew
7th August 1889 THE FAIRHALL TROUBLE.
The appearance before the Education Board yesterday of a school committee en masse, accompanied by their legal adviser, was an unwanted spectacle, one that in the course of a rather extensive acquaintance with matters educational, we had never before seen. The Committee acted perhaps not wisely but (certainly) too well. It was a capital move from a strategical point of view, to march in in force and fill up the outer space, and it had its effect upon the Board. That body tacitly confessed itself outnumbered and cornered, and behaved with comical humility. It not only received and heard the deputation, but (mirabile dictu) it actually discussed matters with the visitors! The Board was clearly wrong in this. It should have heard the Committee and then dismissed them to the street corners, while the matter in hand was under discussion. To discuss the question with them was unworthy of the Board's dignity. The argument of the Committee was a weighty one but it seemed to be forgotten that

the Committee had first asked the Board to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Poole's retirement. This the Board did, perhaps a little precipitately, but assuredly with an honest idea of doing good. It sent out a highly recommended teacher whom the Committee suddenly rejected as unmarried and "ow're young." The Board was thus placed in an awkward dilemma. The thrusting on the Committee of a Board nominee, would result in a local conspiracy against the teacher; retraction by the Board would argue weakness. A Committee standing on its hind legs in a rampant attitude is a formidable body, and as it is, the Board must now in the interests of the school withdraw its man and leave the Committee masters of the situation. This furnishes but one more argument against the existence and the vague powers of School Committees. The possibility of such a collision as this is enough to damn the entire educational machinery as unworkable. As the matter now stands, the Board having weakly surrendered, must retire as gracefully as it can. Such a sorry farce, however, we hope will never be played here again.

14th August 1889 THE- FAIRHALL SCHOOL TROUBLE.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir,— Fiat justitia ruat caluni ought to be the motto of every well-regulated newspaper. Will you therefore permit me to say a few words with regard to the matter handled in the leading article of the Express for Wednesday, August 8th Being an outsider, with no stake either in Blenheim or Fairhall, and acting on the principle that lookers on see most of the game, I cannot help yielding to a strong inclination to take up the cudgels on behalf of the Committee, which has certainly been treated with great discourtesy by the Education Board; While admitting that certain clauses of; the Act are very vaguely worded, and that from a strictly, legal point of view the Board can practically .disregard .the wishes of an entire school district. I maintain that the spirit of the clause re appointment of teachers fully intends that the Committee shall have a say in such appointment, and that it is the duty— as it has decidedly hitherto been the custom of the Board to give them an opportunity of having the vacancy filled more to their satisfaction than has in the present instance been done. The fact that a head teacher is unmarried may seem to some a frivolous objection regard it as a very reasonable one and, surely no person unbiased by local prejudice will argue that the country schools arc to be used merely as good billets" wherein to put Blenheim teachers when the Board cannot afford to give them a higher salary in the Borough schools,— that in point of fact the said teachers are to be considered before the children yet this seems to be the light in which the subject is looked at by more than one of the residents of the capital city of Marlborough. Why, also, I ask, ought the Committee to have been "dismissed to the street corners while the matter was under discussion?" A School Committee is as much a public body, and entitled to as much respect; as is an Education Board, and even if in the present case, the members of the Committee departed from the ordinary course of procedure in their protest against .the Board's treatment of them, it was not until they had first been the victims of some peculiar conduct on the part of the Board, or its Secretary, I am not sure who was responsible; but I am sure that in the opinion of all impartial observers the Committee would come cut the best if the facts of the affair were made more generally known. When the schoolmaster closed the school for the holidays, he locked it and refused to give the key to the Chairman, saying that he had received instructions from the Secretary of the Board that he. was not to give up the key to anyone except his successor! Was this calculated to fill the Committee with gratitude and mildness, when neither by word or deed save signifying their wish that the vacancy be advertised, had they done naught to annoy the Board? The late master removed himself bag and baggage to Blenheim on the-same day that he broke up school, the Committee obtained access to the building and when Mr Poole brought Mr Simson out to give him possession a week before his time, he was unable to get in. If there is any place where the inhabitants when smitten on one check turn the other to the smiter, its denizens may perhaps cast a stone at the Fairhall people, but New Zealand is very,

far from Utopia, and under the circumstances instead of wondering that they at last rose rampant," I marvel they remained couchant so long. It the Board has suddenly developed a taste for experiments on the human passions, I fail to see why they should have chosen the Fairhallites to try their “prentice han' upon,” as I know at least one School Committee who would have" raised Cain" to a much greater extent had they been served in a similar manner. I am, etc., Perigrinus

3rd September 1889 The Fairhall Committee wrote notifying that Miss Jeffries was carrying on the school satisfactorily, and expressing a hope that the Board if it decided to employ a married teacher, would retain the services of Miss Jeffries until the selection was made. The Committee also wrote that the fireplace was dilapidated. Mr Ward was asked to inspect and report upon the required work.

The Fairhall teachers’ difficulty was ordered to stand over for a month.

4th September 1889 The discussion of the Fairhall School at the Education Board yesterday, Mr Ward moved and Mr Hutcheson seconded the postponement of the matter till next meeting. The latter remarked upon the grievousness of the Committee's objection to Mr Simson's appointment. Mr Lambert also held that Boards should act with more independence and decision in these matters, and not waste time haggling with Committees. Mr Mills advocated the rights of Committees. The Chairman believed in the Board promoting its teachers as the .occasion offered. Mr Ward held by Committees, but observed that the Act seemed framed for the purpose of fomenting squabbles. The motion was carried.

1st October 1889 The Fairhall Difficulty.— The Fairhall case came up at the meeting of, the Board to-day, and for the information of Lt-Col Baillie and Mr Seymour the whole correspondence was read and the matter was discussed in Committee. On resuming, the Board resolved: ""That Mr Simson be given three months' notice of the termination of- his engagement as master of the Fairhall School and that applications be called for the position by advertisement at the salary of £120, a year, in the local papers until the next meeting of the Board."

15th October 1889 he Education Board invites applications for the Mastership of the Fairhall School, (salary £120 per annum) to close on November 4th

29th October 1889 The Board of Education will have to deal at its next meeting with a difficulty arising out of the Fairhall emeute. Some time ago the Board appointed Mr Simson, one of the teachers of the Borough School, to the charge of the Fairhall School, but the local Committee having signified their strong objection to the appointment of a single man, the Board withdrew Mr Simson, who finds himself in a position the reverse of satisfactory. He was induced by the prospect of bettering himself, to apply for the vacancy at Fairhall. He received the appointment, and a benediction from his old Committee and the Education Board. When he was sundered from his former connection, the Fairhall Committee positively refused to receive him, and the Board thereupon cancelled his appointment. About the lamentable weakness of the Board we will say nothing but we certainly shall say something about its precipitancy, and about the position in which Mr Simson has been placed. The Board, if it was not prepared to carry out its own ideas in spite of the Committee, should have carefully consulted that body before appointing Mr Simson. If, at the time, it was determined to see its appointee through, why on earth did it ever falter in that determination, and throw its man overboard? He is the sufferer, and the treatment he has received has been enough to make him turn in disgust from the profession of teacher. It is particularly hard in Mr Simson's case, because he is recognised as a trained, earnest and capable teacher and he applied for this situation because he had every reason to expect advancement. He is on the Board's hands

now, and he must in all justice be provided for. We grant that the unsatisfactory provisions of the Act are accountable for a good deal of the trouble but the Board has now a responsibility which it must meet. How this may be best met we leave the Board to consider

29th October 1889 The Fairhall Education District.—We have been asked to publish the Fairhall school district boundaries. They were gazetted as the remaining portions of the Wairau and Omaka districts and not accurately defined, but they may be enumerated thus E. the district is bounded by the Taylor River, W. by Jackson's cross-road, N. by a line dividing the sections between the New and Middle Roads, S. by the watershed. Thus people living on the sections fronting to the New Road are in the Fairhall district, while those on the sections' fronting to the Middle Road are in Springlands.

18th November 1889 At Napier recently Henry C. Amner, on remand, was charged with vagrancy. The B.IN. said in connection with this case he had seen the Chairman of the Charitable Aid Board, and as the defendant was subject to fits, and possibly, to a certain extent, his present condition might have been brought on by those fits he would give him one chance. The Chairman of the Charitable Aid Board would allow the defendant to stop in the Men's Refuge for one week only that the man would have to make enquiries in the meanwhile for a situation somewhere. He was sure that a man at defendant's age could find a place on some out station, even if he only got his food for the work that he did. The man was quite capable of doing work, and he would discharge him on this occasion, but if he came before him again charged with a similar offence, he would sentence him to a term of imprisonment. The police would see that the defendant was admitted into the Refuge. [Mr Amner was at one time master of the Fairhall school.]

29th November 1899 That the Board be written to asking that in the event of Mr Ogilvie being appointed to the Fairhall school, steps be immediately taken to have the vacancy filled up without delay. Blenheim School Committee

3rd December 1889 From the Fairhall Committee (1) in favor of the appointment of Mr Ogilvie as head teacher, and (2) asking that Miss Jeffries be granted an increase of salary. The appointment of Mr Ogilvie was sanctioned. The other request was deferred. The Secretary was instructed to advertise the vacancy in the Blenheim school.

19th December 1889 his morning, the Borough Schools broke up for the Christmas vacation. About 11 o'clock, the boys were all assembled in the large room, and Mr Simson, on behalf of the teachers and pupils, presented to Mr. Ogilvie, the retiring second master, who is to take the mastership of the Fairhall School; a handsome gold medal, suitably inscribed, and bearing the monogram of the recipient. Mr Simson expressed the general regret at Mr Ogilvie's departure, and the satisfaction all felt at his not going away from the district. In reply, Mr Ogilvie regretted to be leaving them, and though much affected, he thanked them for their kind wishes. Three cheers were called for Mr Ogilvie, and for the absent one "across the deep blue sea,'*; and after mutual, farewells and good wishes, the school dispersed.

1890

1890	55	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master	£	140.00
1890	55	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	40.00

7th January 1890 Blenheim School Committee rom Mr Ogilvie second master stating that he had been appointed to Fairhall and thanking the Committee for, their uniform kindness to him during his 3 ½ years' tenure of office. The letter of Mr Ogilvie was ordered to be acknowledged, the Committee wishing him success.

14th January 1890 From the Fairhall Committee, asking that an addition be made to Miss Jeffries' salary. The Board granted Miss Jeffries a bonus of £10..
1st April 1890 . A letter was received: from the Fairhall Committee, enclosing a letter from the Master, complaining of the insufficiency of the accommodation at his residence, and enclosing a plan of proposed alterations. Messrs Hammond and D. Bishell attended as a deputation to wait upon the Board. Mr Hammond supported the application of the master, and generally approved the plan submitted. There were 67 on the roll, and there had been 63 daily. The Committee believed there would soon be 80 in attendance. They urged an enlargement of the school. The Board resolved, on the motion of Mr Paul, seconded by the Chairman, "that the architect report at next meeting as to repairs, etc., and that he confer with the Committee as to the practicability of enclosing the residence in the school, and as to additions, and to comparative cost of works."
Inspector's report. Mr Hodgson sent a lengthened detailed report on the schools. We publish the following individual reports on Blenheim and outlying schools. Fairhall.— C. A. Ogilvie, assistant Miss Jeffries on the roll 64, present 60. The unfortunate delay in the appointment of a competent Head teacher, (who took charge only three weeks before my examination) has robbed some sixty children of no inconsiderable portion of their entire school life. The progress made since I last reported on this school is insignificant as to be hardly, worth recording. It is much to the credit of the zealous assistant that the reading is still as heretofore excellent
2nd April 1890 Yesterday the Fairhall School broke up for the Easter holidays, when the parents gave the children a picnic in Mr Storey's paddock. Mr Charles Peake, of Tua Marina, exhibited his magic lantern, which delighted the audience. Several songs and recitations were given by the school children. Mr Joseph Ward proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Peake, and the meeting closed at 9
29th April 1890 At a meeting of householders at Fairhall, the chair was occupied by Mr J. Ward, senior. The report and balance sheet were read and adopted, and the election resulted in the return of the old committee.
6th May 1890 The architect reported on the Fairhall School, that a new school would hereafter be needed and suggested plans for enlargement of the old residence with material from the present school, a new schoolroom to be built. The Board requested Mr Ward to visit the place and report
1st July 1890 FAIRHALL. On the suggestion of the Chairman it was decided to get from the architect an estimate of the cost of two rooms at the Fairhall school house.
2nd August 1890 Fairhall. The master and Committee of the Fairhall School having some time ago decided that it was desirable to supplement their school library fund, Mr Ogilvie took the children in hand and trained the selected ones in a programme of song choruses and recitations, and last evening the performance was given in public with the most satisfactory results. Preparations for the concert had been made on the most extensive scale, and the ladies had decorated the room quite gaily. The children, looking remarkably neat and healthy, mustered in force and were stowed away near the platform, the remaining spaces being left for the visitors, of whom there was a large crowd, several people from town being present. The items given by the children were rendered with remarkable success, and in a perfectly natural and unaffected manner. The songs were suitable in words and melody to children, as were the recitations, which evoked immense applause. Mr Kirby, at the request of the Committee, contributed some readings with introductory remarks. Mr Joseph Ward proposed

a vote of thanks to Mr Kirby, and Mr Hammond a similar compliment to Mr Ogilvie and those who had cooperated with him in getting up the entertainment. Both votes were carried with enthusiastic applause, and the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem. During the evening, coffee and cake and sandwiches were handed round by a committee of ladies. The proceeds of the affair amounted to £5.

Mr James Herbert Kirby was editor of the Marlborough Express at this time. He was bankrupt at least three times, From Adelaide Australia. lived at Dunedin (Headmaster) , Timaru (Assistant Secretary of South Canterbury Education Board and teacher), Blenheim (Express Editor), Napier (Newspaper editor), Marton (Newspaper owner, burnt out), Whakataki near Castlepoint Wairarapa (Teacher and Correspondent), Cross Creek (Teacher and Correspondent) same school as Mr Amner and Wellington. He also changed his church as he moved around. More @ Wairarapa School History Whakataki or Cross Creek

6th August 1890 . Mr Ward supported the request of the Fairhall Committee for two additional rooms to the house. He had already recommended that the work should be done, and he would reiterate it now. The Board decided to call for tenders for the proposed work.
2nd September Tender accepted for Fairhall additions' F Watson £79
30th September 1890 Fairhall Residence. A start has been made with the erection of a new resident at Fairhall for Mr Ogilvie, schoolmaster-.

1891

1891	53	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master	£	140.00
1891	53	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

4th February 1891 from the Fairhall Committee stating that the school was- closed on the 26th alt. without the knowledge of the Committee
3rd March 1891 An explanatory letter from the Master of the Fairhall School re closing the school on certain wet days when the attendance was very small was considered satisfactory
5th May 1891 School Committee. The following were elected members of the Fairhall School Committee —Messrs F. Hammond (chairman), Bishell,' Jeffries, Duffy, Connor, H. C. O'Leary, and Brooks.

1892

1892	50	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master	£	140.00
1892	50	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

2nd August 1892 Mr Avery waited on the Board re the Fairhall School Ventilation, asked for some maps, and also for a shelter shed for children. The maps were agreed to, and the ventilation promised attention, but the Chairman said that the Board had no money for sheds.
27th September 1892 We were shown yesterday four ventilators made by Mr J. A, Moreland, for the Fairhall school. They work with a pulley, and are soundly constructed, though simple in construction, easily adjusted, and suitable for any public building. The idea is a new one, and should be brought under the notice of the Education Board who have had frequent complaints as to the ventilation of their schools. So far as we can judge the ventilator is one that might well be patented and used in schools throughout the colony.
4th November 1892 School of art examinations Fairhall From Fairhall the passes were: Freehand— Misses E. Horgan, Rose Avery and Ellen Avery. Geometrical. Misses E. Horgan and R. Avery

24th December 1892 inline Scholarships.— inspector Smith received word this morning that the winners of the Tinline scholarships were, boys W. Wilkes (Richmond) with 545 out of 600 marks; girls -E. Enright (Charleston) 562 (best paper ever sent in Mr Hodgson says). From Marlborough the best sent in were, boys, W. Ewart 470, and Rose Avery (Fairhall) 345.

1893

1893	51	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master	£	140.00
1893	51	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

8th February 1883 Inspector Smith's report included of the 38 schools examined 17 show above 25 per cent of failures. Three of these, Okaramio, Spring Creek, and Wairau Valley, had not long been in charge of their present teacher, and the results show a marked improvement on the past, with every promise of a satisfactory performance in the future. Nydia Bay was experimented on by two teachers during the year, neither of whom was successful. In the cases of the Tua Marina, Fairhall, and Havelock Suburban Schools, the past record of their teachers work, and my own knowledge of the admirable manner in which they are conducted justify me in believing that the falling off is only temporary, and is due to circumstances outside the control of the teacher. The fact of having so unusually low a percentage of passes will be a sufficient motive for a vigorous effort to replace these schools on their accustomed footing

4th April The annual school tea meeting in connection with the Fairhall School will be held in the schoolroom tomorrow evening, when visitors from town are invited to attend

6th April 1893 School Tea.— The annual tea in connection with the school at Fairhall was held in the schoolroom last evening (Wednesday), about 150 persons partaking of a most enjoyable repast. After tea a very successful magic lantern entertainment was conducted by Messrs Paine and Litchfield, Mr Paine operating the lantern, and Mr Litchfield giving the necessary readings of views illustrating how poor in London live, and historical scenes, concluding with the usual comic series, to the great delight of the juveniles. The entertainment was varied at intervals by vocal and instrumental music, Misses Clare and Rose, Mrs Collett, and Mr Coster contributing Mr Morris gave a humorous reading from Rore O'More. The behaviour of the children was very orderly throughout, and reflecting great credit upon their teacher, Mr Ogilvie, and adding much to the success of the entertainment. The proceedings terminated with a few appropriate and well-chosen remarks from the Chairman (Mr Avery), who thanked the friends who had kindly taken part, and also Mr Rogers for the loan of slides used during the evening.

26th April 1893 Fairhall. At the householders meeting the following were elected —W. Avery, (Chairman), W. Brooks, G. Bishell, J. Boyle, H. Hammond, F. Hammond, and T. Storey. There was a poor attendance and Mr Jeffries occupied the chair. At the after meeting it was resolved to wait on the Board re fences. Improvements

17th June 1893 For some years past Mr Amner, formerly schoolmaster at Fairhall, has been an inmate of the local hospital, suffering badly from fits. By the Tongariro he was a passenger to England, where he will reside with his people, who had sent out for him.

7th October 1893 Fairhall.— A social in aid of a fund to purchase an organ or piano for use in the Fairhall Sunday and day schools is to be held on Wednesday next. Tea will be served in one of Mr Bishell's grass paddocks, and an entertainment will be afterwards held in the school.

9th October 1893 Fairhall. The social at Fairhall, in aid of a fund to purchase a musical instrument for use in the school there, does not take place until the 18th instant.
6th November 1893 Fairhall.— ln the recent First Grade Drawing Examination there were eleven candidates from the Fairhall School. Of these two Eleanor Avery and Ellen Horgan have now passed in all subjects, and will receive a full certificate. In freehand there were seven passes, one good, and one failure geometry two excellent, six good and one pass scale, four passes, two excellent, one good, and four failures model, four passes, and seven failures.

1894

1894	56	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Master	£	140.00
1894	56	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

10th January 1894 A report, signed by the Lady Principal of the Girls' College, Nelson, was read, which stated that Miss Rose Avery, who won a scholarship while under the tuition of Mr Ogilvie at the Fairhall School, was very successful in her collegiate studies, and gained a large average of marks at the recent examinations. Both teacher and pupil deserve congratulation.
13th February 1894 The chairman of the Fairhall School Committee wrote stating that repairs in the school roof was badly required. The architect was instructed to attend to the matter
7th March 1894 The architect reported that the roof of the Fairhall School required repairing, and instructions were given to do the work.
1st May 1894 Mr F. Hammond, Chairman of the Fairhall School Committee waited on the Board to request that a portion of the old infant school *(At the Blenheim School)* be utilized for the provision of farther necessary accommodation at the Fairhall School.
Mr Baillie remarked that it had been suggested by the Blenheim Committee that a portion of the old building be utilized for the erection of a janitor's residence at the Borough Schools.
Mr Carter expressed an opinion that a small room be added to the school for the use of small children but Mr Hammond said that the committee had always objected to any more additions being made to the building.
Ultimately the committee appointed some time ago to report on the feasibility of erecting a janitor's residence on the school ground was granted extension of time, so that they might take all proposals in regard to the utilisation of the old building into consideration. It was pointed out that both the Blenheim and Fairhall Committees had suggested the utilisation of the latest addition of the old building, but that it was not proposed to remove that. The Secretary said that he had learned that more accommodation was required by the local Postal Department, and that probably the education offices in the Government Buildings would be required. He suggested that the old infant school be utilised for the erection of offices for the Board.
6th June 1894 The principals of the Nelson Boys' and Girls' Colleges wrote reporting the progress of the holders of the Marlborough scholarships, Miss Avery of Fairhall, and Master Matthews of Havelock. The work of both scholars was referred to in the highest of terms, and both were credited with having gained the first place in their classes for several subjects
7th August Architects report included In regard to the utilisation of the old Infant School, a caretaker's cottage had been shifted to Seymour Street, and the building for the Board's office to the corner of Seymour and Alfred streets. Both buildings would be completed by Mr Dunkley during the month, a portion of the building had been removed and re-erected at Fairhall, and Messrs Brewer and Hay had finished this contract. The removal of the old gallery left the old building in such a deplorable condition that painting, and distempering

inside was absolutely necessary and he had arranged with the contractors to have this done at a cost of £2 15s. While at Fairhall the hearth of the old school was pointed out as broken and made up with day and he had a new cement hearth laid out at a cost of 15s

12th December 1894 Scholarship candidates included Eleanor Avery and Alice Jeffries

19th December 1894 Nelson College results included Rose Avery of Fairhall first in algebra, Euclid, and trigonometry for the fifth form.

21st December 1894 Fairhall.— The Fairhall School broke up to-day for the Christmas holidays, and will resume work on the 21st of January. We understand that Mr Ogilvie has not obtained leave of absence to visit England, but that he and his family will spend the holiday at Kaikoura

1895

1895	44	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Master	£	140.00
1895	44	Fairhall	Paynter	Mrs	Sewing	£	12.00

15th January 1895 Eleanor Avery Fairhall was 2nd and won the biennial country scholarship

Sat Arithmetic 105/120

Mental Arithmetic 32/40

Grammar and Composition 95/120

Geography 98/100

Physics 100/100

Spelling and Dictation 44/50

Writing 45/60

Total 519/600

The winner was Ben Keys of Blenheim who got 547/600

A Jeffries of Fairhall got 310

9th July 1895 FAIRHALL. The Inspector submitted a number of formal inspection reports which were taken as read. The only item of importance was the reference to the fact of the teaching staff at the Fairhall School being disproportionate to the number of children in attendance. There was a master and assistant female teacher the number on the roll was only 55, so that the regulations allowed only a sewing mistress at a salary of £12 a year. It was resolved to ascertain whether it would be agreeable to the Wairau Valley Committee and Miss Jeffries herself, (assistant teacher at Fairhall) that the latter should be appointed to fill the vacancy at the Wairau Valley school.

13th August 1895 FAIRHALL. The Committee wrote objecting to removal of Miss Jeffries as assistant teacher, from the Fairhall school to Wairau Valley without their being informed of the fact, and asking the reason of the transfer. The Secretary stated that the matter was an oversight, and he would at once communicate with the Committee. The reason of the removal was the overcrowding of the teaching staff. *(Laura Jeffries went to Wairau Valley for 4 years)*

30th December 1895 Ogilvie.— On the 28th inst. Lucy, beloved wife of C. A Ogilvie, Fairhall, aged 47.

Mrs Ogilvie, the wife of Mr C. Ogilvie, the respected master of the Fairhall School, passed away yesterday morning after a long illness. The deceased lady, on account of her health, lived for the last few years a retired life, but those who knew her highly respected her for her good, unselfish qualities, and her friends will deeply regret her demise. She bore her

sufferings patiently and with admirable fortitude. Much sympathy will be felt for Mr Ogilvie. The funeral took place yesterday evening.

1896

1896	39	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	E1	Master	£	140.00
1896	39	Fairhall	Paynter	Mrs		Sewing	£	12.00

12th February 1896 Inspector Smith Summarised the results in the principal schools and included

School	Presented	Present	Passed
Fairhall	52	35	26
Waitohi	65	47	42
Tua Marina	70	55	45
Okaramio	75	54	36
Canvastown	75	52	44

13th May 1896 FAIRHALL. The Committee wrote asking that the [school buildings be painted and that [the front roof of the teacher's residence be covered with iron.
9th June 1896 FAIRHALL. The architect reported as to repairs asked for by the Fairhall School Committee. It was resolved to call for tenders for the work.
10th July 1896 The Marton Mercury of the 7th inst. has the following Mr Ogilvie, master of the Fairhall School, Marlborough, passing through Marton by bicycle on tour, called in yesterday at the office of the Mercury, to renew an acquaintance of many years ago, Mr Ogilvie is making a tour of this part for artistic purposes, he being probably one of the very best teachers of landscape painting in the colony, and possessed of equal culture and enthusiasm. *(Probably written by Mr Kirby)*
15th September 1896 FAIRHALL. The Committee wrote asking the refund to the master of 12s, paid by him for a detail omitted in the specifications of the contract recently executed at the school. Matter deferred pending receipt of further information

1897

1897	34	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	E1	Master	£	140.00
1897	34	Fairhall	Paynter	Margaret		Sewing	£	12.00

13th January 1897 Regarding the offer of Mr Duffy to sell his property (3½ acres) adjoining the Fairhall School for £100, the Works Committee reported that the land was of a broken characters, and unsuitable for a playground. In the proximity of the school were a couple of acres belonging to the Storey Estate, and the Committee recommended that an endeavor be made to obtain them by purchasing Duffy's land at a reasonable price and effecting an exchange. Negotiations were left in the hands of Mr Carter, and the Works Committee were thanked for their report.
10th February 1897 Inspector's report included The larger schools show an apparent falling-off in the results of standards 111., IV., V., and VI., which varies from 4 to as much as 43 per cent. The maximum was reached at the Springlands School, but the protracted illness of the head teacher, who was unable to attend to her duties for six months, may be taken as a

sufficient explanation of the falling off in this case. Fairhall, which, next to Springlands, show the greatest proportion of failures, also, no doubt, lost ground through the severe bereavement suffered by the teacher in the death of his wife alter a long- illness. The case of the Blenheim Schools are not so readily to be accounted for.

10th February 1897 FAIRHALL, Mr Carter reported that there was at present no possibility of obtaining, for the purpose of a play-ground, the property adjoining .the Fairhall school and belonging to the Storey Estate. It was resolved to inform Mr Duffy that the Board would not purchase his property and to ask the trustees of the Storey Estate to give the Board the first possible opportunity of acquiring their property

11th February 1897 The Committee wrote asking that various repairs be done to the Fairhall school. Resolved to instruct the Architect to report.

14th December 1897 We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs C. Ogilvie, wife of the respected school teacher at Fairhall, which occurred yesterday morning. Mr Ogilvie will have general sympathy in his sad bereavement.

Ogilvie.— On the 18th instant at the Wairau Hospital, Gertrude Marian, wife of O» A. Ogilvie, and second daughter of Samuel Carroll of Wellington, aged 24.

1898

1898	31	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	E1	Master	£	140.00
1898	31	Fairhall	Hammond	Lily		Sewing	£	12.00

16th February 1898 Inspectors report included

Fairhall classified as Fair to poor one of seven in this grade

School	Examined	Passed
Fairhall	16	11
Deep Creek	14	12
Cullensville	10	10
Omaka	9	7
Blenheim Boys	120	120
Blenheim Girls	131	89

Fairhall was one of four who did well in arithmetic

11th May 1898 FAIRHALL**.** At the request of the Committee the Board decided to contribute £5 towards the erection of a new fence, Mr Carter being authorised to arrange with the Committee as to the position of the fence.

15th June 1898 FAIRHALL. Mr Carter reported his visit to the Fairhall School, and recommended that the trees be removed and a picket fence be erected. The recommendation was adopted. The appointment of Miss Lilly Hammond as sewing mistress at Fairhall, to succeed Mrs Painter, was approved.

16th November 1898 FAIRHALL**.** Mr C, Ogilvie, who has been 15 years in the Board's service, tendered his resignation as teacher. He said that he was giving up the teaching profession, and taking up photography in Wellington. The resignation was accepted with regret, his engagement to expire on the 31st January. An offer made by Mr Ogilvie to sell a quantity of household goods to the Board for £7 was accepted. The Committee recommended that a bonus be granted. The Secretary was instructed to intimate that the Board had no power

to grant a bonus, but, though the engagement would extend till 31st January, Mr Ogilvie would not be expected to remain after the breaking-up of the school. It was decided to advertise locally for applications for the position

17th December 1898 MESSRS GREEN & C0 having received instructions from Mr C. A. Ogilvie, who is leaving for England, will cell at his residence, Fairhall, the whole of his HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EFFECTS, consisting of Chairs, Tables, Bedsteads, Carpets, Linoleums, Mirrors, Fenders Octagon Table with 8 lockers, Drawing Room Furniture, Bedroom Furniture, valuable Selection of Oil Paintings, Kitchen Utensils, and other articles too numerous to particularise. ALSO Trap (with lamps) and harness.

20th December 1888 FAIRHALL.. The Committee recommended that Miss Laura Jeffries be appointed teacher to succeed Mr Ogilvie, naming Miss Williams, Renwick, as second choice," There were ten applicants for the position. The Board appointed Miss Jeffries

21st December 1898 Before the break-up of the Fairhall School on Friday last for the Christmas holidays, the children presented their teacher, Mr 0. A, Ogilvie, who is severing his Connection with the school after being nearly ten years in the Board's service, with a very handsome dressing case. The presentation was made by the eldest scholar on behalf of the other children, and testified to the esteem in which Mr Ogilvie was held by his pupils.

Charles Andrew Ogilivie

Charles Andrew Ogilvie was born in North Shields, Northumberland in 1852 to Joseph Ogilvie, a manufacturing chemist and Jane Elizabeth Dove Barker, a member of an incredibly wealthy shipping family, her father left 120,000 pounds upon his decease in 1874, an incredibly sum in that day.

He initially appears to have trained as a chemist in England, before arriving in NZ around 1875. Upon arrival he initially appears to have settled in Balclutha, styling himself as a commissions agent and accountant. This business appears to have failed however and he began teaching music and drawing, before departing from Balclutha at the end of the year for Auckland.

By 1877 however he was in Nelson again teaching music and drawing, he was quite an accomplished painter. It was whilst in Nelson that he married for the first time, to Lucy Lucas, daughter of a local tailor. He remained teaching privately in Nelson, alongside serving as teacher and music instructor of the Methodist Sunday school, until June 1881 when he was appointed Master of Grovetown School, despite having no formal teaching qualifications, which caused some consternation amongst the committee.

Despite this he was obviously a good teacher as the board increased his salary just a few months after his employment. He dabbled in cricket after his arrival, which was unsurprising considering his brother was a county rep in that sport. He remained at Grovetown until early 1884, when he was appointed to the Mastership of the Anglican Boys School in Picton (a private school).

This was somewhat of a surprising appointment considering he was a Methodist He didn't last long here as by the end of the year he was again teaching music and drawing in Blenheim. He continued to do this until mid way through 1886 when he beat off over a dozen other candidates for the second-mastership of the Blenheim Borough School.

He remained in this role until the end of 1889 when he was appointed Master of Fairhall School. Whilst here, in 1895, his wife died. It appears she had been disabled for some time, and this is possibly why they had no children.

He remarried in 1897 to Gertrude Marion Carroll, daughter of the secretary of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce. She was 20 years his junior. This marriage would not last long as by the end of the year she was dead, aged just 24.
He remained teaching here until the end of 1898, when he resigned. It appears he had taken a sideline in photography and intended to pursue it as a career. He took over a studio in Blenheim before leaving for England. He would spend 18 months there, visiting family and studying photography.
He returned to New Zealand in 1900, settling in Wellington, where he opened a photography studio. He remarried for a third, and final, time in 1901 to his last wife's elder sister, Ada Florence Carroll. By her, finally, he would have two children, Ronald Vivian and Theodora Marion.
His photography business lasted until 1905 when there was a sale of all his plant and equipment.
After this he moved to Napier, where he again lost another wife young, Ada dying in 1912. This appears to have been the last straw for Charles and he and his family left New Zealand for good later that year, returning to England. He appears to have settled in the West of England, living particularly in the village of Wedmore in Somerset. He died on the Isle of Wight in 1937, leaving his considerable (probably inherited) estate to his two children.
Researched by Grandson Sam

1881	57	Grove Town	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master
1883	60	Grove Town	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master
1886	92	Blenheim Junior Boys	Ogilvie	Charles A	Deputy Master
1887	95	Blenheim Junior Boys	Ogilvie	Charles A	Deputy Master
1888	106	Blenheim Junior Boys	Ogilvie	Charles A	Deputy Master
1889	93	Blenheim Junior Boys	Ogilvie	Charles A	Deputy Master
1890	55	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master
1891	53	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master
1892	50	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master
1893	51	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Head Master
1894	56	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Master
1895	44	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles	Master
1896	39	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master
1897	34	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master
1898	31	Fairhall	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master

Lucy died in 1896 aged 47

30th December 1895 Ogilvie On the 28th inst., Lucy, beloved wife of C. A. Ogilvie, Fairhall, aged 47

He then married in 1897 Gertrude Marian Carroll who died In 1897
Ogilvie— Carroll.— On the 26th February,1897 at Wellington, Charles Andrew Ogilvie, of Blenheim, son of the late Joseph Ogilvie, of North Shields, England, to Gertrude Marian, second daughter of Samuel Carroll, of Wellington.
7th March 1899 Left on Papanui for London from Lyttleton
27th June 1899 Arrived in London
27th November 1900 The Airlie Studio is the latest photographic establishment to be opened in Wellington. It was opened this morning by Mr. C. A. Ogilvie, and is situated in Vivian-

street. Mr. Ogilvie is well known in the South Island, and has just returned from an eighteen-months' visit to Old. Country, having spent the greater portion of his time in the best studios in the North of England, perfecting his knowledge of the photographic art. The Airlie Studio has been specially arranged for its work, and is equipped with the latest accessories. Mr. Ogilvie shows some very artistic work done during his stay in England

3rd March 1902 To LET, at once, House in Scarborough-terrace, containing four rooms,, .scullery, bathroom, etc. gas and water rent 16s a- week. Apply to C. A. Ogilvie,' The Airlie Studio; Vivian- street.

4th October 1905 Messrs. Harcourt and Co. draw attention to their auction sales as follows: To-morrow, at 2 p.m., they will sell Mr. C. A. Ogilvie's photographic plant, accessories, and appliances, on the premises, 29a, Vivian-street on Monday, the 9th inst., at 2.30 p.m.

6th December 1906 Selling photographs from Home in Roseneath Wellington

There were no further mentions of Charles Andrew Ogilvie until

1911 Electoral Roll at Napier Terrace and listed as an artist

9th April 1912 OGILVIE.— On the 9th April, at Napier. Ada Florence. wife of C. A. Ogilvie, and eldest daughter of the late Samuel Carroll DEATH.

He returned to England on the Ruahine in 1912 described as an artist, with his two children.

Children were Ronald Vivian and Theodora Marion, both born to his last wife.

He died on the Isle Of Wight on the 11th November 1936, leaving an estate of 14,000 pounds, not bad for a long retired teacher.

1878/3285	Lucy	Lucas	Charles Andrew	Ogilvie	
1897/917	Gertrude Marian	Carroll	Charles Andrew	Ogilvie	
1901/6013	Ada Florence	Carroll	Charles Andrew	Ogilvie	
1896/3362	Ogilvie		Lucy		47Y
1898/7167	Ogilvie		Gertrude Marian		24Y
1912/4483	Ogilvie		Ada Florence		41Y
1905/19711	Ogilvie	Theodora Marion	Ada Florence	Charles Andrew	
1903/11590	Ogilvie	Ronald Vivian	Ada Florence	Charles Andrew	

1899

1899	31	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	110.18
1899	31	Fairhall	Hammond	Lily		Sewing	£	12.00

11th March 1899 FAIRHALL. The Committee asked that papering be done in the teacher's residence. Resolved to ask Committee to furnish an estimate of cost.

25th March 1899 The Fairhall and Grovetown Schools excursioned to Picton on Thursday and spent an enjoyable day boating, fishing, and ferning,

27th Mach 1899 FAIRHALL. The Board empowered the Committee to accept the tender of Mr W. F. Gallop for repairs to the teacher's house the work to be certified to by the Committee as properly executed, before 'payment.

1st July 1899 OBITUARY.
JOHN POOLE. On Thursday afternoon at about half past one o'clock, at the Wairau Hospital, Mr John Poole, senior., succumbed to the illness from which he had been suffering for some considerable time. H» passed away peacefully, at the age of 72 years. It was in 1863 that deceased came out to the colony from Cornwall, England, in a ship named the David Fleming, with his wife and young family. Landing at Lyttelton, he proceeded to the Wairarapa, where he followed his avocation, as a school teacher, for seven years. He then took a school at Waipukurau (Hawke's Bay), and had charge of it for seventeen years. During his residence there he acted as chaplain of the Masonic Lodge, and superintendent of the Sunday School. After the death of his wife he came to this district, arriving about fourteen years ago, and taking charge of the Board school at Fairhall. This he taught capably for about four years so that, if his experience as a school master be counted up, he was engaged in teaching the young mind to shoot in the colony for nearly thirty years. This period does not cover all his experience in this direction, as he was a teacher in Cornwall, England, for many years. Leaving the Fairhall school, Mr Poole entered into the flax-milling industry with Mr B. H. Smale, the mill being the one at Tua Marina. He continued to take an active part in this business up till two years ago, when he suffered a paralytic stroke, and since that he had been an invalid. He had been an inmate of the hospital for the last two months. Deceased, who led a quiet life and never took an active part in public affairs, was generally respected, and he had the sympathy of many friends in his long illness. Before he came out to the colony he was a local preacher and throughout his residence here he was a practical member of the Presbyterian Church. Up to the time of its closing he was chaplain of the Killarney Masonic Lodge. The deceased gentleman leaves four sons— Mr W. N. Poole, of the Nelson Telegraph Office Mr F. W. Poole, of the Dunedin Telegraph Office Mr E. Poole, of Palmerston North and Mr J. 0. Poole, of Blenheim and there are five grandchildren. The funeral will leave the Hospital on Sunday at two o'clock in the afternoon. *John Poole taught at Tauherenikau (near Featherston) School before* 1877
13th July 1899 A concert and coffee supper in aid of the funds for the Fairhall School picnic will be held to-morrow night at 7.30 in the Fairhall schoolroom
16th December 1899 An entertainment, at which there will be a Christmas tree, is to take place at the Fairhall School on Wednesday next. Afternoon tea will be available from half-past two

1900

1900	25	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	90.00
1900	25	Fairhall	Avery	Ross		Sewing	£	12.00

10th July 1900 In a long article on holidays…… Fairhall thought that the fixing of the holidays should be left unconditionally to the Committees and teachers. Blenheim thought that the holidays should not exceed seven weeks in one year. Kekerangu approved of the regulations. Waitohi disapproved, thinking that the arrangement was in favor of teachers rather than the pupils, and that the matter should be left to the Committees, especially those of country schools……..

1901

1901	24	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	90.00

19th February 1901 The Fairhall Committee asked for a grant, for repairing work.—Resolved to ask for an estimate of cost.

20th March 1901 he Fairhall Committee estimated the cost of repairs asked for at last meeting at £9 0s, and were authorised to carry out the work at that price,
17th April 1901 Inspector's Report :Fairhall was graded as good. 12 schools were very good and 11 good. 3 were rated poor
9th July 1901 The application of Miss Jeffries, teacher at Fairhall,. for six months leave of absence on full pay was considered. Following the custom adopted in other places, the Board decided that in future, in applications of the same kind, the teacher receive one month's sick leave on full pay, and half pay for the next month, he or she to resign if not sufficiently recovered to resume duty at the end of the leave of absence; but that the Fairhall teacher be informed that in her case the Board would grant the full salary, provided that it was not called on to pay her sister as relieving teacher.
10th June 1901 The Fairhall Committee forwarded the application of Miss L. Jeffries for six months leave of absence on account of ill-health.—The leave asked for was granted. The question of salary is left over for the full Board. Miss A. Jeffries was appointed relieving teacher.

1902

1902	24	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	114.00

9th June 1902 The resignation of Miss Laura Jeffries, teacher at Fairhall, was notified. The Committee recommended a successor, but it was pointed out that the teacher was uncertificated, and was not eligible for the permanent appointment. The Board decided to suggest the name of Miss Nicholl, whoso position at Okaramio was cut out by the new scale.
14th July 1902 The Fairhall Committee forwarded a letter from Miss Laura Jeffries saying that she wished to withdraw her resignation as teacher. —It was resolved to inform the Committee Miss Jeffries' resignation had been accepted, and request it to reply to the Board's letter as to a new appointment.
20th August 1902 A teacher is required for the Fairhall school. Particulars as to salary, etc., are advertised in this issue.
14th October 1902 FAIRHALL. The Committee asked the Board to appoint Mr T. R. Bowden, of Cullensville school, to be teacher of the Fairhall school, or in the alternative Mrs. Tosswill, of Kaituna.—-The appointment was deferred kill next meeting for the report of the Inspector on the forthcoming examination of the ~Cullensville school, the matter to be referred to the further .consideration of the Committee if they so desired
13th November 1902 Mr T. Bowden was appointed teacher of the Fairhall School, in accordance with the majority recommendation of the Committee.

1903

1903	25	Fairhall	Bowden	Thomas R	Licensed	Head	£	114.00

29th May 1903 la the afternoon a football team of the Renwick School boys tried conclusions with the Fairhall boys, and were successful by 35 points to nil. Mr Bowden, teacher, received the visitors kindly. Empire Day celebrations for Renwick School
9th June 1903 At the request of the .Department, a report on the practice of physical drill in the Marlborough schools under the Act of 1891 was forwarded by the Education Board yesterday. The report was to the effect that in the Board's schools generally a reasonable amount of drill and physical exercise was provided in some of the larger schools the boys were exercised with dumbbells, and the girls with the wand. It was not thought necessary to

make special provision of this kind in connection with the small and aided schools. In discussion the Blenheim, Renwick and Fairhall Schools were mentioned as prominent in this respect. It was resolved to send out circulars to teachers calling attention to the provisions of the Act.

13th July 1903 A request was received from the Fairhall Committee for assistance €o enable them to establish technical classes. Fully twelve boys at least would attend classes for such instruction —It was resolved to enquire what the Committee proposed to do. The Fairhall Committee asked that the roof of the school be attended to. —It was resolved to obtain an estimate of cost and particulars as to supervision

10th August 1903 TECHNICAL EDUCATION. Printed matter on the subject of technical education was received from the Department. This had been applied for by the Secretary for the purposes of information in connection with the Fairhall School Committee's application for

assistance and guidance for technical classes. The chief subject proposed to be taken up at Fairhall were wood-work and iron-work.

A discussion ensued as" to the policy that should be pursued by the Board in the matter of making provision in this district for technical education.

Mr Duncan said it seemed to him that they should consider the whole question at a special meeting, and decide upon their lines of action. The subject was a big one, but it would have to be faced.

Mr Ferguson said that under the present regulations, as far as he could see, the Fairhall and other Committees anxious to take up technical education would have to consent to some part of the ordinary syllabus being left out. The technical instruction could be given in ordinary school hours and would replace something else.

Reference was made to the fact that the whole educational system is under review by the Government, and that a more comprehensive scheme is looked for and a resolution was passed that, in view of the promise of amended regulations, the question be deferred.

12th September 1903 The Inspector's annual examination of the Fairhall School, which, was conducted on Thursday, reflects much credit on. the teacher, Mr Bowden all the pupils presented in all classes having passed. In Standard VI one pupil was presented for examination, in Standard V six, Standard IV two,: Standard 111 three, Standard II four, and Standard I six, a total of 22

12th September 1903 FIRE AT FAIRHALL.

THE TEACHER'S RESIDENCE DESTROYED.

The school residence at Fairhall was completely destroyed by fire last night, the outbreak, the cause of which is unknown, occurring shortly after eight o'clock. No one was in the house at the time, Mr and Mrs Bowden having gone out on a visit to a neighbor. When 'the flames were noticed they had a firm hold and nothing was saved. The building, which is the property of the Education Board, was uninsured, and it is understood the furniture was covered to the extent of £100. The structure was very old, being one of the first educational buildings erected in this district. The new school building, a few yards away, was not damaged.

14th September 1903 FAIRHALL. The Fairhall school residence, which was burned down last week, was not insured by the Board. It was explained that a circular received by Education Boards some years ago stated that it was not necessary to insure school buildings, as they were Government property, and if destroyed by fire would be renewed by the Government. Messrs Graham and Bishell waited on the Board as a deputation from the Fairhall Committee, and asked the Board to make provision for the temporary accommodation of the teacher, who lost all his personal belongings in the fire. The deputation

were informed that the teacher was entitled to a house allowance of £20 a year, and that the work of rebuilding would be undertaken immediately. The Committee were empowered to procure a new pump. Reference was made by Mr Chaytor and Mr Graham to the valuable efforts of those who had worked to prevent the separate school building becoming ignited, Mr Esson's services being especially mentioned; and a motion expressing the appreciation of the Board was passed. Mr Bishell referred to the technical education movement at Fairhall. The room which had been prepared for this purpose had been destroyed, and he suggested that the present school building would do splendidly for technical classes, and that the school for primary education be erected in connection with the new teacher's residence. The Board would have to be guided by the Department, but he asked them to use their influence to have the Committee's object accomplished. A promise was given that the Board would do its best in this direction. A quantity of school books, maps, utensils, etc. had been lost in the fire; but it was stated that the Board could only deal with school furniture.

15th September 1903 The residents of the Fairhall district have displayed consistent enthusiasm in the technical instruction movement. Iron and wood work is their choice, and the schoolhouse which was burned down last week contained a room fitted up for classes to be formed almost immediately. The apparatus which had been granted by the Education Department was on the way from Wellington, and the capitation under the manual and technical regulations had been secured. The School Committee are now asking for special accommodation for this work in the rebuilding of the schoolhouse.

28th September 1903 FAIRHALL, An application was received from the Fairhall Committee, to be forwarded to the Department, for materials, etc., for iron and wood work classes. There would be about 20 pupils. A suitable room, 30ft x 20ft was available for technical education,—The Fairhall building having been destroyed by fire the matter was held over.

A communication from the Department said that the question of rebuilding would be deferred pending the independent enquiry that should be made by the Board.—The Town Committee was asked to make the necessary investigation.

12th October 1903 FAIRHALL. Mr Graham, Chairman of the Fairhall Committee, waited on the Board, and asked for instructions as to the disposal of the bricks and iron remaining as the debris of the fire which destroyed the teacher's residence. Authority was granted to the Committee to knock over standing chimneys which were a menace to life and limb; and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Department for instructions as to how the debris was to be dealt with. A report was received from the Committee set up to investigate the Fairhall fire in accordance with the requirements of the Department. The finding was that the fire was an accidental occurrence, bat they could not give any definite opinion as to the cause, It might have been occasioned by an explosion of the lamp or by vermin chewing matches; but the fire was not caused intentionally or wilfully.

16th November 1903 The Fairhall Committee forwarded an account for repairs, and asked that it be paid by the Board as the Committee had no funds.—It was resolved to request the Committee to furnish particulars of accounts, and be warned that the Board would not hold itself responsible for unauthorised repairs. It was resolved to bring under the Government the necessity of replacing the building destroyed by fire at Fairhall and urge it to carry out the work without delay. The Department wrote that it had no objection to the sale of the debris from the Fairhall fire, the proceeds belonged to the Board and not the Committee.

7th December 1903 An old and respected settler in the person of Mrs Caroline Fairhall, wife of Mr Ed. Fairhall (whose name is perpetuated in that of the district in which he lives) passed

away yesterday at the residence at Woodbourne. Deceased, whose age was 73 years, came out to the colony from England, 62 years ago ……

1897	14	Nikau	Bowden	Thomas R	Master	£56.03
1898	14	Nikau	Bowden	Thomas R	Master	£80.00
1900	13	Te Awaiti	Bowden	Thomas R	Master	£ 54.00

1904

1904 26 Fairhall Tosswill Mrs E M E2 Female £ 117.10

11th January 1904 THE FAIRHALL SCHOOL, On the motion of Mr Duncan, it was resolved: —"That as the Board has not yet received the authority from the Department to reinstate the teacher's residence and portion of the school at Fairhall destroyed by fire some months since, the member for the district, the Hon. C. H. Mills, be requested to interview the educational authorities to urge that the necessary power be given to the Board to proceed with the work as early as possible.

9th February 1904 The Hon. 0. H. Mills wrote that he was urging on the matter of reconstructing the Fairhall school. *(Member of Parliament)*

14th March 1904 The Hon. 0. H. Mills wrote that he was urging on the matter of reconstructing the Fairhall school.

15th March 1904 The question of disposing of the chimney bricks at Fairhall was referred to the Architect.

27th April 1904 he following were elected for the Fairhall School Committee:—Messrs David Bishell, John Boyle, William Reader, Geo. Graham, and Stephen Hammond. Mr Geo, Graham was re=elected chairman.

9th May 1904 he Department wrote stating that it was unable to agree to the Board's proposals with regard to the re-building of the Fairhall school house, destroyed by fire some months ago. It returned the plans as being too elaborate, and said that in such cases the Government did not undertake to do more than pay the amount of the loss, which at Fairhall was £300. The Government would refund £200 on the Board showing that that amount had been expended on the work of replacing the building. The report of the Board's architect represented that it would not be possible to erect adequate accommodation for that sum. After discussion it was decided that the architect be instructed to erect as good a dwelling as possible for the £200. It was also decided to forward to the Committee a copy of the Department's letter. The Committee applied for the chimney bricks.—It was resolved to reply that the bricks would be required for the new building.

The resignation of Mr T. R. Bowden as teacher at Fairhall was accepted. The Board appointed Miss *(Sic)* Tosswill as teacher for twelve months

Thomas Richards Cecil Bowden

1901	16	Te Awaiti	Bowden	Thomas R	Licensed	Master	£ 62.10
1902	28	Cullensville	Bowden	Thomas R	Licensed	Master	£ 128.00
1903	25	Fairhall	Bowden	Thomas R	Licensed	Head	£ 114.00

Nikau School was East of Pahiatua through Mangamaire at the foothills of the Tararuas. The researcher taught at Marima the next door school which drew pupils from the Nikau Area

1902/2696	Mary Ann	Heberley	Thomas Richards Cecil	Bowden	
1911/22989	Bowden	Ethel May	Mary Anne	Thomas Richards	
1909/20910	Bowden	Harold Gordon	Mary Anne	Thomas Richards	
1914/27536	Bowden	Raymond Leslie	Mary Ann	Thomas Richards	

25th January 1902 Wedding.—A very quiet wedding "was celebrated on Thursday, the Rev. A. H. Sedgwick being the officiating celebrant. The contracting parties were Mr T R. C. Bowden, late teacher of the Te Awaite aided school, and Mary Ann Heberley, daughter of Mr John Heberley, of Oyster Bay, Tory Channel. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a simple white muslin frock, and held a bouquet of white flowers. After the ceremony the party were entertained at breakfast, and wedding-cake being specially good. The bridal pair proceeded to Cullensville, where they will reside, Mr Bowden having been appointed to the Cullensville school in place of Mr Robertson, promoted to the Waitohi school.

23rd July 1913 IN THE ESTATE of THOMAS RICHARDS BOWDEN formerly .of Ashburton, now of Timaru, Labourer. FIRST AND FINAL DIVIDEND of 3s p. £ on all Accepted Proved Claims is now payable at my office, Arcade, Timaru. ALEX. MONTGOMERY. Deputy Official Assignee. Timaru, 23rd July 1913.

22nd December 1921 Mary Ann Bowden (Mr C. S Thomas) applied for separation, maintenance, and guardianship of her children from her husband, Thomas Richard Bowden, on the grounds of cruelty. The application was granted, the complainant being allowed 85s a week and the custody of the children.

13th December 1923 Thomas Richards Bowden, tally clerk (Mr J. B. Batchelor) appeared for the cancellation or variation of a maintenance order in respect of his wife, Mary Ann Bowden. The applicant stated that on December 23rd, 1921, an order was made against him for 28s a week in respect of his wife and four children. He was earning from £3 to £3 10s a week, and paid 30s a week board at the Albion Hotel. At the time that the order was issued against him none of the children was working, but in the meantime two of them had been earning about £2 a week. The defendant also gave evidence, and the Bench decided that the application would be refused.

26th November 1923 DECREES ABSOLUTE. Decrees absolute, were made in the following oases:—Mary Ann Bowden v. Thomas Richards Cecil Bowden,

1935/17523	Bowden	Thomas Richard	70Y
1930/3422	Bowden	Mary Jane	60Y

30th May 1904 The residents of Gibsontown held a social in the schoolroom on Tuesday last, and assembled in great force to bid farewell to the teacher of the Gibsontown school, Mrs Tosswill, who is leaving there, after thirteen years' service, to take charge of the Fairhall school. The large attendance testified to the esteem in which the residents held Mrs Tosswill and their regret at losing her services. During the course of the evening Mr J. S. Storey, Chairman of the School Committee, on behalf of the residents, presented Mrs Tosswill with a silver jam dish, butter dish, and knife, fork, and spoon in a morocco case. Mr A. Gibson, on behalf of past pupils of the school, presented her with a gold dagger brooch and Miss Irene Lambert presented her with a silver hairpin box from the present scholars. All the articles were suitably engraved. The speakers voiced the regret of the community at losing their school teacher, and Mrs Tosswill heartily thanked them for their gifts. *(The Gibsontown school was actually officially called the Kaituna School)*

14th June 1904 A suggestion was made by Mr Chaytor at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday that provision should be made for the insurance of school buildings so as to cover the difference between the amount allowed by the Education Department for re-construction in the case of fire and the cost to the Board of re-erection. He remarked that the Board had to find £40 in excess of the allowance for the rebuilding of the Fairhall school-house. A resolution was passed instructing the Secretary to obtain information from insurance companies.

14th June 1904 he Board's Working Committee reported that they accepted the tender of Mr T. May, of £240, for the re-erection of the Fairhall school building. The Government's grant was £200, and the Board would have to find £40.—The action of the Committee was confirmed.

11th July 1904 The Department notified that the house allowance in the case of the Fairhall School would be continued until the end of September unless the house was re-built by that time. A circular was received from the Department containing information as to the placing of School Committees' accounts at the Post Office Savings Banks under the legislation of last year. The Secretary was instructed to convey the information to the Committees.

Notification was received of a further grant of £40 for the reconstruction of the Fairhall schoolhouse, which was destroyed by fire, this addition bringing the total up to £240. It was stated that the additional grant was the outcome of representations made to the Department by the architect (Mr Huddleston).

11th October 1904 The architect wrote suggesting certain new work in connection with the teacher's residence at Fairhall, but the Board decided that it could not see its way to do the work.

14th November 1904 A stove was granted for the teacher's residence at Fairhall

1905

1905 21 Fairhall Tosswill Mrs E M E2 Female £ 131.00

21st February 1905 Under the head of Science, Object Lessons, and Nature Study, only six schools in the Marlborough Education district failed last year to present work. Science, in the form of agriculture, ambulance, or physiology is taught (says Inspector Strachan). Sometimes the agriculture is combined, with practical work either in flower or in vegetable gardens." The schools so practising are Springlands, Fairhall, Grove, Waitaria, Marlborough, and Omaka.

14th March 1905 The architect was instructed to reinstate the building used for the Redwood town side-school, and remove outbuildings to Fairhall.
9th May 1905 It was resolved to inform Fairhall that the painting of its school would be carried out in due course.
13th June 1905 Fairhall asked for three chains of paling fence.—It was resolved to reply that the Board was not in favor of a paling fence, and ask for an estimate of cost of a wire fence.
11th July 1905 The Fairhall Committee reported that a wire and netting fence would cost about £4 10a and it would contribute £I.—Accepted.
11th September 1905 Fairhall: £4 10s was granted for ground improvements
It was resolved that Mr Baillie (the Board's workman) be instructed to do the necessary work after attending the North Bank and Fairhall works.
The Inspector gave a word of praise to cookery classes at Fairhall. He believed it was the first small country school in New Zealand to start cookery classes.
17th October 1905 School gardening is becoming popular in the Marlborough district. Gardens are being cultivated at the following places:—Springlands, Waitohi,. Omaka, Tua Marina, Blenheim,. Okaramio, Waitaria, Grove, Marshlands, Marlboroughtown, Fairhall.
13th November 1905 Fairhall was among the schools that should have been mentioned as on the previous list of good-class schools.

1906

1906 28 Fairhall Tosswill Mrs E M E2 Female £ 130.00

21st March 1906 Inspector Strachan rated Fairhall Good One of 10 earning the top rank of grading
School cooking classes were iniated at Fairhall and others followed at Okaramio and Marlboroughtown. These have been successful
The splendid collection of grasses etc. of Fairhall school may be mentioned
There are branches of the Navy League at 5 schools including Fairhall
24th April 1906 FAIRHALL. At a householders' meeting at Fairhall the following were elected the Committee for the ensuing year:— Messrs D. Bishell, H. Hammond, F. Hammond, W. Reader, J. Boyle, Geo. Graham, "W. Paynter. Mr George Graham was elected Chairman.
14th May 1906 Fairhall The Architect's recommendation that the teacher's residence be lined was deferred for further consideration.
12th June 1906 Fairhall.—It was decided to accept Mr May's tender for additional work required in the Fairhall teacher's residence.
23rd June 1906 A most successful entertainment declared by the good folk of the neighbourhood to be the best ever held took place in the Fairhall School last evening. The performers were nearly all pupils of the school, and were trained by the painstaking teacher, Mrs Tosswill, and her sister, Miss Leach. These ladies well deserved the compliment which was paid them by the packed audience, at the instance of Mr D. Bishell. The programme included solos, recitations, action songs, tableaux, etc., and every item was heartily appreciated. Mrs Harley's Waxworks was a veritable triumph; many of the action songs indicated considerable talent and excellent training and the song Tin Gee-gee was amongst several items worthy of special mention. Mr George Graham, Chairman of the Committee, prefaced the entertainment with a few appropriate words.. A supper concluded the concert at a late hour. The proceeds amount to £12 7s. This amount, which goes towards the School

Library Fund, will earn the Board's subsidy of for and the whole will be added to the amount won by the school at the last A. and P. Show:
10th September 1906 The schools at Fabian's Valley, Havelock, and Fairhall had reached the "good" class. Ten of the 15 schools examined had shown progress since, last year. This was doubtless due to the teachers' winter school of last year showing results

1907

1907 26 Fairhall Tosswill Mrs E M E1 Female £ 144.00

29th January H J Avery Fairhall got 306 in scholarship examinations Top Mark was 642w
26th February 1907
After the close of the Inspectors' Conference at Wellington, Mr Strachan. visited r .Christchur.cn, and spent what he considers a very profitable week in and around the Exhibition. The- Building is much larger than it appears to be in any of the prints, and its immense size can be appreciated only by those that have been there- He was particularly struck with_ the educational exhibits…… Marlborough could compare with any district in New Zealand, and Mr Strachan thinks that no other school could claim so many awards as the little Fairhall School, where Mrs Tosswill's pupils have captured 13 medals…….
13th March Fairhall ranked as Good by inspector One of 8 out of 69 schools. Excelled in Singing, excellent in brush drawing
Needlework continues steadily to improve. Some; splendid exhibits were sent to the New Zealand Exhibition. The Fairhall pupils gained eight silver medals in needlework.
14th March 1907 The. children of the Fairhall School held their annual picnic yesterday. About fifty children and adults, accompanied by teachers and committeemen, left by train in the morning for Picton, whence Mr Scott's oil launches conveyed them to Double Bay,, where a most enjoyable picnic, amidst picturesque surroundings, was held. Rain coming on early in the afternoon, the party had to re-embark earlier than was intended. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the refusal of the railway officials to oblige the committeemen by putting on a carriage for the children to spend the remainder of the afternoon in out of the. rain; but, on the whole, the day's outing was an enjoyable one.
23rd April 1907 FAIRHALL.
The following Committee was elected:—G. Graham (Chairman), H. Hammond, F. Hammond, W. Paynter, K. P. Mowat, D. Bishell, J. Boyle.
3rd June 1907 Empire Celebrations report at Springlands School included
The Blenheim schools of all denominations mustered about 400 children the Fairhall School (of which more below) sent about 40; Renwick 80; Wairau Valley (the party arriving by mail coach), about 15; and odd parties from both railway lines swelled the number.
The Fairhall Committee had arranged something in the nature of a snr- prise. Shortly after 10 o'clock a traction engine was heard approaching, and above the jangle of metal could be heard the cheering of children. It was soon seen that Messrs Bishell and Healy's engine had been pressed into special service, and that, decorated in real gala fashion, it drew two waggons, filled with happy children, and decorated with flowers, flags and shrubs even to the very spokes of the wheels. The whole procession was most imposing, and artistic, and gave a foretaste of what we may expect in future years at these annual Empire gatherings. THE SPORTS. Twenty pounds had been expended in trophies for the sports events, arid these were all laid out in one of the school-rooms under the care of Messrs F. W. Smith (distributor-in-chief), W. Esson, Mrs Smith, and Miss Wehsley.

9th July 1907 Ugbrooke.—The correspondent intimated that Miss Bell had been appointed to the aided school.—Referred to the Fairhall Committee. *No reason given*
17th July 1907. Money earnt by Fairhall for Technical education. In modelling and brushwork, Fairhall has earned £1 7s 3d, In cookery. Fairhall earned £3
10th September 1907 The Chairman gave notice to move at next meeting that the Havelock, Linkwater, Waitaria, Fairhall, and Seddon school districts include a radius of 2 ½ miles only.
15th October 1907 Mr Strachan, Inspector of Schools, reported to the Education Board yesterday afternoon that the following schools had this year been classed as "good":—Tua Marina, Ugbrooke, Tetley Brook, Marlborough town, Fabian's Valley, Spring Creek, Fairhall, and Blenheim Girls'
21st November 1907 A and P Show. Only two schools entered
SCHOOLS EXHIBIT. FAIRHALL v. TUA MARINA.
One of the best exhibits on the grounds was the schools displays. Fairhall and Tua Marina pupils had taken the matter up most heartily_, and the result was a pair of exhibits that embraced everything conceivable in the shape of an original product of the respective districts, besides excellent specimens of actual school work. The exhibits occupied large spaces at either end of the produce hall, and they were well worthy of ten times the room they took up. The, Fairhall exhibit was much the better display, although that of Tua Marina contained more actual school exhibits, besides some products, such as pressed hops, that Fairhall cannot boast. However, a set-off to the hops was the fancy butter that Fairhall has become famous for. Even miniature bricks, well burnt and shaped, and live frogs in bottles, found places in the general scheme of the superior display
17th December 1907 Owing to illness amongst the children, the Fairhall School broke up for the summer vacation on Friday last, a week earlier than was intended. In this district good attendance certificates have been earned during the year by no fewer than six children.

1908

1908	25	Fairhall	Packard	Frances M B	E1	Female	£	144.00

1907 Frances Packard Taught at East Takaka School
11th February 1908 Free Place at High School Hubert J Avery Fairhall 460 marks £2 for 2 years
10th March 1908 The Fairhall School had a very large exhibit, which consisted of nearly everything you can .think of, even bricks, which were made by the children themselves. The Tua Marina School t had also a large exhibit, but it was not quite so good as the Fairhall. School exhibit
One end of the room was occupied by a number of exhibits made by the Fairhall school children. On the walls were specimens of writing, painting, and mapping, while on the table beneath were the sewing and some dishes of custards and jellies and other dainty cookery. I think the most interesting of the. school exhibits were some bricks, made and baked by the schoolchildren themselves.
28th April 1908 FAIRHALL. Messrs F. H. Hammond (Chair- L man) D Bishell, W. Paynter, Geo. Graham, H. H. Hammond, K. Mowat, J. Boyle.
22nd June 1908 Mrs Tosswill, head teacher at the Fairhall School, has received intimation of her appointment to a North, Canterbury school. Mrs Tosswill's many Marlborough friends will be pleased to hear of her advancement to a more important position.
22nd June 1908 v certificated teacher is .wanted .for: the Fairhall School, Applications' must be made on or before the 11th July next.

14th July 1908 Fairhall Mrs Tosswill forwarded her resignation as teacher of this school
20th July 1908 Miss Frances M. B. Packard, teacher of the East Takaka school (Nelson district), has been selected as teacher of the Fairhall school vice Mrs Tosswill.
16th September 1908 Miss Packard, who has lately been appointed mistress of the Fairhall school, appears to have been extremely popular at East Takaka. The Golden Bay News reports a farewell social tendered to this lady by the residents, in the course of which Miss Eleanor Lewis presented
Miss Packard with, a silver teapot and an album, and read the following address 'Dear Miss Packard, —Please! accept these presents from us, your pupils, as a mark of our esteem and regard, for your kindness and attention while you have been our teacher. We regret that you are leaving us, and wish you health and happiness in the future." Miss Packard in replying thanked the children for their nice presents; and said they would always remind her of the pleasant times she had spent with them, and expressed a hope that her successor would have as pleasant an experience with them. Mr T. J. Baigent said he had been asked on behalf of the residents of East Takaka to present Miss Packard with a travelling. bag, and it gave him. very great pleasure to do so, in fact, a double pleasure, as he had known her for many years and had always held her in the highest esteem. During the time she had .been in charge of the East Takaka School between eight and nine; years-she had made herself very popular, alike with the children, parents and others. During her teachership the school had had a splendid record, in fact last year it came out ahead of any, other school in the district. He was pleased to congratulate Miss Packard on the results oi her efforts, and hoped her successor would ho. as successful. On the call of Mr Baigent three ringing cheers were then given for Miss Packard.' Miss Packard said she' was not a speechmaker, but she thanked them heartily for their nice presents, arid could assure them that she appreciated their kindness more than words could express. She referred to the friendly relations that existed between. herself and the people during the time she had been teaching. She had never had any unpleasantness with the. present or former Committees, and she thanked them all for their kindness, to her. She would always look back with pleasure to the time she had spent in East Takaka. An enjoyable ball followed, Mr William's supplying the music, and Mr Hyland officiating as M.C. The ladies: provided an excellent supper.
A surprise party was also held recently at Norwood, the residence of Mr P. B. Packard, when many Motupipi friends of Miss Packard met her there for the purpose of wishing her farewell. A good part of the evening was spent in music and games, which were much enjoyed. Mr R. Y. Lang! ford, on behalf of Miss Packard's Motupipi friends, presented her with |an oak sugar basin and butter dish, 1 electroplated, as a token of the esteem in which she is held in that district. Mr Langford in an appropriate speech expressed regret at Miss Packard's departure, and assured her that she carried with her the best wishes of all who knew her, for her future success.
12th November 1908 School again ranked Good One of 12
4th December 1908 Proficiency: Susie Avery

1909

1909 20 Fairhall Packard Frances M B E1 Female £ 149.00

13th March 1908 At the Fairhall school yesterday regular attendance certificates were presented as follows: —First-class (attendance on every school day during 1908),' Miriam Hammond, Frank Boyle, Kathleen May. (The two first-named hold the' record for two years.) Second-class (absent riot more than four half-days), Constance Boyle.
31st May 1909 A concert by the pupils will take place in the Fairhall school on Wednesday evening next. The proceeds will be devoted to the prize and library fund.

3rd June 1909 FAIRHALL SCHOOL.
ANNUAL CONCERT
There was a crowded audience at the Fairhall School last night, the occasion being the annual concert on behalf of the prize and library fund. Mr F. Hammond/ Chairman of the School Committee presided. Miss Elbeck kindly gave her services as pianiste. Miss Packard, the energetic teacher of the school, is to be heartily congratulated on the success with which she has trained the scholars, in the somewhat ambitious work they undertook. The audience testified their approval of the result by frequent and prolonged applause. The first part of the concert consisted of the cantata "White Garlands," the following being the principal performers: "Queen," Miss E. Avery; "Punctuality," Miss N. Young; "Tardy Scholar," Arthur Hammond; "Perseverance," Miss D. Boyce; "Quarrelsome Scholar," Arthur Healy; "Selfish Scholar," Russell Mc- Isaac. The overture was played by Miss Elbeck, and the chorus, "Happy Hearts," was sung by the company. This was followed by solos from the various characters, and the chorus "The Seasons." "The Bird Carol" was a number which went with admirable precision. The closing chorus was "Gathered Once More." After this a varied programme was rendered, including the following items Recitation, "Headache just 'fore School," Cyril May (encored); action song, "Busy Mother," girls; recitation, "Praying for Rain," Miss-L. Wolferstan; scarf drill, girls; recitation, "Aunt Tabither," Miss S. Avery; "Illustrated Story" (blackboard drawing), Frank Boyle and Cyril May; duet, "Water-can" (in character), Misses M. Hammond and G. Blick; recitation, -"An Axe to Grind," Humphrey Wolferstan; horn solo, "Alice, Where Art Thou?" Mr W, Bishell; "Princess Snow-white" (scene from pantomime),, Miss A. Healy (princess), Arthur Healy (prince), and girls (dwarfs and fairies); recitation, "Jimmy Minding the Baby," H. Wolferstan; dumbbells, scholars; lullaby song, girls; "God Save the King." At the close of the concert the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to all who had assisted, and stated that the funds would be benefited to the extent of something over £5 by the entertainment.
11th October 1909 The many friends of Miss Maude Clare will regret to learn of her death at five o'clock this morning, after a long and painful illness. Deceased was well and favorably known in Blenheim and surrounding districts, her father being for a number of year's schoolmaster at Fairhall. Of recent years Miss Clare had resided with her mother in Maxwell Road. The deceased lady was a former secretary of the Marlborough Horticultural Society, and for that body did good work. The sympathy of all will be extended to the bereaved mother.
22nd December 1909 FAIRHALL SCHOOL.
Before closing school for the summer holidays the teacher of the Fairhall school (Miss Packard) presented the prizes to the various winners. The prize-money had been earned by the children at a concert held in their school in June last, and the prize-winner in each class was the boy or girl who gained the highest marks at the teacher's quarterly examination. Before leaving, the children gave a cheer for their teacher, and mutual expressions of pleasant holidays were exchanged.
Following are the prize-winners:— Standard 6: Senior girl, Miriam Hammond, senior boy, Humphrey Wolferstan; Standard 5, Ethel Boyce; Standard 4, Margaret Healy; Standard 3, Cyril May; Standard 2, Ida Wolferstan: Standard 1, Ellen Paynter 3rd preparatory, May Horgan 2nd preparatory, Eda Dawes;,1st preparatory, Sarah Paynter. I First sewing, Grace Boyle; 2nd sewing, Olive Boyce: teacher's prize for sewing, Freda Baird.
Teacher's prize for regular attendance, Kathleen May. Teacher's prize, good conduct, Gertrude Blick.

1910

1910 24 Fairhall Packard Frances M B E1 Female £ 155.00

26th April 1910 Fairhall again placed by Inspector in the Good class, again at the top

At the Fairhall householders' meeting last night. Messrs F. Hammond (Chairman), G. Graham (secretary), J. Boyle, H. Hammond, W. Paynter, and W. Dawes were elected a committee for the ensuing year.

10th May 1910 The Fairhall School Committee wrote asking the Board for a grant for painting the interior of the school, and also the two sheds at the rear of the teacher's residence, 'as recommended by the Inspector. It was resolved that the committee be asked to furnish an estimate of the cost of repairs, and that the chairman of the Board have power to authorise the work to be done if the estimate were reasonable

14th June 1910 The architect was authorised to call tenders for painting the interior .of the Fairhall school, and also repairing the porch.

1911

1911 28 Fairhall Packard Frances M B E1 Female £ 160.00

14th March 1911 SUBSIDY FOR A LIBRARY. Mr Graham, secretary of the Fairhall School Committee, wrote stating that the school had won £2- 13s 6d at the A. and P. Society's Show, and it was proposed to spend it on a school library. He asked the Board1 to allow the usual subsidy. It was decided to grant 10s for every pound raised

25th April 1911 Fairhall: Messrs H. Boyce (chairman), W. Hammond, Hugh Bishell, arid .Albert Boyce.

3rd May 1911 Fairhall has 323 books in its library (Renwick 230, Springlands 70)

Further quote from Inspectors report re Fairhall Whilst we are pleased to read of the amount of home reading done by, the pupils of certain schools—at Fairhall, for example, 16 of the 26 pupils, none above 14, read 171 books—we may be pardoned the suggestion that great care and unfailing good taste should govern the selection of the books in the school libraries. When we read

that the books favored include "Queechy" and "The Woman in White" we are moved to the thought that the children's literary taste should be guided in better channels. "Queechy" is but mere sentimental trash, and as for Wilkie Collins's Woman in White," although an excellent example of sensational fiction of the mid-Victorian style, a child might be far better employed than in reading of the subtle villainies of that amusing but consummate scoundrel, Count Fosco.

13th June 1911 The Fairhall School Committee applied for a grant of £4 3s for material for erecting a school fence. The application was granted

20th October 1911 Measles are prevalent in the Fairhall district, and the school was compelled to close early in the week for a fortnight in consequence of the outbreak.

1912

1912 24 Fairhall Packard Frances M B E1 Female £ 165.00

22nd April 1912 Inspector's report included and various brandies of Handwork, School "Classes in Woodwork, Cookery, and advanced Plain Needlework were conducted at the Blenheim Technical School, and were attended by pupils from the following schools:—Blenheim, Picton, Springlands. Grovetown, Renwick, Fairhall, Tua Marina, Koromiko', Marlborough High School, and Convent.

Fairhall also did well in Design based on Nature Study and free drawing with a brush
14th December 1912 The concert given last night by the Fairhall school children and ex-pupils of the school was hi every way a success, and was greatly appreciated by a large gathering of parents and friends. Much credit is due to Miss Packard and all who assisted her in the arduous work of "training the children; also to Miss Elbeck, who acted as accompanist for the evening. The programme was as follows: Overture, piano, and cornet, Miss Elbeck and Mr W. Bishell ; action song, "Eight Little Mothers," girls; "Baby Drill children; "Umbrella Song," boys and girls; wand drill, boys; "Gibbon Drill," girls; recitation, "The Pants that Mother Made. Master Alec Boyce; duet, Misses - Boyce and M. Hammond; Japanese Fan song, girls; dumb-bells, girls; song, "So You Say,'* girls and boys; operetta, "Santa Claus's Arrival."

1913

1913 26 Fairhall Packard Frances M B E1 Female £ 170.00

11th March 1913 The architect was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the erection of a new-school at Fairhall,
16th April Inspector's report included: School classes in woodwork, cookery, and advanced plain needlework were continued at the Blenheim Technical School, and were attended by pupils from the following schools:—Blenheim, Picton, Springlands, Grovetown, Renwick, Fairhall, Tua Marina, Koromiko, Marlborough High School, and Convent
Fairhall One of the 11 "Good" schools again in Marlborough
13th May 1913 FAIRHALL .Messrs H. Boyce and A. Wiffen waited on the Board as a deputation from the Fairhall School Committee, and expressed a number of grievances. The principal complaint was that it had been the practice to close the school for the holidays without reference to the Committee.
It was explained to the deputation that the midwinter holidays were fixed by special resolution of the Board, which was communicated to all committees, and in the matter of the other holidays the Board had full power. The teacher was bound to follow the instructions of. the Committee.
"With regard to the complaint that a hyloplate was sent to the school without the knowledge of the Committee, it was explained that the Board acted at the request of a former Committee. The opinion expressed in the Inspector's report that the dividing fence should he removed was only in the nature of a suggestion, and no action would be taken without consulting the Committee. The secretary was instructed to write to the teacher on the subject of the holidays.
15th May 1913 Then Messrs H. Boyce and A. Wiffen, as a deputation from the Fairhall School Committee, waited on the Education Board on Monday, they said they did not' wish their remarks regarding the fixing of the holidays to be taken as reflecting in any sense on the teacher, with whose conduct of the school they were perfectly satisfied. But-they understood that it was owing to the methods of the Board that they had always been ignored in the matter. The Chairman, explained that the Education Act gave the committees the full management of school affair^ in their own districts, subject to the general supervision and control of the Board. The dates of the mid-, winter holidays had been fixed by resolution of the Board for the reason that the Inspector was subjected to a good deal of inconvenience in his visiting system when the schools were closed at various times; but in the matters of the other holidays the committees had full power, and their discretion was not interfered with. The teachers had to follow the instructions of the committees. Evidently there had been a

misunderstanding in this particular instance. The explanation would no doubt put matters right.
14th October 1913 The Fairhall Committee by letter and through a deputation consisting of Mr H. Boyce (chairman) and two other members of the Committee asked for a grant for the painting of the teacher's residence and out- buildings. It was resolved that the architect, having prepared specifications, and referred them to the Committee, call for tenders, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Board
11th November 1913 Painting the Fairhall residence: Charles Candy, £31 7s 6d; J. L, Higgs and Co., £22 15s (accepted): W H. Osgood, £26 15s; Ward and Co., £28 5s.

1914-1915

1915 19 Fairhall Smart Mrs Lily M E1 Female £ 140.00

1874/26869 Packard Francis Minnie Baird Jane Elizabeth Peter Bartrum

14th January 1914 The following school buildings in the Marlborough district have, as a whole or in part, been in existence for over thirty years:—Tua Marina, Havelock Suburban, Picton, Havelock, Springlands, Blenheim, Marshlands, Wairau Valley, Fairhall, and Fabian's Valley. The list was mentioned in connection with the Education Board's scheme for the establishment of a reserve fund to provide for rebuilding as the occasion arises in each case.
19th May 1914 The question of the encouragement of school football was introduced by Mr Griffiths. He moved that a competition among the schools commence on Saturday week, and that these schools be informed that it is intended to combine the schools as follows; Ren wick, Fairhall, and Springlands; Grovetown, Marlboroughtown, Rapaura, and Tua Marina; Blenheim Borough; St. Mary's. Mr Rhodes seconded the motion, which was carried
1st October 1914 The executive which is controlling the local Poor of Britain and Belgium relief Fund donation acknowledged
the Picton and schools in the vicinity; Seddon, Ward, and other schools in Awatere district; receipt' of a substantial donation of clothing by H. V. Browne, 100 lbs *(Pounds)* of honey from Mr H. J. Lucas, and the sum of £1 10s from the Fairhall school.
13th October 1914 he architect reported that after signing contracts for the erection of schools at Fairhall, Ronga Valley, and Hillersden, Mr A. G. Mills (the successful tenderer) had applied to withdraw from these contracts, having made a mistake in submitting his tenders. The Town Executive had granted the application, and called for fresh tenders, the following being accepted Fairhall, Nicoll Bros. £224 10
10th November 1914 FAIRHALL. The Secretary for Education wrote j as follows:—The effect of your letter of the 23rd ult. is that the building is now recorded as having been built in 1876, and the necessary adjustment in the allowances in respect of it has followed—that is to say by the end of December next the Board will have received for rebuilding this school the sum of £279.
16th December 1914 Fairhall school building for sale for removal.
9th February 1915 The architect reported, that the new school at .Fairhall had been completed. Tits existing fence was in a bad stage of repair, and he suggested that a new one be erected. The architect's recommendation be adopted.

9th March 1915 Miss Packard resigned her position as teacher at Fairhall-, and it was decided to advertise for applications to fill the vacancy.
13th April 1915 An application from the Fairhall Committee for improved sanitary .arrangements and the supply of other requirements was granted
19th April 1915 Two functions of local interest have recently taken place at Fairhall, enabling the residents to pay their respects to three of their number who are about to leave the district. A social was held in. the schoolroom to bid farewell to Miss Packard and her cousin, Miss Freda Baird. Miss Packard for the past seven years has filled, with credit and ability, the post off schoolmistress. Mr Walter Hammond chairman of the School Committee eulogised the teaching abilities of the guest of the evening, and in behalf of the local residents presented her with a handsome clock bearing a. plate suitably inscribed. Miss Packard, who is shortly.to be married, takes with her the goodwill and esteem of a large number of parents and friends. During her sojourn in this district she has by her patient and painstaking methods won the grateful appreciation of parents and the love, and respect of the school children. Master Alex. Boyce, in behalf of the children, presented their late teacher with a piece of silverware as a mark of their esteem.
Miss Baird, who has been Miss Packard's first lieutenant-in. assisting in preparing the. children for many appreciated juvenile concerts, for which Miss Packard has made the school renowned, was presented by the children and parents with a gold pendant.
A bountiful supper provided by the ladies of Fairhall in their usual excellent .was partaken of by all j present, and brought a most successful and pleasing function to a close.
11th May 1915 Mrs Smart appointed *In 1913 Mrs Smart was teaching as a substitute at Marshlands In 1887 she was a Probationer at Blenheim Girls until 1891. She then went to Deep Creek as sole teacher going to Onamalutu in 1894 until 1897. In 1898 she married*

1898/3838	Lily Margreata	Logan	David	Smart		
1907/16897	Smart	David	Lily Margaret	David		
1900/4670	Smart	Logan Carlyle	Lily Margaret	David		
1901/18101	Smart	Harry Macdonald	Lily Margaret	David		
1910/26106	Smart	Cicely Jean	Lily Margaret	David		
1954/32550	Smart		Lily Margaret			82Y

14th September 1915 War Effort Fairhall: Laces, soap, stationery

117th sept 1915 A monster gift auction will be held in the Fairhall school grounds on Wednesday next. Included in the catalogue of livestock, poultry, a quantity of produce, and various other goods.. A concert and social will take place at night. when the 10th Regimental Band will assist.
Another social was held for Charlie Hammond who was going to war

1916-1917

1917	21	Fairhall	Smart	Lily M (Mrs)	E-62	Sole	£160.00

18th April 1916 Soldiers Comforts Fairhall School children of Fairhall School, milk, writing pads, envelopes, pencils, cigarettes, cocoa, camphor, soap, soup, handkerchiefs;
3rd May 1916 At- Fairhall and Okaramio. the attendances at the householders meetings were inadequate, and no Committee were elected.

13th June 1916 t was notified that the following committee was elected' for Fairhall —Messrs H. Boyce (chairman) H Bishell. W L Hammond, J. W.. Paynter, and Frank Robinson.
15th June 1916 The Fairhall School had been rebuilt last year. Inspector's report

1918-1919

1919	16	Fairhall	Hilliard	Madelene	Sole	£170.00

8th January 1918 Charles Healey obtained proficiency
14th January 1918 The published list of pupils of Marlborough schools who were successful in passing their proficiency test omitted the name of Alec Boyce, of Fairhall school. Charles Healy, Fairhall, obtained a competency certificate.
30th January 1919 Mrs Smart to Marshlands, Miss Hilliard to Fairhall
Miss Madeline Hilliard came from Grassmere school where she had taught since 1915

1896/2102	Hilliard	Aileen	Susan	Harry Harvey
1892/2646	Hilliard	Jack Lockhart	Susan	Harry Harvey
1890/6773	Hilliard	Kathleen	Susan	Harry Harvey
1888/12243	Hilliard	Josephine	Susan	Harry Harvey
1898/5225	Hilliard	Jocelyn Grace	Susan	Harry Harvey
1886/12362	Hilliard	Evelyn Edith	Susan	Harry Harvey
1894/3469	Hilliard	Madeline	Susan	Harry Harvey
1899/10417	Hilliard	Harry Harvey Marlborough	Susan	Harry Harvey

Blue writing in table above indicates those children of Harry and Susan become teachers for Marlborough Education Board, some also taught elsewhere in New Zealand
Marriage

1912/6645	Evelyn Edith	Hilliard	Wilfred Henry	Gane
1917/1630	Eveline	Hilliard	Lionel William	Benjamin
1924/5817	Madeline	Hilliard	Stanley Wickman	Lankow

1920-1921

1921	26	Fairhall	Hilliard	Aileen	C	Sole	£250.00

29th April 1920 Fairhall: Messrs W. L. Hammond, J. W Paynter, H. Bishell, P. Wiffen, and E G. A. Hille; secretary, P. G Williams. School Committee
22nd October 1920 Wellington Education Board Tenders were accepted for painting and renovation at Fairhall and Marshlands, and the Board endorsed heartily the proposals made.
3rd December 1930 An enjoyable entertainment to mark the close of the years' work was given by the Fairhall School children on Friday evening last. the .school, which was prettily decorated for the occasion, proved too small to hold the large and appreciative audience. The programme opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss Madge Jeffries, followed by an action

song,-Jingle Bells", by the Children Te next item was a recitation by Master L. Wiffen. who, on being recalled, gave “His Way” Little Isabell Bishell sang fairies very prettily, and also had to respond to an encore. Two dialogues, 'A False Alarm by the junior pupils, and "The Quack", by the seniors were .exceptionally well given Baggy Breeches, sung by Miss R Hammond and B. Hille and chorus, was recalled. Recitations by Miss Olive Bishell and Grace- and M. Gane were very nicely said. The action song Blowing Bubbles by Miss Edna Boyce, and chorus was a pretty and popular item. Miss Madge Jeffries gave a realistic rendering oi "Orphan Annie and her encore number. The Torch of Life", was recited with spirit. A pianoforte solo by Miss R, Wiffen was an enjoyable number. Misses E Robinson's, and B. Hille's solos, '-The Barefoot Trail", and "Agatha. Green", with their catchy choruses, won much approval. A pianoforte' duet by Leslie and Rita Hammond and Miss Dorothy Jeffries song ".Heaps of Lickin's", added to the enjoyableness of the evening.- The children's last item, "In Dixie Land," provoked much merriment;, as render by the "All-Blacks". Miss M. Hammond played for all the children's items.
The prizes for the years' work were then presented by Mr Hammond, chairman of the school committee, who congratulated Miss Hilliard and the children on their creditable performance that evening, and also on the very successful reports of their work throughout the year. Songs were also contributed by Miss Jeffries and Messrs Cragie and Stuart, after which supper brought the evening to a. close.
9th December 1920 It was resolved that if the Fairhall school committee was prepared to provide one third of the cost a septic tank should be installed. The Department will provide one third,* and the Board one third of the cost as a subsidy.
Note Papers past hasn’t recorded any Marlborough Papers past 1920

1922-1923

1923	26	Fairhall	Hilliard	Aileen	C-174	Sole	£263.00
1923	26	Fairhall	Lane	Mavis N L		Probationer 2	£78.00

Post 1923

25th March 1930 Miss A Jeffries appointed Sole Teacher
24th June 1930 Miss R R Coull appointed Sole Teacher
15th January 1937 Mrs J B Ward Sole Teacher appointed

National Archives

Fairhall 1903-1962

15th September 1903 Letter from Marlborough Education Board to Secretary Education Department

a) The buildings at Fairhall were destroyed on 11th inst.
b) The Board has ordered an enquiry
c) Attached building in which the school was held was saved by the exertions of neighbours but the teacher lost all his furniture and effects partly, however covered by insurance

16th September Department to Marlborough Education Board Valuation December 1897
School buildings £80
Furniture £12

Teachers Dwelling £200
Total £392
Saturday 3rd October 1903 Enquiry findings included
Frederick Stephen Hammond. Lived about 10 chains away *(1 chain = 22 feet)* heard noise of windows breaking. I gave alarm and proceeded to the fire, there was no one there The fire was coming out the end window that faces Grahams. I rang the bell
I pulled the teacher's trap out of the leanto
There was nothing shifted out of the house so far as I could see.
The fire seems to start from the study
Thomas Richard Cecil Bowden Schoolmaster at Fairhall
I left the house about ½ past 7 after turning down the lamp in the study. It was an ordinary lamp. There had been a small fire in the study that afternoon but it was practically out when we left
We went to Mr W Reader's and had been there about half an hour
When we got to the fire I gave the key to Mr Hammond Senior to open the door
I consider I am the loser of over £300 over and above the insurance
I wanted to get in and save my papers but could not. I had £100 of insurance on my furniture I had about 700 books and Maori Curios all uninsured
The lamp was a stationery one not suspended We had cats but they are still alive
We think the schoolhouse was accidently destroyed by fire but can't give any definite opinion on it
The house was an old one habited by rats and mice who could have chewed matches
10th October The report is very confused. Only the Residence was burnt. Department note
19th September Police report Probable cause of fire Defective Chimney
15th October Marlborough Education Board to Secretary Education Department. School Committee want to dispose of the Old School We have only ordered the pulling down of the chimney can we clean up the rest
Reply the remains can be sold. The result of the sale belong to the Board and not the Committee
Letter from Marlborough Education Board saying plans are being drawn up and can we pay the teacher a housing allowance while the school and house are being rebuilt
13th December Please state why the Board is building a new school?
Letter from Marlborough Education Board to Department included
The buildings destroyed by fire consisted of a dwelling house of 6 rooms with a verandah in front and offices *(Toilets)* behind and attached to this was a schoolroom which of course was also destroyed
The Board had removed an old part of the Blenheim school to meet the requirements. For a time both rooms were used. So all the children were gathered in one room the room was about to be used for woodwork
15th April 1904 Department to Marlborough Education Board refusing to agree to a rebuild because the old building burnt was 27 years old, and the cost would be too high
27th June Department asking what is happening re Fairhall School

5th July 1904 After much correspondence the Department increases cost to that of the tender price £240

12th February 1905 After a huge amount of to and froing the Department paid £240 grant for new house

24th September Request to rebuild the building transferred in 1894 from Blenheim as it is condemned

July 1935 Block XV Cloudy Bay SD to be acquired 1 acre

The school was erected in 1915 1 room 480 square feet. There is also a residence built 1904, 6 rooms and Bathroom, washhouse which the Board say is on the same site as the school

Average attendance 1922 28; 1923; 26, 1924; 24

Last Quarter 17

22nd July 1915 The current site is one acre

About One Quarter is occupied by the Teacher's House, another quarter by the pony paddock which accommodates 8 children's ponies, beside there is the school garden and a small creek which further reduces the area available

5th August 1925 Additions of Septic Tank with a grant of £130

24th September 1925 Permission to acquire another acre of land under the Public Works Act

24th May 1928 Half and acre bought from Mr Boyce for £45 and a quarter of an acre be swapped for land by the creek this means ¾ acre of land would be enough

13th May 1930 Extension of land still under negotiation especially over lawyers' fees

August 31st 1930Solicitors listed 7 pages of foolscap of correspondence between the Board and the owner of the land

16th July 1935 Miss R Coull Teacher Average attendance 15

23rd July 1937 Hot water installed in the Fairhall School residence

17th October 1939 A review of buildings included

a) Roll 23
b) Classroom: Obsolete matchlined throughout, orientation correct, Ventilating windows high in East and West walls
c) Stove Heater
d) Colours Dull
e) Grounds Mostly rough grass, a few ragged trees, a few flowers, untidy wire fences, little attempt has been made to beautify the grounds
f) Residence. Scrim and Paper in fair condition, fuel range, built in tin bath

Much material not covered in these notes as repeated action

4th December 1958 Further site request Mrs Bishell is not prepared to sell any part of her land

18th October *1962 No further land had been acquired but a number of trees had been used in not achieving anything*

Fairhall Inspectors reports included

1st July 1965

Mr F L Stuart 40 children

Mrs M Jones Assistant Teacher 28
Order tone and discipline are of high standard
The school roll continues to fluctuate and the grade it is likely to stablish is difficult to predict
The pupils are acquiring basic skills closely commensurate with their individual abilities
He pupils of Forms 1 and 2 attend local centre for teaching wood and home craft

7th August 1968
Inspector reports on Fairhall School from Wellington Education Board inspectors
Mr S C McDonald Head Teacher 26 Children
Miss Glennis Skinner: 20 Children
Mrs Margaret Jones Assistant 26 Children
Roll 72
Under the leadership of the Head Teacher, the staff is working conscientiously to promote the school's efficient service to the community
By study, attendance at in-service courses and visits from specialist advisers the staff is making commendable effort to keep up to date with current practices
The school is functioning smoothly and work on all levels is generally sound
Apparently it could contribute to Bohally Intermediate and this means a third classroom would not be needed
10th November 1971
L C Underhill Head Teacher 31
P J Grooby (Mrs) Assistant 23
M Jones (Mrs) Assistant 24
Under the guidance of a recently appointed Head Teacher ably assisted by a conscientious staff the school is providing a balanced programme
Good use is made of the request and loan services of the National Library
Both the School Committee and Home and School League are commended for their live interest in the improvement of the school
19th July 1972
L C Underhill Head Teacher 26
P J Grooby (Mrs) assistant 22
J M Hunter (Mrs) assistant 19
Notwithstanding a complete change of staff within the past twelve months the three teacher school continues to meet the needs of the pupils well
The strong community interest in the school has received appreciative comment from the Head Teacher
9th March 1976
J M Robson Principal 28
J McDougall Assistant Teacher 26
Mrs M A Robson Teacher 20

Mrs P D Domigan Teacher 22
The school is functioning well with a dedicated staff led by an able principal. Senior pupils are involved in decision making and accept responsibility. Pupil involvement in the development of vineyards in the district through planting programme is an interesting and worthwhile project
Of particular value is work done in drama, instrumental music and folk dancing

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Fairhall Valley (1928)

16th December 1927

Name	Occupation	Distance from New School	Current School	Distance From	Child	Age
A Wallace	Shepherd	2 ½	Fairhall	6 ½ Miles	Colin	9
					June	7
					John	5
					Cila	3
					Neoline	-
					Louise	-
P S Catley	Farmer	½ m	Okaramio		Annie	6
					Jean	5
					Lucy	3
					Harvey	1
T H Torode	Orchardist	½ Mile	Fairhall	3 ½ Miles	Myra	

In Omaka Settlement
8 Miles from Blenheim in a Westerly Direction
No of Children 11
1 at Okaramio
Omaka Closed 5 Miles
Fairhall 4 Miles
Renwick 4 ½ miles
3 roomed cottage owned by Torode and Macdonald available for time being free or alternative Mr Catley offers ½ an acre free on section 9 Omaka Settlement
Section Level dry and clear
One family offers Board (Mr Catley)
Whatever help is necessary except joinery
Blenheim Omaka Rural Delivery
Signed Thomas Henry Torode Fairhall Blenheim

16th November 1927 The writer owns a motor lorry and would do all cartage free
30th November Wellington Education Board answer because of small numbers no chance of a building .But an aided school could be established
19th December Show Map and photo
Board want a bus to run
8th February 1928 Wellington Education Board approves of setting up a school. Accommodation is approved
16th February 1928 Application for a new Household School by D A Strachan Inspector
28th February Night LETTER TORODE FAIRHALL BLENHEIM ESTABLISHMENT NOW SANCTIONED BOARD WILL SEND TEACHER ON RECEIPT UNDERTAKING THAT FREE BOARD AND LODGING ARE AVAILABLE
2nd March Mr T H Torode writes to say Board is available. A nice letter thanking Wellington Education Board for their positive manner
14th March 1928 Wellington Education Board in a letter We are having difficulty in getting a teacher Two relieving teachers have turned down the position
Applicants for permanency close today at 4 pm and the Board hopes to appoint someone who can start immediately
17th March Miss McKinlay appointed teacher
25th June 1929 Letter from a Mr Pike saying 3 of the children attending Fairhall Valley School are living in the Fairhall School house and the other 3 children are quite capable of attending Fairhall
14th July 1929 Unsigned notes to Board Including some children have been moved away as they want the teacher removed. 3 others have moved into the Fairhall School House as Mr Wallace is looking for a job
17th July 1929 That the school remain open until the end of the year
16th September 1929 Agnes N McKinlay writes Mr Wallace's three children were withdrawn from the roll today
Roll is now three
Letter to be sent to all parents in Fairhall Valley bypassing the school and asking why
P S Catley writes my three children would attend Fairhall Valley if a new teacher was appointed. After what happened in my house while the other teacher was here I cannot send them to be taught by her, also I am not in a position to be able to pay for the teacher's board
26th November Can arrange Miss Erskine take charge of school till end of year. Telegraph if suggestion approved
26th November Telegram from Torode, I fear that pupils are now scattered hardly worth expense for relieving teacher
2nd December Mr Cately writes complaining that his children will have to go away for schooling and that the Wellington Education Board has not answered his letter
11th December Letter from Mr Cately writes committing his children
28th November 1929 Totara Street Rona Bay *(Eastbourne)* Agnes M McKinley writes a letter making all the returns needed for the school only open Three or four weeks in the term

16th December Mr Torode writes

a) I am surprised you are considering continuing the school
b) The buildings loaned free for the school are no longer available, acting on previous information I have let the cottage and now have no building suitable for the school

14th January Mr Cately complaining that the school has closed and he has no options for his children.

26th September 1930 Mr Cately received a letter from Education Board saying that if they were over 4 miles from the nearest school they would get 6d (6 pence) per child per day. If there were 7 children the Education Board would pay 17 shillings and 6d per week

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.Grovetown (1878-1923)

AKA Big Bush or Bush School

About 4 Kilometres North of Blenheim on State Highway 1 .

Grovetown

1876 336 square Feet addition 565

1878 addition 80 square feet

1894 Removed 800

1904 Removed 336 square feet

1904 added 580 square feet

1915 Removed 565 square feet

1915 Added 191 square feet

Garage 160 square feet

Residence

1910 6 rooms Bathroom, washhouse, scullery

10th October 1938 New Site

11th December 1940 New Building

Part Section 38 Block XI

Area 1 acre 2 rood

New Section 5 acre 2 rood 9 perches Purchased 1940

Pre 1878

4th January 1868 In a letter asking for a school at Tua Marina there is a statement "There is no school nearer than the Bush"

1st February 1868 Local Education Committee: a long article on who voted for who for the Committee And about allowing a representative from Bush to be on the Committee and that person being Mr John Kennedy

23rd May 1868 EDUCATION AT THE BIG BUSH.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A Public Meeting was held in the Schoolroom, Big Bush, on Monday evening last, the 18th instant, in reference to certain matters connected with the Schools Mr. James Greig in the chair.

The Chairman said he was pleased to see so many present. Notice was given after service last evening, that a public meeting would take place at 7. p.m., to consider matters connected with the Day School, Sunday School, and. the Church, and he should now call upon Mr. Cave to address them.

Mr. Cave said he was happy to see so many present it showed they took a lively interest in the affairs mentioned by the Chairman. He would first speak of the day school during the last few days, he had conversed with some gentlemen about the Government retaining the services of the schoolmasters, and from, what he had heard he thought some of the schools would not be closed, but nothing was decided yet. He hoped shortly to be able to tell them that the Bush school would remain open. (Hear, hear.) The Bush friends knew the position of the Government therefore if they valued the education of their children it was their duty to do all in their power to assist the Government and the Education Committee. [Several voices "We will rather than the school should be shut up.] He had been amongst them nearly two years, and had always taken a great interest in all matters connected with the welfare of the parents, as well a9 the children, living in peace and good- will with all, and he was pleased to say he never had a complaint, or disagreeable word with any of them. (Hear, hear.) Within the last fortnight, he had received from Mr. Inspector Williams a copy of a letter signed "E. Stratford," which he would read to the meeting, and .comment upon it. [Letter read.] {Cries of shame, shame); He said Mr. S Watford never intended, he should have a copy of it, for when told by the Inspector that I had received it, he (Mr. S.) expressed his surprise, and said he never intended that, but he wished the Inspector to call upon him, and he would quietly give him a long explanation. Now, gentlemen, you see Mr. Stratford's intention, it was to act the part of an assassin (Great excitement and groans.) All I ask, gentlemen, is fair play. Mr. Charles. Lucas next addressed the meeting, and said he had every opportunity in his youth to get a good education, but he neglected it, and having done so, he, as a father, felt very anxious about the education of his children. His son Charles had been some months with Mr. Cave, and he felt great pleasure in stating that he had done well; his boy was a good age, and felt the want of education. Mr. Cave had not gone through the "rigmarole" some masters would have done, but put him t% work at once in arithmetic, and other things that would be useful to him; I am only sorry I cannot spare him regular. We farmers, if we have a useful boy, are often obliged to keep him home to help to save the expense of paying a man, so that if a child is at school one month, and stops away a fortnight, or days in between, we cannot expect our children to make the same progress as if there altogether. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I am satisfied with what my boy has learnt during the short period he has been at the Bush School. [Several Voices "So are we."] Now with regard to Mr. Stratford's letter. Who's Stratford, Why is he not here He knows there is a public meeting to-night, for he said to one now present, that he would not come unless it was advertised. Every person knows him to be a meddling, disagreeable man. Look back twelve months ago the anniversary of your Sabbath School. What did he do on that occasion Why- wrote a letter to the News, signed Peeping Tom," on purpose to set the Blenheim and Bush friends at variance. He says he is not satisfied with his boy during the last three months; I don't wonder at this. The Schoolmaster's tell-tale, the "Government Register" says he has only been 20 days at school during the last four months. But my friends, let me call your attention to the first part of his letter He says—" I and my neighbours." Now all his neighbours are here to-night both in the Bush and plains. Now let us speak for ourselves. If the Schoolmaster shirked his duty, I would be one of the first to get him kicked out, but let us give him fair play. He (Mr. S.) is not satisfied with maligning Mr. Cave's public character, but his wife also. I need not say one word in her favour you know her to be an amiable woman. (Hear, hear, so she is.) Look back two years, What was the state of things then? Look this evening at your beautiful school look at your children, your Sabbath School, your Church, and ask yourselves whether the master

has not done all that he could for our welfare. Mr. Alexander Cameron and others followed in the same strain. Mr. Lucas proposed the following resolution, seconded by the whole meeting, That this meeting having heard with regret that Mr. E. Stratford had -written a letter to the Government, maligning Mr. Cave's public and private character without complaining to him, and professing friendship to him up to the time of his receiving a copy of it, that this meeting express their greatest indignation with Mr. Stratford's conduct." Carried unanimously. The Chairman said he could speak for his children. It seemed to him the whole meeting thought the same. He quite agreed with the remarks that had fallen from the last speaker. It seemed to him that Mr. Stratford wished to stab Mr. Cave in the dark, that he had not the spirit of a man;' otherwise he certainly would have been here. He said that now was the time to show their appreciation of Mr. Cave's services. He had written out a document, which he trusted all would approve, and sign it at once. The document is as follows, with the signatures attached "to the board of' education. Gentlemen, We, the undersigned inhabitants of the Big Bush and Plains, have much pleasure in certifying to the improvement in the moral and religious training of our children under their teacher, Mr. Cave and we trust that should the Government be in a position to pay the masters, they will retain the services of Mr. Cave at the Bush. (Signed) Alex. Herd, Alex. Cameron, George Woolley, Prank Parish, John Cameron, John Dumble, Joshua Nichols, James Bisland, J. R. Fisher, J. H. Greig, John Kennedy, James Andrews, W. Thomas, A. Woolley, C. Ohlsen, John Shepherd, Geo. Watson.]

The Chairman said the next matter they had to consider was the Sabbath School; He should call upon Mr. Cave again. Mr. Cave stated the school had been open nearly two years. For some months he and Mrs. C. had above forty children, and having only a few books belonging to his own children, they got on the best way they could. The Revs. Messrs. Butt and Wallace assisted with some books, and a short time since the Rev. Mr. Lee had made the school a present of twelve Testaments, and one large and six small Hymn-books for the use of the Church, for which he was sure the friends felt very thankful. He applied and got extra teachers from the Church and Wesleyans and as they came only now and then, the Bush friends had responded to his call. At first he, like all new beginnings, had-difficulties to contend with— the. smallness of the old room, &c— but they had reason to thank God and take courage, for during the last twelve months we had an average of 25 children and, four teachers. He had one important matter to bring before them, and in doing so, he did not wish the public to be. under the impression that he wanted everything his own way, so he should leave it for. them to decide; he was willing to go with the majority.

At a teachers' meeting held on the 23rd March, it was, suggested that the Sabbath School should be handed over to the Wesleyans two teachers for, two against 5 it. He would leave the matter for them to decide. Mr. Lucas thought the Sabbath School should remain as it is. He said there were a number of Church people, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, and Independents here. The school had done well so far. If it belonged to any particular sect, it- might cause a disagreeable feeling, and perhaps break up the school altogether. After some remarks from several other gentlemen, it was unanimously agreed that the school be continued as before. The Chairman said he was glad those present had come to the conclusion they had, respecting the Sabbath School. Something was to be said now about Church matters; he hoped Mr. -Cave did not feel tired, for he had to call upon him again. Mr. Cave said he never felt tired of doing a good thing. He always felt great pleasure in seeing a good congregation, and he felt sure the Ministers did; they were very anxious; to supply the Bush, but it was very discouraging to see a small attendance he urged them to come. If they wanted more seats, he would soon find friends to assist in getting 'them. Religion -was a good thing; it was a serious thing. Parents should set their children a good example; he was glad to say the attendance had been very good during the last two months, and he hoped it would continue to increase. They

required lamps for the use of the Church, candles being so expensive. He knew his Bush friends were always ready to put their hands in their pockets when anything was required, either for the Church or Sabbath School, and he had every -reason to hope that before this meeting closed, the lamps would be provided for. He would not forget to mention the liberality of Mr. Robinson, at .Blenheim he (Mr. R.) saw we required lamps, and promised to give one. (Applause.)

Mr. Dumble said he would give his mite. A subscription then commenced, and £2 13s. was promised. The Chairman said Mr. Cave was a first rate beggar, and it seemed to him that he had only to ask his Bush friends and receive that a thing was no sooner said than done. A vote of thanks to the Chairman then closed the meeting.

30th May 1868 THE LATE MEETING AT THE BIG BUSH.

To the Editor of the Marlborough Express. Sir, There appears in your paper of this day's issue, a report of what is termed an Education Meeting at the Big Bush having reference to a report made by me to the Inspector of Schools. I am quite reconciled to such a 'low" and scurrilous attack made upon me, inasmuch as is not. at all in keeping with the principles of the plain truth. The point at issue was very ingeniously evaded at the meeting; it therefore remains intact, and rests with the Board of Education who very clearly understand it. Objects appear differently when taken from different points of view and when this matter is viewed in the light of truth, it has quite a different face to the one given to it in that report. Allow me now, sir, to ask who was your reporter at the meeting, and the reason why the whole of the letter written to the inspector was not published, because when I forwarded that letter to him, 1 considered; it public property. I am called an assassin at the. meeting; and if the fact of exposing a public nuisance deserves that appellation, I plead guilty. As for the master's fawning friendship, that has but little consideration with me, when compared with the success of the school. Reference is next made (by a person prompted for the purpose) to a letter signed Peeping Tom. Now it may be remembered that at that tea meeting, there was no committee; I was not there, and who could have furnished the subject-matter of that letter but the master himself. I admit the writing therein, but not the initiation thereof. It is no part of my intention or business to be dealing in invectives (like the master when he wrote the report), or I might have enough to do, but simply to correct a glaring evil, which seems to me already very much improved. Indeed, sir, I look upon the report of that meeting as so much bunkum, concocted to deceive the public but wait a while. All letters connected with this little matter will be published in due course. In conclusion, sir, I have only to say that since my plea was so carefully evaded at the meeting— as such I have avoided it in this— it therefore remains untouched. I have taken the proper course— the only one allowed by law to exercise an independent right and duty, and would do the same again to-morrow, or any other moment that 1 might see the same reason for it. I am, &c, Edmund Stratford. Lower Wairau, May 23rd,

6th June 1868 THE LATE MEETING AT THE BIG BUSH

To the Editor of the Marlborough Express. Sir, There is an old saying, Give a man rope enough and he will hang himself. I am only going to reply to one part of Mr. Stratford's letter (and close all further correspondence on my part) that is, with regard to his letter Peeping Tom. The fearful untruth he has told shows what the man would say or do. He did not attend the meeting referred to in his letter, but his friends did, and gave the information he required. Now I most solemnly declare before God. that 1 had nothing to do with his letter— either in act, word, or deed, About a fortnight after it was published, he (Mr S.) made a public boast of it he called upon me at the Schoolroom and said I suppose you saw the letter signed by| “Peeping Tom." 1 said Yes, and I am very sorry; the meeting was a .very pleasant one.' He said, Do you know the writer? I replied, Whoever wrote it was a fool for his pains." Well." he said, "I wrote it I made the above answer to him. And being vexed I left him. On .another

occasion we came to very high words about it, there was a gentleman present, and it is well known to those about him that I had nothing to do with it. This is the truth, word for word.
Enclosed 1 send you a copy of his letter to the Inspector Let the public judge for themselves, and every word in it was carefully read to the late meeting. In the first, place, "He says me and my neighbours," and throughout this letter "we"— query, Who are they? None in the Bush or Plains. He next says, "he does not, wish to make a public brawl," so that he never intended 1 should have a copy, or that it should appear in public; then he would like to speak to the Inspector, and adds a little soft soap; the P S *(Postscript comes after a letter has been signed)*. speaks for itself. I .am glad tin tins put his name in full. He will yet regret the cowardly step he has taken, and if what I have heard is true from his friend, his conscience (if he has any) sadly troubles him now for the fearful lie he has told I am, ours, &c, Big Bush May 30th, 1868. A. G. Cave.
Copy of Stratford's' letter, written the 11th April, received 7th May.. "To Mr. Williams, Inspector of Schools. Sir, It seems to me. and my neighbours, that the preparatory notice you gave to the Schoolmaster, on the part of the Government, some time since, has had a very bad effect, Inasmuch as I think you will find on your inspection, that this School for one has fallen into a very apathetic state, and to be short, I am not satisfied. Now Sir, before I make any complaint, I wish you to understand that 1 am not making a cut at the Schoolmaster, but at the practice of the School. Finding that my boy of ten years of age has not advanced these last three months, we want to know the cause and on looking into the matter, we find that the master is in Blenheim three days together, and in the evening of the third day I am an eye-witness to one of the publicans helping on a dray to go home. Now during this, who keeps order at the school —Nobody. Who teaches? Why the boys will tell you little Misses while, their mama reads a book, so that the master's power is delegated three degrees. Without saying any more, we think the School requires inspection. We do not wish to make a public brawl about the matter at present. I, for one, would like to speak to you first.
I hope you will take this all in good part as Inspector, and in the sense I have endeavoured to put it, and bear in mind that the settlers here cannot afford to be trifled with in such an important matter as the education of their children, not knowing how soon the chance they now have may be at an and. I am, sir, your obedient servant, Edmund Stratford.
P.S. I shall he happy to speak to you on the subject, when I will give you a full explanation.
1st August 1868 We learn that the. local Education Committee have reduced Mr. Cave's salary as master of the Bush School from £120 to .£7O per annum. Mr Cave has in consequence, sent in his resignation
8th August 1868 THE BIG BUSH SCHOOL.
To the. Editor of the Marlborough Express. Sir, I would wish to correct an error in your paper with regard to. the Bush School. The "Local Committee" have nothing to do with fixing the salaries of the schoolmasters, and the Education Board have not reduced the salary of the Bush Schoolmaster to £70. Yours, &c, F. J. Litchfield, Chairman of Committee. Blenheim, August 1st, 1868.
15th August 1868 THE BIG BUSH SCHOOL.
To the. Editor of the Marlborough Express. Sir ,— ln your issue of the 8th instant, my attention was called to a letter signed "F. J Litchfield," in which he says:— "The Salary of the Schoolmaster at the Big Bush is not reduced to £70 per annum." The following is a copy of the information I received, and entered in my diary a few minutes after Mr. Litchfield left the Bush Friday, August 31st, 4-30 p.m. -Mr. Litchfield called upon me, and said—' Mr. Cave, your salary is reduced to £70 per annum, and would have been reduced to £50, the same as Mr Morley but 1 suggested to the Board that in consequence of the smallness of the fees, they (the Board) should give you £20 more, to which they agreed also that the services of Mr Williams the inspector and secretary, was dispensed with. My reply was that I intended

to send in my resignation, and as the Inspector was out of once, he (Mr. L.) would be the proper person to send it to, and delivered it to him the same evening. I also remarked that I could not support my family with anything like decency out of mv present small salary, and that if reduced to £70 and have to pay my rent, I could not remain, in which Mr. L. sympathised. Now, sir, if Mr. L. intended his remarks to be private, he should have said so, and I would have sooner suffered my right hand to be cut off than be guilty of a breach of confidence but it was mentioned to me such a way that I thought it no secret, and related it to several of mv friends. Yours, &c, Big Bush, August 11th, 1868. Cave

P. S. —Finding Mr. Litchfield's information with regard to the Inspector incorrect, I at once forwarded a copy of my resignation to that gentleman.

There were no further Express copies on Papers Past until 1873

1873

19th February 1873 0n Jan. 16th, at the residence of her father, Mr G S. Mitchell, Schoolmaster at the Bush, Selina, wife of Mr G. Aldous, Charleston.

17th May 1873 We learn that Mr Mitchell has resigned his charge as Schoolmaster at the Bush School

31st May 1873 Provincial Council Meeting: The notices of motion which stand over for Tuesday comprise grants in aid of £100 towards erection of schoolmaster's house at Big Bush

7th June 1873 Mr Johnson, moved— "That the Superintendent be requested to place upon the Estimates the sum of £100 as a grant-in-aid for the erection of«-a schoolmaster's residence at Big Bush." He said he had brought this matter forward at the request of the local School Committee, who had applied to the County Education Board, but that body was not in a position to assist them There were a number of children in the district, and it was of the greatest importance that they should be educated. He made the motion with some diffidence because he felt he was asking the Government for that which it was plainly the duty of the Education Boards to provide, and he believed that the School Committee had applied to the Boards, but found that it was quite unable to furnish the means. Without Educational Endowments of any kind, the County had enough to do to maintain its Schools without the erection of new buildings, and in consequence of no rates having been levied of late, the School Committee were in arrear with the master's salary and having exhausted every legitimate means had requested the members for the district to apply to the Council for a grant in aid, which it suggested might be in the form of land for the purpose of erecting a schoolmaster's residence. An additional argument, were one necessary, was that there was not a house vacant in the district which could be rented for the purpose, or in fact nearer than Blenheim. Mr Sinclair had much pleasure in seconding the motion. He could endorse all that had fallen from his honorable colleague. The district, though a populous one, was not wealthy, and there were a great many children who ought to be educated who he feared were not getting any education at all. It was highly desirable that the master of a school should be of some standing, and he ought to be provided with a decent dwelling. It was true there were two public houses in the district, but the proceeds, from the licenses were absorbed by the whole county. He hoped the grant would be placed on the Estimates. His Honor Mr Seymour said it was not his intention to offer any objection to the present motion. He fully admitted the importance of the claim, but as other claims of a similar nature were on the notice paper, he would ask the mover to let the matter stand over for the present, as the Government were collecting all the information they could on the subject of education, and if the motion was now withdrawn, he would promise to give the member for Lower Wairau an opportunity of bringing the matter forward again, or to bring down a statement for the consideration of the Council. The motion was then withdrawn. The similar notices for grants in aid were withdrawn by consent of the Council on his Honor's statement.

11th June 1873 MEETINGS AT THE BIG BUSH.
A. numerously attended meeting was held in the Big Bush School on Friday evening last, for the purpose of eliciting from the present schoolmaster his reasons for resigning the school without assigning cause for such action to the committee, thereby inconveniencing parents by a change of teachers and school management. Mr F. Busch was voted to the chair.
Mr Mitchell, the teacher, then gave an explanation of his reasons for resigning his charge. He stated that owing to some ill-feeling which he conceived existed between the chairman of the School Committee and himself, and having ascertained that unconstitutional means had been resorted to by the chairman with the view of removing him, although no formal complaints had been made by parents of children attending school, yet he (Mr Mitchell) resolved to resign his charge rather than suffer the .annoyances which his predecessors had been tortured with before him. Mr Mitchell's argument appeared to rest on the supposition that the Executive of the. school was guided not by the wishes nor in the interests of the parents who supported it, but by a faction or clique who had no claim to it in an educational point of view.
Mr Prichard, the Chairman of the School Committee, then explained that he personally entertained no antipathy to the teacher. He had received verbal complaints from some of the parents relative to Mr Mitchell's method of teaching, which he privately mentioned to one or two of his fellow committeemen, and acknowledged that he hinted at the advisability of removing him, which idea they would not entertain. He took no further notice of the matter, but received Mr Mitchell's resignation, and laid it before the Committee at its first meeting, which was accepted. He saw no occasion for enquiring Mr Mitchell's reasons for his action. He was at perfect, liberty to resign if he chose by giving the required notice. He also emphatically denied that he had allowed himself to act as a tool to any. party or clique, but had fearlessly endeavoured to discharge his duties to the public on his own responsibility.
Several speakers from the body of the meeting having expressed themselves both for and against the teacher, it was finally moved by Mr Cheeseman, and seconded by Mr Woolley, "That Mr Mitchell be requested to again apply for the teachership, and that a petition signed by the parents and guardians of children within the district, be presented to. the Education Board expressive of their wish that Mr. Mitchell should be reappointed." This motion was carried.
Mr Mitchell returned thanks for the. confidence placed in him, and promised the meeting that if reinstalled in office, he would endeavour to merit that confidence.
21st June 1873. Taken from a Blenheim School Committee meeting if it was not beyond the motion, that application had been made for a house for the master at Big Bush, but he-did not think it was so important a school as that at Marlborough Town. The population of the Big Bush he thought was likely to decrease, while that of the former was increasing. He thought a dame's school would answer very well at the Bush until the children were big enough to walk either to Blenheim or Marlborough' Town.
28th June 1873 MR. DODSON V. THE BUSH SCHOOL.
Sir, Permit me through your columns to refute statements that fell from Mr George Dodson during the past session of the Provincial Council and which might bias the public mind, and create an erroneous impression respecting the Big Bush School and its future. The hon. member, when asking for public money for a private school in Marlboroughtown, adopted the sophisticated method, injudicious in a senator, of throwing cold water on a neighboring district one, by the bye, he possesses as little knowledge of as the one he represents, so far as scholastic wants are concerned. Yet had he been better primed by his friends before he attempted to chaperon their pet scheme through the Council, he would not have subjected himself to the ridicule of his opponents, nor have awakened the visible propensities of your readers by picturing a spectacled Duenna presiding over the studies and destinies of a group of 20 or 30 boys and girls, hanging from 6 to 14 years of age in the Bush School, until her

pupils were qualified to graduate within the more patrician walls of the Marlboroughtown Institute, or perfect their nightly studies in company with flaxmill operatives at the public expense. Now, sir, without seeking to disparage the hon. member's pet district by pertinent remarks, yet I claim the privilege of defending my own by facts, and which could have been furnished the hon. member had he desired or applied for them. During the past twelve months, during which the present Local Committee have had the management of the Bush School, the average daily attendance has been 22 the numbers on the books 33. 22 of the scholars ranged between the ages of 6 and 14, and the remainder were over 5, none being admitted under that age. Each pupil,
with but two exceptions has paid the school fees, and that without the least trouble of collection. Toe school has returned in fees during the year ending May 6th, a fraction short of £50. The Committee has also out of its fees, satisfied claims left in a confused state by former Committees, so that at the present time I believe the financial affairs of the school are as prosperous as any school under the Wairau County Board. With these facts before your readers, I will leave them to judge whether the Bush School will stand or fall from the effects of the ironical small shot fired upon it in the Council by the two representatives of Spring Creek and the Ferry. Trusting, sir, that you will not consider my remarks too personal, as my desire has simply been to represent the correct position of the Bush School, and defend it-from the petty jealousies of Marlboroughtown and Spring Creek. lam, &c, Geo. S. Mitchell, Teacher Bush School. June 26.

5th July 1873 R MITCHELL'S LETTER.

Sir,— The brilliant and somewhat pedantic effusion-which appeared in your valuable columns on Saturday last both surprised and amused me I really had no conception that in the person of the Bush Schoolmaster we possessed a man of such rare talent and keen discernment. Ability such as he possesses should surely be acknowledged, and not allowed to ooze itself away over the monotonous duties of a village school. Possibly the day is not. far distant when the surprising genius of this learned pedagogue will assert itself, and command the respect and appreciation of an admiring public. But enough. I will not look into futurity, only at the present, and regard this prodigy of the Bush in the light of a doughty, champion who has thrown down the gauntlet, to wage war over an imaginary evil, affording him an excellent chance of indulging in a little senseless pedantry. People in glass houses should not throw stones, is an old adage,, which Mr Mitchell would do well to commit to memory. He should also make himself acquainted with the truth, of his assertions before he utters them, as it appears to me that some of his statements were made either through blind ignorance or foolish prejudice. The attack upon the member for Tua Marina was quite uncalled for and unnecessary. Mr Mitchell knows, or ought to know, that when a member of Council is requested by his constituents to present a petition to the Government praying for assistance, &c, he is expected to do his best both by word and deed towards the promotion of that particular object, and if in trying to acquire it, the hon. member let fall certain remarks which are not agreeable to the feelings of the worthy pedagogue (which, by-the-bye, were quite harmless in their way), I am sure it was with no intention of trying to injure the present or future ;prospects of the Bush School." My friend is a new chum, and his knowledge of the Wairau and the individuals in it is very limited. The language used in his attack upon Mr Dodson proves that he knows very little of that gentleman, for he says (alluding to the Bush district), "one, by-the-bye, he possesses as little knowledge of as the one he represents, so far as scholastic wants are concerned. Now, sir, until the present act came into force, Mr G. Dodson was not only a member, but Chairman of the Spring Creek Education Committee for many years, and I am happy to say his interest has not abated with the lapse of office. Population is not so dense, nor the country so extensive, as to make it difficult to obtain information respecting the wants of the- various districts, and probably Mr Dodson

knows more of the affairs of the Bush school than Mr Mitchell dreams of. The sneering allusions to the Marlborough Town School is just what might be expected from an individual afflicted with such a cramped and illiberal mind, and who seems to be gifted with far more volubility than discretion. He is evidently jealous of the success the efforts of the private Committee have met with, arid fires his shot of unbecoming irony on a sister school, which in all probability will boob out-rival his own. The' attendance book shows a daily .average of 20 children (including one from his own district),- .some of whom I believe would stand the test of a competitive examination with any of his own scholars. The school is presided over a competent mistress, or to use his own words,. a duenna, minus the spectacles, who I am convinced is capable of imparting a good sound education..

I am astonished at a man in Mr Mitchell's position exhibiting such envious feeling, and I would recommend him to think twice before he rushes into print with a few chance assertions, interspersed with clumsy ridicule. For I hold that it is neither generous nor discreet to despise the humble efforts of a few private individuals, who Besides paying the Education Rate, support the Marlboroughtown School out of their own pockets. In conclusion, I am happy to say that many of the residents of the Bush do not hold the views as Mr Mitchell, but have given the Committee substantial evidence of their good wishes in the shape of subscriptions towards liquidating a small debt now on the building. Thanking you for your time and space. I am, &c, Parallax.

12th July 1873 A FINAL RETORT.

Sir Allow me to make a few observations, per favour of your columns, on the epistles emitted from the pens of Mr G. Dobson, and his friend Parallax, (an incognito as. mystical as the compositions sent forth for your readers to unravel), replying to my letter, which appeared in a previous issue. My direct retort to the Hon. Councillor will be briefly dispensed by affirming, that neither Mr R. Matthews nor I were amanuensis to each other, consequently the two letters complained of cannot claim the one parentage. With this assurance, I commit the legislator to his plough, and the cultivation of cereals, where, like another Cincinnatus, (pardon the clumsy simile), he can abide until State business calls him to the Senate then, probably, an. abler pen than mine will chronicle his sayings. I am not envious of the work.

As regards the indiscriminate and laborious lucubration of the factotum (Parallax), I have no intention of following him along the circuitous windings he has designedly chosen to defend his master, preferring rather to refer your readers to the arguments used in the Council by Mr G Dodson, as reported in your journal, in favour of a public school for Marlboroughtown, and the displacement of the long-established one at the Bush; they can then the better understand the gist of my abused letter, and that too without ruminating along with Parallax the out of the way road that burrowing scribe has made for himself. His astonishing voluminousness reminds one of the fable of The Mountain in Labour, from which was expected a prodigious monster, when, lo and behold it brought forth only a mouse.

After searching diligently through his heavy production, I've failed to discover anything weightier for the public to digest, than questioning my competency for the duties oi the Bush School. This seems to be a perpetual sore inherited by all teachers of this school. And further my depreciation of Mr G. Dodson's discernment of scholastic wants, not only in this, but in all districts, (what Argus eyes the hon. member must have). I conclude that the first discovery should, more properly, have been directed to the local committee it is evidently their duty to sift the matter, then, if I am found wanting, they are quite capable of taking action therein, and that without the interposition of their' school's deteriator's cat's-paw.

Respecting the periphractic eulogy on the hon. member's past services I retort, that as a public man, from the many honourable offices he has held, I have not, as yet, heard him credited with an act of usefulness in one of them, but that his presence is deemed a bore, lending to

retard rather than promote progression yet on the other hand, as a private gentleman, he enjoys the, well-earned reputation of an unimpeachable character, like Cato's daughter's, "beyond suspicion," whilst as Paterfamilias he fills the patriarchal chair on his domestic earth as becometh the dignity of a benign and Christian head of his house, a position, to my mind, far more enviable than that of the more magnificent despot who gilds a throne. In this position I recommend the worthy gentleman to rest content, and entrust public matters to more capacious minds, he having lately shown his inaptitude for the work— by his friend's acknowledgment—who hints, that in presenting a petition to the Council, every imaginary device must be practised— which I suppose means chicanery to secure its success, hence the unfortunate controversy concerning the Bush School 'As the hon. member tendered me gratuitous advice anent rushing into print, he will pardon my reciprocation.

Before conclusion I'll remark that my letter bore no allusion to the lady who at present presides over the Marlborough Town School, neither am, nor anyone in the Bush, that I am aware of, opposed to the establishment of a public school in the new and promising district, feeling convinced that its inhabitants have a proportional right with us to a share of the Educational rates. I trust, sir, that I've not trespassed too much on your time and patience, feeling assured you will extend to me the like indulgence you afforded my two antagonists, but with this my paper war with them ceases, unless they, 'like me, choose to paddle their own canoes," and divest themselves of the cloak of incognito. 1 am, &c, George S. Mitchell, Teacher Bush School. Bush, July 8.

19th July 1873 MR. DODSON AND MR. MITCHELL.

Sir, The cantankerous effusions of your correspondent, "Geo. S. Mitchell," is something unique in the history of newspaper correspondence. I had hitherto supposed its columns were open for the discussion of questions of public interest only, but this writer makes it the vehicle for the dissemination of his own private selfish spleen and prejudice— selfish, for he could hardly be so obtuse as not to see he is fighting a mere shadow, as the original cause of his pretended complaint could by no possibility be taken other than simply as an expression of opinion, and that prospectively. But this would not suit the combative propensities of this great Bush teacher, and he rushes to the battle with an evident desire to show his vast erudition, but which only shows an unlimited amount of most impertinent self-conceit. To the gross personalities of his previous epistle he now dares with insulting impudence to invade the sacred precincts of the domestic circle, and pretends to tell how a man, and to whom he is a perfect stranger, conducts himself there. What, Sir, has this presumptuous intermeddling with private life to do with any public matters In one part of his attack he does, however, admit I have heard," &c. Why not say from whom Perhaps it is his friend Dick-e-Dick "— that's Maori, you know, for Well, never mind they are a pair of the same cross-grained, venomous breed, and match well together.

Now, Sir, as this Mr Mitchell, from some cause best known to himself, has seen fit to make this base attack, and use my name in a most unwarrantable manner, I have been led to make some enquiries about the man, and am told he has given his Committee any amount of trouble has gained for himself some little notoriety in various ways has set himself up as a D.D., or something like it, and is greatly enraged because he cannot obtain the exclusive use of the school-room to launch forth his own weekly orations. Perhaps he may think I have something to do with this if I had, I would only recommend him a text for his next discourse taken from an ancient manuscript, viz. Study to be quiet, and to mind your own business," with which I dismiss one who must be strongly afflicted with some strange kind of monomaniacism. I am, &c, Geo. Dodson.

1st November 1873 bout twelve months ago a few of the residents of Marlboroughtown met together for the purpose of considering the advisability of establishing a school for the education of their children. The matter was a serious one, and it was necessary that an effort

should be made. Their children were growing up in ignorance, and they were unable to send them to the other schools on account of the great distance. The affairs of the Education Board were in such a confused and uncertain state, that it was considered useless to solicit any assistance until matters assumed a more flourishing condition. A competent teacher was obtained, the School started, and it has now been in existence twelve months, during which time the attendance book shows a daily average of 20 children, a clear proof of its necessity.
A short time ago the inhabitants, through their member, Mr Dodson, presented a petition to the Provincial Council praying for assistance. The Government in reply, stated that a lump sum would be handed over to the County Board to be used for educational purposes. A similar petition was then sent to the Board, to which they replied by suggesting that the two Committees of the Bush and Marlboroughtown should amalgamate, and endeavor to fix upon a central site that would suit both parties, as they were unable to support two Schools in the district. According to previous arrangement, both Committees met on Tuesday night last at the Bush School. The letter from the Board was read, and both sides expressed their willingness to assist each other, and were of opinion that a school more centrally situated would produce a mutual benefit. The Committee from Marlboroughtown stated that they had made arrangement for the land, providing it suited their Bush friends. This matter was allowed to stand over and it was finally resolved that a deputation from both Committees should wait upon the Board at its next meeting
8th November 1873 Big Bush School. We observe that Mr N. T. Pritchard, as Chairman of the Bush School Committee, has called a meeting of the ratepayers in that district for Friday next, 14th Nov., to consider the desirability of erecting a school to suit the mutual convenience of the Bush and Marlboroughtown.
8th November 1873 A deputation from the Bush and Marlborough town schools, consisting of Messrs N Prichard, P. Rush, F. Busch, and J. F. Hathaway, waited upon the Board for the purpose of shewing the desirability of erecting a new school halfway between the Bush and Marlborough town. The Board advised the deputation to call a public meeting and report the result to the next meeting of the Board
19th November 1873 MEETING AT BIG BUSH.
A Public meeting was held in the School Room on Friday evening, 14th inst. for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the residents in the matter of the removal of the School midway between its present site and Marlboroughtown. Considering the threatening aspect of the weather, the meeting was better attended than could be expected in fact it represented all the parents, besides others interested in Education in the District.
J. Ward, Esq., M.P.C., and member of the local School Committee having been voted to the Chair, he expressed surprise that the advertisement, calling the meeting, had not been procured for him to read (as very few present had seen it, but in its absence he would briefly state that a joint deputation from the Bush and Marlboroughtown had waited upon the Board with the view of concluding some amicable arrangement whereby the School could be removed to a more central site than its present one, to meet the wants of the new district without jeopardising the established claims of the Bush. The Board declined taking action in the matter until the wishes of the people had been elicited, and recommended the deputation to call a public meeting and report its results to the next sitting of the Education Board
Hence the present meeting. He then called upon those who had propositions or remarks to make, to do so, it being desirable, in a question so important as the removal of a School from their midst, that it should be thoroughly ventilated.
Mr P. Rush explained that two members of the Marlboroughtown Committee had consulted him relative to a letter they had received from the Board, in answer to an application for assistance to their School, which assistance the Board refused through lack of funds, and the fact of the existence of a Government school (the Bush) within two miles of theirs but the

letter purported to state that if the School could be removed to a site more favorable than Marlboroughtown, the Board would not object to amalgamate the two districts. Three members of the Marlboroughtown with two of the Bush Committee men met in the School and agreed to wait upon the Board, as a deputation to ascertain whether a new School-room could be built in a more central position, leaving the present building unoccupied until the Board were again prepared to re-open it, but the Board declined to entertain the wishes of the deputation, and referred them to a Public Meeting.

Mr Dickens as Chairman of the Marlborough School,, stated that some time ago the inhabitants of his district were inconvenienced by the distance of the Bush or any Government school from them that they agreed for the use of a public room, and united by subscriptions in guaranteeing a salary of £50 a year to a female teacher, who would undertake the duties. They were fortunate in securing the services of a competent one, and the school had so far been a success as to number 22 children. But the room did not meet the requirements of the school, nor the fees that of the teacher's salary, so .that it fell heavily on those who had pledged themselves to liquidate the expenses of the school. They had applied to the Board for assistance, but unsuccessfully. That thinking their Bush friends might not object to amalgamation, they suggested the propriety of consulting them on the subject, but in no way acting covertly or prejudicially. He was sure the inhabitants of his district were not desirous to clash their interests against those of the Bush, but would merely suggest the propriety of joining with a view to each other's mutual advantage.

Mr Mitchell, the teacher, informed the meeting that 32 children paid fees and attended school during the past quarter, although the average daily attendance for the quarter was a fraction under 16, which low average was attributable to whooping cough prevailing in the district.

He denied that the average had ever been so low as 11, as had been industriously reported, and considered such fictions merely a ruse to place the school in a false light, and so undermine its usefulness. He assured the meeting that upwards of 40 educatable children could be found dwelling within the vicinity of the school, who will probably attend, when they are reconciled to the teacher, and the novelty of new schools lately opened in Blenheim has died away. At any rate it would be a fallacy to double bank the schools, and overtax the teacher's powers. Nothing could be gained by the proceeding, but much lost in an educational point of view. And it was as absurd to expect that loitering and mischief-loving children would be induced to cross half a dozen bridges with tempting water holes beneath on the road, as for them to attempt to convey the school-house bodily to its projected site the one would reach the ground in a similar state of dislocation as the other.

Mr John Shepherd thought that Messrs Pritchard and Rush had exceeded their duties as members of the Local Committee, by attempting to amalgamate this School with another before consulting the inhabitants, nor had they studied local interests on the matter, but were indifferent to the welfare of the school, for the reason that Mr Rush being a single man, had no children, and Mr Prichard, the Chairman, sent his children to Blenheim.

He (Mr Shepherd) did not consider them in the light of representatives of the school. The Chairman called upon someone to lay a proposition before the meeting. Mr Henderson proposed, "That the school remain as it is for twelve months," which was seconded by Mr A. Herd. Mr Hathaway moved an amendment. That the ratepayers of Marlboroughtown and the Big Bush join in requesting the Board to erect a school in a more central spot, which was seconded by Mr Dickens. ..Mr Jermyn, in speaking to the motion and amendment, said that although he had s no. children, yet as a heavy ratepayer and an old resident, he had some stake in the district, he was proud of the school, and in former days had taken a part in founding it; he remembered its erection, its site at the time was pronounced healthy and suitable for its purpose, and surely with a rising generation growing around it, its requirements are more needful now than then. He should oppose its removal. Mr Lamb

objected to its removal, on the ground of the increasing demands upon its functions from the neighbourhood. Mr Sutherland could not see any necessity for amalgamation when we contributed a full school. He considered it an act of injustice to compel a large number of children to traverse bad roads and treacherous watercourses to meet the wishes of the few he should vote for the motion. Mr Sadd sympathised with Marlboroughtown, and thought they were justly entitled to a share of the Education Rate, yet he could not clearly see the reason why our school should be made to be a sharer of their grievances. We had just got into working order, after wading through many difficulties, the school was nearly self-supporting, the building was in the most central site for its wants, and as no benefit could be derived from its removal, he would advocate its retention and vote for the motion. The motion and amendment were put to the meeting and the former was carried by an overwhelming majority, only three ayes declared for the amendment. This concluded the business of the meeting, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman was passed, which that gentleman acknowledged with a few suitable and concluding remarks about educational matters.

6th December 1873 EDUCATION BOARD. The Board met when the Road Board had adjourned, the same gentlemen being present. A letter was received from the Renwick School Committee asking for a grant for the purpose of giving prizes at Christmas Resolved that the following sums be voted for this purpose, viz., Renwick £3, Spring Creek £2, Big Bush £1 10s. The Board recommended that each local Committee conducted its own examination with the aid of the teacher, and that parents be invited to attend…… .A letter was received from the Chairman of the Big Bush Committee containing accounts to the amount of £l4, which were ordered to be paid. Attention was called to the fact that no tenders were sent in for the teacher's residence

10th December 1873 PROPOSED REMOVAL OF BUSH SCHOOL.

A large and influential meeting of the inhabitants of the Bush district was held on Monday evening at the School-house, Mr C. J. Rae in the chair. The Chairman having read the advertisement convening the meeting, said he was prepared to hear any remarks on the business of the meeting, which lie trusted would be conducted in an orderly and propel 1 manner. Mr Mitchell asked if there was any information before the Chair as to the intention of the County Board with reference to the removal of the school from its present site Mr N. T. Prichard said he as one of the local School Committee had none. Mr P. Rush, also a member of the School Committee, said that he had been told at Marlboroughtown that the School was to be moved, and was challenged by some of the people down there about their having carried the day against the Bush. Mr Mitchell asked the Chairman to read the report of the Education Board's proceedings as published in the Express on Saturday last. Mr Cheeseman said he had come to the meeting when his health was such as rendered speaking painful, and in fact when he was very unlit to leave home, but he came to do what he considered was a duty to the district, to resist to the utmost of his power the unjust proceedings of the Education Board. He had heard Mr W. Parker, one of the members of the Board, say that the Board would vote £100 towards building a new school at Marlboroughtown, and the people were going to find the rest of the money those remarks were made in the presence of Mr Shepherd and others, who could corroborate his statement. He thought the people of the Bush, who had utterly ignored the expression of public opinion most fully expressed by nearly every ratepayer in the district at the last meeting, which had been called at the request of the Board he would therefore protest against such proceedings. In the second place he objected to the removal of the school on the score of danger to the children, there were upwards of thirty children now attending school, and to roach Marlboroughtown, a distance of some two miles, they would have to cross nine narrow bridges, each of which was only wide enough for a single waggon or dray, the little ones would be continually exposed to the danger of being run over, to say nothing of the temptations to loiter, and get into water-holes

with the additional danger of drowning. He thought these were good and sufficient reasons to deter parents who had any regard for the safety of their children from sending them such a distance even at the present time, and when the railway was completed, as he supposed it would be some day, the danger would be greatly increased horses on the road would be more likely to take fright and bolt, and with a crowd of little ones on the road at the same time, serious and perhaps fatal accidents would be imminent. He did not blame the Marlboroughtown, people for trying to obtain their just dues, namely a fair proportion of the rates to enable them to have a school in their own locality, but he must condemn any attempt to do so at the expense of allowing a school in an older and more thickly populated place. That could not be called justice. Nor was he altogether satisfied that the ultimate object of the present move was so much the benefit to be derived by the children of Marlboroughtown, as the enhancement of the value of certain sections in the hands of a few land speculators (Hoar, hear) who thought more of their, own profits than anything else even though they did it at the oxjion.se of the ratepayers at the Bush (applause). It was no good to work at night and slumber in the morning, the Spring Creek district had got £26 15s out of the Board, and they wore welcome to it, but not at the expense of this district. He hoped every parent would resist the attempt to remove the Bush School (Loud cheering.)

Mr P. Rush said he was sorry Mr Joseph Ward was not present on this occasion, as he would have liked to hear some explanation of the course that gentleman had pursued at the County Board meeting with reference to this School. Mr Ward was fully aware of the opinions of the ratepayers, as he had presided at their last meeting. (A. Voice He is ashamed to shew his lace.) He certainly thought that Mr Ward had misrepresented the case to the Hoard, and overlooked the just churns of the Bush district.

Last year there was an average daily attendance of 19 children, which was now increased. The number of children in the district at the present time wore between the ages set down in the Act 31 attending school, and 10 not attending, and there were 13 children just verging on the age making a total of 54. He thought it most inconsistent to seek to take the School to a place where there were not more than half that number.

Mr A. Herd moved "That the meeting has learned with surprise the disregard shewn by the Wairau Education Board at its last sitting, to the resolutions passed at a public meeting of the Bush residents on- the result., such meeting having been called at the Board's request. And that to test the accuracy of report, and the intention of the Board, a memorial be drawn up embodying the wishes of this meeting, showing the number of educatable children residing in the vicinity of this school, whether they all attend or not, and praying that the School as established at the Bush shall not be interfered with, nor amalgamated with any other district and that every parent and ratepayer be requested to sign the same. The said memorial to be presented to the Board at its next sitting."

Mr H. Aberhaut seconded the resolution he said he fully agreed with all Mr Rush and Mr Cheeseman had .stated as to the desirability of retaining the School as at present. He endorsed their views as to the danger on the load, he had two children who would attend school next year, and if the School was removed he would sooner send them down to Blenheim than to Marlboroughtown. The statement made by Mr G. Dodson that the Bush was decreasing was untrue, it was positively increasing there were a large number of children growing up in the neighbourhood who would require a teacher, and he would certainly oppose any attempt to remove the School. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Mitchell said he would rather someone else had spoken out on this occasion as being the school teacher, he had no desire to thrust himself forward, more especially too as she was but a comparatively new chum in that locality, and was consequently ignorant of the way in which the local Government of the district had hitherto been carried out. It might be the fashion here to object to the expression. of public opinion, but he thought every man had a

right to express his opinions on matters of local interests especially where he paid rates and contributed to the general welfare of the place in which he lived. He considered it unjust on the part of the Education Board to object to any resolution passed at a public meeting with reference to that school simply because the mover did not send his children to that school, and the seconder was unmarried. And yet he understood 1 this was the objection that had been raised by Mr Ward and the other members of the County Board against Mr Andrew Henderson and Mr Jermyn. So long as the resolution expressed the sentiments of the meeting, it mattered not who was the mover and seconder, whether he was a bachelor, or whether he cultivated a dozen olive branches round his table both those persons were residents and ratepayers, and Mr Jermyn was a land owner in the district, who took great interest in all that concerned its welfare. They might as well object to Mr Shepherd, because he had not half a dozen children attending the school, yet everyone knew how largely he contributed to the welfare of the district. He thought Marlboroughtown and the other districts were being looked after for party purposes, and called attention to the paltry sum of 30s. for prizes to the Bush school, while Marlboroughtown had £2, and Renwick £3.

Had the Board insulted Spring Creek with 30s, Mr G. Dobson and his friends, or Mr Paul, would have been down upon the Board like anything, but it seemed that anything was good enough for the Bush. He certainly thought that Mr Ward had unfairly represented the ratepayers at the Bush, and by so doing, had rendered himself unworthy of the confidence they had placed in him. (Long continued applause.) The Chairman said if no other person had any remarks to offer he would put the resolution. The motion was then carried by acclamation. On the question being put by the Chairman as to any further resolution, someone at the other end of the room said I propose three groans for the County Board and another voice I'll second that." The Chairman said he thought it would be better to finish the real business of the meeting first, and go in for the pleasure afterwards. (Laughter.)

The first resolution required another lo carry it into effect, and he would suggest that someone moved the appointment of a Committee to draw up the memorial and obtain the necessary signatures. (Hear, hear.) Mr Mitchell proposed that the local School Committee, Messrs P. Rush, . T. Prichard, and R. Sadd be requested to draw up the said memorial and obtain the signatures and also that the said Committee be appointed as a deputation to present the memorial to the Education Board. Mr Wratt briefly seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously. Some slight discussion ensued as to whether the motion should be amended by requesting the deputation to report to an adjourned meeting, the result of their application. Mr Rush thought, if they were successful there would be no need of another meeting, and if otherwise they would be compelled to call one.

Mr W. B. Parker said with the permission of the meeting he would like to say a few words. A very cordial request to proceed being given, he said that as considerable stress had been laid on the sums voted for School prizes, he wished to explain that the Board had given very great attention to that particular subject, and had based their decision on the daily average attendance at each place, at Renwick they have 42, at Marlboroughtown 23, and at the Bush 16. With reference to the removal of the School no definite steps had been taken, authorising the Marlborough town Committee to obtain plans and estimates did not necessitate the removal of this one. As a member of the County Road and Education Boards, he defended them from having any desire to favor one district more than another, and he could speak for himself and for the members generally as having every desire to promote the general welfare of the whole County.

Mr Mitchell pointed out that the daily average of the schools as compared one with the other was unfair, arising from the difference in local management. For instance, the Spring Creek Schools were closed altogether on very wet days, whereas the Bush School was opened if only three or four children attended so that increasing the number of days reduced the

average, while the actual services of the school were increased. He thought the average for the Bush had been calculated upon during the winter, when the whooping cough was very prevalent, and the school ought really to have been closed, there was a daily average of 12| as the health of the children improved in the following quarter, it rose to 19|, and at the present time there was a daily average attendance of 21. He certainly held the opinion that the calculations, should have been based on the present, and not on the past returns.
Mr Parker We were guided by the latest returns we had.
Mr Rush asked whether the money for prizes had not hitherto been voted by the local committees and afterwards endorsed by the Board If the Board intended to deal with all these little matters of detail, the School Committees would only be so many tools and dummies.
Mr Parker said he believed this was the first time the Education Board had voted the amount of money for prizes
After some further conversational remarks, a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.
31st December 1873 BUSH SCHOOL EXAMINATION.
(From our, own. Correspondent.') The Annual examination of the children attending the Bush School, came off on Wednesday, the 24th inst., and prizes were distributed to the successful competitors by Mr R Sadd, in the absence of Mr N.. T. Prichard, who was incapacitated from attending by a serious accident, awarded the prizes. The teacher conducted the examination.. A goodly number of decently attired .and well-behaved children assembled in the School-room long before; the appointed hour (9 o'clock) for commencing, but it is to be regretted that parents and the public showed no interest in the matter, only one parent being present.
The books constituting the awards, were not only of a superior order, and elegantly got up, but some of them were literally of the class deemed generally useful in a bookworms' studio. They were supplied by Mr Little, of Blenheim.
The following is a list of the classes and successful competitors
Class 1, Section-I.— .Reading, spelling .grammar, and geography. —Annie Mitchell. Writing and dictation Margaret Cameron. Arithmetic—Walter Adams.
Class 1, section 2. —Reading, spelling, grammar, and geography Eugenie Cheeseman. Writing and dictation- Elizabeth Sutherland-;, Arithmetic— Eugene Cheeseman. – *(Spelling as in article)*
Class 2. Heading and spelling— John Andrell. Writing— Gladis Prichard. Arithmetic— Henry Cheeseman.
Class 3, section l. --Reading and spelling— Annie Dumble . Arithmetic Annie Dumble.
Class 3, Section 2.— Reading and spelling— George Sadd.
Special prizes Good Conduct, Dugald Cameron Highest attendances, Alfred Andrell. Honorable mention accorded, to T; Herd, and W. Thompson.

1874

21st January 1874 BIG BUSH SCHOOL.
(From our own Correspondent.) A public meeting of parents and ratepayers of the Big Busk Educational District, was held in the School-room on Friday evening, the 1 6th inst., to receive the report of the Committee, delegated at a former public meeting, to present a petition to the Wairau Education Board praying for the retention of the School and Teacher in the district in opposition to the rumoured wishes of the. Board to amalgamate it with Marlboroughtown. From the fact of the meeting not being advertised it could hardly -aspire to the title of one, not more than a dozen persons being present however, in the face. of this, untoward circumstance, Mr Prichard was unanimously called on to preside, and the business was dispatched rapidly and discreetly. The deputation reported that they waited on the Board at Renwick town on the stated meeting. day, the 7th inst., but their journey then proved,

fruitless, owing to there being no quorum of the Board, only one member (Mr Paul) being present.
The next sitting was fixed for the 14th inst., when Mr P. Bush alone attended, and after fully, explaining the wishes of the inhabitants respecting the .School, the Board finally decided upon reducing the Teacher's salary from £100 to €.80. per annum, transferring the £20 to the Marlborough town subsidy but guarding against inconvenience accruing to the teacher by a reduced salary, £20 per annum is granted for house rent. The district must be content to share the salary subsidy with Marlboroughtown, since it objects to amalgamation. Mr Prichard read an official letter from the Board, confirming the statement Mr Rush gave the meeting. No expression of opinion, either of thankfulness or disappointment, at the verdict of the Board, emanated from the meeting. A proposition was made by Mr John Shepherd that the deputation should be defrayed their expenses, and sundry other charges incur red through the late agitation to preserve the School', which was agreed to. The meeting then separated with a vote of thanks, to the Chairman.
21st May 1874 Wairau Education Board (County Council) Bush School. A letter was received from the Bush Committee. A sum of £5 was voted according to a request from the Committee for the purchase of school books.
13th June 1874 Inspector's report BIG BUSH SCHOOL. A mixed school of 36 children— 24 boys and 12 girls, under a master. Average attendance, only 23. The school is a nice convenient building, standing in an acre of grass land. Separate offices *(Name for toilets)* are not provided for the two sexes. Desks and forms are substantial and convenient, and the supply of apparatus is fair. Standard of instruction very low. Teacher apparently deficient in method. Children quiet, but wanting in mental energy. Reading is the only subject 1 found at all satisfactory. Dictation very much neglected. Copybook writing taught without system or care. Arithmetic unsound, and standard very low.. I can see no reason why a small school like this should not attain as high a standard as any of the town schools. The average attendance, however; is very low, the parents often requiring the assistance of the children. This should be discountenanced in every way. The regularity of the scholars depends in general very much upon the reputation of the teaching, and the value which is in consequence attached to it by parents. It depends also upon the importance attached to it by the teacher
17th June 1874 We believe that the schoolmistress at Massacre Hill, and. the master at Big Bush school have sent in their resignation to the respective School Committees.
17th June 1874 MR. BOWDEN'S SCHOOL REPORT.
Sir, I crave indulgence for a space in your journal to defend myself, as a matter of justice, against the unfair report of Mr Bowden's, reflecting on my management of the Bush School, which report most pointedly insinuates, that the only imperfection found in the school was the Teacher. To this I reply, Had Mr Bowden visited the school at any period from last August till within a week of his inspection, he would not have found either a reading, a copy, or an* arithmetic book these necessary commodities for teaching only arrived two days before him from his shop in Wellington. This damaging circumstance was owing to a preliminary difficulty, on the part of the School Committee. I mentioned this matter to him, which any other Inspector would, in justice, have explained in his report. As for the low standard of arithmetic he talks of, I reply, that one of the children readily worked two of his promiscuous exercises one Interest, the other Compound Long Division. Two boys of ten years worked satisfactorily sums in Practice and Reduction, whilst others worked the exercises given them in Compound Rules and Simple Long Division. Now, sir, I cannot think that the above rules should be reported as a Low Standard for an Elementary School. But the death blow that he has hurled at my defenceless head arose from the following ludicrous incident: Whilst the Multiplication Table was rapidly, yet correctly, running through, one unlucky little fellow aroused the Inspector's ire by firmly stating that 8 times 8 was 64, which

fact (according to "Cocker") the Inspector emphatically denied Now instead of placing himself on good terms with the class by correcting the error, he proceeded on with 8 times 9, but, as a matter of course, the class was overawed, they stood motionless, stupid-looking and tongue tied. There lieth that lack of mental energy the Inspector deplores. As regards neglected dictation, I may state that out of seven slates from the Inspector's dictation (selected from the Irish Fourth Book) four were perfectly correct. The promiscuous spellings were also from the reading lesson, and all accurately rendered. He speaks of my want of method, of this he could form no conception as he dispensed with my assistance, in any share, but preferred taking the whole school to himself, yet had he perused the attendance book more diligently, he would have been more careful about reporting Neglected Branches and Unsound Teaching.' Out of a roll of 42 the average daily attendance does not exceed 22, and 7 only can be set down as regular attendants, since I've had the School. Now Sir, how could the most energetic teacher report progress under such circumstances. Mr Bowden very justly remarks that the School is well furnished with maps, yet he as unjustly took no steps to ascertain whether I had made use of them. I conclude that the main causes from which Mr Bowden's damnatory report emanate, are,

1st The School should have been periodically visited by Mr Ward who is one of its guardians, such visits would have created a confidence so to speak in the Teacher from the parents of children, from that gentleman's reports my real or assumed, capacities for teaching could have been satisfactorily decided

2nd: The usefulness of the School has been retarded, by the want of books, aforementioned

3rd: by the fluctuating attendance, the major part of the children are required at home either for harvesting, hop-picking, potato pitting, or cow-herding, and lastly, the superficial examination by this flimsy Inspector, (brought all the way from Wellington purposely to set his veto on the Public Schools of a neglected Province.) Fear of trespassing further on your space deters any allusion, now, to the pretensions of Mr Bowden, as an authority on Educational matters, for New Zealand generally, I'll rest content, with defending my management of the Bush School against the venomous and contagious black slime, he has carefully flung at it. I do not even rake up such qualifications for my office as I might presume to be possessed of, being aware that men of a higher grade may be found to undertake its duties, whenever an applicant is accepted by the Committee, I shall be prepared to deliver the charge into his hands with this consoling reflection that I've performed my duty to the best of my ability. Yours, &c, Geo. S. Mitchell, Teacher Bush School. Big Bush, June 15th, 1874.

11th July 1874 Wairau Education Board . A deputation from the Bush School Committee waited on the Board to request an increase of salary for the teacher, as they were about to advertise for one, and would thus be more likely to get a good one. Resolved, that the salary be increased to £120.

School Committee Big Bush Messrs Prichard, Rush, Ward Cameron, and Sadd.

5th September 1874 Bush School. We learn that Mr James Leete of Christchurch has been appointed teacher of the Big Bush School. He has had considerable experience, and Mrs Leete is an experienced needlewoman, both in plain and fancy work. We trust that the inhabitants of the district will avail themselves of their advantages to the fullest extent, so that when Mr Bowden comes again we may have a good account of the progress of the young people thereabouts.

23rd September 1874 A REFUTATION.

Sir, —In the last issue of the Express appears a letter emanating from the Teacher of the Renwick school to his Local Committee, which would not have claimed my attention had not that gentleman, with more zeal for the school he presides over, and his own importance, than discretion as Clerk to the Education Board, overstepped the limits assigned to secretaries in

general, by stating that the masters of the Wairau Valley and the Bush Schools, were instances of collisions between teachers and parents in money matters. The Wairau Valley affairs are not mine, but the Bush School fees and their collection I am thoroughly posted up in, and it is with pleasure I can state that during the two years and a half I have had charge of the school I have never had occasion to remind a child of parent of unpaid fees. By glancing over the last two years' balance sheets of the Education Board it will be seen that I received less subsidy from the Board, than any other teacher (Renwick excepted), consequently, I must have collected in more fees, as the Board guaranteed £100 per annum to all teachers alike. My only annoyance arose from the Board's delay in remitting the balance. From occasional complaints embodied in my quarterly returns to my Committee on the matter, the Secretary to the Board has surmised his charge against the parents of the Bush School. I am, &c, Geo. S. Mitchell, Teacher of Bush School.

14th October 1874 A letter was received from the Chairman of the Bush School Committee, forwarding accounts, and asking for confirmation of Mr James Leete's appointment as a teacher.

28th October 1874 We are requested to point out to persons who may post letters for residents at the Bush, or as it is now styled, Grove Town, that the words "Grove Town" should be placed on the address instead of or in addition to "Blenheim." A neglect of this rule results in a penalty of twopence being levied on every such letter, which it is needless to say gives no little annoyance to the receiver.

1875

9th January 1875 GROVE. TOWN SCHOOL. Mr Pritchard forwarded the accounts for the quarter, from which we gathered that the highest number on the books for the quarter was 45, average daily attendance, 31; new scholars, 5; school days in quarter. 53; school fees collected, £2 11s 3d; fees due £8 11s 9d. The master's salary due was £25, and for rent of house £5 The accounts also included prizes and books £5 11s 6d; Robinson Bros. 35s 6d Times account, £3 0s 6d.

27th January 1875 GROVE TOWN.

Whatever misgivings may exist in the minds of the gloomy as to the effects of the Public Works and Immigration policy, the little village of Grove Town shows unmistakable signs of progress under its influence. The earliest source of its wealth, the timber, once plentiful in its locality, has nearly all disappeared, hut neat cottages and comfortable homes have sprung up, where pleasant fruits and gay flowers have superseded the wild herbage of the wilderness. The signs of productive labour are everywhere apparent well-tilled farms, hop-gardens and orchards mark the progress of the ploughshare and the spade a malt-house, a brick-yard, and a smithy show that the manufacturing industries have also found a home at Grove Town while a store and Post-office, a butcher's shop, and a large hotel represent the commercial interests in the same locality. The district for some months past has been busy with the railway works, and last week the line was completed from the Wairau river bank to the Opawa, crossing the old coach road a little above Palmer's Bridge, and thereby causing a considerable alteration in the line of the same, which will not be for the public good. The railway employees having completed their labours will now remove to the works at the Wairau Bridge, and on Saturday last they determined to show their appreciation of the friendship and good feeling of the people of Grove Town by getting up a social entertainment at the school-house, in the form of an amateur concert and ball, which came off last evening with marked success. The proceeds were to be given to a Committee to purchase cricket bats, &c, for the school children. A considerable number of friends had collected when our reporter arrived, shortly after which Mr Rae was requested to take the chair, and doing so he briefly referred to the objects of the meeting, and called on Mr Arthur Hoskins to open the amusements of the evening with a solo on the violin. This was followed by a reading from

Burns by the chairman, after which Mr Deacon, two gentlemen of the name of Mason, one of them late of Arthur Vivian's Troupe, and Messrs Black, Sutcliffe, Dobb, and King contributed some excellent comic and sentimental songs, and we need scarcely say that each and all were heartily applauded. About 10 o'clock, one of the committee suggested that the good nature of the singers had been sufficiently tested, whereupon the chairman thanked them for their favors, and retired from his post with the usual honors. The seats were then cleared away, and the company disposed themselves to trip it lightly to the merry music of the violin. We have been requested to convey the thanks of the promoters of the entertainment to the friends from Blenheim, who kindly aided them on the occasion. We sincerely hope the progress of Grove Town may long be marked by similar reunions, and that the friendship which exists between it and Blenheim, may ever be cemented by acts of reciprocal good-will.

27th January 1875 Inspector's report on Big Bush (Grove town) included

No on books present at all during November Last Boys 27, Girls 14. Total 41

Number present at the examination: Boys 25, Girls 14. 39

Passed in Standard 1, Boys 7, Girls 3

Passed in Standard 2, Boys 0, Girls 2

Passed in Standard 3, 0

Number percent who passed in standard 1 24%

Number percent who passed in Standard 2 55

Buildings Good School

Teacher Mr Leete

27th January 1875 Big Bush:. This is rather a large school with a good playground. The building is suitable, sound, and furnished with parallel desks, which afford a fair arrangement though they are rather clumsy The master has only been two months in charge, and, according to his own statement, has delayed making alterations of any importance until the state of the school has been again reported upon There was a total want of good method in the whole work of this school, and. no evidence of any good teaching. The writing and arithmetic were done in the most slovenly manner. The discipline was weak, the children untidy and unaccustomed to do anything at the word of command. The only material for writing on a dirty black board was a lump of greyish yellow clay. 28 of the children had been in school over a year and 11 over five years. The results and general standing of the school are exceedingly low, and the master need not delay for another day any contemplated change for the better.

3rd February 1875 On the confirmation of the minutes, and in reply to Mr Parker, the Clerk said the salary of the teacher at Grove Town School had been passed at the last meeting, but owing to an oversight, had not been paid.

6th February 1875 Mr Lee's Inspection report critiqued by local paper included In several of our schools again we labour under the disadvantage of having had recent changes of teachers notably at the Blenheim boys' school, Marlborough Town School Grove Town, and Tua Marina and it must be patent to everyone that an Inspector, or even a parent, would not expect to find in such schools the same state of general efficiency as in those where the teacher has held his post for many years. With regard to the first two of the above named schools the Inspector decidedly pronounces a favourable verdict at present, and holds out certain hope for the future. With regard to the Grove Town school we cannot but regret the two months thrown away, and the consequent denunciation of Mr Lee, which is almost a reiteration of Mr Bowden's judgment on the same school.

Geo S Mitchell was George Seppings Mitchell, born about 1828 in Fakenham, Norfolk, England. Prior to coming to New Zealand he was a Domestic Servant (footman or something similar) and a Messenger. Married twice, he had 3 children with 2 wives, that

I can find. He immigrated to NZ sometime between 1861, where he is living in London, and 1863 when his daughter is born, apparently in the Waikato. First record I can find of him is teaching at Bush *(Grovetown)* School in 1873. He continues teaching there until 1880. He sometime after that he went to Bulls and worked as a shopkeeper when he is appointed first teacher at Bulls School. He does not last long however, passing away in January 1881. Unsure where his teaching qualifications came from, but I suppose the ability to read and write properly may have been sufficient. Not sure what he was doing from 1863-1873.

Research by Grandson Sam

24th February 1875 The friends of Mr G. S. Mitchell, the late schoolmaster at Grove Town, will be glad to hear that he is likely to recover his health, although so recently his life was despaired of, having been confined to his bed for several months, during which he has undergone several severe surgical operations in a communication we have received, he says Too much credit cannot be given to Dr Johnston for the skilful manner in which they were performed, and the unremitting attention and loud judgment he displayed in the extremely critical case under his care. We trust Mr Mitchell will continue to progress as favorably as he appears to do at present, and shall be happy to see him in town again, with a new lease of health and vigor.

6th March 1875 Wairau Education Board GROVE TOWN SCHOOL. A letter was read from Mr Pritchard, Chairman of Grove Town School, asking for a teacher's residence to be erected, aa the house now occupied leaked like v sieve, and the agent refused to do anything at it. He reminded the Board that their school was the first to apply to the Provincial Council for a grant for the purpose, and if the Board was not in a position to put a house up, they would have to apply again to the Council. After some discussion the Board thought it would be well to grant the request, and -that a similar house to that lately erected at Renwick might be built, which cost £100, and that sum was sanctioned. The tenders to be called so as to be in by 12 noon on 13th March at Express Office, when they could be submitted for approval to a quorum of the Board, which would meet at 3 p.in. on the same day and place.

17th March 1875 GROVE TOWN TEACHERS' RESIDENCE. A deputation of the Grove Town School Committee waited on the Board, and laid before it plans and specifications from Mr J. Knight, and Mr H. Honnor for the erection of the proposed teacher's residence, at a cost of Mr Knight's plan showed a large three -roomed cottage and that of Mr Honnor, one of four smaller rooms. The School Committee had decided upon the adoption of Mr Knight's plan. The Board examined and compared the specifications very carefully, and ultimately confirmed the choice of the committee. They also informed the deputation that the grant of £100 would be paid over at once, as soon as the work was done. The Board then adjourned.

27th March 1875 We notice that the erection of the teacher's residence at Grove Town has been commenced.

21st April 1875 Grove Town School. The Chairman wrote requesting that £100 should be paid to his credit for the master's residence. The amount was ordered to be paid. Firewood, £3 sinking two wells, £9 master's salary, £25

25th August 1875 NON-OBSERVANCE OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Sir,— As a fair share of what I consider acrimonious capital is being made out of the fact, that the Catholic School in Maxwell-road was not closed on the last anniversary of the Queen's Birthday, May I ask, why the Bush and Grove Town School Committee is not called to task for the same disloyal action. I am, &c, Charity.

1st September 1875 We understand that the measles have broken out in a mild form at Grove Town, so that we may reasonably expect to hear of some cases in Blenheim next.

Mothers should seek medical advice at once on perceiving symptoms of what is not really a dangerous disorder, if ordinary care be taken.

29th September 1875 Spring Creek Education Board.

All the members present, and Mr Dodson in the chair. Letters were read from the Provincial Government containing an account of assets and liabilities of the Education Board, which were ordered to stand over until next meeting. Mr- Hathaway said he thought the Board should nominate their local committees, it was about the only business they could do, as all the members seemed to be of opinion that the first meeting of the Board should simply be an initiatory one. Mr J. H. Redwood held the same view, and suggested that a committee of three be appointed for each school. It was agreed to appoint three for the Marlborough Town School, three for Grove Town, and four for upper Spring Creek. The following gentlemen were then appointed For Upper Spring Creek Messrs Winsor Soper, H. Rogerson, John Wratt, and E. Fairhall. For Grove Town Messrs N. T. Prichard, P. Bush, and R. Sadd. For Marlborough Town Messrs J. F. Hathaway, J. March, and F. Busch. The Board then adjourned until Monday the 4th October at 2 p.m.

1876

15th January 1876 The sum of £l3 4s 2d was handed over to the Board by the Chairman of the Grove Town School Committee, being balance of amount collected as arrears of school fees.

29th January 1876 Grove Town visited this school on the day of the flood. Though many children could not possibly attend, I had sufficient means of judging of the state of the efficiency of the school was evidently a marked improvement in the work done and in the manners of the children,, The work presented gave evidence of careful teaching. I have now confidence in the master and hopeful of a better future for the school. Mrs Leete kindly spends many an hour in assisting her husband in the junior classes.

26th February 1876 Grove Town. On Feb. 11th, the Rev. W. Shirriffs, A.M., examined the scholars at this School, and distributed prizes as follows 1st class, Gladys Prichard, Thomas Prichard, Walter Adams, George McKay, George Sadd, Alfred Andrell, Henry Cheeseman 2nd class Catherine Kennedy, Henry Gibson, Benjamin Sutherland 3rd class— Thomas Andrell 4th Catherine Cameron. The Rev. gentleman delivered a brief but appropriate address to the children, urging them to persevere in the pursuit of knowledge, and pointing out its value. We are glad to hear a satisfactory report of this school.

15th July 1876 Spring Creek Education Board: Grovetown School 0m roll 37, Daily average attendance 30. Number of school days in the quarter 63

the salaries of the masters were held over for payment until next month. It was resolved to pay the following accounts Firewood, Spring Creek School, £2 14s; ditto Grove Town School, £2 103 Mitchell, for. distributing and collecting education return, Grove Town School, £1 collector of rates, &c, £2 17s 4d. An application was received from the Chairman of the Spring Creek School, asking the Board to provide some maps and other improvements to the school. The Secretary was instructed to -write to the Chairman and enquire what kind of maps were required, and what would be about the price. The Chairmen of the Grove Town and Marlborough Town Schools were authorised to spend £5 each in books. The following gentlemen were appointed as Committee For Grove Town Messrs. Sadd, Prichard, and Rush

20th December 1876 GROVE TOWN. Resolved that the schoolhouse should '"be painted and otherwise repaired, and that the dwelling of the teacher be repaired.

1877

14th February 1st recorded meeting of Marlborough Education Board re Grove Town: Grove Town. Four tenders were received, viz.— Davis Bros £14 10s, Phillip Rush £21, John Campbell £22, and Jos. Bartlett £24. The tender of Davis Bros as being the lowest was accepted.

9th June 1877 Mr Lee's Inspection report included: Grove Town.— The reading of the. infants was monotonous, and so was that of the other classes to some extent. The other work was much improved and very neatly presented. In this respect it was a contrast to the work first seen by me in this school. The condition of the school is creditable to the master, Mr Leete. The room should be more frequently washed and thoroughly disinfected. Gladys Prichard obtained full marks for arithmetic in Standard 111. She is an intelligent girl aged 10 years and 9 months.

23rd June 1877, That ventilators be provided for the Grove Town School.

29th June 1877 It was resolved That the Local Committees be authorised to take the necessary steps for repairing the chimneys at Grovetown and Para Schools

7th July 1877 GROVETOWN. It was resolved that the Grovetown School Committee be given authority to fix the date of the holidays.

17th October 1877 A vacancy having occurred in the office of Secretary and Librarian of the, Literary Institute, the committee have conferred the appointment on Mr G. S. 'Mitchell of Grove Town, -who some years ago filled a similar post at Waikouaiti. *Ex Big Bush Teacher still in Grovetown*

26th December 1877 Among the passengers by the Napier on Sunday were Mr and Mrs Fountain, who have come to take charge of the native school at the pah near Grove Town, formerly under the care of Captain Curling.

1878

1878	Grove Town	Andrews	Walter	Head	£	140.00

30th January 1878 he first statutory meeting of householders to elect a School Committee for the ensuing year came off in the school room at the advertised day and hour, about ten qualified electors being present. Mr N. T. Prichard was called to the chair.

The advertisement calling the meeting and the balance sheet (which was brief) having been read, the latter was adopted.

The election of a new Committee was then taken by ballot, resulting as follows Messrs Prichard, Herd, Sutherland, W. Robinson, J. Cameron, Sadd, and Rush.

Mr Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee for their untiring zeal in the cause of the School during their five years' servitude.

Mr Mitchell also threw out a few hints to the incoming Committee in the matter of school books. These articles, he remarked, so essential to the progress of the school should be supplied at a more moderate tariff than the one lately adopted high priced school books and the late compulsory fees tended to damp that ardour for using the school which otherwise would be felt.

Mr Prichard explained that the books had been obtained on credit, and at the most convenient market through lack of funds, yet had the late committee been in regular receipt of school fees, proper supplies would have been obtained from Bowden's for cash, and at a considerable reduction on Blenheim charges he likewise remarked that the expenditure was increased through having to pay an exorbitant commission to collect the fees and book accounts in arrears, whereas parents might have strengthened the finances of the Committee,

and the school could have been worked more economically if the fees had been paid when due.
Mr Herd seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.
A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and the proceedings terminated.
The following is the Balance Sheet from 31st December 1876 to 31st December 1877.

Dr	£	s	d
Cash in hand from, last year		1	2
Fees	64	15	0
Books	10	15	9
	75	11	11

Cr			
Incidental Expenses	21	0	6
Bank of New Zealand	53	9	3
Cash in Hand	1	2	2
	75	11	11

One pound (£) in December 1887 is equivalent of $147.90 in December 2015 Terms. There were 20 shillings (s) in a pound and 12 pence (d) in a shilling
9th February 1878 A letter from Mr N. T. Prichard, Chairman of the Grove Town School Committee, was read, requesting the Board to allow an Abyssinian well to be put down on the School ground and stating that Messrs Craig and Von Pien had offered to complete all. the work required, including pump and fixing for £20, giving a guarantee to get. good water. No water no pay. Mr Smith asked £50 for an artesian well with a guarantee, at the place required. The letter went on to state that three surface wells had been sunk on the school ground, the last two having cost £19, and the water from them was quite unfit for use, being so bad that the children attending school had to go a considerable distance from their homes for dinner. New fencing was required in the front the school ground, as the present fence w.is rotten and falling to pieces. On the motion of Mr Seymour the above request was agreed to.
10th April 1878 of the resolutions was ordered to stand over till the meeting of the new Board. It was reported that a good flow of water to the surface had been obtained by Mr Craig for the Grove Town School, at a depth of 83 feet, for £20 and in explanation it was stated, that the risk in driving was small in that locality, as it was principally through sand
11th May 1878 GROVE TOWN. A letter from the Grove Town School Committee was read, requesting that additions be made to the School, and that half an acre of land be purchased for a playground. It was resolved that, an architect should be instructed to visit the school and report on the additional accommodation required also that the finances of the Board could not admit of them complying with the request to buy additional land for a play ground
29th May 1878 We .regret to hear that Mr Leete,. who has had the charge of the Grove Town School for the past two or three years, has sent or is about to send in his resignation. The district is largely indebted to this gentleman for painstaking efforts to improve it.
8th June 1878 Marlborough Education Board Sir I beg leave to resign my appointment of teacher of the Grovetown School on the 30th June next for the following reasons
1. I am desirous of working under the late Inspector (Mr Lee).
2. I have to contend with the indifference and caprice of parents, and constant irregularity of attendance. It is impossible under su.ch circumstance to produce satisfactory results.
"I would ask your honorable Board to grant me the midwinter vacation from the 14th June, to enable me to make necessary arrangements prior to leaving the district.— l am, &c,
James Leete.

It was' agreed that another teacher should be advertised for.

1878		Matarawa	Leete	James
1879		Matarawa	Leete	James
1880		Matarawa	Leete	James
1881	29	Matarawa	Leete	James
1882	25	Matarawa	Leete	James
1883	23	Matarawa	Leete	James
1884	34	Gladstone	Leete	James
1885	22	Gladstone	Leete	James
1886	21	Gladstone	Leete	James
1887	26	Gladstone	Leete	James
1888	19	Gladstone	Leete	James
1889	18	Matarawa	Leete	James
1890	21	Paraparaumu	Leete	James
1891	41	Paraparaumu	Leete	James
1892	17	Mangamahoe	Leete	James
1893	20	Mangamahoe	Leete	James
1894	23	Mangamahoe	Leete	James
1883	25	Matarawa	Leete	Mary
1885	22	Gladstone	Leete	Mary
1886	21	Gladstone	Leete	Mary
1887	26	Gladstone	Leete	Mary
1888	19	Gladstone	Leete	Mary
1889	18	Matarawa	Leete	Mary
1890	21	Paraparaumu	Leete	Mary

Matarawa was a Sole Teacher school Between Greytown and Carterton , Gladstone is a school East of Carterton See my website Wairarapa School History for further details

6th July 1878 GROVE TOWN. The Chairman said there were two applications for the vacancy at the Grove Town School, from Mr Andrews, third master of the Blenheim Borough School (without prejudice to his present position) and from Mr T. C. Lamb of Grove Town. The practice had hitherto been to refer the matter to the School Committees. It was agreed that the usual course be taken.

20th July 1878 The Grove Town School Committee reported that they had chosen Mr Walter Andrews as schoolmaster, and the Board appointed him accordingly.

10th August 1878 Another letter from the Blenheim Borough School Committee was read relative to the vacancy caused by the removal of the third master, of which the committee were not made acquainted by the Board or Mr Andrews, and asking what steps the Board intend to take to supply the vacancy thus made.

Mr Fell drew attention to the 45th clause of the Education Act.

The Secretary explained that Mr Andrews applied for the appointment at the Grovetown School, which was agreed to. Mr Fell said he brought the matter before the Board, as the committee felt somewhat aggrieved, and not without grounds it was rather a breaking of faith with them. Before they had drawn up their report relative to pupil teachers, one of their masters had been removed without them being consulted, which was contrary to the provisions of the Act, which distinctly stated that any removal or appointment should be made without the consent of the School Committee.

Mr Henderson said the Board might without any intention have acted irregularly. The committee did a great deal of very useful, work. It appeared that Mr Andrews had removed himself, and if there was any fault with the Board, it was for having condoned his irregularity. Mr Fell said, as a member of the Committee, he did not wish to take any steps until the new school was opened. He did not wish to press the matter, but drew attention as it would be a bad precedent. Mr Conolly read the minutes relative to the appointment of a teacher at the Grove Town School. The Board had consulted the Grove Town School Committee, and he did not consider it necessary to consult the Blenheim Borough School Committee.
It. was agreed that; the reply to the letter stand over until the report of the Blenheim Borough School Committee' be drawn up.
21st September 1878 Mr G. S. Mitchell after a six years residence in Grove Town is on the eve of leaving for more suitable business premises in Maxwell Road but before leaving old associations he is an'xioii3 to leave a slight memento in the form of a complete set of gymnastics to the Grove Town School, and to provide the funds he will deliver his .Reminiscences of 1848-9 in one of the public halls in Blenheim. A member of the Education Board has consented to take the chair on the occasion.
5th October 1878 A letter from Mr N. T. Prichard, Chairman of the Grove Town School Committee, requested that the school should be enlarged as there had been an increase of 29 per cent of scholars on any previous quarter, and also requesting that a female pupil teacher should be appointed. The letter from the Chairman contained an enclosure from the Schoolmaster (Mr Andrews) in which he stated that the present average attendance was 41.69 and the highest attendance of any previous quarter, 32.4. The average number on the roll is 47.15. The Committee was authorised to engage a pupil teacher, and the question of increased accommodation would have to stand over for the same reason as the Canvastown School
6th November 1878 Inspector's report GROVE TOWN. Mr Andrews. (52 present.) More children were present, when I visited this school, than the master could teach, or than the room could accommodate properly. The former difficulty has since been removed, I understand, by the appointment of a pupil teacher, On the whole the scholars are rather backward, the proportion of failures being large. Few knew anything of Geography or History. One scholar, however, intended for a pupil-teacher, passed an excellent examination in the highest Standard. I observed that the children had acquired the habit of getting through their work very quickly
especially in Arithmetic, the subject in which they did best. The present master has been at work less than three months, and will have no light task in reducing his unruly pupils to a proper state of subordination.
9th November 1878 An application from the Chairman of Grove Town School Committee was made for Miss Prichard to be appointed pupil teacher at that school. It was agreed that the request be acceded to on the pupil attaining 13 years of age
Gladys Prichard passed as top student in Marlborough to Pass Standard IV she was aged 12 years 3 months and scored 197 Marks, 22 higher than the next student a boy from Blenheim High School
9th November 1878 Those who passed in Marlborough Education Board area in Standard III included Thomas Prichard aged 13 years 6 Months with 144 marks and Thomas Sadd aged 11 years 3 Months with 145 marks
16th November Inspector's report included Grovetown
Number on Roll: 57
Number present at examination: 52
Passed in standard 1: 4

Passed in Standard II : 2
Passed in Standard III: 2
Passed in Standard IV: 1
Number of those presented who passed: 40% *(This was the lowest percentage of the main 13 schools listed Next was Havelock with 46% and Tua Marina with 52%)*
Teacher: Mr Andrews

1879

1879 Grove Town Andrews Walter Master £ 160.00

There are no 1879 records in Papers Past for Marlborough papers nor for 1880 prior to July

1880

1880 Grove Town Andrews Walter Master £ 140.00

4th August 1880 to the Editor of the Express. Sir, —Can you inform me whether there is any School Committee at Grove Town. If there is, can they tell me why the school was closed on Tuesday, last week. Surely there is some reason for it.—I am, Ac, A Parent. Grove Town, July 31.
9th August 1880 To the Editor of the EXPRESS. Sir,— Seeing a letter in your issue of the 4th signed A Parent, enquiring why the Grove Town school was closed on Tuesday last week, I beg to inform him that the teacher applied to me in proper time for leave of absence, which was granted. W. F. Bassett, Chairman of Committee. Aug. 5, 1880
20th September Tenders.—Tenders are invited by the Grove Town School Committee till Monday, September 27th, for painting the fence (two coats) at the school
2nd November Mr Inspector Hodson reported that Grovetown school was very poor
7th December 1880 Inspector's report
Percentage of passes of scholars presented 66% and 41% of scholars at the examination
8th December 1880 Mr Bassett Chairman of the Grove Town Committee wrote enclosing a copy of a letter, written by Mr Andrews to Mr Hodgson, and calling attention to a mistake of over two years made by the Inspector as to the average age of Standards I. and 11, the average in fact for Standards I. II, and 111. Being only 10 years 2 months. Mr Bassett further enclosed a number of carefully compiled tables showing that the Grovetown school was far from being behind, considering the average percentage of attendance

1881

1881 57 Grove Town Ogilvie Charles A Master £ 140.00

5th January 1881 Mr Hodgson *(School Inspector)* wrote enclosing a letter he had received from Mr Andrews, of the Grove Town school complaining of erroneous statements made in his report as to the ages of his pupils. It was resolved that Mr Andrews be allowed to see the manuscript accompanying Mr Hodgson's letter, and that he be referred to the Secretary for the information he desired.
25th January 1881 Grove Town. The householders' meeting at Grove Town, for the election of the School Committee, resulted in the return of the following gentlemen *(Names not listed in newspaper)*
Mr N. T. Prichard. was chairman of the meeting. Thirteen candidates were nominated.
26th January 1881 MEETING AT GROVE TOWN.
The householders of this district met in the school house on Monday evening last. Mr Pritchard in the chair.

After the Auditor's report had been read, the Chairman explained how the accounts stood. He added that at the previous householders' meeting. Mr Bassett had led them to believe that the Committee of 1879, more particularly of the Chairman, had misappropriated moneys belonging to the school, and reproached them with not having an account open at the Bank. At a meeting of the Committee held on February 16th. 1880 the Auditor's report was produced, and the balance-sheet for the previous year found to be correct and passed. The late Chairman when this formality had been complied with, handed Mr Bassett, as Chairman of the Committee, £10 0s Od.
At a Committee meeting held in June, Mr Bassett in reply to a question put to him as to whether he had placed that amount to their credit at the Bank, said that he had not done so. At this the Committee generally expressed dissatisfaction, and Mr Bassett was in consequence instructed to deposit the money in the Bank and to make all payments in future by cheque. About a week ago he (the speaker) said that one of the Committee's cheques had been dishonoured. He immediately proceeded to the Bank and obtained the Bank Book. He next obtained from the Secretary of the Education Board the amount paid to Mr Bassett on account of the Committee. He thus learned that all the Committee's moneys paid Mr Bassett had not been placed in the Bank. The Auditor's report which was before them that evening, showed that a sum of £4 9s 5 ½ d was unaccounted for, which was a sufficient reason to show how their cheque had been dishonored. This he considered to be exceedingly strange conduct on the part of a person, who had made so many insinuations against the Committee of 1879. Mr Sadd hoped the Committee to be elected that evening would take prompt steps to recover the deficiency mentioned by Mr Pritchard. Thirteen nominations of candidates were then made and a poll taken, with the result stated to us in Tuesday's issue. After the declaration of the poll and the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr Pritchard, thanked those present for the assistance they had given him in making the election pass quietly. Balance-sheet. Receipts.. Cash balance from last audit £10 0 ½d Grants from Education Board £19 12 0 Total £29 12 0 ½ Expenditure... £23 4 1 Balance in Bank £1 18 6 Cash in possession of Mr Bassett £4 9 5 ½ Total £29 12 0 ½
28th January 1881 Grove Town School. We are informed that notice has been served on all the newly elected Committee-men at Grove Town that at their meeting to be held on Monday evening next it will be moved to recommend the Education Board to give the teacher at Grove Town three months' notice.
28th January 1881 To the Editor of the, Express. Sir — Can you inform me what holidays the school teachers are allowed at midsummer Our school at Grove Town has been closed for six weeks. Having children at home I should like to know. I am, &c, Father of a Family.
29th January 1881 HE GROVE TOWN SCHOOL. To the Editor of the Express. Sir, In your issue of yesterday I observe an announcement to the effect that notice has been served on the members of the Grove Town Committee, that at next meeting it will be moved to recommend the Board to give the teacher at Grove Town School three months' notice to leave. I have had my children attending the said school for the past year, and only state, in fairness to the teacher, that he has done his duty to them. Many parents in Blenheim will likewise corroborate this statement, as regards their children. I trust the committee will be able to give substantial reasons for this action. Yours etc., A Parent. January 29th, 1881
2nd February 1881 Mr Prichard, Chairman of the Grove Town School Committee, wrote stating that at the meeting last night, the Committee passed a resolution recommending that the Board give the teacher, Mr Andrews, three months' notice of dismissal.
Mr Ward thought that some reason for the dismissal should be given.
Mr Conolly said that the Inspector's report was very unfavorable.
On Captain Baillie's motion the letter was referred to the Chairman of the Committee asking him to state the grounds for the recommendation.

Mr Conolly gave notice to move at next meeting, if the reasons given were good ones, that the notice of dismissal be given. This he did to save a month.

4th January 1881 THE GROVE TOWN SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Express. Sir, In your issue of January 26th a report appeared relating chiefly to the financial state of the Grove Town School Committee, and which appears disparaging to me as the late chairman. The following letter written on January 22nd, mailed to Mr Prichard, and delivered on the 24th, speaks for itself 1 find that a few papers connected with the Grove Town school got astray from other papers in changing residences and which I am informed Mrs Bassett acquainted Mr Herd with immediately on discovery. 1 have also a balance on hand which was held for the purpose of meeting any small contingency that may have arisen in connection with the school, and which will be handed over at any time you may appoint. I may here remark that I am at home on Saturday night and Sunday only, and will meet any two or three members with the books to arrange the accounts, in order that they may be audited." This letter was not submitted to the other members of the Committee on the 24th, but the report was published. On account of this publication I demanded an interview with the newly-elected committee, which was granted last night. When 1 asked the newly elected chairman (Mr Pritchard) who caused the publication I was told to "find out." It was a most disorderly meeting. Even the Chairman, taking umbrage from his high position, used such terms as "you are a liar" to me. With regard to there having been a dishonoured cheque signed by me, it is an entire fabrication. No cheque was ever dishonored. The balance sheet as read by Mr Pritchard on the 24th January is incorrect. Had he complied with the terms of my letter of the 22nd much inconvenience and unpleasantness would have been avoided. 1 have the honor to be, Sir. Your Obedient Servant, A. H. Bassett. Blenheim, February 1st, 1881.

11th February 1881 To the Editor of the Express. Sir, Mr A. H. Bassett, the late chairman of the Grove Town School Committee, seems to be one of those indiscreet persons who never know when to speak or when to keep silent. As chairman of the meeting held at Grove Town on January 26th for the election of a new school committee, it became my duty to read the report and balance sheet. The latter document had been duly audited, and it was not my fault if it showed Mr A. H. Bassett to have in his possession a sum of money belonging to the committee, and which he had held in total disregard of express instructions from the committee, who had told him to bank the money. Mr Bassett now says he held this money to meet any small contingency that may arise in connection with the school, but this is a flimsy pretext and as an excuse is utterly worthless. In a letter in your issue of the 4th inst., Mr Bassett accuses me of withholding a letter he wrote in explanation, which he says he wrote on January 22nd, and that I neglected to lay it before the committee at their meeting on the 24th. The only answer I have to make to this nonsense is that the letter bears a date subsequent to the 22nd, that it had not reached me at the time the committee met, and that the. letter Mr Basset published as a copy, is not a copy of the letter sent me. Mr Bassett then proceeded to say No cheque of the committee's was dishonoured it is a pure fabrication. I have only to say that unfortunately for Mr Bassett, there was a cheque dishonoured, that it bears his name, and was issued by him in payment of a committee account that the cheque has on it those ominous words "not sufficient funds, and that dishonour would have been impossible had Mr Bassett booked the funds of the committee as he was instructed to do. Yours, &c, N. T. Pritchard

2nd March 1881 Marlborough Education Board meeting included a report from Mr Parker which included When he was going to Grovetown the other day he met eight Blenheim children coming away from the school there, and when he inquired why they were attending Grovetown they told him it was because they did not get taught at the Borough school.

15th March 1881 The most important matter transacted was the giving effect to of the recommendation of the Grove Town School Committee for the dismissal of the teacher Mr Andrews.
Marlborough Education Board meeting
16th March 1881 The Committee of the Grove Town School wrote stating that their reasons for recommending the dismissal of Mr Andrews as teacher of the school, were, the unsatisfactory report made by the Inspector on the school for the year 1880. The continuance of Mr Andrews to conduct himself in much the same manner as that complained of by the former committee. The well-grounded belief in the district that children learnt nothing at the school, and that Mr Andrews closed the school for six weeks during the midsummer holidays, without the consent of the committee. A petition signed by twenty-five inhabitants of Grove Town was read in favor of the Board adopting the recommendation of the committee. Correspondence on behalf of Mr Andrews was received and read from Mr Andrews and Mr W. Bassett. On Mr Paul's motion Mr Andrews came forward and replied to the reasons-advanced in favor of his dismissal. He said that many of those who signed the petition had not even children attending the school. The attendance of pupils had been very irregular, in some cases children being present only 53 days out of over 200 in the school year. Beyond the newspaper reports he had known nothing of the intention of the Committee to recommend his dismissal. In conclusion, Mr Andrews handed in a letter he had received in November. 1878, from Mr Prichard, thanking him for having passed his daughter so well in an examination. Mr Conolly said the Board must, as at last meeting, support the recommendation of the Committee. It seemed to him that in this case the Committee had very good grounds furnished them by the Inspector's report. The attendance had visibly fallen off, and the state of affairs in the school was evidently most unsatisfactory, as shown by the Inspector's report. He moved accordingly that the recommendation of the Committee be given effect to. Mr Parker seconded the motion which was carried.
5th April 1881 The following letter was read from Mr Andrews, of the Grove Town School Grovetown School, 11th April,1881. To Secretary Education Board, Blenheim. Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th intimating that the Board has decided to determine my engagement as teacher under the Board in the Grovetown school, and that my engagement terminates on 30th June next. Under the circumstances I do not see that the Board could have acted otherwise, looking, as it does, to the advancement of the school. It is a well- known fact that since the rupture of 1879-80 there has been a section of the Committee militating against me and the school. Referring, however, to the Chairman of Committee's letter, which I only heard read at the Board's meeting of 15th March. The reasons given are not true, in fact.

1. “Unsatisfactory report of the school for 1880." In answer I can only repeat that the age, as published, was incorrect, and that the excessive irregularity of attendance was not fully understood and allowed for, as shown by the following statements
   Grovetown School Average attendance, 55 per cent of the roll.
   Renwick School Average attendance, 80 per cent of the roll.
   Spring Creek School— Average attendance, 70 per cent of the roll.
   Tua Marina School Average attendance, 77 per cent of the roll.

The percentage of children who passed at these schools was Grovetown, 66 per cent Renwick, 78 per cent Spring Creek, 64 per cent Tua Marina, 92 per cent It therefore follows that if Grovetown obtain 66 per cent passes on 55 per cent of attendance, how much per cent passes should the schools mentioned obtain in proportion to their regularity of attendance Renwick should have got 96 per cent instead of 78 per cent, Spring Creek 84 instead of 64, and Tua Marina should have got 92, which it did exactly. It is unreasonable to suppose that a pupil who attends only 55 days out of 100 days can compete with a pupil who attends from

70 to 80 days out of every 100 days. According to this none of the schools mentioned did better in passes at the last examination than Grovetown, but two of them did infinitely worse. My predecessor, Mr Leete, wrote. to the Board on his resigning I have to contend with the indifference and caprice of parents, and constant irregularity of attendance. It is impossible under such circumstances to produce satisfactory results."

2. The Chairman of Committee states "Mr Andrews still conducts himself in much the same manner as that complained of by a previous Committee." I am surprised at the Chairman for referring to a matter that can reflect no credit on himself At the Board's meeting of 6th January, 1880 unfounded and libellous charges against me. These charges were afterwards investigated by the succeeding Committee and pronounced to be without foundation. Notice was given to the Board to this effect in a letter which was read at Board's meeting of March 2nd, I88O. a
3. The Chairman states that there is a well grounded belief in the district that the children learn, nothing at the school. I can only say that 66 per cent, of passes on an attendance of 55 per cent., disproves this.
4. Again the Chairman states "that I closed the school for six weeks during midsummer holidays without consent of Committee to close the school on 21st December till 24th January, but being notified to attend teachers examinations, beginning on the 24th January. I had to ask for a week's extension of time, which was granted.

   Lastly, the Chairman states that for the favorable report of 1870, the credit is due to the pupil teacher, as only the 1st and 2nd Standards passed. The pupil teacher never taught any class but the infants. No one that the pupil teacher taught has yet been presented for standards. All the Standard pupils of 1879, were exclusively under my charge,

   I think it would have looked better for the Chairman, instead of enumerating a series of improbable and false charges, to have come boldly and truthfully forward and stated (as some of his colleagues state) that there is nothing against me only the old grudge." On my own behalf, I would respectfully ask the Board to give me a trial in some school where I would have a chance of producing favorable results, as no Education Board outside of Marlborough, can comprehend fully the difficulties I have had to contend with, but will simply look on the Inspector's Report as published, and listen to no explanation. I have. &c, Walter Andrews.

   The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Andrews' letter.

Mr Andrews went on to teach at small Marlborough Schools

1881	18	Anakiwa	Andrews	Walter
1884	14	Kekerangu	Andrews	Walter
1885	16	Kekerangu	Andrews	Walter
1886	15	Kekerangu	Andrews	Walter
1887	12	Kekerangu	Andrews	Walter
1890	6	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter
1891	6	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter
1892	6	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter
1893	7	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter
1894	7	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter
1895	9	Four fathom Bay	Andrews	Walter

Walter Andrews was born about 1835, in Girvan, South Ayrshire, Scotland. He was the second son of another Walter Andrews who was a Solicitor and Banker. Another brother

immigrated to Australia where he died in 1879 and another brother, David, became a very wealthy Solicitor in Girvan.
Apparently before coming to NZ he purchased land in the US and subsequently fought as a cavalryman in the US Civil War, on what side I do not know.
First reference I can find to him (probably) in NZ to him is in 1871, where he is working as a casual bookkeeper at Tokamairiro.
Next I find him marrying in May 1877 to, according to Papers Past, Ada Maud Moorhouse, daughter of James Moorhouse of Christchurch. Or according to the Presbyterian Dunedin church records Ada Maud Jane Moorhouse Newman. However this marriage is NOT on the BDM site, nor are there any references to a "James Moorhouse" or any to his supposed wife, regardless of what her name was. She never appears again after or before the "marriage." Seems a very dodgy affair, possibly caused by his money troubles as you will see.
He next turns up as a bankrupt in Dunedin.in Sept 1877. He is described as a Gentleman, with debts of 200 pounds and Assets of just 80. The case shows that he has been borrowing huge sums of his (very wealthy) father, his father has died 3 years earlier, leaving him just £1500 of his £30000 estate (Millions in today's money), and £900 of that is owed to the estate, by him (from looking at his fathers will, the money left to Walter was to be looked after by the trustees on behalf of him, so clearly he had serious issues with looking after money.) He himself says he is likely to only receive the interest on a sum of money, presumably as he is untrustworthy. Another article has him stating he has been receiving remittances for the past 20 years, which explains what he was doing in NZ, he was a classic NZ Remittance Man.
Without an income from home it seems he needed to get work so he applies for and is appointed, head teacher of Grovetown in 1878. He doesn't seem to have been a very good teacher, he failed the licensing test in 1881 and there are references to him being utterly useless, according to the committee. He then works at Kekerangu, Four Fathom Bay and Port Underwood before passing away in Picton in 1902. There are several references to drink, and I would hazard a guess that, like so many remittance men, he was an alcoholic. Here is his obituary:

The late Mr Walter Andrews, whose funeral took place at Picton on Saturday, was well known in Marlborough. He arrived in Blenheim twenty-two years ago as second teacher in the Blenheim Borough School, and he was afterwards in charge of the Grovetown and Kekerangu schools, another in the Pelorus Sound, and still lately in Port Underwood. As a teacher Mr Andrews was first class, especially in arithmetic. He had had an eventful life. He went to America when a young man, bought land there, joined a cavalry regiment, went through the great civil war, getting wounded near its close. He subsequently returned to his native Ayrshire, Scotland. As an Ayrshire man, he was a great admirer of Robert Burns. When he came to New Zealand his father was a banker in Girvan South, Ayrshire, and also factor for several estates in that locality. His youngest brother, David, is manager of the Union Bank of Scotland in Girvan. Mr Andrews had failings like the rest of us, but had generous, noble feelings, and was a man never afraid to speak the truth. He died in the Picton Hospital on Friday, at the age of 68, and was buried as above. Many would have liked to attend his funeral (says the Press) had they only known. The Rev. R. J. Allsworth conducted the service.
Research by Grandson Sam
14th April 1881 The names of the successful candidates at the last Teachers' examination held by Education, Department are published, one teacher from the Marlborough District Mr W.

Andrews, of Grovetown, offered himself for examination, and his name does not appear in the list of passes

8th June 1881 Seven candidates are in the field for the Grove Town School. The applications are to be referred to the Committees, the Board agreeing to meet again in a fortnight's time to make the appointments.

21st June 1881 The Chairman of the Grovetown School Committee wrote on behalf of the committee recommending the Board to appoint Mr. C. A. Ogilvie, of Nelson, to the mastership of their school. Mr Paul thought it was necessary that the teacher should be certificated. Mr Prichard, who was present, stated that at the committee meeting last evening the committee were divided as to whom they should select, but finally they determined to recommend Mr Ogilvie. Attention was drawn to the wording of the Act, which states that an uncertificated teacher can only be employed where no other offers. Mr Conolly thought that if it did not intend to appoint uncertificated teachers, the application of candidates who did not possess the necessary qualification should not have been recommended to the committee. As in this case the committee seemed unanimous in their selection, he moved that; their recommendation be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried

21st June 1881 The Grove Town School Committee requested that an addition he made to the teacher's residence, and that the roof of the old school be repaired. On Mr Paul's motion the Architect was instructed to visit the Grove Town School, and report at next meeting.

26th July 1881 Education Board.— Tenders will be received until August 1, 1881, for shingling and repairs to the Grove Town school house and residence. Specifications may be seen at the office of Mr W. Douslin, architect.

2nd August 1881 he following was the report of the Committee appointed to inquire into Mr Andrews' complaint re. Inspector's report on Grove Town school Your Committee begs to report immediately after the Board rose, and on looking into the Inspector's letter of the 21st June, came to the conclusion that the word presented is the Report should, so far as concerned the 2nd and 3rd Standards, hare been passed Your Committee has through one of its members communicated with the Inspector, who admits that be made an error in his report when he stated that the average age of the children presented for the 2nd and 3rd Standards was 12 years. A copy of the letter sent to the Inspector, and his reply 'thereto, are attached hereto." Mr Hodgson's reply ran I have just received your letter, and reply (in great haste in order to catch the post) that your conjecture that "passed' in Standards 2 and 3 should be substituted for presented," is the correct solution of the. matter. This solitary word, it seems, is the only error that 1 have really made in my report on Grovetown school, Standards I and 11, as I have shown, being a putter's error, my manuscript giving II and 111. Unimportant as the mistake is, I much regret it, and as Mr Andrews has evidently made the most of it, and has attempted to discredit all that I have written' about the state of his school. "It was resolved to inform Mr Andrews of the Committee's report and forward him a copy of the Inspector's letter

The tender of J. Thompson of £2O for the shingling and repairs to Grovetown School was accepted.

23rd August 1881 Entertainment at Grove Town.— Last evening Mr Jellyman entertained the school children at Grove Town by showing, with his magic lantern, views illustrating the Arctic Expedition of 1875. Mr Ogilvie explained the views, and gave an account of the journeys taken by the sledging parties in the Northern regions, after which a number of miscellaneous pictures were shown, when the juveniles showed enthusiastic delight at many of the comic ones. Mr Jellyman then addressed the children, and promised them another entertainment in a month's time. The entertainment closed by the children singing the National Anthem. A number of parents and adults and friends from Blenheim were present, who paid for admission. The proceeds are to be devoted to providing suitable recreation for the children attending the school,

4th October 1881 The Chairman of the Grove Town school wrote enclosing the following resolutions passed at the last meeting "'That the Board be requested, to prepare an additional room to the teacher's residence, as at present there are only three rooms in it." That the teacher's salary be raised, as the average attendance has increased since last quarter from 25 to 56. The Committee wish to know on what scale the teachers are paid if there is any scale." The Committee added that two blinds were required for the school windows, also two desks and a water-closet. The architect was instructed to inspect the teacher's residence and report at next meeting and other requisites applied for. Mr Sinclair thought that the desks might he supplied at once, and so save delay. At Mr Henderson's suggestion the Secretary was instructed to see to the supply of the desks.
Mr Seymour gave notice or motion at the next meeting to take into consideration the increase of Mr Ogilvie's salary, applied for by the Grove Town School Committee.
21st October 1881 The return cricket match between the Blenheim and Grove Town Schools, will he played on the former's ground tomorrow.
8th November 1881 Tenders were ordered to be called for rebuilding the Picton School, and for alterations to the Grove Town and Canvastown schools.
10th November 1881 It was, resolved on Mr Henderson's motion seconded by Mr Ward, that the salary of Mr Ogilvie, teacher of the Grove Town school be increased- to £140 per annum
25th November 1881 The second 11 of the Borough Schools will play 15 of the Grove Town School (including Mr Ogilvie) tomorrow. The match will be at Grove Town
6th December 1881 The following tenders were opened for the additions to the Grove Town school J. Gibbs £79, P. Watson (accepted) £47, A. Peddie £58 10b, W. Johnson £71 10s, Dunn and Aston £53 10s.
Mr, Prichard wrote recommending the Board to appoint an assistant mistress to the Grove Town School. It was decided to consider the application at the next meeting
23rd December 1881 Grove Town School. This school broke up yesterday for the Christmas holidays, and during, the afternoon Mr C. A. Ogilvie, the teacher, presented two prizes to each class for the best bouquet brought by the children. Miss Prichard and Mr Ogilvie officiated as judges, and the several winners of the prizes were allowed to make their own selection of the useful and handsome volumes given. At the conclusion cheers were given for the Chairman (Mr Prichard), School Committee, and the teacher. To-day the children were entertained at a picnic in Mr Prichard's paddock, and judging from the hearty manner the various amusements were entered into, 1 had a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

1882

1882	59	Grove Town	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master	£	140.00
1882	59	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Female Probationer	£	24.00

14th January 1882 Applications are invited by the Education Board for the position of Pupil Teacher at the Grove Town School.
24th January 1882 GROVE TOWN. The following is the result of the election of the new Grovetown School Committee
N. T. Prichard 40
A. Herd 39
C. Ohlsen 31
J. Cameron 23
F. Beamsley 19
T. Johns 18 W. Gill 15 There were eleven candidates nominated

7th February 1882 Applications were received for the pupil teachership of the Grove Town School from Miss M Hoskin and Miss Prichard. The Committee of the Grove Town School recommended the appointment of Miss Prichard.
3rd June 1882 Grovetown School Committee.— This Committee met on Wednesday evening. Present All the members but one. The following accounts were passed for payment:—H. Aberhart, firewood, £3 15s; Mrs Kennedy, cleaning school, £2; H. Gill, gravelling, £2 P. Litchfield 3s 9. J G. Watson, mending pump, The Chairman was instructed to have pipes put in the ditch at the approaches to the school ground and the teacher's residence. Mr Ogilvie reported that the number of children on the roll had increased to 83. It was resolved to ask the Board to erect a platform for the infants, and that the ventilators be made water-tight. The Committee then adjourned
6th June 1882 The Chairman of the Grovetown School .The Committee applied to the Board to erect a platform for the infants and repair the ventilator in the school and Mr Douslin was directed to report on the application
10th November 1882 Inspector's report included. Grovetown
Percentage of passes to scholars presented 92%
Percentage of passes to children on the roll 26%
Renwick (48% and 29%) Waitohi (51% and 25%)
23rd December 1882 The Grovetown School. —The picnic in connection with the Grovetown School, in Mr Pritchard's grounds, passed off most successfully yesterday. Over 70 children were present. Various sports, races, etc., were held and well contested. The Rev, Harmon was present, and kindly gave several prizes, much to the delight of the juveniles,

1883

1883	60	Grove Town	Ogilvie	Charles A	Master	£	160.00
1883	60	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Female Probationer	£	40.00

23rd January 1883 GROVE TOWN SCHOOL. At the meeting of householders held at Grovetown last evening, Mr N. Prichard was called to the Chair. The following report and balance sheet were read Your Committee, in giving up office, desire to draw your attention to what has been done by them during the past year. The Inspector of Schools stated in his report of 1881 that there were too many children in the school for one teacher to attend to and that Mr Ogilvie should have assistance, so your Committee wrote and asked the Board to appoint an assistant mistress. The Board, however did not think the attendance justified it and appointed Miss Prichard as pupil teacher. The result has been very satisfactory and the school is now in a fair way of doing well. The inspector in his last report drew attention to the excellent work being done
The Committee regret that the attendance of the children has been irregular during the past year, for considering the children in this district are early taken away from school, it seems very unjust to them that they should be kept at home do often. Of course it cannot be avoided when measles are prevalent, as at the present time. The number of children attending the school is 93, and the average attendance for the year has been only 65.
The Committee have made many improvements about the school raising and gravelling parts of the school ground, fencing in a garden for the teacher, laying pipes in the ditch in front of the ground, etc.. and they got the Education Board to erect a platform for the infants.
"There are two or three things which the Committee think necessary to have done, viz., a continuation of the teacher's garden fence across the section, the old well filled in, and to ask

the Board to erect a scullery at the back of the teacher's residence. Your Committee thought, however, it would be better to leave these for the new Committee to carry out.
31st January 1883 Grove Town School Committee.— The first meeting, of the. Newly elected School Committee at Grove Town met on Monday evening; .when Mr N T Prichard was elected Chairman for the year. It was resolved to call. for tenders for the erection of a fence to enclose a garden for the teacher, and for the filling up of the old well and the grubbing up of the briars, &c It was also resolved that the Chairman write to the Board and request it to erect a scullery at the back of the teacher residence.
21st February 1883 The following tenders were opened yesterday by Mr W. Douslin, for the addition to the Teacher's residence at Grovetown J. Lusty (accepted) £11 15s, D. Wemyss £l2, Dixon and Watson 12 2s, P. Beamsley £14 E. Bythell £15 10s, A. Peddie £15 15s.
6th March 1883 In a long article over uncertificated teachers it was confirmed that Mr Ogilvie was uncertificated
4th May 1883 Gladys Prichard, Grovetown, aged -17 years. Arithmetic 90, geography 60, grammar and composition 100. reading 90, dictation 100, history 60, music 70, writing 70, total for general examination 630, art of teaching 110, total 740/ 950. Passed as a second year Pupil Teacher
5th June 1883 A letter was received from Mr N T Prichard, chairman of the Grovetown School Committee, requesting the Board to increase Mr Ogilvie's salary.
Mr Sinclair gave notice to move at next meeting that Mr Ogilvie's salary be increased
20th December 1883 The. annual picnic in connection with the Grovetown School will be held in Mr N, T. Prichard's paddock to-morrow. We wish the young people a pleasant outing
22nd December 1883 The Grovetown School.— The annual, picnic of the Grovetown School was hold yesterday in Mr N. T. Prichard's grounds. The refreshments were provided by Mesdames Prichard and Ogilvie. About 90 children were present, also a number of friends, including Rev Arthur Hermon (clergyman of the district),.'Mrs Harmon, Mr Reginald Harmon, Mrs Terry, Mr and Mrs Peake, and many, others belonging to the district. The weather was favorable, and a most enjoyable day was spent

1884

1884	48	Grove Town	Parker	Frederick O	Master	£	140.00
1884	48	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Female Probationer	£	40.00

Gladys Pritchard's name was actually spelt Gladis! She was born in 1866. She was teaching at Grovetown from 1882, and retired when she married Leonard Newcombe Fairhall in 1902. He was a farmer and they subsequently moved up to Taranaki, farming throughout the region. She passed away in 1941, in New Plymouth.
29th January 1884 The ,following is the result of the election of the School Committee last night Messrs N. T. Pritchard, John Cameron, .Charles Ohlson William Gill, Alexander Herd, Thomas Maxted, Frank Parish. Mr N. T. Pritchard was appointed Chairman
4th March 1884 Letter from Mr Ogilvie resigning his position as teacher of Grove Town school, as he was about to engage in private school work at Picton. 'The resignation was accepted with regret, and it was determined to advertise for a successor at £140, with a residence and the assistance of a pupil teacher the present attendance to be stated at 57.
3rd April 1884 Inspector Hodson reports Grovetown Mr Ogilvie and a pupil teacher. Present 68. On roll 78. I truly regret that the valuable services of the present master are so poorly appreciated by the parents that he has no more than 35 scholars to bring forth for the 4th and

not over one for the higher standards. The scholars who were preparing for the higher standards had left school during the year literally by shoals.
Those who remained throughout, their discipline being perfect. This is one of the few Marlborough Schools where the full programme laid down in the regulations is carried out, singing, drawing and needlework being all included in the ordinary school hours
2nd May 1884 Teachers Examinations.— The last issue of the Government Gazette contains the results of the Teachers' examination held at the end of January last. No candidate from Marlborough figures in the list of those who passed in classes D but Messrs Charles Bary and C. A. Ogilvie are stated to have passed in the subjects required to complete former examination. C A Ogilvie rated E3
For more information on Mr Ogilvie see Fairhall School
1st July 1884 Letter from Mr Pritchard, Chairman of the School Committee, complaining of the defective character of the .ventilators at the Grove Town School and asking the Board to erect new Ventilators similar to those on the Blenheim Schools.
Mr Ward said that he had heard great complaints about the useless filigree work such as these ventilators which was to be seen at some of the schools, and the cost of which would have gone a long way towards, improving or enlarging the buildings.
Mr Paul said that the matter had been gone into already, and the Board had decided to have no more of this sort of thing, and to build future schools as plainly as possible.
Major Baillie said that similar ventilators at the 'Tua Marina School had cost £6O. The Chairman had: heard that the Grove Town ventilators cost £70., Those on the Blenheim schools cost £ 4 10s each.
On the motion of Major Baillie, seconded by Mr- Parker, it was resolved to accede to the Grove Town request, provided. the total cost to the Board did. not exceed £10
8th April 1884 Blenheim School Committee Letter from the Board, stating that Mr Parker had been appointed master of the Grovetown school, and would take charge on the following Monday.
Mr Parker was not teaching in Marlborough in 1883
30th June 1884 ANTI-VACCINATION.
Sir— Permit me to express my sympathy with, those people who were fined the other day for not having their children vaccinated I heartily agree .with Mr Purser's remarks. Not long before I left Victoria a number of children died from the effects of vaccination. In a town (Daylesford) no larger than Blenheim six infants died in one week from that cause. And the Government Vaccinator, who. was supposed to obtain. the pure lymph from the -model farm had a number of his patients die. Many of the clever physicians of the present day. assert that there is far more danger from vaccination than from small-pox.— I am, &c., F. 0. Parker. Grovetown, June. 25 1884.
5th August 1884 One teacher only— Mr F. Parker, of Grove Town— thought the existing time a suitable one*(Re examination of Pupil Teacher.)* No replies were received from Mr Lucas and other head teachers. Held over till replies had been received from all.
18th August 1884 Tricycle Accident Mr Frederick Parker came to grief on his tricycle a few days ago, through colliding with a horseman on the approach up to the Opawa Bridge near the railway gate on the other side Mr Parker was on his way out to Grove Town-, and the horse, the rider of Which certainly did not appear to have been honoring the blue ribbon, rushed violently against the tricycle, knocking Mr Parker scrawling into the road, and seriously breaking the machine.

7th October GROVE TOWN. Letter from Mr F. Parker resigning his office as teacher of the Grove Town School, and asking to be relieved as soon as possible. If any difficulty arose about a successor, Miss Pritchard could temporarily conduct the school with satisfaction to the parents, as she was a thoroughly capable teacher. letter from Mr N. T. Prichard, Chairman of the School Committee, asking the Board to advertise for another teacher, applications to be sent in by three weeks, so that, the Committee could consider them, and the appointment could be made at the next meeting of the Board. Mr Prichard attended, and discussed the matter with the Board. The Committee had agreed not to close the School. but to let Miss Prichard (a pupil teacher in her fourth year) conduct it until Mr Parker's successor was appointed. The quarterly average was a little over 60. On the motion of Mr Sinclair the resignation of Mr Parker was accepted as from the end of the present week, and that Miss Prichard carry on the school till his successor is appointed. Resolved, that a teacher for the Grove Town School be advertised for at the same salary

Frederick O Parker was Frederick Octavius Parker, born 1854 in Victoria. His father was this man https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Stone_Parker so he clearly came from a good family. Married Jane Fox in 1877, also in Victoria. He attended Wesley College but I can't see him at university so I presume he went straight into teaching.

His elder half brothers Richard Watson Parker and William Benoni Parker were already living in the Blenheim region which was most likely the reason for him coming to Marlborough, especially as William Benoni was one of the most prominent residents of Blenheim. Frederick moved to Marlborough seemingly in 1884, living in Blenheim first, before moving to Havelock where he was a Storekeeper. He attempted to sell the store in late 1885, next taking the roll of a stock auctioneer in Nov 1885. Just a few days after announcing his first sale however he was declared bankrupt, presumably in relation to the store.

His bankruptcy was in the paper throughout 1886, he must have taught sometime during this year as well. He seems to have returned to Victoria after this, he died of typhoid in 1892 at Clunes, Victoria aged just 38. His wife passed away just a week later, aged just 32. He was described as a "public school teacher" at his death but he is rarely in the Australian papers. Seems like something else is going on here, as I cannot find what job he was doing in Australia. There is a Frederick Parker found drunk in 1885 which may be him, and may help to explain other things.

Research by Grandson Sam

8th October 1884 Drawing Class.— Permission having been obtained from the School Committee Mr Ogilvie opens his Drawing Claw in the Borough School on Saturday morning next, at half put 10 o'clock. The class will be continued every week, the terms being a guinea a q Darter. A goodly number will doubtless avail themselves of the chance.

4th November 1884 GROVETOWN. The Chairman of the Grovetown Committee wrote that as a candidate, classed D 2, had applied by telegram stating that he had posted an application which would probably reach Blenheim on the 5th, the Committee adjourned the consideration of the vacant teachership until Tuesday the 6th. and recommended the Board to Appoint a Committee to confirm the appointment after the School Committee had made it. The Secretary said the application in question had arrived. Messrs Henderson and Hutcheson were appointed a Committee accordingly.

6th November 1884 Grove Town School.— The Grove Town School Committee met last: night;, and unanimously recommended Mr Harry Ladley of the Foxhill School Nelson, for the appointment of Head Master. Mr Ladley holds a D2 Certificate, which he obtained both by explanation and length of service.

22nd November 1884 Grove Town School. Mr Harry Ladley, the newly appointed teacher at Grove Town, will not arrive till after the Christmas holidays. In the meantime the work of the school is being conducted by the pupil teacher, Miss Pritchard, to the entire satisfaction of the Committee and the parents.

9th December 1884 Music Teaching.— We are glad to see that Mr C. A. Ogilvie, a gentleman well calculated to impart lessons in the higher accomplishments, has taken the house in York Terrace, now occupied by Mr Falconer, and will be prepared to give lessons in music, drawing, and painting after the new year. We cordially recommend Mr Ogilvie, and trust that he will be aa successful as he deserves to be.

1885

1885	67	Grove Town	Ladley	Henry	Master	£	140.00
1885	67	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Female Probationer	£	60.00

13th January 1885 The Grove Town Teacher.— The Mail's Foxhill correspondent writes On Tuesday last the children attending the school in this district assembled for the purpose of making a small present, viz., a handsome biscuit jar, to their late master Mr H. Ladley, as a token of respect and regard to himself and Mrs Ladley, on the occasion of their leaving the district, Mr Ladley having been appointed to the. mastership of the Grove Town School, near Blenheim, The children expressed their regret at his departure, and wished him and Mrs Ladley success and happiness in their new home. Mr Ladley thanked the children, and likewise expressed his regret at leaving them, and the district generally, having been associated with it so long. I may add that Mr Ladley has been teacher in this school for the past twelve years, during which time it has grown from a very small to one of the largest schools in the country. Mr Ladley has been very successful, several of his boys having taken scholarships, and his departure will generally be regretted

13th January 1885 Letter from the Grovetown Committee, recommending that Miss Prichard, who had conducted-the school during the absence of a head teacher, be paid at the rate of the head teacher's salary for last quarter. On the motion of Mr Parker the request was acceded to, for the time Miss Prichard had sole charge of the school.

14th January 1885 Maori Curios.— The well at the Grovetown School recently refused to act and on Mr F. Craig doctoring it he found that a carved piece of wood, evidently a portion of a Maori spear or Taiaha, was jammed in the valve of the pipe. This Maori curio must have been sucked up the tube from the bottom of the well, which is 84ft *(24.6 metres)* deep. It would be interesting to discover the other ancient remains down there, of which this small piece of carved wood is no doubt but a small part. Mr Pritchard has frequently come across Maori curios on his land, which is not far from the school Human skulls and-bones he has found in plenty; and not long ago he unearthed a Maori needle made of a chip of Maire, polished, and with a large eye roughly pierced in the thicker end. A day will come when relics of this sort will have a peculiar value.

24th January 1885 The annual examinations for teachers' certificates begin in the Council Chamber on Monday morning. The following are the candidates for E or D, Robert McCallum (Blenheim), and Wm. Tissiman (Renwick). For E, Mary Bary. Edythe Stratford, and Mary Wrigley (Blenheim), Gladys Prichard (Grovetown), Ernest Bowden, and Antonio Vannini (Picton), and Stephen Carrick. The examinations will last at least five days next week. The hours each day are from 10 to 1 o'clock, and half past 2 to half put five o'clock

27th January 1885 At Grove Town where the retiring Committee hands over to their successors a balance of £5 I8s 10d Messrs N. T Prichard. J. Cameron, A. Herd, W. Gill, C. Ohlson , F. Parish, and J. Robinson were elected, and Mr Prichard was after wards appointed Chairman.

17th February 1885 Grovetown School.— We are informed that the result of the Inspector's visit to the Grovetown School yesterday was to pass 88 per cent in the standards. As might have been expected from the fact of there having been three teachers in twelve months the work in the upper standards was hardly satisfactory. The result is not in any way discreditable to Mr Ladley, the newly appointed teacher, The time of year chosen for the Standard examinations at Grove Town and other schools is highly unsuitable, and the matter cannot be remedied until an Inspector is appointed who does not permanently reside in Nelson. In the case of Grove Town it is not very long after the holidays, and the bigger children have been away harvesting. Next week the school will be closed for the hop-picking, the children taking holidays now instead of in the mid-winter

21st February 1885 We understand that hop-picking begins at Grove Town on Wednesday next, the School breaking up for the purpose yesterday for a month's holiday. All the hop-gardens are looking very well this season.

Grove Town School, The Annual School Picnic was held yesterday in the grounds of Mr N. T. Prichard, Chairman of the School Committee, Grove Town. The weather was gloriously fine, and a great abundance of good things were provided for the children by Mrs Prichard, with the help of the parents, who readily and freely assisted this year by giving both provisions and money. A little over 100 children sat down to dinner, a number which increased at tea time to about 120. It is needless to say that the little appetites did the fullest justice to the sandwiches, cakes, tarts, and the other delicacies dear both to juveniles and children of larger growth. Mr, Mrs, and Miss Prichard worked hard to promote the jollity of their youthful guests, and were ably assisted in their efforts by Mr C. A. Ogilvie, the former teacher of the school, by whom the annual picnic, which has now run for five years, was originated. Games and sports were organised with thorough success, and the programme wound up by the award of prizes to the most amiable boy and girl respectively, the boys voting for the champion girl, and the girls for the champion boy, a process which excited considerable amusement. Augusta Hillmer and Walter Webster were returned at the top of the poll." The picnic broke up a little before seven o'clock, everyone having enjoyed themselves to the top of their bent. A considerable number of adult visitors were on the ground during the day, including the Bishop of Nelson, the Rev. A. Hermon and Mrs Hermon, the Rev. A. P. Clarke (of Collingwood) and Mrs Clarke, most of the teachers from the Borough Schools, and a good many of the parents. For these visitors Mr and Mrs Prichard dispensed hospitably at their residence. The proceedings wound up by the children giving three vigorous cheers for Mr, Mrs, and Miss Prichard, and Mr Ogilvie. Owing to some unexplained cause, the present teacher, Mr Harry Ladley, was not present.

3rd March 1885 GROVE TOWN. Letter from the chairman of the School Committee, stating that Miss Prichard's pupil-teachership had expired, and recommending her appointment as assistant teacher at £60, which was only £10 more than was paid for her at present. The average attendance was 61, and the roll number 90.

On the motion of Captain Baillie, Miss Prichard was appointed for the time being assistant teacher at a salary of £60 from the time the pupil-teachership had expired.

Mr Henderson hoped the arrangement would be understood as a temporary one, as it would be better to appoint Miss Pilchard somewhere else, and bring on another pupil teacher at Grovetown

8th April 1885 Grove Town, painting School Iremonger (accepted) £10 10s, O'Neill £18 2s. Painting school and residence Bartlett £17 10s (not accepted.) Erecting chimney W. Sinclair £10 (accepted).

22nd December 1885 Grove Town School. At a meeting of the Grove Town School Committee held last night, Mr N. T, Prichard presiding, it was resolved that the Education Board be requested to remove the partition so that the- present porch be added to the infant school, and build new porches both to the infant school and adult school, in more desks are required, and there is no room for them until the buildings are enlarged. It was also resolved to recommend, the Board to increase Mr Ladley's salary, the number on the roll having, increased from 71 in December 1884 to 101 in December 1885. Accounts were passed for payment, including £4 10s for a new culvert in front of the school, and the meeting adjourned

1886

1886	73	Grove Town	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	160.00
1886	70	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

Gladys Pritchard's name was actually spelt Gladis! She was born in 1866. She was teaching at Grovetown from at least 1896, and presumably retired when she married Leonard Newcombe Fairhall in 1902. He was a farmer and they subsequently moved up to Taranaki, farming throughout the region. She passed away in 1941, in New Plymouth.

12th January 1886 GROVE TOWN. The School Committee applied to have a new porch erected, and also recommended that Mr Ladley's salary be increased. The porch question was referred to the Architect for a report. Letter from Mr Ladley applying for an increase of salary. The average attendance had considerably increased during the 12 months he had been in the Board's service. The present salary was stated to be £140. The roll number was 101, and the highest attendance had been 85. Mr Parker said that a considerable number of children from Blenheim attended the Grove Town School. Mr Henderson gave notice to move at the next meeting that the salary be increased to £160

2nd February 1886 INCREASE OP SALARY. Mr H. Ladley's application for an increase of salary. as teacher at Grove Town, was considered. Resolved, That it has increased from £140 to £160 from the expiration of his first twelve months

2nd March 1886 HELD OVER. An application from Miss Prichard, for an increase of her salary from £60 to £80, as assistant at Grovetown, was held over to the next meeting;

28th April 1886 Tenders are invited by the Education Board, up to Monday next, for additions to the Schoolmaster's house at Grovetown, and for the erection of a schoolmaster's residence at Picton.

4th August 1886 The Secretary reported the balance to credit of the Building fund to be £707, but if all the engagements and promises made by the Board were carried out (including the new Springlands School) there would be a deficit of about £250 on that fund. The Chairman said there was no prospect of any supplementary vote. Whatever was passed this Session would be payable to the Board after next March, and it was already talked about as likely to

be the last. The local bodies would be invited (laughter) after that to find the buildings themselves. But-,, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," and the Board must be careful with the money they had. Such additions as those at Grovetown and Havelock ought to stand over, the Board keeping them steadily in view.
Resolved That those two matters be postponed for the present, inconsequence of want of funds.
The tenders received were ordered to be destroyed.
7th December 1886 Inspector Hodson's report included At Grove Town the organisation is fair, the method and quality of instruction fairly good, and the order, and discipline, and manners "good." As to order and discipline, all Mr Hodgson can say about the upper standards is fairly good," the lower boys "apparently good," the girls fairly good," and the infants "apparently good." Of the girls (temporary teacher, Miss Bary, assistant) behaviour "only moderately good."

1887

1887	70	Grove Town	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	160.00
1887	70	Grove Town	Pritchard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

26th April 1887 The following were elected members to the Grovetown School Committee for the ensuing year Messrs Ransom, F Beamsley, J. Cameron, N. T. Prichard R. Humber, A. Herd, and F. Parish There were ten nominated. At a meeting of the newly-elected Committee, held after the meeting of householders, Mr N. T Prichard was elected Chairman for the year.
2nd August 1887 The following tenders were sent in and accepted Grovetown (additions) F. Beamsley (accepted) £41, John Miller £67, Brewer and Hay £43, Howard and Woodham £45 12a 6a, A. Peddie £43.

1888

1888	67	Grove Town	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	160.00
1888	67	Grove Town	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

10th January 1888 Mr N. T. Pritchard, Chairman of the Grovetown School, in reply to the circular re books required, stated that the Committee could sot pledge their successors to any number of books.
5th June 1888 At a meeting of the Grove Town School Committee held last night, all the members being present, it was agreed to at once bring into operation the compulsory clauses of the Education Act. It was also resolved that the teachers be requested to drill the boys. In reply to the circular from the Education Board re class of school books in use, the Chairman was instructed to forward a list of the books used to the Secretary. Accounts were passed for payment and the Committee adjourned

1889

1889	74	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	160.00
1889	74	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

2nd March 1889 Article on Hop Picking included: Here poles have been taken down by the men, frame works erected, and canvas bins constructed, -and round these were gathered yesterday pretty nearly a hundred persons, chiefly women and youngsters, all busily engaged picking and measuring out into bales. The work is light and easy, and it is easy to see in the

faces of the youngsters that they are quite delighted to exchange standards for hop-poles, and parsing for picking. Grovetown school gets a holiday at every hop-picking season, and young Grovetown is to the fore. There were mothers with their broods all busy, while useful older girls tended the babies and strolled about. Everybody was quite happy and chatty, and the work went on apace.

15th March 1889 Grovetown. Mr H. Ladley; assistant Miss Pritchard. On roll 89 present 81. Under the energetic -management of the present head teacher, Grovetown, which, some years ago, stood almost at the bottom of the list of Marlborough schools, now takes an excellent place. All but three of the fifty-six standard scholars passed. Every candidate for the two highest standards including no fewer than eight in the Sixth, and nine in the Fifth,—succeeded, the arithmetic of the former class being so good as to deserve special mention. The handwriting has improved in a marked degree. The juniors also acquitted themselves much better than they did the year before. The reading, generally, is however by no means equal to the rest of the work

3rd June 1889 O'Dwyer.— On June 3rd, at Spring Creek, Patrick O'Dwyer, aged 57 years

5th June 1889 In connection with the funeral of the late Patrick O'Dwyer, which took place to-day, a little incident occurred which is worthy of notice. As the cortege passed the school at Grovetown, the whole of the scholars were observed to be standing bareheaded (the boys on one side of the playground, and the girls on the other), remaining in that position till the procession had slowly passed

1st October 1889 Grovetown.—Mr Ladley, and Miss Prichard. Oh roll 91; present 86. Grove~town still retains the high position that it has won for itself, of late years. The work is very thorough and even from the top to the bottom of the school. The scholars did especially well in arithmetic, English; and elementary science. Some of the copy books were carelessly written and the reading generally is taken too hurriedly. The scholars are orderly independent workers, the master is one of the few teachers who frankly admit instead of attempting to extenuate or deny the faults of his scholars

20th November 1889 On Tuesday afternoon ,a lad named Mitchell, a pupil of the Grovetown school, got hold of a dynamite cap somewhere, arid playing with it in school he struck it with a pencil so violently that it went off, shattering his fingers and otherwise injuring his hand. Mr Ladley, the school-master, lost no time in getting a conveyance and taking the poor lad into town to the Hospital.

13th December 1889 The following children from Grovetown were sitting the Tinline and Marlborough Scholarships for secondary schools: Blanche Ladley, Grovetown, aged 11 years .6 months, Theresa Hillmer, Grovetown, 12.2, Annie Thompson, Grovetown, 13 0.

1890

1890	73	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	160.00
1890	73	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

14th January 1890 From the Grovetown Committee asking for £10, cost of sinking a well and notifying the selection of Mr H. Simmonds as auditor of the Committee's accounts. Mr Parker stated that Mr .Cameron .had told him the pipe of the pump was worn out and stopped, and the water was foul. The Chairman suggested; that the matter should be referred to the architect, and the suggestion was adopted. -The appointment of Mr Simmonds as auditor was approved

4th February 1890 From Grovetown asking for a grate for the teacher's residence. Ordered to be supplied
10th March 1890 Miss Prichard of Grovetown, has successfully passed the examination for the teachers' D certificate
1st April 1890 Grovetown. Mr Ladley, assistant Miss Prichard. On roll 91, present 81. Grovetown still maintains its old position among the Marlborough schools that it has won for itself of late years The work is very thorough even from the top to the bottom of the school. The scholars did especially well in arithmetic, English, and elementary science. Some of the copy books were carelessly written and the reading generally is taken too hurriedly. The scholars are orderly and independent workers. The master is one of the few teachers who frankly admit, instead of attempting to deny or extenuate, the faults of his scholars. *A Repeat of October 1889 report*
6th May 1890 The Grovetown Committee applied for a new well. Mr Paul explained the condition of the well, which he had inspected. It was resolved to refer the matter to the architect to report upon.
3rd June 1890 Well, Grovetown W. Carr £9 19s (accepted), F. Craig £14 15s.
7th October 1890 The schoolmaster at Grovetown (Mr H. Ladley) wrote asking for an increase in salary, and the Committee supported the application. The present salary is £160. On the motion of Lt.-Col. Baillie, the question was held over till next meeting.
17th October 1890 Art Union Mr Greer's art union was brought off very successfully last night in the Good Templars' Hall. Tin first prize fell to Mr Ladley of Grove Town,
12th December 1890 Nelson College Scholarships. The annual examination for the Nelson College Scholarships was begun to-day, in the Borough Schools, under the supervision of Mr Gillespie. The following are the names of those that are going up Blenheim Boys' School, E. C. W. Powell, A. H. Hustwick, and W. A. Litchfield; Picton, G. O. Waddy and Rosalie Williams Grovetown, Annie Thompson and Blanche Ladley Robin Hood Bay, A. W. C. Stace. They went through dictation and English this morning, and all finished under the allotted time. The subject this afternoon will be English History. The examination will last all day to-morrow

1891

1891	73	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	180.00
1891	84	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	70.00

Harry Ladley was born in 1854 at Spring Creek, his father, James Ladley was a surgeon and chemist who was a very early settler to the region and who was married 4 times. His eldest brother was Walter Ladley, who was also a teacher, as well as being assistant inspector of schools. He attended Nelson College for a couple of years, after leaving there I'm unsure what he did. His first teaching job, that I can find, was at Foxhill. Now at Foxhill one of his pupils (for some 6 years) was a young Ernest Rutherford and apparently Ladley was the one responsible for instilling a first class education and a love of science, that would eventually lead to a Nobel Prize, in young Ernest. He left Foxhill in 1884 to move to Grovetown before dying in 1909. He married Ada Palmer in 1877. With her he had three children, Harry Clement, Bertha Constance and Ada Blanche Eunice. It was this Ada Blanche Eunice who also worked as a teacher, not Harry's wife Ada. Research by Grandson Sam

1880/2508	Ladley	Bertha Constance	Ada	Harry
1878/15088	Ladley	Ada Blanche Eunice	Ada	Harry

1881/17095	Ladley	Harry Clement	Ada	Harry
1928/10205	Ada Blanche Eunice	Ladley	Thomas	Glover
1940/27965	Glover	Ada Blanche Eunice		61Y

2nd May 1891 Grovetown School Committee. The following persons were declared elected to the Committee N. T. Prichard, A. Herd A. Craven, J. Nolan, F. Beamsley, F. Parish, J. Cameron. Mr Prichard was chosen Chairman

7th July 1891 GROVETOWN. A deputation from the Grovetown Committee waited on the Board in support of a request that half an acre of ground next the School be purchased, as the/Inspector of Schools was of opinion that the closets were too close to- the school. Mr Prichard who acted as spokesman, said that Mr Nolan wanted £50 for the half-acre, but if the Board considered that too much, they could take it, under the Public Works Act. The Chairman said this act did not apply to Education Boards. Messrs Parker and Hutcheson; were appointed a subcommittee, to confer with the Committee and Mr Nolan, with a view to having the price reduced.

24th July 1891. Part of an article on Multiplication of Small Schools. …….. In the first plac6 it is not fair to the town schools and teachers that there should be a school at **Grovetown,** barely two miles away, even the Marlboroughtown school, four miles off, is quite close enough to affect the borough. While we are in favor of reasonable privileges being placed in the way of all parents under our State system we cannot hide from ourselves the fact that the multiplication of small schools means poorer pay, poorer teachers, and consequently poorer education, and we think the Education Board should seriously consider the position……

1892

1892	84	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	180.00
1892	84	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	75.00

4th March 1892 Inspector Smith's Report included the following statement: If, for instance, a circle with a four mile radius be drawn from the Blenheim School as a centre, it would include Springlands, Grovetown, Fairhall, Marlboroughtown, and Spring Creek. The disadvantage arising from a too close proximity of schools are many. Among them are (1) additional cost; (2) diminished efficiency (3) (perhaps the most mischievous of all) the facility with which children can be moved from one school to another as often as the caprice of parents may desire. No doubt, at the time these schools were first established, the grouping of the settlers, and the imperfect means of communication may have appeared to justify their proximity, but with the improved roads and other facilities,, such necessity no longer exists, and I hope that when it comes necessary (as it soon will) to rebuild the Grovetown School, the Board will seriously consider whether, by removing it a little further away from Blenheim the Marlboroughtown School might not be advantageously abolished……..

3rd May 1892 GROVETOWN. Application for .an outhouse. The Inspector reported that he had visited school and ascertained that Mr Ladley would do the work if the material were found for him. Ha had obtained three new decks, and there were three more required. It was resolved to find the necessary material not exceeding £5. The Committee objected to Dillon's Point Road being included in their district, as the children from that locality did not attend the Grovetown school. The Beard did not consider the boundary worth altering

5th July 1892 GROVETOWN. Miss Prichard applied for increase of salary according to the Board's scale. Held over…….. The Board then went into Committee on finances. On resuming, the Committee reported in favor of increasing the salaries of Miss Matthews, of Havelock, and Miss Prichard, of Grovetown.
2nd August 1892 Mr N. T. Prichard, on behalf of the Grovetown Committee, together with several other members, interviewed the Board as to getting an extra half acre of land to give them room for putting the closets away from the school. They could get the land for £40, and if the Board would buy it and survey it, the Committee would fence The Chairman proposed that a committee be appointed and given power to close with- Mr Nolan, and have the land surveyed. Mr Paul favored. leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the local School Committee. They were on the spot and knew the piece of ground they wanted. It was resolved that it was desirable to purchase the half acre of ground, that the Committee choose the ground, and point it out to a surveyor.
It appears that the spelling of Grovetown is generally accepted by now as being one word.

1893

1893	86	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	190.00
1893	86	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	75.00
1893	86	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche	Female Probationer	£	16.00

12th January 1893 The following is the list of standard passes at the Grovetown State School Standard 7 Blanche Ladley, Eliza Thompson. Standard 6— Charles Robertson. Standard 5— Faith Gifford, Maud Thompson, Robert Cameron, Arthur Thompson. Standard 4 Catherine Beatson, Elizabeth Cameron, Celia Gill, Bertha Ladley, Annie Robertson, Mary Sadd, Amy Sutherland, Walter Bubb, Henry Cameron, Robert Craven, Herman Hillmer, Frederick Mills, Norman Ladley, Richard Webster. Standard 3— Emily Bubb, Sarah Ford, Eliza Gill, Jane McArtney, Kate McArtney, Amy Parker, Charles Aberhart, Albert Aberhart, John Elsmore, Leonard Gave, Leonard Sowman. Standard 2 Jane Adams, Kate Bubb, Amy Beamsley, Christina Cameron, Eliza Day, Lily Dillon, Annie Gilbert, Jessie Gilbert, Alice Mills, Mary Parker, Martha Parish, Kate Sadd, Ada Sutherland, Samuel Adams, Robert Cresswell, Arthur Hillmer, William Ransom, Samuel Ransom, Percy Rush, George Thompson. Standard I— Bertha Ab-r--hart, Minnie Adams, Amy Atwood, Annie Gale, Kate Gilbert, Nora Nolan, Frances Parish, Minnie Sadd, Olive Thompson, Conrad Beatson, George Bubb, Alan Craven, William Cresswell, Frank Eden, Frank Elsmore, Herbert Philpotts, George Sutherland, Herbert Webster, Bertie Worthylake, George Elsmore
6th June 1893 Mr Cheek wrote asking to be appointed singing master to the principal schools in the district, in and about Blenheim, on the tonic-sol-fa system. He quoted prices for the schools, and said that already he had several classes.
Mr Parker said he knew that one of his children who went to the Grove town school attended the class there, and they had to pay 1 shilling a quarter. Mr Redwood What does one of your children go to Grovetown Yes, one, and one of my brother's.
Mr Mills thought the plan would localise the benefits Mr Seymour that funds were hardly available and Mr Duncan moved, as he had something of a general character to bring on that might deal with it. Carried
4th July 1893 GROVETOWN . The Committee asked that the school be enlarged, as there were 129 children attending it. The Inspector said that a number of children were going to it from other districts. The building was large enough for its own district, but the schools were too close, and wherever parents had a piece of petty spite or spleen they shifted their children

to other schools. He cited several cases that had come under his own notice. Mr Parker did not know that this was altogether the case in this instance but at the Blenheim schools there were some very rough boys while at Grovetown the boys seemed of a better class, and the pupils seemed to get on better than in Blenheim. The teacher also seemed more genial and popular. The Inspector said he certainly took a great interest in the children, but that was no reason for the Board going to extra expense when there was accommodation at Blenheim and Spring Creek. Matter held over.

1st August 1893 An application for the enlargement of the Grovetown school was again deferred for a fuller meeting

31st October 1893 The following children passed their respective standards at Grovetown on October 18th and 19th. There were two failures and no exceptions. Sixth Standard Robert Cameron, William Ford, Arthur Thompson, Maud Thompson Fifth Elizabeth Cameron, Robert Craven, Norman Ladley, Frederick Mills, Horace Matthews, Amy J. Parker, Amy Sutherland, Richard Webster Fourth Albert Aberhart, Emily Bubb, Daisy Cresswell, Sarah Ford, Albert Gane , Leonard Gane, Eliza Gill, Jane McArtney. Kate McArtney, Amy A. Parker, Leonard Sowman; Third Jane Adams, Samuel Adams, Amy Bearn9ly, Kate Bubb, Christina Cameron, Robert Cresswell. Vincent Dodson, Annie Gilbert, Jessie Gilbert, Alice Mills, Martha Parrish, Mary Parker. Frederick Parker, Percy Rush, Arthur Strickland, Ada Sutherland, George Thompson Second Minnie Adams, Amy Atwood, Bertha Aberhart, Conrad Beatson, George Bubb, Allen Craven, William Cresswell, George Elsmore, Frank Eden, Florence Gane, Montgomery Gibson, Kate Gilbert, Nora Nolan, Frances Parrish, Herbert Philpotts, Clara Rush, George Sutherland, Minnie Sadd, Olive Thompson, Herbart Webster, Bertie Worthylake First Edward Aberhart, Annie Bubb, Effie Cresswell, Alfred Eden, Clifford Eden, May Fawcett, Frank Gale, Herbert Gill, William Gill, Celia Graham, Charles Kennedy, Ella Kennedy, William McArtney, John Nolan, Florence Payne, Grace Rush, Ronald Sowman, Septimus Thompson

21st December 1893 A very enjoyable breaking-up entertainment was given last night in the Grovetown schoolroom by the children, who, under the conductorship of Mr Cheek, had prepared a number of action songs, vocal and instrumental solos, etc. every item evidently being thoroughly appreciated by an audience which comfortably filled the larger schoolroom, while the smaller room was occupied by the children. Probably the most successful number was the action song "The Drummer Boy," by the children, who performed some very pretty evolutions with small flags a song with humming chorus, Which way does the Wind blow" also met with great appreciation, as did a brilliant pianoforte solo by Miss Ladley. The singing of God Save the Queen brought a very successful entertainment to a close.

1894

1894	101	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	Head Master	£	190.00
1894	101	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1894	101	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche	Female Probationer	£	16.00

10th January 1894 A discussion took place on the allotment of the building fund (£1000) for the ensuing year. An opinion was generally expressed that the work most required at present was as infant school at Blenheim, and it was finally resolved that the Inspector be instructed to prepare plans and specifications for a building which would accommodate 250 children. It was also pointed out that the Grovetown school required enlarging, and further instructions were given to obtain plane and specifications for that purpose. A suggestion was made to the effect that parts of the present infant school could be utilised for that purpose, and the Inspector will also consider that in his report.

5th February 1894 Harper.— At Wanganui, on January 29, Annie Sepping, the beloved wife of J. R. Harper, of Palmerston North, and daughter of the late George Mitchell formerly of Grovetown. Aged, 31 years.

13th February 1894 Plans and specifications of the new infant school *(Blenheim)* were enclosed from the architect. The total cost be estimated would be £800; the present building was worth about £40 to £60, and he thought that it would not be advisable to use the old building for an infant school at Grovetown. It was resolved to leave the matter till there was a fuller meeting of the Board.

7th March 1894 Two deputations at this stage waited on the Board. Messrs Prichard and Nolan, representing the Grovetown School Committee, asked that additional accommodation be provided for. the school. A. number of children from the surrounding districts attended the school besides the children resident in Grovetown. Mr Redwood reiterated the facts stated by Mr Prichard, and said that sometimes the children had to be taught outside. The Chairman stated that the meeting would take the matter into careful consideration.

30th April 1894 The householders at Grovetown last week elected their committee as follows Messrs N J. Prichard (Chairman), J. Nolan, A. Herd, W. Gill, G. Cheesman, F. Parish, and R. Craven.

24th May 1894 School Football.— A contest for the trophy presented by the Marlborough Football Club took place 'yesterday between the Borough School team and the Grovetown School boys the former winning by 33 points to nil. The winners meet the Catholic School team on Saturday next.

23rd November 1894 At the recent examination the following scholars passed in their respective standards:—

Standard VII.— Maud Thompson, Arthur Thompson.

Standard VI. Elizabeth Cameron, Norman Ladley, Horace Matthews, Stanley Osgood, Richard Webster.

Standard V. Daisy Creswell, Sarah Ford, Celia Gill, Eliza Gill, Kate McArtney , Amy Parker, Albert Gane, Leonard Gane, Leonard Bowman, Albert Aberhart .

Standard IV. Jane Adams, Kate Bubb, Amy Beamsley, Christina Cameron, Alias Mills, Martha Parrish, Mary Parker, Robert Cresswell, Vincent Dodson, James Lloyd, Fred Parker, Arthur Strickland, George Thompson.

Standard 111. Minnie Adams, Amy Atwood, Bertha Aberhart, Florence Gane, Kate Gilbert, Nora Nolan, Frances Parrish, Alice Rush, Clara Rush, Kate Sadd, Minnie Sadd, Olive Thompson, Conrad Beatson, George Bubb. Allen Craven, William Cresswell, George Elsmore, Montgomery Gibson, Herbert Philpotts, Herbert Webster, George Sutherland.

Standard ll.— Annie Bubb, Effie Cresswell, May Fawcett, Evelyn Freeth, Ella Kennedy, Florence Payne, Grace Bash, Edward Aberhart, Frank Elsmore, Alfred .Eden. Clifford Eden, William Gill, Herbert Gill, Charles Kennedy, Henry Le Bas, John Nolan, William McArtney, Ronald Sowman, Septimus Thompson.

Standard I. Violet Aberhart, Ethel Beamsley, Myrtle Cresswell, Lily Chessman, Jessie Chandler, Annie Eyles, May Henderson, Lily Rush, Cecil Adams, Herbert Day, Alfred Doel, Walter Eyles, Arthur Jones, Charles Le Bas, Alexander Lloyd, James McArtney, Thomas Payne, Walter Philpotts.

1895

1895	113	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	190.00
1895	113	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1895	113	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche E		Female Probationer	£	24.00

14th February 1895 PUPIL TEACHERS' EXAMINATION. The results of the pupil teacher's examinations show that out of 12 candidates two failed to pass. Inspector Smith was the examiner, and the subjects were reading spelling and dictation, writing, arithmetic, mental do., grammar and composition, geography, history, school method, elementary science, algebra, and needlework. The maximum number of marks obtainable was 1170 for admission to class 2…….. Rhoda Barnett, Blenheim, 822, Blanche Ladley, Grovetown, 801 Annie Harris, Blenheim, 655……

23rd April 1895 The following wore elected as the Grovetown School Committee for <he year-— Messrs W. Gill, A. Craven, G. T. Cheesman, John Nolan, Harry Payne, A. Hard, and N. T. Prichard. Mr Prichard was re-elected Chairman.

29th April 1895 Rounder Match. The girls Bounder Club of the Borough schools played a match at Grovetown on Saturday afternoon with the young ladies of the Grovetown school. The result was a decided win for the Blenheim girls, who are able players, by 37 rounders to 4. The Grovetown girls provided a nice tea for their visitors, who thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

14th May 1895 It was resolved that the Works Committee visit the ground of the Grovetown School, the drainage of which the architect reported required attention.

11th June 1895 GROVETOWN. The architect reported on the condition of the master's residence which had been pointed out by the Committee as considerably worm eaten. From £20 to £25 judiciously spent would put the house in good order. It was resolved to defer the matter till September, with the understanding that the school ground would be attended to at the same time

9th July 1895 GROVETOWN. The Committee wrote asking that a culvert be placed in front of the school. The matter was referred to the Architect.

22nd August 1895 A DEFECT IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

TO THB EDITOR. Sm, Kindly allow me space to point out a seeming defect in the schools now being erected under the control of our Education Board, viz., only one way of ingress and egress. Take the Grovetown school. Should a fire occur in the old portion of the school the children could only get out through the porch between the two rooms but should the porch be full of smoke, it would be a difficult matter to get the children through, and the windows of the new style could not be used to get out. I think a door should be provided for such a contingency. According to Act, our churches, etc., must have doors opening outwards, why not our schools I am, etc. C. W. August 19th, 1895.

23rd August 1895 A DEFECT IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

TO THE EDITOR. Sir, Grant me space to reply to your correspondent C. W. under the above heading in your issue of the 22nd inst. If %c will kindly wait on Mr Ladley, teacher, Grovetown school, that gentleman will no doubt show him, in the room with the windows of the new style," first a door opening into the porch, which he seems to know, and second another door opening out on the play ground direct, of which he seems to be ignorant. If there is any other little matter C.W. knows more about than this, he might endeavour to enlighten your readers. I am, etc. The Architect. Blenheim, August 23rd, 1895.

11th September 1895 GROVETOWN. The request from the Committee for the formation of the grounds was left in the hands of the Works Committee.

2nd October 1895 At the recent examination of the Grovetown school the following pupils succeeded in passing their respective standards

Standard I— Zillah Adams, Annie Williams, Dinah Beamsley, Hilda Bowman, Leah Birbeck, Mabel Inkersell, Violet Parker, Annie Jones, Winnifred Beatson, Percy Gane, Thomas Gill, Percy Day, James Allen, William Elsmore, Fred Jones, Ernest Cresswell. Standard ll.— Violet Aberhart Jessica Chandler, Myrtle Cresswell, Lily Ruth, Mabel Gane, Lily Cheesman, Annie Eyles, Ethel Beamsley, Arthur Coad, Thomas Payne, Walter Philpotts, Alfred Doel, James McArtney, Herbert Day, Arthur Jones, Cecil Adam", Alex Lloyd, Walter Eyles, Charles Le Bas. Standard III.— Evelyn Freeth, Grace Rush, Ella Kennedy, Florence Payne, May Fawcett, Frank Eden, Septimus Thompson, Bertie Rush, Ronald Sowman, William McArtney, Clifford Eden, Henry Le Bas, William Gill, Herbert' Gill, Edward Aberhart. Standard IV.— Minnie Adams, Nora Nolan, Amy Atwood, Olive Freeth, Ada Sutherland, Florence Gane, Bertha Aberhart, Ivy McArtney, Lily Dillon, Lila Allen, Constance Wells, George Sutherland, Conrad Beatson, Allan Craven, Percy Hush, Monty Gibson, Samuel Adams, George Elsmore, Herbert Webster, William Cresswell, Herbert Philpotts. Standard V.— Jane Adams, Amy Beamsley, Mary Parker, Minnie McArtney, Jessie Gilbert, Vincent Dodson, George Thompson, Robert Cresswell, Fred Parker, James Lloyd. Standard VI. Bertha Ladley, Celia Gill, Kate McArtney, Amy Parker, Robert Craven, Leonard Gane, Albert Gane.
Standard X. Norman Ladley.
5th October 1895 The Marlborough Education Board invite tenders for the formation of the Grovetown school ground
15th October 1895 TENDERS. The following tenders were received for gravelling and reforming the Grovetown school ground: Andrell senior, £15 (informal), W. Costello £80, E. Luke and Co. £42 9s. The lower of the two formal tender being somewhat expensive the matter was referred to the Works Committee with power to call for fresh tenders if it thinks necessary, and authority to carry out the work.
13th November 1895 GROVETOWN. Mr Carter reported that the Works Committee had reconsidered the tenders received at the last meeting for the improving of the play ground of the Grovetown School, and had arranged with Mr Andrell, the lowest tenderer, to do the work for £32. The work was now being carried out satisfactorily.
11th December 1895 GROVETOWN. The Committee wrote urging the repair of the school teacher's residence. The matter was referred to the Works Committee to do what is necessary, and attend to drainage mentioned in the architect's report

1896

1896	116	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	190.00
1896	116	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	85.00
1896	116	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche		Female Probationer	£	32.00

14th January 1896 The M.H.R.*(Member House Representatives)* medals presented by Mr T. L. Buick, M.H.R in connection with the school examinations, resulted for the year 1895 as follows: Highest scores obtained Boy N. Ladley, Grovetown, 404; C. Sealey, Picton, 360; Ernest Dodd, Blenheim, 353. Girls Millie Girling, Blenheim, 370 Beatrice Elbeck, Blenheim, 360 Flo Williams, Picton, 338 The two first, being winners of scholarship, are debarred. The medals, therefore, fall to C. Sealey and Beatrice Elbeck.
15th January 1896 The Works Committee and Architect reported as to operations in regard to the Grovetown school, Mr Watson, who had tendered £43 5s, had thrown up the contract in

connection with the school building and grounds. The other tenders were Brewer and Hay £50, R. Dixon, £55. The Board accepted Brewer and Hay's tender.

12th February 1896 THE MARLBOROUGH SCHOOLS

In his annual report to the Education Board, Inspector Smith summarises the results in the principal schools as follows :—

School.	Presented.	Present.	Passed.
Blenheim ..	434	246	225
Blenheim Girls..	186	169	159
Picton ..	198	123	112
Grovetown ..	141	102	88
Springlands ..	131	69	66
Renwick ..	102	62	53
Havelock ..	100	63	60
Canvastown ..	75	52	44
Okaramio ..	75	54	36
Tua Marina ..	70	55	45
Waitohi ..	65	47	42
Fairhall ..	52	35	26

29th April 1896 School Committees. The following have been elected as the Grovetown School Committee for the ensuing year, viz., Messrs N. T. Prichard W Gill. G T. Cheesman J. Fawcett, A. Craven, J. Nolan, H. Payne. Mr Prichard was elected Chairman

13th October 1896 GROVETOWN. The Committee wrote calling attention to the leaky windows. The matter was referred to the Architect

1897

1897	104	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	180.00
1897	104	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1897	104	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	40.00

9th February 1897 Seven applications were received by the Education Board to-day for the position of Truant Officer of the Blenheim Schools. After some discussion it was resolved to defer the appointment till next month, and write to the applicants in the meantime to ask them whether they would be willing that Springlands and Grovetown should be included in the area of operations.

10th February 1897 GROVETOWN. The matter of defective, drainage in connection with the pump was left in the bands of Mr Redwood with power to act.

12th May 1897 The matter of supplying fire screens to the Grovetown and Tua Marina schools was referred to Mr Redwood

15th December 1897 The engagement of Miss Ladley for a further term of pupil teachership at Grovetown was sanctioned.

Proposals for the execution of works and improvements at Fairhall, Grovetown, Okaramio, and Cullensville were deferred for financial reasons

1898

1898	101	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	180.00
1898	101	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1898	101	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	40.00

16th February 1898 Grovetown rated in middle 7 schools as done well by the inspector

27th April 1898 Thirteen householders attended the meeting at Grovetown, which was conducted in an orderly manner. Mr J. Fawcett was voted to the chair. The business opened with a statement of accounts and balance-sheet, which showed a credit balanced of £10 9s 6d. The following gentlemen were then nominated for election as members of the new Committee, viz. Messrs N. T. Prichard, G. Cheesman, J. Nolan, M. Ohlson, Wm. Gill, H. Payne, A. Craven, and J. Fawcett. A ballot was taken, and resulted as follows N. T. Prichard 18, J. Nolan 13, H. Payne 13, A. Craven 18, J. Fawcett 13, M. Ohlson 9, W. Gill 9, G. T. Chessman 8 the first seven being duly elected a Committee for the ensuing year. At a meeting of the newly elected Committee Mr N. T. Prichard was appointed Chairman

15th June 1898 It was resolved to supply fire guards to the Grovetown school, and coal to Blind River

2th July 1898 GROVETOWN. The sum of £6 was granted for the erection of a verandah at the Grovetown School and other requests from the Committee were held over.

13th July 1898 The Grovetown School Committee were granted a desk and £2 for firewood

20th December 1898 GROVETOWN. Applications were received from Miss Blanche Ladley and Miss Celia Gill for the position of pupil teacher at Grovetown school. Miss Ladley was appointed. Miss Gill, not being's, pupil, was ineligible

1899

1899	106	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	180.00
1899	106	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1899	106	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	16.00

25th April 1899 Of the schools in the district, as far as average attendance is concerned, the Springlands school now ranks third, coming next after Blenheim and Picton with an average attendance of 150 The Grovetown school is next on the list with an average of 135.

26th April 1899 GROVETOWN.

At the householders meeting held on the 24th inst, Mr J. Fawcett was voted to the chair. Messrs J. Fawcett, Nolan, Payne, Craven, Gill, Aber> hart, Kennedy, and Prichard were 1 nominated, and on a ballot being taken it was found that the following votes had been cast Nolan 10, Payne 10, Fawcett 9, Craven 9, Prichard 9, Kennedy 8, Gill 8, Aberhart 6. The chairman declared the seven highest duly elected. Mr N. T. Prichard was then appointed chairman of the new Committee.

1900

1900	102	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	180.00
1900	102	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1900	102	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	24.00

28th February 1900 At Grovetown this morning, as the train passed the school, children were paraded in front of the school vociferously cheering end waving flags.

7th March 1900 Blenheim School Committee The Secretary was instructed to write to the Grovetown Committee and ask for a list of the names of children attending the Grovetown school from the Blenheim district

13th March 1900 A request for a new water closet at Grovetown was referred to the Works Committee

27th March 1900 Mr N T Prichard attended the opening of the Marlborough High School

6th April 1900 The Grovetown Committee forwarded in accordance with a request, the names of children residing in the Borough and attending the Grovetown School. The number was 25 —-It was decided to hand the list to the Truant Officer.

25th April 1900 There was a very poor attendance at the householder 1 meeting at Grovetown, only five gentlemen being present. Mr Fawcett was voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the balance sheet for year ending 31st March, 1900, was read and adopted One nomination was received from the late Chairman, Mr N. T. Prichard, who was not present, and Messrs H. C. Cheesman, Wm. Gill, H. Payne, J. H. Aberhart, and J. Fawcett were also nominated. The Chairman declared them duly elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year. There being only six members nominated and elected, the Education Board will be requested to elect one more member, to make up the number required, sever. A meeting of the new Committee web then held. Mr N. T. Prichard was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year. The head teacher reported that the new books for the school library would be to hand in a few days, and it was resolved that the chairman call a meeting of the committee to arrange the details of the management of the library as soon as the books arrive

4th July 1900 The Springlands Committee, in reply to this Committee's request for a contribution to the Truant Officer's salary, asked for information as to the average attendances at the Borough and Grovetown Schools, with a view to a pro rata arrangement.-~The Secretary was instructed to supply the information. Blenheim School Committee

10th July Marlborough Education Board looking at school holidays included Grovetown considered the eight weeks sufficient, and wished to retain the option unconditionally of fixing the dates to suit local conditions.

21st August 1900 The Truant Officer waited om the Board with his report for last month, in which he stated that the master of the Grovetown School declined to attend the Court in truancy cases, unless summoned. It was resolved to inform the teacher that the Board expects him to support the Truant Officer as far as possible in the execution of his duties, and to appear at Court if required. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Truant Officer stating explicitly his duties. The Board expressed its wish that the Truant Officer; should not confine his attention solely to the list of absentees in the hands of the teachers, but should make it his business to see that all children of statute by age attend

29th September 1900 John Main was charged with failing to send his son John to the Grovetown school for the week ending September 21st. Defendant said the boy had been sent to school on four days, but must have played truant. A fine of 2s was imposed.

13th October 1900 THE GROVETOWN SCHOOL.

The following children were successful in passing their respective standards at the annual examination held on Wednesday last at Grovetown School

Standard VII— Jessie Chandler, Thomas Payne, George Sutherland, May Fawcett, Olive Thompson, Septimus Thompson.

Standard VI—Winnifred Beatson, Frank Ball, Ethel Beamsley, Annie Jones, Roy Lange, John Nolan.

Standard V.— Cecil Adams, Dora Beatson, Dinah Beamsley, Lilian Cheesman, Florence Cheesman, Belle Craven, Floris Hegglun, Kate Higgins, Norman Lange, Archie Lange, Florence Millard, Lily Parrish, Irene Parker, Alice Payne.
Standard IV. —Lily Aberhart, Geoffrey Beatson, Percy Chandler, Ella Congdon, John Fawcett, Fred Fryer, Dick Fryer, Lily Hegglun, Maud Jones, Gordon Lane, Roy McArtney, Percy Purches, William Rayner, Grace Satherley, May Webster.
Standard III. Kathleen Aberhart, Sylvia Cheesman, Flossie Cheesman, Albert Congdon, Edwin Elsmore, Esther Elsmore, Mary Ann

10th December 1900 The Grovetown Committee were authorised to carry out certain school
repairs at a cost not exceeding £21

1901

1901	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	180.00
1901	99	Grovetown	Prichard	Gladys	D2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1901	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	32.00

20th March 1901 Magistrate's Court this morning, before Mr R. D. Nosworthy, J.P., a parent was fined 4 shillings for failing to send his two children to the Grovetown School.
17th April 1901 12 schools ranked very good by Inspector Smith. Grovetown was one of the eleven schools ranked as good
20th April 1901 There are only three Head Teachers now in charge of the schools- they were teaching in 1890. These are the teachers of Grovetown, Picton, and Waitohi. The staff at Picton is the same employed in 1890 with an assistant and pupil teacher in addition……Large additions were made to the schools at Springlands, Grovetown, Waitohi, and Fairhall…….
23rd April 1901 The members of the old Committee- Messrs H. Payne, W. Gill, H. Cheesman, J. Fawcett, J. Kennedy, J. H. Aberhart, and N. T. Prichard—were re-elected last night without opposition. Mr Prichard was re-elected Chairman.
29th April 1901 The Teachers' Salaries Commission notes included This unfortunate division in the Borough Schools arose out of an altercation between the Head Master and the Assistant Mistress —Yes.
Mr N. T. Prichard, Chairman of the Grovetown .School Committee, approved of mixed schools. His Committee were thoroughly satisfied with their teachers. With the exception of one case (he mentioned an incident of several years ago), the teachers had given satisfaction during his thirty years' connection with the school. It took three years to get rid of that teacher; and he thought the Board should pay more attention to the committees' reports as to the defects of teachers than they did in that case. He complained that under present conditions marks were not given to assistant teachers.
14th May 1901 The Board decided that it could not entertain an application from the Grovetown Committee for a flagstaff. The Committee was authorised to repair desks at a cost not exceeding 30s, and some small requirements were granted.
13th August 1901 GROVETOWN. Improvements to the school wore ordered to be carried out, the work to be made the first charge on this year's building grant
14th October 1901 The Grovetown Committee applied for a subsidy for the library. It was resolved to reply that the for subsidy will be paid as soon as the Board is in funds.
The same Committee asked for a new room in the School. It was decided to reply that the grant would be made as soon as possible.

19th November 1901 The Grovetown School Committee was granted permission to expend the money that had been raised for the purpose of establishing a school library.

1902

1902	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	217.14
1902	99	Grovetown	Thompson	Kate		Assistant Female	£	100.00
1902	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E3	Female Probationer	£	50.00

13th January 1902 A request from Grovetown that iron be placed on the roof of the infant school was postponed till the building grant is in hand

30th January 1902 Blenheim School Committee report included……Answering the question put by Mr Rabbits, he produced official papers showing the examination results of various schools. At the Blenheim Girls' School there were 20 in the Sixth Standard and all but 4 passed Renwicktown had 8 and 8 passed, 5 with credit; Grovetown 9 and 9 passed Springlands 13 and 13 passed, 5 with credit Canvastown 11 and 11, and so on with Tua Marina and other schools……..

24th January 1902 Ironing.—Mr J. Coxon, the ironing expert, gave a demonstration lesson in shirt and collar ironing to the elder girls of the Grovetown School on Saturday morning in Jellyman's Hall. The lesson was very successful. In other districts Mr Coxon has been recognised by the educational authorities, and has taught most of the schools in Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. All the ladies who have taken lessons during Mr Coxon's course here have been pleased with the result, as they have gained a practical knowledge of the details of starching and ironing shirts in a first-class manner……..

10th March 1902 GROVETOWN. Messrs Prichard and Fawcett interviewed the Board with regard to the dilapidated state of the Grovetown School. The middle part required rebuilding. The infants' portion of the school was leaking and the roof required attention. The Chairman said that at the outset he would inform the deputation that the Board could not undertake the work of re-building at present. There were no funds. The work was, however, on the list," and would be done as soon as means would allow. The Board made a promise to this effect, and resolved that the infants' part of the school be roofed with iron at once

The resignation of Miss Prichard, assistant teacher at Grovetown, was forwarded by the Committee with an expression of regret. The resignation was accepted, and it was resolved to advertise for a successor

1902/91	Gladis	Pritchard	Leonard Newcome	Fairhall

13th March 1902 Applications for the position of mistress at the Grovetown School are invited by the Education Board

15th April 1902 The Grovetown Committee recommended that Miss Kate E. Thompson, of Picton, he appointed teacher at its school vice Miss Prichard, resigned. The recommendation was adopted

The urgent requirements for the present year were set down as follows Enlargement of Springlands I School, say, £150 rebuilding of Grovetown School, £300

26th April 1902 Presentation. —Miss G. Prichard, Infant Mistress of the Grovetown School, who has lately resigned her post after a long term of years, was the recipient of a number of valuable presents. Mr H. Ladley presented her with a handsome marble clock on behalf of the school children, and Mr J. Fawcett presented a massive silver cruet, bread fork and silver cake dish on behalf of the elder scholars and parents, as a small token of their gratitude for

the very valuable services they have received at her hands. Miss Prichard thanked all present in very feeling terms, after which cheers were given for her from the lusty lungs of about 150 children who had passed through her hands. About 200 children and friends sat down to a sumptuous tea in Mr Cheeseman's Hall, and in the evening a social was held, when all thoroughly enjoyed themselves

28th April 1902 After practice on Saturday evening at Holy Trinity (Anglican) Church a presentation of a handsomely bound copy of hymns, ancient and modern, was made to Miss Hay and Miss Thompson, both of whom are severing their connection with the choir—Miss Hay to proceed to South Africa, and Miss Thompson to take up her work in the Grovetown School. The vicar made the presentation, and hoped to see both young ladies take their seats in the choir on some future occasion. The vicar's kindly remarks were endorsed by the choir-master, Mr CO. Howard, who said that seats in the choir would always be kept open for both ladies

1893	128	Picton	Thompson	Kate	
1894	139	Picton	Thompson	Kate	
1895	164	Picton	Thompson	Katie	
1896	150	Picton	Thompson	Katie	E3
1897	159	Picton	Thompson	Katie	E3
1898	152	Picton	Thompson	Katie Eliza	E3
1899	139	Picton	Thompson	Katie Eliza	E2
1900	138	Picton	Thompson	Katie Eliza	E2
1901	149	Picton	Thompson	Katie Eliza	E2
1902	99	Grovetown	Thompson	Kate	

13th May 1902 The Truant Officer reported good attendances at Blenheim, Springlands, and Grovetown.

15th August 1902 Fairhall Prichard. On August 13th, at the Church of the Nativity, Blenheim, by the Yen. Archdeacon Grace: Leonard Newcome Fair hall, of Eltham, Taranaki, elder son of Mr G. Fairhall, Mt. Heslington, Brightwater, Nelson, to Gladys, only daughter of Mr N. T. Prichard, Grovetown, Marlborough

8th September 1902 GROVETOWN.

The Committee applied for the usual for subsidy in connection with the school library. The value of the new books obtained was £11 15s 6d, which money was raised in the district.—The request was granted, the allowance representing half the above sum.

2nd December 1902 SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The results of the annual examination of Grovetown School are as follows On roll 122, presented in standards 94, absent 1, passed 92.

Standard VII.-Alice Payne, Lily Parrish, Dinah Beamsley.

Standard VI—Ella Congdon, James Dames, John Fawcett, Fred Fryer, Gordon Lane Roy. McArtney, .George Sim, May Webster.

Standard V.-Kathleen Aberhart, Geoffrey Beatson, Roy Bridger, John Cheesman, Sylvia Cheesman, Albert Congdon, Mary Ann -Elsmore, Dick Fryer, Maud Jones, Pearl Millard. Amy Payne, George Purches, D'Arcy Thompson.

Standard IV. - Rebecca, Birbeck , Flossie Cheesman, Ethel Day, Esther Elsmore, Thomas Fawcett, Roy Gill, Maggie Higgins, William Higgins, John Main, Olive Kennedy, Olive McArtney, Joseph Mills, Ross Riley, Carl Riley, John Sim, Roy Thompson.

Standard 111. Miriam Aberhart, Ethel Andrell, Lewis Beatson, John Birbeck, -Carrie Cheesman, Myrtle Cheesman, Charles Cotterell ; 'Flora Congdon, Elizabeth Elsmore, Hilda

Elsmore, Ida Elsmore, David Fryer, Edith Jones, Minnie Martin, Frederick Martin, Maggie Payne, Bertram Sim, Mildred Rogers, Harry Tunnicliffe, George Thomas.
Standard 11. Frances Aldridge, Lily Adair, Claud Bridger, Minnie Cheesman, Lavinia Cotterell, Leslie Craven, Fred Doel , Frank Higgins, Ethel Jones, Ivan Mills, Frances Milliard, Mary Nolan, Elizabeth Ohlson, John Thomas, Stella Thompson, Beatrice Weblin.
Standard I.—George Adams, Lewis Cheesman, Ivy Cheesman, Ada Doel, John Clunies Rose, Mabel Elsmore, Harry Fawcett, Eric March, Lillie Mills, Ralph McArtney, Florence Rogers, Jane Thomas, Annie Page,, Leonard Rogers, Charles Tetley, William Thomas.
18th December 1902 Applications for the position of a mistress for the Grovetown School are advertised in this issue

1911/842 Kate Eliza Thompson Louis Frear Littleproud

Kate E Thompson was teaching at Richmond Boys' School in the Nelson Education Bard in 1903

1903

1903	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	217.14
1903	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Mistress	£	100.00
1903	95	Grovetown	Payne	Alice		FPT1	£	20.00

12th January 1903 The architect reported on the school building improvements required at Grovetown. The report was laid on the table.
10th February 1903 In reply to Mr Fell, the Chairman said that the need of renewing the building of the Grovetown school was being kept in view, the case being attendant on the question of the cost of additions to the Springlands school.
21st April 1903 GROVETOWN. Miss Alice Payne wa3 appointed pupil teacher at Grovetown, as from 1st of January. The Grovetown Committee asked what the Board proposed to do in respect to the re-construction of the school, which work it had promised to carry out after the work at Springlands. It was resolved that the architect prepare plans, but that the matter be held over pending the settlement of the question between Dr Frengley (Health Officer) and the architect in regard to the additions to the Springlands school.
28th April 1903 At the householders' meeting at Grovetown, Mr Fawcett was elected to the chair. The balance sheet for the year ended 31st March was read and adopted. Messrs Prichard, Fawcett, Cheesman, H. O. Payne, Gill, Thomas and Kennedy were duly nominated and re-elected a committee for the ensuing year.
Mr N. T. Prichard was nominated as chairman of the new committee, but he declined the honor although hard pressed. Having served the district as chairman of School Committee for 32 years he thought he was entitled to a well-earned rest.
All the members expressed their approval of the way Mr Prichard had conducted the business of the numerous committees he had presided over.
Mr H. 0. Cheesman was subsequently elected chairman, and a meeting of the new Committee was held, at which the balance sheet of the Librarian (Mr Ladley) was read and adopted, the Chairman elected secretary and treasurer, and Messrs Gill and Fawcett as delegates to the School Committees' Association.
5th May 1903 Teacher's court of appeal. A long article on whether the Headmaster of Blenheim school should continue included H. Ladley , headmaster of the Grovetown School, said he had held that position for eighteen years. His school was something less than two miles from the Borough School. Children had always been in the habit of leaving one school and going to the other. They did it also in Mr Lucas's time. Some of the borough children

started at his school, and some left the Borough School. There were a variety of reasons for the changing. Some came after complaints against their teachers, others because their parents wished to send them out of town, and others owing to prosecutions under the School Attendance Act. The number of borough children at Grovetown School was now fewer than at times before, although the number now was greater than in Mr Lucas's time;
To Mr Ferguson—He could not say how many borough children came to him in Mr Lucas's time. He once had 36 he now had 26, boys and girls inclusive. Eight or nine of these were boys who had. once been to the Borough Schools- Some of the 28 had been at his school since they were infants. Of borough children he had one boy in Standard VII. 2 in Standard V., 2 in Standard IV., 2 in Standard 111., 1 in Standard IL, and 3in Standard I. None of them had been in those Standards in the Borough Schools.
lii 10 examination, Mr Ladley condemned the system under which the teachers were compelled to prosecute iv truancy cases Teachers did not have to prosecute now.
14th JULY 1903 The balance in hand was £667, and, said Mr Fell, the main requirements were the. works at Springlands and Grovetown, estimated to cost £255 and £250 respectively, and the rebuilding of the teacher's residence at Tua Marina, which would. absorb another £200. The Chairman suggested that the Board should draw up a scheme of works on the assumption that the building grant (making up the funds to £1600) for 1903
10th August 1903 It was resolved that the architect be instructed to confer with the Works Committee as to the school accommodation required at Grovetown.; and that tenders be called for the new building after the approval of plans by the Works Committee
11th August 1903 Finally, it was resolved on the motion of Mr McCallum to call for applications for the appointment of two workmen (an overseer and assistant) to paint and generally repair the Grovetown, Marshlands, Okaramio, and Onamalutu schools, the Board to find the material and the Works Committee to carry out the scheme, which is to be in the nature of an experiment.
15th September 1903 The following tenders were received for reconstruction of the Grovetown School:—Nicholl Bros. £334 18s, Jas. McKinley £267 *(Worth $45532.53 9n December 2015 terms)*, Robt. Brewer £369, Wemyss Bros. £300, J. Fawcett £300. Mr McKinley's tender was accepted. THE WORKS EXPERIMENT. The Secretary, was instructed to take out an insurance policy on the two men employed in repairing and painting the Board's schools. Mr Chaytor made a report on the progress of this work, which is in the nature of an experiment. The work was being carried out on satisfactory lines. A comparative statement of the cost regarding the use of water paint would be presented later on.
16th November 1903 The architect reported that Messrs May and McKinley had completed their contract for the addition to the Springlands School. The timber for the Grovetown School was stacked on the ground.

1904

1904	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	216.10
1904	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Mistress	£	100.00
1904	95	Grovetown	Payne	Alice		FPT2	£	30.00

5th January 1904 Amy Payne from Grovetown sat for the National Scholarship examinations
11th January 1904 Scholarship. Amy Payne, who won the first town scholarship, comes from Grovetown School, not Blenheim Girls' as previously stated *She scored 494. Two others came above her both were from country schools*

15th March 1904 It was resolved that the Grovetown Committee be asked to furnish an estimate of the cost of renovating the Headmaster's room; and provision was made for a supply of desks.
11th April 1904 The Grovetown Committee were authorised to expend £5 in stopping draughts in the school.
4th May 1904 School Committee.—The Grovetown School Committee have achieved the distinction of being the first in this district to elect a lady member of the Committee. At the householders' meeting those elected to serve on the Committee were:—Mrs H. Cheesman, and Messrs T. Payne, J. Fawcett, J. Kennedy, N. T. Prichard, H. Cheesman, and J. Thomas.
13th June 1904 An additional £5 was granted to complete the building improvements at Grovetown.
12th September The death is recorded of Mr Walter Ladley, for many years Inspector of Schools for Nelson brother of Mr H. Ladley, State School, Grovetown.
14th November 1904 Inspector's Report the plasticene work at Grovetown was the best he had seen here yet

1905

1905	91	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	216.10
1905	91	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Mistress	£	100.00
1905	91	Grovetown	Payne	Alice		FPT3	£	40.00

9th January 1909 The Department notified the payment for technical education of £3 18a 6d for the Grovetown School and 11s 3d for the Marshlands School
28th February 1909 Inspector Strachan's First report included **Grovetown** excelled in plasticine and According to the last report of the officer commanding the Cadets, Marlborough had four corps with a total of 201 of all ranks. Detachments have been formed at Tua Marina and Grovetown
11th April 1905 Subsidies for libraries were granted on £4 15 shillings subscribed at Grovetown
13th June 1905 The following grants were made—A 9s for plasticine tools at Grovetown
14th June 1905 We have received the following letter from Mr H. Ladley, headmaster of the Grovetown school:—"I must crave space in your valuable paper to correct a mistake rent in your account of successful Marl borough students.' In speaking of the success of Professor Rutherford, it was stated:— Professor Rutherford passed through the primary school at Havelock. This is not correct, as Ernest Rutherford passed through all his standards but the sixth at my school at Foxhill, Nelson. He was already looking forward to winning a scholarship in Nelson, when his people removed to Havelock. His elder brother, who had already won, from.my school, one of the very scarce country scholarships of those early days, was continuing his University course at Home while Ernest was studying for his scholarship examination; this being, of course, a great incentive to the latter. I have seen this mis-statement in print so many times that I feel justified in asking you to kindly publish this correction." We are pleased to publish the information supplied by Mr Ladley, and compliment him on the success of his old pupil.
1st July 1905 A case in which Claude Ball sued E. Priddle for £2 was defended. Mr Baillie was for plaintiff; Mr Mills for defendant. The question was as to whether plaintiff was entitled to commission on the sale of a horse bought by Mr Ladley, of Grovetown, for £13. The case was adjourned to enable Mr Ladley to give evidence.

18th July 1905 We regret to hear that Mr Ladley, the respected Headmaster of the Grovetown school, has had a second paralytic seizure, which necessitated the temporary closing of the school last week.
23rd October 1905 The Grovetown School was inadvertently omitted from our list of schools in the Marlborough district which had taken up gardening. Creditable work is being done at Grovetown. This addition makes the total number a round dozen.
14th November 1905 The following companies •were present: Blenheim No, 1 and No. 2 Companies, 52, Captain Nicoll; Springlands, 34, Captain H. Howard; Picton 40, Captain Howard and Lieut. Swanwick; Grovetown and Tua Marina, 48, Captain Ladley. The Cadets were conveyed to Tua Marina by train, and upon arrival there were assembled and marched to the parade ground under charge of Adjutant Robinson. The march past was practised, and the battalion was put through the manual exercise by Captain Nicoll. Major Sturrock then exercised the battalion in the following field movements:—Marching in line, column, quarter column, and echelon, formation of line from column and quarter column, column from line, and various other battalion movements.
15th December 1905 It is understood the Grovetown and Tua Marina cadets are to meet shortly on the Tua Marina rifle range to indulge_ in practice with ball cartridge. In this connection it may be mentioned that the targets belonging to the local boys, stored in the Vernon old shed, have recently been ruthlessly destroyed by some senseless vandal.
21st December 1905 It is understood that Mr H. C. N. Ladley, son of Mr H. Ladley, headmaster of the Grovetown School, who is at present Clerk of the Court for the Marton and Bulls districts, recently succeeded in passing in the whole of the subjects for the solicitor s examination.

1906

1906	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	225.00
1906	95	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1906	95	Grovetown	Payne	Alice		FPT4	£	55.00

7th March 1906 John Couzens was also fined 2s on three information's, his children having been absent from the Grovetown school more than the number of times allowed by statute.
13th March 1906 In a long piece on the amalgamation of Blenheim Schools the following reference was included: Mr Parker remarked that the number of boys might be brought up to the required standard if all those living in the Borough but at present attending the Grovetown and Springlands schools could be got to attend the Blenheim School.
The Chairman said the whole thing was antagonistic to the wishes and feelings of the Board; but amalgamation was apparently forced upon them. Mr White pointed out that the householders were very much opposed to amalgamation. On the motion of Mr Chaytor, it was resolved to defer the matter to a special meeting to be held on Monday next.
21st March 1906 The inspector included Grovetown in his Good schools, the highest ranked. 10/66 were so ranked
Teachers' Instruction Classes in Drawing—Miss Brown continued with success the Saturday class in brush drawing that had been instituted in 1904. Miss Ellerbook was afterwards specially .retained and taught Saturday classes, in brush, blackboard, nature-study, and model drawing. She was also employed in showing the teachers pf Springlands, Blenheim Boys' and Girls', Grovetown, Spring Creek, Tua Marina; and Waitohi in their own schools how to practically adapt the subjects to the children. Grovetown commended for its model and pencil work and Plasticene work
Weather-charts are in use in a number of the schools and connected with them were flower-calendars, notes on the phases of the moon, etc. The best attempts in this direction were

observed at Grovetown and Waitaria, Mr Strong, of Wanganui, in his lectures at the winter school, gave many valuable suggestions for this part of the work."
24th April 1906 School Committee: he following Committee were elected:—Messrs G. Cheesman (Chairman), Cuthbertson, W.. Gill, Webster, .and Payne.
21st May 1906 he collection of oil paintings, pastels, and water-colours which have been on view at Messrs Griffiths and Son's auction rooms, and have attracted much interest and admiration during the past fortnight, were offered to a large gathering of the public on Saturday afternoon. The bidding was fairly brisk, and the whole of the paintings, etc., mostly from the brush of Mr T. Douglas Perrett, .whose studio is in Auckland, were-disposed of under the hammer of Mr L. Griffiths
Purchasers included H. Ladley, Grovetown Drop Scene; Wanganui River," £5 10s 3d. *($884.65 in 2015 terms)*
21st June Memorial service for Richard Seddon included Grovetown company of School Cadets, 50, Adjutant Robinson and Capt. Ladley. Colonel Chaytor was in command of battalion, and disposed his companies near the rotunda.
22nd August 1906 In the Truancy Court this morning Win. Congdon was fined 2s and costs for failing to send Elizabeth Goff, of whom lie is guardian, to the Grovetown school

1907

1907	94	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	225.00
1907	94	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1907	94	Grovetown	O'Sullivan	Elvira		FPT3	£	55.00

15th January 1907 Mr Penny moved that applications be invited for an assistant teacher at Springlands in place of the two pupil teachers there, and that these pupil teachers be transferred to Grovetown and Blenheim, the Committees of these Schools to be consulted.
SUGGESTED AMALGAMATION. The Board recently asked the Department for a grant of £230 for an addition to the Marlboroughtown School. The Department wrote suggesting that, as the Marlboroughtown and Tua Marina Schools were of about the same age, these two schools might be amalgamated with advantage. The question of distances was discussed. It was decided to send the circular to the Spring Creek, Marlboroughtown,. Tua Marina, and Grovetown School Committees, with a request for opinions
29th January 1907 Following are the Marlborough figures in connection with the Junior National Scholarship examination, which is used as the test for awarding all the following scholarships results
Included R H Dodson Grovetown with 415 marks Ranked 10th out of 21 entrants
13th March 1907 At 35 schools all the pupils attended for examination, 'the largest being Grovetown with 114 pupils. Inspector's report
14th March 1907 Further inspector's report included: ELEMENTARY AGRICULTURE. In 1904 there were six school gardens. In 1905 the number had increased to. 17, and now there are 24, including three at private schools-. The teachers have taken a keen interest in this late departure, and, as Mr Bruce, our specialist in agriculture, says, they realise that it affords much help in dealing with other work. Through the study and cultivation of plants the children acquire habits of observation and orderliness, the casual idea, the idea of planning work to ends, the idea of the inevitableness of natural results, which also tends to effect conduct in the school-room. Objects are taken from the garden to be used as studies in drawing; topics for essay writing also abound. Diseases of plants are studied, and indirect lessons on human health taught. The school, garden is a laboratory where ;many experiments are made. Waitohi, Tua Marina, Grovetown, and Springlands appear to have made most of their garden from this point of view. In short, the teachers find that agriculture is not only a

technical science, but that it can be made a valuable means of education. The teaching in general also appears gradually to become more scientific.
10th April 1907 Grovetown.— Miss Fraser was appointed pupil teacher. Canvastown.—A request for repairs and painting was received, and the school placed on the Board's workman's list.
14th May 1907 The Chairman of the Grovetown Committee wrote stating that the Committee was one .member short, and recommending the appointment of Mr R- Oakley to fill the vacancy. —Approved
23rd May 1907 The diphtheria cases are the first that have occurred in the district surrounding Blenheim for several years. It's hinted that s. some slight cases in the. Grovetown district have gone unreported, thereby allowing contact with school children, and leading to the infection resulting in the present cases.
6th June 1907 The Grovetown school, which has been closed for a fortnight, owing to the epidemic amongst some of the children, will probably, at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector, remain closed for another week. Mr Johnston states that there is some doubt whether the throat affection the Grovetown children taken to, the Hospital suffered from was really diphtheria. He states that there is a great deal of the bad throat affection about the district just now. The patients at the Hospital are nearly all convalescent. The Hospital staff, owing to the extra strain of keeping the Fever Ward open, and to the fact that they are at present short-handed, have been working overtime of late.
9th July 1907 The Sanitary Inspector (Mr Johnston) reported at last night's meeting of the Borough Council that three more cases of diphtheria had occurred in the Grovetown district. The patients had been removed to the Hospital, and were progressing satisfactorily. The premises in which the cases had occurred had been thoroughly fumigated.; He also reported one case of enteric fever in the Spring Creek district, the patient also having been removed to the Hospital. Last month nine cases of diphtheria were reported in the Grovetown and Lower Wairau district, and one in the Borough of Blenheim, all of them being of a mild nature.
17th July 1907 Grovetown £4 9s was earned as capitation for modelling and brushwork

21st August 1907 THE DEATH OF MR PRICHARD

Mr Nathaniel Thomas Prichard, whose death was announced yesterday, was born at Merthyr Tydyil in 1846. He left Merthyr in 1856 for Melbourne, and spent two years on the Ballarat, gold diggings. Coming to New Zealand in 1858, he arrived in Blenheim on 1st November, 1859—the day that the separation of the provinces was granted. In 1862 he purchased the property at- Grovetown (then known as the Big Bush where he resided continuously till his death. Deceased took a keen interest in all local affairs, having been a member of the local Road and River Boards, Licensing Bench, and other bodies, and for over thirty years Chairman of the Grovetown School Committee. The late Mr Prichard was a Justice of the Peace; also a prominent Freemason, having been one of the first initiated in Lodge Wairau, of which he afterwards became Worshipful Master, and was delegate from the lodge to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand on several occasions. He was for 45 years a: member of the Loyal Marlborough Lodge of Oddfellows, M.U., and was P.P.G.M. He had been ill for about four years, and was in his,7lst year at the time of his death. He leaves a widow, also a son (Mr T. C. Prichard, of Spring Creek) t and a daughter (Mrs L. N. Fairhall, of Eltham) to mourn their loss.
5th October 1907. The Inspector described Grovetown School as progressing to good
7th December 1907 Grovetown. —Cheesman 57, Tetley 5, Fryer 55, Ross 55, Mears 53.
19th December 1907 Mr H. C. N. Ladley, who is in practice as a solicitor in Marton, is at present on a visit to his parents at Grovetown.

1908

1908	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Harry	D1	Head Master	£	225.00
1908	99	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1908	99	Grovetown	Brewer	Daisy		FPT3	£	55.00

14th March 1908 On Wednesday, as usual, the weekly excursion was well patronised. Among the excursionists were the children from the Grovetown and Renwick schools. They had a pleasant day, but met with, the southerly gale which sprang up about four o'clock. As the Rob, Roy was returning to the wharf she narrowly escaped what might have been a serious accident. By some means the order to go astern, as she neared the small jetty, was miscarried, and Captain Perano, by smart -seamanship, veered her off past the two small wharves and managed to stop her just as she touched the railway embankment. This points to the tact that better communication with the engine room is needed than the old-fashioned speaking tube, especial- in boats carrying passengers

13th April 1908 …….A native pupil of the Grovetown school has shown a great gift in the drawing of all manner of creeping things The water-colour paintings and designs are also a strong' feature,……..

15th April 1908 The name of. the Maori lad whose splendid drawing of natural objects, exhibited at the Technical **School,** was commented on yesterday, is Tenirau Phillips and he is a pupil of the Marlboroughtown school—not the Grovetown school.

28th April 1908 School Committee W Gill (chairman and Secretary =), J R Thomas, R Oakley, R A Lammas, L Webster, Chas. Tapp, H Cuthbertson

W Gill was ,elected chairman of the householders' meeting.

20th August 1908 Yesterday afternoon a team from the girls' department of the Blenheim Borough School went ,out to Grovetown and engaged in a rounders match with the school girls there. The game ended in a draw, both sides scoring seven rounders

29th August 1908 Return rounder match, between the Blenheim girls' school and. Grovetown was played in Blenheim yesterday afternoon, the local team winning by the substantial margin of 24 rounders to two.

3rd November 1908 At_ the Magistrate's Court this morning a first offender, for drunkenness, was convicted and discharged. Fritz Peter Christopherson. was charged with, on the 2nd November, breaking and entering the house of Harry Ladley at Grovetown, and stealing six one-pound notes, two sovereigns, one -half-sovereign, 9s in silver, one lady's gold Geneva watch, one gold watch chain and locket, one gold brooch, one silver brooch and pencil, one silk handkerchief, one serviette, and seven foreign coins, to the total value of £40.The case was remanded till to-morrow

12th November 1908 The following have been placed in the list of good schools as the result of Mr Strachan's inspection visit recently concluded: Marlboroughtown,'- Riverlands, Waitaria Bay, Tira Ora, Taranui, the Convent (boys), Fairhall. Kaituna, Tua Marina, Ward, Grovetown, Marshlands, Waitohi. The Inspector mentioned as an example of the upward, trend of the efficiency of the schools in the Marlborough Education Board's district, that this year forty-seven schools were classified from satisfactory upwards, as against forty-three last year.

14th November 1908 ACTION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT.

INQUIRY NEEDED

The Danish Government, and one of its subjects who came to New Zealand as an immigrant, were discussed at the Supreme Court on Wednesday, (says The Post) when Mr Justice Cooper was passing sentence on Fritz Peter Christopherson, 27 'years oi age, on a charge of house-breaking and theft from a dwelling at Grovetown,/near Blenheim.. On being asked if "he had anything to say,, Christopherson said he did not break into the house; he lifted the

window arid went in. His Honour explained to him that that was breaking and entering according to law, and asked: "But you stole the goods?" Prisoner admitted that he did. His Honour said that the probation' officer's, report showed that prisoner had Hot been in the Dominion very long—some three years —and that he had not been convicted here. But the officer said that prisoner had served in Copenhagen, where he came from. He had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and released at the expiration of nine months, on condition that he came to the Dominion as a suitable immigrant.
Addressing prisoner, his Honour asked: Were you sent out by the Danish Government as a suitable immigrant?
Prisoner replied Yes. His Honour:
The Danish Government thought that the best way. to get rid of you out of their prison was to send you to New Zealand Prisoner:
Yes.
His Honour: Unfortunately, we will have to keep you in our prison for some time! You were sent out as a suitable immigrant?
Prisoner: Yes. When I came out of gaol they asked me where I would like to go, and I said - New Zealand.
His Honour: A very suitable immigrant, indeed. What were you sent. to gaol for?
Prisoner I was fallen in. bad company-
His Honour:' What offence. Prisoner: Stealing.
His Honour:- I think that a matter of this kind should be looked in- to. Addressing prisoner, his Honour reminded him that he had robbed the schoolmaster at Grovetown of about £40 worth of money and valuables A sentence of three years imprisonment would be. passed on him, and an order made for the restitution of the property. "I scarcely imagine that the Danish Government would recommend a man from their gaols as a suitable immigrant,' added his Honour.
Mr Myers, who appeared for the Crown, said: I do not know whether your Honour heard what he said. He said when he came out of gaol be was asked where he would like to go, and he said New Zealand. His Honour:
The probation officer said he was selected as a suitable immigrant to come-to New Zealand before he completes his sentence
10th December 1908 Yesterday the Blenheim, Springlands, Grovetown and Tua Marina school cadets met at Tua Marina for a battalion parade. The boys were taken out by the morning train, and assembled in Campbell's paddock. Major Sturrock was in command, and the following officers were also present: Captains Howard (Springlands), Gifford (Blenheim), Ladley and Fisher (Tua Marina). Lieut. Wanden had charge of the recruit squad. There were altogether 169 boys on parade. Two parades were held—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The battalion was exercised in various movements, including the march-past and the evolutions incidental thereto; physical drill, manual and firing exercises/echelon, etc. In all of these the cadets «c--quitted themselves very creditably, and Major Sturrock was very well satisfied with the efficiency of the battalion. The buglers sounded the salute as the companies presented arms at the saluting-base, and also played a bugle-march as the battalion proceeded from the parade-ground to the station. The boys returned by the afternoon train.

1909

1909	96	Grovetown	Thompson	A H W	D2	Head Master	£	210.00
1909	96	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	E2	Assistant Female	£	110.00
1909	96	Grovetown	Payne	Amy S		Female Probationer 2	£	55.00

1909 96 Grovetown Campbell F C S FPT3 £ 45.00
27th January 1909 In spite of the new staffing regulations under the amended Education Act, pupil-teachers will still have to be appointed to Tua Marina and Grovetown schools, as the regulations will not come into force for some time yet.
9th February 1909 Four applicants, all qualified, applied for the Board's four probationerships. They were as follows: Miss A. Payne (Grovetown, Master G. Reader (Havelock), Miss M. McCallum (Blenheim) and Miss Lilian Gallop (Blenheim)! All four were appointed to serve in the various schools indicated.
9th March 1909 Grovetown. —The applications for the position of teacher at the Grovetown school were, it was decided, to be forwarded to the Committee for its recommendation
11th March 1909 Yesterday, at Grovetown school, the "good attendance certificates" for 1908 were presented as follows: First class certificates awarded to Hazel Craven, Christina Ohlson, Edith Congdon, Martha Andrell, Cecilia Corder, Stanley Andrell, Clarence Webster and Keith Lammas, each of whom had attended every day on which the school was open. Second-class certificates awarded to Ruby Andrell, Alice Corder, Hazel Oakley, Norman Cuthbertson, Elizabeth Clunies-Ross, and Charles Andrell, who had missed respectively from one to four half days. Several of the certificate winners have made a two years' full attendance; but Hazel Craven, who is only just ten years of age, has not missed one attendance for the last three years, and has so far in the present year still kept up her record.
29th April 1909. Horticultural Show: VEGETABLES AND ROOTS. Carrots: Grovetown School 1 and 2. Parsnips-: Grove town School 1 and 2. Onions: Grovetown School 1 and 2. Tomatoes: Grovetown School 2. White Potatoes (round): Grovetown School -1. Any other variety, round: Grovetown School 1. Vegetable Marrow: Grovetown School 1 and.2. Pumpkin: Grovetown School 1 and 2 Best Collection of Vegetables: Grovetown School 1 and 2.
11th May 1909 The Chairman of the Grovetown School Committee wrote recommending Mr E. Mortimore, for the position of pupil teacher at Grovetown School. —Approved
14th May 1909 The Secretary of the Education Board, Mr E. S. Hylton, informed a representative of The Express this morning that sufficient money had been subscribed to enable the proposed shooting competition among school cadets to take place on Empire Day, and that first and second medals would be provided for each ward. It. is proposed to donate gold medals as first prizes and gold and silver medals for second prizes. The following schools will compete:—East Ward, Picton and Tua Marina.; Central Ward, Blenheim, Springlands and Grovetown; Western Ward, Havelock, Canvastown and Okaramio.
25th May 1909 The Grovetown, Blenheim and Springlands cadets fired at- Vernon the highest scores being' as follows:
*K. Pattie (Springlands) 62
*W. Thomas (Grovetown) 60
N.. Holdaway (Blenheim) 59 *-Medals
15th June 1909 The matter of looking into the state of the teacher's residence at Grovetown was referred to the Chairman and Messrs White and Penny for a report
13th July 1909 A TEACHER'S RESIDENCE. The special committee set up by the Board to report on the conditions of the teacher's residence at Grovetown, reported that the residence was insanitary and unfit to live in, and recommended that he be asked to find a suitable residence, and that the Board allow him house allowance, The old house should be removed and a new one erected on the same site, It would not be necessary to erect a new house immediately, as the Board's funds could not stand the strain this year of £350, the probable cost, but that half the amount, might be charged to this year's funds and the remainder to the following year's funds. The Chairman moved, and Mr Macey seconded, that the report be adopted, and that the Board's architect be instructed to prepare plans and specifications for

the new house, and that he arrange his tenders so that the payment for the erection of the structure would fall due next year. Mr Reader thought there was no necessity for the building to be erected right away, and that the money would .be better in the bank for a time. Mr Smith asked if the Government -would pay house allowance in such cases. Mr Hylton said the Government did so in cases where the house was declared to be insanitary..

25th October 1909 We regret to have to record the 'death of Mr H. Ladley, headmaster of the Grovetown School, which occurred at his residence to-day. Mr Ladley had been in indifferent health for some time. He leaves a widow, a son and two daughters, to whom sincere sympathy will be extended by many friends.

26th October 1909 DEATH. LADLEY.—On the 25th inst., at the Private Hospital, Blenheim: Harry Ladley, the beloved husband of Ada Ladley; aged 54 years. Deeply regretted

28th October 1909 The late Mr Harry Ladley, whose death occurred on Monday, at the} age of 54, was a familiar and popular figure at Grovetown for upwards of 25 years. He was born at Spring Grove, Nelson, on November 21, 1854, being the youngest son of Mr James Ladley, one of Nelson's earliest pioneers. He was educated at Nelson College, and on leaving that institution commenced teaching at Foxhill in 1872. He .married in 1877, and in 1884 was appointed head teacher at the Grovetown school, continuing to occupy that position, with] honour to himself and to the great benefit of his pupils, until a few days before his death. Mr Ladley's success as a teacher is well known, and in the examinations which were held just recently he obtained especially good results. He took a keen interest in the cadet movement, and anything calculated to be for the welfare of his pupils or of the residents of Grovetown had his hearty, support. Mr Ladley leaves a widow, one son (Mr Norman Ladley, who is in practice as a solicitor at Marton), and two daughters, to whom the sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended in their bereavement. The funeral, which took place yesterday, was largely attended, the Grovetown School cadets parading to pay a last tribute of respect to the captain. Floral emblems were received from the Grovetown school children, the old pupils of the school,-the Educational Institute and the Springlands school staff.

6th November 1909 Mr H. C. N. Ladley, who has been visiting his family at Grovetown, has returned to. Marton.

11th November 1909 Miss Frances Campbell, being the only eligible candidate for the position of pupil teacher for the Grovetown School, was appointed

Mr E. H. Penny moved that a sincere vote of sympathy be accorded the relatives of the late Mr Ladley, who had served the Board so long and so faithfully, having proved himself a model schoolmaster. He had1 made himself dear to all who knew him, and his death had made a great impression on all, as he had been a man to whom all his acquaintances looked np. Mr Parker. seconded the motion, which was carried.

14th December 1909 The Grovetown School Committee forwarded the tenders received for fencing in the grounds. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Conolly, seconded by the Chairman, that the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

20th December 1909 Among the list of admissions to be made to the "Wellington Teachers' Training College next year appears the name of Miss Amy S. Payne, of Grovetown.

22nd December 1909 PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

GROVETOWN SCHOOL

On Monday afternoon the prizes for good attendance were distributed at the Grovetown School. Mr Thomson, acting-headmaster, presented the prizes, and in doing so spoke words of commendation to those who had attended so well, and advised the other children to follow their example. Hazel Craven, who had not been absent for the past four years, was specially commended, as was also Martha Andrell, a tiny dot of six summers, who, commencing her school career when barely three years of age, had never missed a day since. A word of praise

was also given to Keith Lammas, who had not been absent for the last two years. First class prizes (never absent) were then presented to Gordon Dames, Charles Andrell, Hazel Craven, Isabel Clunies—Ross, Norman Cuthbertson, Stanley Andrell, Olive Philpott, Alice Murray. Martha Andrell and Richard Gill, Edith Congdon, Ruby Hoult arid Clarence Webster, who had only missed two half-days, were awarded second-class prizes. After the presentation of special prizes to Myrtle Lane and Violet Gill the assembled children gave three ringing cheers for Miss Ladley, who had donated the prizes, and then they were dismissed.
The boys chose a paper-chase as a fitting termination for the break-up ceremony, and had a very exciting and enjoyable time.
23rd December 1909 Upon making inquiries this afternoon at the Education Office it was ascertained that the Grovetown School Committee has not yet appointed a successor to the late Mr Ladley. When the committee last met there were only six members present, and it was considered inexpedient to deal with the applications for the position which had been forwarded by the Education Board.

1910

1910	91	Grovetown	Smith	William C	C2	Head Master	£	210.00
1910	91	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche	D2	Assistant Female	£	115.00
1910	91	Grovetown	Campbell	Frances E S		FPT3	£	45.00

6th January 1910 It is reported that the Grovetown School Committee have decided to recommend the Education Board to appoint Mr W. C. Smith, of the Havelock School, to succeed the late Mr Ladley at the Grovetown School
8th January 1916 news was received that Mr W. C. Smith, headmaster of the local school, had been appointed to a similar position in the Grovetown school. During their stay in Havelock Mr and Mrs Smith, have made many friends, who wish them every success in their new home.
12th January 1910 Mr H. R. Fisher was appointed by. the Education Board yesterday to the position of captain of the combined company, Grovetown and Tua Marina cadets. The position of captain was rendered vacant by the death of Mr H. Ladley.
12th January 1910 The Grovetown School Committee advised the Board that Mr W. C. Smith, of Havelock, had been selected as head teacher for the Grovetown school. The Chairman moved that Mr Smith be appointed. Mr Conolly seconded the motion. Mr Smith said- that this was the first appointment since the Board had been brought to see its duty. The Chairman said that the Board had communicated with the Committee, and had recommended Mr W. C. Smith's appointment. Mr Smith remarked that, that being so, the ground was cut from under his feet. The motion was carried, Mr Smith dissenting. Mr Reader moved, and Mr Parker seconded, that Mr W. C. Smith take up his duties at the termination of the school holidays, and that Mr Thompson relieve at Havelock until a permanent appointment had been made.
29th January 1910 Mr Thompson, late of Grovetown, will take charge of the local school *(Havelock)* until a permanent teacher is appointed. The school re-opens on Monday, This afternoon an interesting ceremony took place at the local schoolroom, the occasion being the farewelling of Mr W. C. Smith, the headmaster. There was a very large attendance of parents and pupils, and the general regret *shown* and expressed at Mr Smith's departure was the noticeable feature of the gathering MR W. Pickering, chairman of the school committee, opened the proceedings. He regretted' Mr Smith's transfer to Grovetown School as the loss to them, and the gain to his new sphere of influence of a good man, who by gentle method,

industry, and perseverance had won the goodwill of the pupils themselves, which always meant success for the teacher. He wished him prosperity, and presented him with a small token of appreciation in the shape of an ebony walking stick, silver-mounted, engraved as follows: "Presented to Mr W. C. Smith by the Havelock School Committee, 1910. Mr Smith, in reply, said that he was much affected by the goodwill of the parents, pupils, and inhabitants of Havelock towards him, and in thanking them for that he thanked them also for their testimony as to his influence and success as a teacher of the young; He would treasure their gift, which would be constantly with him. He referred incidentally to the opinion, of Professor Hunter that mere examinations are not by any means, nor always, the test of faithful tuition; and referred to an uncorrected statement in: the local paper that four pupils had been presented for examination and none were successful. As a matter of fact three were sent up, and Frances Bryant, was successful in securing the Duncan scholarship and £25. He had been at Havelock 2 1/2 years. In the first year (1907) a medal was secured, in 1908 a Marlborough scholarship, and in 1909 the Duncan scholarship. He regretted leaving Havelock; in leaving the children he left many personal friends, but his principal reason for going was to be near Blenheim, where his daughters went to the High School, and 'in his new home they could live at home again instead of his being a divided household.

Several of the School Committee, including Messrs Buckman, J. Gorrie and Brownlee, were eulogistic as to the merits of Mr Smith, and regretful as to his departure. The Committee had always been on excellent terms with the master.

The Rev. J. R. Burgin also spoke. He said that his children, fresh from the Old Country, with everything new —books, environment, etc.—had made such wonderful progress under the patient care of their master that it was a matter of sincere regret to him that they were losing Mr Smith. Mr Smith then took the opportunity of presenting certificates to several pupils for good attendance during the past year, as follows: —Eric Buckman, who had not missed an attendance; Nellie, Smith, Thomas Scott, Gordon Buckman,. and A. Taylor, absent five half-days. A presentation was then made to Mrs W. C. Smith by Mrs Burgin, on behalf of the teachers and children of the Sunday school, in which Mrs Smith has taken so much interest. The gift was a lady's hand-bag, with the following inscription: "Presented to Mrs Smith from the teachers and scholars of the Havelock Sunday school in appreciation of devoted service. January 27, 1910." Mrs Smith suitably replied. Afternoon tea was provided by parents and friends, and was much enjoyed

17th March 1910 In his annual report to the Education Board, Inspector Strachan has the following reference to the late Mr Ladley:—"Death has taken away a striking figure in the late headmaster of Grovetown School. For 25 years he served the Board faithfully. He was ever ready to test new methods, and he did his best both to discover' and to give to younger teachers what was good in them. He did not measure his duty by foot-rule, but throughout he set before the children a simple and homely example of noble living."

24th March 1894 teacher's residence at Grovetown. Proposed *Erection of a new building*

11th April 1910 When making an application to the Education Department for a grant for. the erection of a new school residence, at Grovetown,, the Secretary of the Marlborough Education Board pointed out that the teacher has at present to live in a tent owing to the dilapidated condition of the old residence. When replying the Secretary for Education said that as Grovetown was only two miles from Blenheim, he would be glad to know why the teacher finds it necessary to live in a tent.

12th April 1910 GROVETOWN SCHOOL RESIDENCE. The Secretary for Education wrote advising the Board that a grant for a new school residence at Grovetown was not yet available. Mr Hylton, the secretary, was appointed to go to Wellington to place the true nature of the conditions of the school residence before the Department.

16th April 1910 The Marlborough Education Board
has received a grant from the Government towards the erection of a new school at Nopera Bay, tenders for which are to be invited shortly. There is also a likelihood of grants being made for the erection of the teacher's residence at Grovetown and for the repairs to other schools in the Board's district.
26th April Grovetown was placed in Good class by inspector one of ten schools
26th April 1910 School Committee At Grovetown the Committee which sat last year was re-elected unopposed
21st May 1910 Cabinet has voted the Marlborough Education Board a sum sufficient to erect a new residence for the head teacher of the Grovetown school
17th June 1910 Soccer AKA Association Football: -June 22—Grovetown V. Scout B, at Grovetown; Scout A v. Catholic, at Domain; Borough a bye
12th July 1910 The Marlborough Education Board has at present under consideration the question of procuring a new site for the Grovetown school, and the Chairman and Mr White Have been deputed to make inquiries as to the probable cost of a larger area of land at Grovetown for the school ground and master's residence.
10th August 1910 MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE. The headmaster' of the Grovetown school wrote applying for permission to establish a miniature rifle range at the school. The application was endorsed by the chairman of the Committee, and was accompanied by a plan, and also an extensive explanation of the range. Messrs McCallum, Chaytor, Penny and White were appointed to go into this matter and report to a future meeting
11th August 1910 An innovation at the Grovetown school is proposed in the shape of a miniature rifle range,, and. in order to augment the fund for that purpose a. plain and fancy dress ball will be held in the Grovetown. Hall tomorrow week
13th August 1910 In the new regulations governing junior cadets prominence is given to careful training in rifle-shooting. With the object of effecting this without unduly encroaching on school time, it is proposed to establish a miniature rifle range, with travelling targets, in a corner of the Grovetown school-ground, and to raise funds a plain and fancy dress ball will be held on Friday evening next. The Defence Department has agreed to grant a subsidy of for on the amount raised. During the past nine months many such ranges have been established at schools in. the North Island, but as yet there is only one in the South Island, that at St. Albans (Christchurch), opened last month.
18th August 1910 A reminder is given of the miniature rifle range plain and fancy dress ball at Grovetown to-morrow, evening. The training of -our youth to defend their native land is a matter of vital importance to all, and a large attendance is anticipated. With inspiriting music, an excellent floor, and a dainty supper, a. most enjoyable evening is assured. Prizes are offered for the best and most original fancy dresses Drags leave the .Square at 7.30.
13th September 1910 The .headmaster of the Grovetown School forwarded a letter he had received from the commandant of the cadets which stated that it was the intention of the Department to inspect the miniature rifle range when completed. Mr Penny said that he and Messrs White and Chaytor had inspected the range, and they recommended the site as a suitable one, and suggested that it be approved, subject to the defence Department's approval. It was suggested that the report foe received and acted upon, but not until one of the outhouses was Shifted- A FENCE. Mr Penny suggested that a fence be erected.in front of the Grovetown residence. The Chairman informed the Board that this matter had already been attended t0.., Mr White moved that the question of a.; fence in front of the Grovetown school and master's residence be left to the committee already appointed to' deal with the increased area question, for a report. Mr Penny seconded the motion: Mr Reader supported the picket fence against a suggested post and wire fence. The motion was carried.

11th October 1910 The Grovetown School Committee wrote asking for two out offices, and also to have the specifications of the new teacher's residence forwarded to them. Mr White, moved that the out offices be granted. The chairman seconded the motion, which was carried. The application to have the specifications of the new residence forwarded for inspection was granted. It was also decided to erect a picket fence in front of this school, the Committee to pay £10 towards the cost

The Board's architect reported that the Grovetown teacher's residence had been satisfactorily completed.— Received.

13th November 1910 The headmaster or the Grovetown school applied for a subsidy towards the purchase of material for the new school cricket club.

The Chairman, explained that the Board' had no power to grant a subsidy for this purpose.

20th December 1910 The Grovetown school concert, to be held, in the Coronation Hall on Thursday night, promises' to be a success. An excellent programme has been arranged, and a large attendance of parents and the general public is anticipated.

29th December 1910 GROVETOWN SCHOOL.

The Grovetown School concert, held on Thursday evening in the Coronation Hall, was a distinct success, there being a large, attendance of parents, friends and visitors, who expressed their appreciation in an enthusiastic manner. The following was the programme submitted —Overture, Master C. Andrell; "An Unrehearsed Part," Master S. Clunies-Ross; "Nursery Land," a children's play with 15 performers; "Give the Little Boys a Chance"; "Mimic Defenders of our Empire," with march and chorus; duet, "Friendship," Misses Ethel and Olive Jones; maypole dance and chorus, junior girls; character sketch, "Justice," Masters J. Thomas and C. Andrell; exhibition of club-swinging, Misses Irene and Lilian Smith; solo, "Love Me and the World is Mine," Miss Olive Jones; iron wand drill, Mr M. Robinson; tambourine march and drill, senior girls; "The Enchanted Garden," a fairy scene and play; Indian club drill, senior boys; lily march and song, senior girls; "A Humorous Reminiscence," Miss Olive Jones; "Miss Milligan's School for Girls"; acrobatic display, Mr M .Robinson and pupils; "Sailing and Vacation," song with finale. During the evening the Rev. Mr Wollstein called for hearty, votes of thanks to Mr and Mrs Smith, Miss Ladley, Miss Campbell, and Mr Robinson, who had trained the children in the various parts with such excellent result

BREAKING-UP SCHOOL. On Friday morning the children assembled in the largest schoolroom for the closing scenes of the-school year, when. the. following, certificates were presented:— Proficiency Selby Clunies-Ross and Harry March. Attendance: First class (never absent), Gordon Dames, Isabel Clunies- Ross, Hazel Craven, Stanley Andrell, Alice Ohlson, Norman Cuthbertson, Alice Murray, Elizabeth Clunies- Ross, Clarice Andrell, Ruby Andrell, Martha Andrell, Pearl Ohlson, Lily Brooks, and Keith Lammas; second class, Charles Andrell, Richard Gill, George Anderson, Clarence Webster s James Andrell; Vivian Sutherland, and- Olive Philpott. I Prizes, provided; by-'"the teachers were then presented to all who had gained first class attendance certificates, also the, following special attendance prizes:—Charles Andrell, Walter Millard, Ruby Hoult, Richard Gill, James Andrell, Vivian Sutherland, Olive Philpott, and; Charles Tapp. Best attendance in infant classes: Vera Philpott and Violet Gill. Teachers' prizes for marks, general excellence, and special subjects:

S. 6, Gordon Dames 1, W. Cheesman 2;

S. 5, Isabel Clunies-Ross I, Nellie Ohlson 2;

S. 4, George Anderson 1; |

S. 3, Evelyn Gill 1, Alice Ohlson 2, I- Alice Gibbons 3;

S. 2, Grace Millard, Edith Congdon, and Clarice Thompson;

S. 1, Ella March, Rona Millard, Annie Thomas, Ernest Brooks, and John Murray;

P. 3, Nancy Ford; P. 2, Gladys Adams, Carl Sutherland, and Gordon Sutherland;

P. 1, Mabel Anderson. Mrs Smith's special prize, for good conduct, Mary Thomas; for rapid progress, Percy Bryant,
S. 4; Miss Campbell's special for general effort, Myrtle Lane.
Eight little boys who had won the admiration of their elders at the concert as a miniature defence rifle club were presented with the rifles they had used. After cheers had been given by the children for Miss Ladley, Miss Campbell, and Mr and Mrs Smith, who had provided the prizes, the Vacation Song was sung, and the remainder of the day spent in a paper-chase, swimming, etc.
The miniature range at this school has now been completed, and will be opened immediately after the reassembling of school.

1911

1911	86	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C1	Head Master	£	210.00
1911	86	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	D2	Assistant Female	£	120.00
1911	86	Grovetown	Campbell	Frances		FPT4	£	55.00

2nd March 1911 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL BOROUGH v. GROVETOWN.

School "soccer" commenced yesterday by a match between the Borough and Grovetown schools. Borough fielded the same team .as advertised, and Grovetown were strongly represented. The game was fairly evenly contested throughout and play was of. a high order. Grovetown started with a stiff wind and the sun. in their favor. Straight from the kick-off the Borough goals were invaded, but relief came through Wanden. Play went from one end to the other and at last Grovetown scored through Gill. With the wind and sun in their favor Borough began to make things hum, Elliott started a passing rush and, for a time, things were warm around the Grovetown citadel. At last Grovetown conceded a corner, and from the corner kick by Elliott, Crook scored, making honors even. The Borough continually pressed, and it; was only through over eagerness that the ball was not netted on .two or !three occasions. At last Grovetown relieved through Gill, but the ball went out to the wing, and. was immediately pounced upon by Spittal. This player, made a grand run down the line, tricked two or, three opponents and sent in a beautiful centre. From a tussle in front of goal Millard shot through his own goal. Thus Borough won- by 2 to 1.
14th March 1911 GROVETOWN SCHOOL. Two tenders for fencing the Grovetown school property were received, and that of Messrs Ward and Sons of £34 was accepted. The Chairman said that during the month the sub-committee appointed by the Board had secured five perches of land from Mr D. Cameron for the purpose of extending the land attached to the master's residence. The price paid was £12 10s. The conditions under which the Board got this land were that it shifted back Mr Cameron's fence and also provided him with a gate. The action of the sub-committee was endorsed
25th March 1911 The miniature rifle range at the Grovetown school is to be formally opened on Wednesday next at 3.30 p.m. As this is the first range of the kind in the district a large assemblage is expected.
28th March 1911 For 'convenience of visitors desirous of attending the opening of the miniature rifle range at the Grovetown school to-morrow afternoon, a drag will leave the Club Stables' at 3.15 p.m.
30th March 1911 MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE. OPENED AT GROVETOWN
The official opening of the miniature rifle range which: has recently been erected at the Grovetown school was held yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a fair number of adults, and a large assembly of school children and cadets.
Mr W. C. Smith headmaster of the Grovetown School, in, his opening remarks explained that theirs was not the only miniature rifle range in Marlborough, as there was also one at the

Havelock school, which was, however, of a different character from theirs, as it was naturally favored, and was thus less expensive. When he left Havelock he had the pleasure of seeing the project for its way to erection. Owing to the urging of the Government for rifle ranges *-&l this description at the different schools, and 'to the interest the Grovetown people had taken in the matter, they had, by the aid of socials and Government subsidies, raised enough money, and what was once a mere idea was now reality.

He had especially to thank Mr. J Brown the contractor, for his kindness in deducting a sum of money from the contract price, and Mr Perano, of Picton, for his interest in the welfare of the cadets by presenting a gold medal for the champion marksman in the school.

Mr McCallum, chairman of the Education Board, congratulated the Grovetown School Committee on the section of the rifle range. In the course of his remarks, he-made reference to the Bisley Team which contained two Marlborough men A. Henderson and H. Cuthbertson out of the twelve selected, and said what, a fine thing it would be if, in four or five years' time, some of the boys now at school should be chosen to go .to Bisley to represent New' Zealand. The Education Board took a special interest in all branches .of athletics, especially shooting. They were quite proud of Grovetown and especially Mr Smith, who had maintained the fine reputation first gained by the late Mr. Ladley. He again complemented Mr. Smith upon his achievement in bringing such a fine project to such a successful issue.\

Mr E. H. Penny, Mayor, of Blenheim, in expressing his pleasure at being present, referred to the time he was a boy when soldiers and cadets were unthought of. Whatever happened to New Zealand, people Government, or customs, the men of "New Zealand must not decay, and in the future they would have to look for good clean, trained men, who were expert marksmen. The' finest heritage in the world was New Zealand, and whatever opinion they held regarding war, "it behoved them to defend that beautiful heritage. He .hoped the boys would time to train at the range, and when the time of war and tribulation came in .New Zealand, which would probably happen in the future, as many nations had their eyes on the little gem, "God's Own Country," of the Pacific Ocean, then would the boys have to defend their homes. They should learn to handle the rifle with safety to themselves and to everyone' else. Mr J. J. White, chairman of the Blenheim School Committee, congratulated the Grovetown School Committee on having such a fine teacher as Mr Smith. It was owing to his splendid foresight, energy and skill that the rifle range was established. He_ quoted a passage from the Bible which stated that "the strong man keepeth his own house," and pointed out that the boys would probably be asked to do likewise in the near future, when he hoped they would show themselves capable to defend their homes. Mr White^ concluded with an exhortation to the b« to become proficient in the art of shooting and make most of the opportunity set before them.

Messrs Brown and Cuthbertson both supplemented the remarks of the previous speakers, and laid stress upon the fact that the most important part in the defence of a country was to teach the young idea how to shoot. Mrs McCallum thereupon, fired the first shot, recording a bulls-eye, and 'the range was declared open. The range was then laid open to the visitors to test their skill, after a demonstration of how the range would be conducted had been given by Mr Smith and. two senior boys. Afternoon tea was provided in a marquee adjacent to the range, and was not the least-pleasant function of the afternoon. The range is a well appointed one, with no signs of: habitation at the •rear or one side of it. Ii is 25 yards long, and has three board wings, each filled with sand, on each side, and at the rear is a strong wall filled with sand, so that a bullet has no possible chance of penetrating the' protective' works. Owing to an appliance at the mound there is no possible chance of firing high, and thus the range can be adjudged absolutely safe. Three Winchester pea-rifles are provided, and the services of/marksmen are dispensed with, for on the firing of the fixed number of rounds, the target is brought to the mound by the aid of a pulley and ropes. Taken all round, the range is well

erected, and reflects credit on the contractor, Mr J Brown, and also on the Grovetown people and Mr Smith, to whose enterprise the range owes its establishment.
3rd April 1911 At the November examinations held under the auspices of the University, of New Zealand, Miss Amy Payne, of Grovetown, and the Rev. H. Ranston, late of Tua Marina, were among those who passed their first section of the B.A. degree.
6th April 1911 There is on view in Mr R. C. Holcroft's window an illuminated address which is. to be presented to Mrs H. Ladley, of Grovetown, by the old pupils of the Grovetown school in recognition of the services of her late husband, Mr H. Ladley, as headmaster for twenty-five years at that school. The ..address is the work of Mr W. G. Wakelin, and is beautifully prepared with great neatness and skill, all of which reflects credit on the artist. The framing, done by Holcroft and Co., is in keeping with the quality of the work of art..
25th April 1911 Grovetown: Messrs W. Gill (chairman). J. H. Sutherland, J. H, Thomas, C. Tapp, A. Craven, A. Mills, and B. Lammas. School Committee
29th April 1911 A youthful correspondent at Grovetown, signing himself "Right Wing," writes to the Editor as follows: "Dear Sir, —Kindly correct a mistake which occurred in your report of the 'soccer' match at Grovetown. Instead of the town team having only eight men they had nine in the first spell and ten in the second, so that our win was not such a poor one as appeared. Our- boys feel somewhat hurt by it, and we hope your British sense of fair play will lead you to publish this letter
29th April 1911 PRESENTATION.
A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR H. LADLEY.
On Tuesday evening a gathering of old pupils of the Grovetown School met at Mrs Ladley's residence, to make to her a presentation of an illuminated address, in recognition of their appreciation of the sterling worth of their one-time schoolmaster, the late Mr H. Ladley- Mr Robert Cameron was chosen as spokesman, and he referred to the sterling qualities of the late Mr Ladley as a model schoolmaster and as a man. All of those who had been privileged to study under him had much to thank him for, and the address which he; (Mr Cameron) had the honor to hand to Mrs Ladley was but a tribute to the memory of a well-loved teacher. Mrs Ladley expressed her heartfelt thanks. She would value the address very dearly, and could never forget the kindness of her late husband's old pupils. The address, which was very much admired, was illuminated and engrossed by Mr W. Wakelin, of Blenheim, and read as follows Mrs Ladley, Grovetown.—Dear -Madam, we, the undersigned, on behalf of the old pupils of the Grovetown School, in tendering you this address, desire to place on record our great appreciation of the admirable qualities of your late husband. His upright character, scholastic attainments, and his unwearyingly kindness and patience towards his pupils earned for him the respect and affection of all with whom he came into contact during his 25 years of faithful service at Grovetown in the cause of education. This is presented to you with the utmost regard of all the old pupils, with best wishes for your future happiness." Then follow the names of five of the old pupils
3rd May 1911 The supply of "continuous" readers is doubtless well intentioned, but the following incomplete list of books in school libraries shows that our schools are fairly well provided already with continuous readers':—Blenheim (494), Grovetown (400), Linkwater (83), Picton (96), Marlboroughtown (223), Marshlands (103), Spring Creek (150), Waitaria (85), Seddon (50),
9th May 1911 MR SMITH'S RESIGNATION. Mr W. C Smith' wrote tendering his 'resignation as- teacher at the Grovetown School, stating that he had accepted a position on the Island of Niue. His letter stated that it was with deep regret that he did so,' for his official relations and conditions here were very congenial, and lie felt that in Blenheim he had many valuable and valued friends. From his personal knowledge of other districts, and from information gleaned by intercourse with teachers at annual conferences, he could say, with

truth, ,that he preferred the service of this Education: Board to that of any other in the Dominion and he expressed to the Board and its officials his sincere thanks for unvarying courtesy, kindness, and appreciation. It was not until after over two months' hesitation, a personal interview with an officer of the Department, and the offer of many solid advantages that he decided to relinquish his appointment under the Board; but he saw that it was an opportunity with prospects such, a® might never come his way again, and consequently accepted the offer. Mr F. Waregrave, secretary to the Cook and Other Islands Administrators, wrote stating that in order to preserve Mr Smith's rights to superannuation, it would be necessary that the Board should lend his services to the Niue Island Administration, and he asked to be informed whether the Board had any objection to treat Mr Smith as being temporarily detached from its service. The Chairman moved that Mr Smith! s' resignation be accepted, but that he be retained in' the Board's service without salary, and that his services be lent to the Niue Island Administration until such time as some fresh arrangement could be come to between the Niue Island Administrators and Mr Smith. .This motion to be forwarded to the Education Department. Mr Conolly seconded the motion, which was carried. APPLICATIONS. Mr W. R. Cook wrote asking to be transferred to the Grovetown School, pointing -out that owing to the falling-off in the attendance—due to the removal of people from Renwicktown— his salary two years hence would be less than it was at the present time. The Board decided to forward Mr Cook's name to .the Grovetown Committee to be considered along- with other applicants for the position. A similar application was received from Mr H. Hill, of Canvastown. MR SMITH'S SUCCESSOR. The Grovetown School Committee wrote recommending that Mr H. Hill, of Canvastown, be appointed to succeed Mr Smith. Mr White asked if Mr Hill was a suitable man. Mr Strachan said he thought Mr Hill a very suitable man, but thought that the teachers should be enabled to place their qualifications before the Committee. Mr Reader moved that Mr Hill be appointed to the .Grovetown, and the Committee had recommended his appointment. Mr Storey opposed the motion, claiming that the question of seniority should not be overlooked. The Chairman ruled that other teachers should be given an opportunity to apply for the position. Mr. Conolly approved of the Chairman's ruling. Mr Reader withdrew his motion.

The Chairman moved, and Mr Conolly seconded, that applications be called for the position of head teacher at the Grovetown School, applications to be in by May 30th, and that the members meet on that day at 11 a.m. to consider. The applications preparatory to sending them on to the Grovetown Committee.—Carried.

18th May 1911 GROVETOWN v. BOROUGH.

This match was played at Grovetown'. Borough had .the wind in the first half, and seemed to have the best of the game, Elliott scoring just before half-time. In the second half Grovetown seemed to liven up, and before time was called Hoult, Thomas (2), Millard and Gill scored. Thus Grovetown won by 5 goals to 1

Borough, had hard luck in not scoring on several occasions,. and although Grovetown won by such a good margin, the Borough team had a good share of the play, and were unfortunate in having the goal-keeper injured after half-time; Grovetown have a. well-balanced team, and play with plenty of dash, which will win more matches. Mr S. Hooson refereed.

24th May 1911 At Monday night's meeting of the Grovetown School Committee Mr Hollis Hill, of Canvastown, was appointed headmaster of the school in succession to Mr W. C. Smith. There were six applicants-

29th May 1911 Mr W. C. Smith and the members of his family left Grovetown on Saturday afternoon for Auckland, where they will, join the steamer for Niue, sailing next Monday or Tuesday. Mr Smith, it will be remembered, has been appointed to take charge of educational affairs at the island. He was accorded a hearty send-off at Grovetown.

9th June 1911 At a public meeting: held in the^ Literary and Debating Society's hall at Canvastown the other night, it was. decided that Mr Hollis Hill, who has, been appointed headmaster of the Grovetown School, should be tendered a farewell social. Mr Hill, during his, residence tat Canvastown,' has taken a very prominent part in matters appertaining to the welfare of the township, and this loss will be very severely felt.
13th June 1911 FENCING,
Messrs Ward and Sons tendered to erect a wire-netting fence at the Grovetown School, at £3, and to fix wire-netting on the fence between the school-house and school for £1 10s.
26th September 1911 SCHOOL RUGBY.
The football presented by the Moutere Club for competition among the schools In their district has been keenly competed for, and possession was: decided last Saturday between the Grovetown and Marlboroughtown schools. Grovetown turned out in full force, with the result that they had rather an easy win, as some of their opponents were on the sick-list. However, Grovetown played a very determined game, and deserved their trophy. The most noticeable players for the winners were: Adams, Andrell, Thomas, Tapp, and Gill, who will be heard of in the Rugby world later on; and for the losers Robertson, Harrison, Hall, Faulding, and Mills were most conspicuous.
16th November 1911 One of the most meritorious' exhibitions at the A. and P. Show yesterday was that forthcoming in the school competition, in which the Fairhall and Grovetown schools wore entrants. The displays consisted of garden produce, shrubs, school work, cookery, and other scholastic details, and they were tastefully arranged. A comprehensive and entirely creditable collection came from Fairhall, which was awarded the first prize of three guineas, and the Grovetown School, which was awarded two guineas, is also worthy of praise. The competition was deserving of better support.
12th December 1911 The Grovetown School Committee asked that the windows in front of the school be wire-netted.—^The request was granted, and it was re solved that an endeavor be made to acquire the use of two acres on the A. and P. Association's reserve for a playground
13th December 1911 Shooting for the Chaytor prizes among the Marlborough school cadet» took place to-day. The Blenheim" borough, Grovetown, Springlands, and Ren wick boys fired on the Vernon Range; Picton and Tua Marina at Picton, and Havelock, Canvastown, and Okaramio at Havelock. At the Vernon Range, where there were 12 competitors, a very strong w rind was blowing, and the scoring was low. The ranges were 100, 150, and 200 yards, and the possible was 81. The principal scores were as follows: Cheesman (Grovetown) 62, Andrell (Grovetown) 61, Simson (Borough) 48, Spittal (Borough) 47, Robb (Springlands) 44, Maxted (Borough) 42.

1912

1912	82	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C1	Head Master	£	230.00
1912	82	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada Blanche E	C2	Assistant Female	£	125.00
1912	82	Grovetown	King	George J		Assstant Master	£	90.00

13rh February 1912 Mr G J King appointed
21st February 1912 On Friday last a pleasing little function took place at Grovetown School. At the close of the school the scholars assembled in the mam room for the purpose of saying farewell to Miss Campbell, who has been a, member of the teaching staff, but is soon to leave Marlborough for a course of study in the Training College at Wellington. The headmaster (Mr Hollis Hill) spoke of the esteem and regard in which Miss Campbell was held by the scholars; and staff. and. asked her acceptance of an ebony and silver-mounted mirror and

bail1: brush as some slight token of appreciation. Songs were then sung by the children, and after three ringing cheers for Miss Campbell had been given the scholars were dismissed.
20th March 1912 Owing to information supplied to the Club which was misleading, it has now transpired that the 220 yards Schools Relay Championship for Dr Walker's trophy is to be competed for only by the Grovetown, Springlands, Blenheim Borough, and Catholic schools. In Older not to cause disappointment among teams from other schools which had previously been considered eligible for the race, the club has decided to include in the programme a 200 yards All Primary Schools Relay Championship in addition to the race for Dr Walker's Cup, for which the club will provide trophies. Entries for both events close on Saturday. The interest evinced in the 50 yards School Championship is very keen, and entries from several parts of the district have been received. *Club not named*
16th April 1912 The Chairman of the Grovetown Committee wrote objecting to the r losing of the school for the purpose of River and Road Board elections, and also licensing elections, especially as there was a public- hall in the I district. I It was resolved to reply that on no account must any Committee allow schools to be closed for a,; Road or River Board election; and to convey the information that .section 113 of the Act empowered the Returning Officer ;it a General Election or an election for a-'Licensing Committee, to use a primary school on certain conditions, but the Board was of opinion that if proper representations were made to the Returning Officer he would on all occasions make use of a suitable hall, such as was in evidence at Grovetown,. in preference to the schools.
23rd April 1912 Inspector reported Grovetown, Marlboroughtown ,and Ward appeared best in History……..The best free drawing with the brush was seen at Marshlands; but a number of schools made an excellent showing:—Fabian's Valley, Onamalutu, Fairhall, Riverlands, Grovetown (Infant Division),
11th June 1912 SCHOOL SITES. GROVETOWN AND BLENHEIM
A letter received by the Education Board yesterday from the Grovetown School Committee represented the necessity for the renovation of the school.
Mr White reported that, in accordance with the Board's request, he visited Grovetown and made investigations with regard to the site of the school. The present site was considered by the residents generally to be unsuitable. It was represented to him that the school should be situated in the Steam Wharf Road, or in the vicinity. In its present position the school was a considerable distance away, from the majority of the residences. The school was placed there many years ago on account of the frequency of floods at Grovetown proper. However, with the establishment of Rose's Overflow, that obstacle had disappeared. Mr White also described the present site as too small, Moreover, the building was becoming dilapidated
Members remarked that the teacher's residence was a new one, and might have to. be. sacrificed if a new site were adopted. Mr White suggested that the residence could be maintained where it was.
The Chairman said that, perhaps they would be able to sell the residence and the rest of the property to advantage. The Chairman moved that the Department be asked to instruct an officer to investigate the whole position, and consult with the School Committee and the Board.
Mr Penny-said he did not oppose the wishes of the Committee; but he pointed out that, with a new bridge over the Opawa at the end of Grove Road, there was a likelihood of a suburb springing up between the river and the school, in which case the present site would be suitable. He remarked, too, that a large proportion of the children in the Borough School district traversed longer distances than those that the Grovetown children are compelled to travel. The Chairman expressed the opinion that the Board should look ahead and secure two

new school sites for Blenheim—one for the north ward" and one for the Maxwell Road and Redwoodtown districts. They need not, perhaps, build for some time to come; but he thought that it would be a wise policy to acquire the ground at an early date. The present Borough school property would sell readily and to advantage, for the expansion of the town.
Mr Conolly moved an amendment that the Board's architect be asked to report-whether it was possible to repair the school. There was no immediate hurry in the matter. The Board had gone to the expense of building a teacher's residence alongside the Grovetown school, and no question was raised when that work was decided upon. That would have been the time to move. As: for the school grounds being inadequate, they had been told that the boys did not go down the Steam Wharf Road to find playing accommodation, but came towards town to the A. and P. reserve. He should think, however, that if the grounds extended over two acres, as said, they could hardly be called cramped. He asked whether it would be possible to sell the teacher's residence and the school grounds, now covered with shingle, to advantage. He agreed' with Mr Penny's anticipation that the area between the Opawa bridge and the Grovetown school would' eventually be occupied by a considerable suburban population. In that case the present site would be central.
Mr Reader seconded the amendment. He was sceptical about the representations as to the condition of the school. They were told recently that the North Bank school was rotten they disposed of it, with the result that it had been shifted- across the road and converted into a profitable and enduring hall. The Chairman agreed that there was no hurry. He withdrew his motion in favor of the amendment. The architect (Mr Hylton) said: he could say straight away that one of the rooms in the Grovetown school
would require restoration not later than the end of this year. Mr Conolly's motion was carried.
12th June 1912 The children attending the Grovetown -school do not allow the small size of their playground to damp them in their school games. The. boys last year won the trophy both for "Soccer" and for Rugby football presented for competition among the schools of the district. This year they are entering teams for each competition, and "should give another good account of themselves. Through the kindness of Mr Fairhall, they have a ground of the desired dimensions; but its distance from the school prevents regular practice. The girls have this season formed a hockey club, and sadly handicapped by a ground 40 by 22, with a ditch running through the middle, are making good progress. In order to provide the girls, with hockey sticks and the boys with football, requisites, the teachers and children are organising a plain and fancy-dress ball, which will take place on June 21st. The Committee and their wives have generously -undertaken to pay for the supper, and it is hoped that the public will co-operate to make the function a social and financial success.
8th July 1912 The following fixtures have been arranged for the Moutere school district Rugby competition, first round: July 13: Spring Creek v. Tua Marina; Grovetown v. Marshlands and Maoris.
9th July 1912 GROVETOWN. Mr Hylton, the Board's architect, reported having inspected the Grovetown school. The. room in question, with the replacing of a few boards later on, would last for a few years. He recommended that the. Headmaster's room be repainted. Messrs Reader and Ferguson, who took part in the inspection, represented that the older part of the building would, with a little renovation, last for several years. On the motion of Mr White, it was resolved that the architect's report be forwarded to the Committee for consideration
12th July 1912 LIFE AT NIUE.
TRE ISLAND ;AND ITS PEOPLE
An interesting letter, extracts from which are given below, has been received by a local resident from Mr C W. Smith, /formerly headmaster of the Havelock and Grovetown

Schools: who is now in charge of the school at the island of Niue. Mr Smith says: "In climate we have, found the inland most exquisite, except in the hot season—December to March. Then it is somewhat trying, for you perspire when simply sitting still…….. A long article follows

31st October 1912 The usual meeting of the Rising Star Juvenile Rechabite Tent was held on Monday last. Since its inception a year ago the Tent has made good progress, under the superintendence of Mr Hollis Hill, of Grovetown. Meetings have been held regularly, and the attendances have been good. Competitions have been held, and prizes were presented as follows: Essay, subject "Total Abstinence," prize and framed certificate, Bro. A. Richards…….

14th November 1912 A and P Show the school competition rivalry was confined to Grovetown and Marlboroughtown children; but, though the entries were only as many as the prizes, they filled up a lot of space in the produce shed. Both exhibits must have involved much enthusiasm and painstaking labor, and both were distinctly creditable to the respective groups of children and their teachers. Each was characterised by. quite an elaborate amount of detail and by tasteful arrangement, and: each was a miniature show in Itself. The collection included a large variety of agricultural and pastoral produce, cookery, preserves, and school work.

1913

1913	81	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C1	Head Master	£	230.00
1913	81	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada Blanche E	C2	Assistant Female	£	140.00
1913	81	Grovetown	Franklin	Bertha		Assistant Female	£	90.00

14th January 1913 GROVETOWN. Mr John Nolan wrote declining to give the Board the right of access to the A. and P. reserve for the purpose of a playground. Mr "White reported that Mr Croudis was also unprepared to give access through his property. A The Chairman remarked v that', this scheme having fallen through, it only remained to keep in view the desirableness of erecting a school in a more suitable locality. Mr. .Mackay did not think it necessary to go to the expense of establishing the school on a new site. Two rooms of the school were perfectly sound, and if the building were turned round, moved to the southern part of the ground, and added to slightly', the accommodation of the school and the playground would be adequate. Mr White combated Mr Mackay's views. The present site was unsuitable and inadequate, and would remain so whatever was done by way of improvement. On the motion of Mr Mackay, it was resolved that the Town Committee visit Grovetown, confer with the Committee, and report on the whole position.

11th March 1913 GROVETOWN. A lengthy letter from the chairman of the Committee- ^brought several matters under the Board's notice, including the need of the better heating of the school and the question of a more adequate play-ground. A Committee appointed at the previous meeting presented a report in which they recommended that a school heater be supplied, and that a room similar to the Redwoodtown school be erected in the north-eastern portion of the ground, the infant room being, cleared away. Then, if the back portion of the grounds were filled in at a cost of about £10, space would le> afforded for a more adequate playground. With regard to the application for a door in the teacher's residence, the sub-committee had no re- commendation to make. In making the report the chair- man, who was a member of the Committee of investigation, said that his colleagues and himself were very dis- satisfied, and expressed themselves strongly in the state of the Venetian blinds in the infant school and on another matter. The report was adopted, Mr Nees dissenting

The architect was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the erection of a new-school at Fairhall, and the construction, as already decided, of a room at- Grovetown.
15th April 1913 GROVETOWN. The chairman of the committee conveyed a resolution, carried by 4 to 3 that the Board be asked to reconsider its refusal of the request for an additional door in the teacher's residence. Mr Ferguson moved, and Mr White seconded, that the request be granted. A lengthy discussion ensued. The motion was carried on the following division: Ayes: Messrs White, Storey, Ferguson, Nees, Mackay, Fulton; and Penny. Noes: The Chairman and Mr Conolly.
18th April 1913 The inspector reported Grovetown taught pencil drawing in the lower division very well and had effective needlework programmes
29th April 1913 School Committee GROVETOWN. J. H. Sutherland (chairman), W. Gill, A. Craven, R. Lammas, H. Cuthbertson, C. Tapp, J. Thompson
9th May 1923 Last Saturday St. Mary's and Grovetown opened the "soccer" season on the Domain, the game resulting in a win for the visiting team by 7 goals to nil. St. Mary's were unable to put their full strength into the field, which accounted for the one sided game. The scorers for the winners were F. Gill (2), Gifford (2), E. March, D. March, and Millard one each. St. Mary's backs played a good game, but were not heavy enough to repulse the attack of their opponents.
29th May 1913 seven-a-side contest will take place at the Domain on Tuesday next. There will be two separate competitions, one for boys under 19 on January 1st, and one for school-boys under 15 years on January 1st. Any team playing boys over age will be disqualified. Trophies will be awarded the winning teams. The following is the fixture list for the day:—
10.20—Swifts A. v. Excelsior D., No. 1, junior. 10.40—Convent A. v. Choir Boys B. ,No. 2, school.
11—St.-Mary's B. v. Swifts C, No, 3, junior.
11.20--Grovetown A. v. Borough B.-,, No.4, school
11.40—Excelsior A. v. St. Mary’s C, No. 5, junior. Lunch, 12 to 1.15 p.m. I.20—Choir Boys A. v. Grovetown B., No. 6, school. I.4o—St. Mary's A. v. Excelsior C, No. 7, junior.
18th June 1913 Two truancy cases, both referring to the Grovetown School, were dealt with by Mr F. O’B. Loughnan, S.M., this morning. William Brookes was fined 10s with 14s costs in respect to a number of absences, and J. C. Ross was fined 8s with 28s costs on three informations
21st July 1913 GROVETOWN v. SPRINGLANDS. Grovetown won on their own ground by 2 goals to 0. Springlands put a good fight, and were playing well, but luck was against them. Mr Ellis refereed
9th September 1913 An inquiry was made by the Grovetown Committee relative to the delay in the preparation of plans for the proposed new infant room, and1 the necessity for painting the interior of the teacher's residence was represented.
The architect explained that the attendance at the school had decreased so much recently that the present accommodation was sufficient.
It was mentioned that the light in the infant .room was bad.
The architect was instructed to prepare the plans of the 'new room as soon as possible. It was also decided to carry out the painting recommended.
10th September 1913 In connection with the architect's statement at Monday's meeting of the Education Board that the attendance at the Grovetown school had decreased so much recently that the1 present accommodation is sufficient," it is pointed out that the roll number has not decreased during-the last four years, but has remained about stationary. An epidemic of whooping cough and other childish ailments caused the average. attendance to decrease to 76,

but now the roll number is 93 and the average attendance 86, s6 that the three rooms are as necessary as ever. V The Board has issued instructions for the preparation of plans and specifications for the third room as soon as possible.
7th October 1913 An application by the Grovetown School Committee to have the ditch in front of the school cleaned out was received, but no action was taken. Spring Creek Road Board meeting
14th October 1913 The architect (Mr Hylton) recommended the Board to extend the head teacher's roam 8ft.. 6in., and, by putting in a division, form two classrooms, each 24ft. by 20ft. The old portion of the building being removed, there would then be accommodation for 128 pupils. The present roll number was 97. The cost of the scheme of improvement lie suggested would be less than half that of the work of building a separate room. The plan showing the architect's recommendation was approved and ordered to be forwarded to the committee for its comment
11th November 1913 GROVETOWN
The Committee wrote stating that it preferred the original building proposals to the less expensive scheme of making certain alterations to the main structure. It was of the opinion that a separate infants' school in the north-eastern corner would provide warmer, better lighted, and more enduring quarters. If the Board could not see its way to accede to the request, the committee would ask that a larger extension of the present building be made. It was resolved that the ward members arid the architect confer with the committee and call for tenders in the event of the amended proposals being mutually approved.
9th December 1913 Five applications were received, for the position of assistant at the Blenheim School, and were ordered to be forwarded-to the committee for selection. A similar course was adopted with regard to six applications for an assistantship at Grovetown and two for an assistant position at Havelock.

1914

1914	83	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C1	Head Master	£	230.00
1914	83	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche A E	C1	Assistant Female	£	140.00
1914	83	Grovetown	Jeffries	Alice		Assistant Female	£	90.00

13th January 1914 Appointed: Mr Leslie Craven: Assistant
1st May 1914 GROVETOWN. Messrs J. H. Sutherland (chairman), A. Thomson, A. Craven, R. Lammas, C. Tapp. To be appointed by .the Board: Messrs A. Herd and A. Mills
12th May 1914 GROVETOWN. Feeling the need of a better system of drainage at the school, the committee wrote suggesting the installation of a septic tank. The cost of the removal of nightsoil per year was £4, and the committee was prepared, to pay this amount annually until the work; was paid for. The secretary explained that the Board had sufficient money in hand for the installation of septic tank systems in. about two schools, but after (this they would have to wait until next year before they assisted other committees in this respect.
Mr Penny moved that the request be granted, Mr McCallum seconding. Mr Conolly moved an amendment that the matter be deferred until next meeting. Seeing that there was only a limited amount available, he thought that it would be more equitable if all schools were given the opportunity to apply for septic tank systems so that each school could be considered on. its merits. Mr Fulton seconded the amendment.
After much discussion on the subject, and also regarding the rules of debate, the motion was carried by 6 to 3.
15th May 1914 Boys from Picton, Mt. Pleasant, Koromiko, Para, Tua Marina, Spring Creek, Grovetown, will travel by ordinary train leaving Picton 8 a.m. on 27th May, passing through stations at the following times:—-Tua Marina 8.49, Spring Creek 8.55. They will return by

train leaving Blenheim at 8 p.m.. on the same evening. Boys from Renwicktown will travel by special coach leaving Renwick-1 town at 9.30 a.m. on 27th, returning j the same day, after the inspection, j These boys will be provided with lunch in Blenheim. Part of a long article re visit of Sir Ian Hamilton Inspector General of the overseas forces

9th June 1914 The architect (Mr E. Hylton) presented estimates of cost of the work of installing septic-tank systems for the Ruapara-and Grovetown schools. In view of the depletion of the Board's general fund by, among other things, the commitments, amounting to £380, for septic- tank systems at Blenheim, Havelock, and Renwicktown, it was decided that further consideration of the requirements of the two schools referred to in the report be. held over till next financial year.26th June 1914 BOTTRELL CUP COMPETITION

The following fixtures have been announced for the first round of the Bottrell Cup competition for primary school girls, matches to commence at 1.30 p.m. on Saturdays: June 27: Renwick v. Blenheim, at Ren wick.

4th July 1914 : Convent v. Springlands, Grovetown v. Borough, Renwick a bye

7th July 1914 Three years ago the Government sent Ma- W. 0. Smith (then in charge of the Grovetown school) to Niue, to take charge of the first State school to be established in the Island dependencies of New Zealand, and he commenced his work on lads who knew not a word of English. When the Hon. Dr Pomare, Minister in charge! of the Islands Department was in Niue on June 14th, he visited the Tufukea school, and a number of the boys made speeches which, were not only in very admirable English, ,but a sample of oratory that would have made useful models for some of New- Zealand's aspiring politicians. There are nearly sixty boys receiving tuition in the Tufukea school. The possibilities of a proper system of technical education if made available to these' young islanders, has been demonstrated by Mr Smith, who, unassisted for the past year or two, has been teaching his boys carpentry. They have not only acquired; remarkable skill in the use of the tools, but they also show, cleverness in designing and making articles1 of furniture, and the; school-house and many island residences are now the richer for sofas, towel-horses, tables, blackboards, etc., made by the boys in a manner that would not shame any city joinery shop.

11th August 1914 the meeting of the Education Board yesterday the chairman read an urgent telegram from the Inspector-General of Schools intimating that teachers enrolling in the Expeditionary Force would be protected as to their salaries.

The Inspector and Secretary were empowered to make with the committees whatever arrangements were necessitated for leave of absence and the appointment of relieving teachers. Applications for leave of absence to enable them to go forward were received from the following and granted:—Mr Francis Gibson, assistant at Blenheim school; Mr G. N. Taylor, teacher at Okaramio; Mr Leslie Craven, assistant at Grovetown……..

13th October 1914 .M was decided that the architect confer with the Committee regarding a scheme of improvements at the Grovetown School.

1915

1915	81	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C1	Head Master	£	240.00
1915	81	Grovetown	Ladley	Blanche A E	C1	Assistant Female	£	140.00
1915	81	Grovetown	Craven	Leslie A		Ex Forces	£	110.00
1915	81	Grovetown	Cheek	Eva		Assistant Female	£	110.00
1915	81	Grovetown	Sheridan	Constance				

12th January 1915 Miss M Harris appointed Grovetown

9th February 1915 Miss M Harris only qualified applicant appointed

4th March 1915 The town, presented quite a holiday appearance, a. .good number. ...having come down from Blenheim, as well as' the Grovetown school, whose annual picnic was held down the Sounds, the party being taken from and to Picton by the Waitohi.
9th March 1915 At the instance of Messrs Conolly and McCallum it was decided to build a shelter shed for the girls at the Picton school, and to renovate the inferior of the building in accordance with the report of the chairman, inspector, board secretary, who should visit the Grovetown school previously. —The inspector said that the erection of a roof in the building was very desirable.—The Board decided: not to entertain the request for the construction oil a new school. *(As written)*
13th April 1915 During the past year, the Marlborough Education Boa r«- has been aiming at the improvement .of' sanitary, conditions a.t its schools, and septic tank systems have been installed at Renwick, Havelock, and Picton, and similar works have been authorised for the Springlands, Rapaura, Grovetown,, and Ward schools
11th May 1915 GROVETOWN. The committee .asked for a number of building and ground improvements. It was resolved that the Board's executive committee visit the school with the architect, and report as to the necessity for and the probable cost of the work suggested
21st May 1915 School classes in wood work,-'cookery, and advanced plain needlework were continued at the Blenheim Technical School, being attended by pupils from t4ie following schools—Blenheim, Picton, Grovetown, Marlboroughtown, and Convent
14th September 1915 Gifts for soldiers; Grovetown: Socks, handkerchiefs, stationery, soap, laces, matches, cotton, and 5s 3d cigarettes

1916-1917

1917	69	Grovetown	Hill	Hollis J	C-58	Head	£250.00
1917	69	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	C-73	Assistant	£140.00

14th March 1916 Mr Hollis Hill, Grovetown School, wrote explaining his overstay; of two days from holiday leave, the boat being held up at Nelson.—The Board noted that Mr 'Hill had not returned to his duty on the resumption of school, and pointed out that the Board was put to the expense of filling Mr Hill's place for two days
15th June 1916 Marlborough Education Board report included one classroom, of the Grovetown school was rebuilt,
7th August 1916 In connection with the School Children Appeal on behalf of the Belgian Children's' Fund, the following further amounts have been received —Picton, £42.9s Id;. Canvastown, £34; Grovetown, £6 2s
24th March 1917 The Red Cross sub-committee wishes to draw the attention of all supporters to the fact thot-the sale will be held, for the next few weeks, in the shop adjoining that of Mr Daniels. 'On Thursday last a splendid contribution, chiefly of produce, was sent by the pupils of the- Grovetown school, and the committee wishes to thank very heartily these boys and girls, as well as all others who helped to make the last sale so successful
10th April 1917 Mrs Hill and the pupils of the Grovetown school had evidently worked very busily, with the 1 result that they forwarded a large 1 parcel of most saleable articles, all 1 made from sugar-bags, one of which (a. garden, hat) received a special- Prize *(Red Cross Sale)*
24th April 1917 Mr A. Craven, of Grovetown, received word yesterday that his son, Lieut. Leslie Craven, who has been fighting in Palestine, was reported dangerously wounded on the 19th inst. Lieut. Craven left as a trooper with the Main Body
31st May 1917 The pupils of the Grovetown school will give a patriotic, concert in the Coronation' Hall,' Grovetown, on Wednesday, in aid, of the funds of the Y M.C.A *(Young Men's Christian Association)*

5th June 1917 The Grovetown school children are practising diligently, and there is every prospect of an enjoyable evening at their concert to-morrow night. The first half, of the entertainment will consist of songs and marches, and conclude with a striking tableau depicting our boys in the firing, line while a boy recites an appeal for funds to help those who, "bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh," are serving the Empire need. It is hoped that the response from the audience will be commensurate with the needs of those who are helping the men in the firing line. The second half will consist of two scenes of "'Cinderella," during which many characters are introduced to the accornpaniment of bright choruses' by the children.

4th August 1917 Lieutenant Leslie A. Craven, a son of Mr Alex. Craven, of Grovetown,. Has been awarded the Military Cross Lieut. Craven left with the Main Body as a trooper in the Canterbury Mounted Machine-gun Section, and served through the Gallipoli campaign His good work earned, his promotion by succeeding .stages until recently he .became a lieutenant., He was dangerously wounded in a recent battle on the borders of Palestine, shrapnel bullet entering his shoulder and penetrating to the spine. A' letter from, a brother officer states that Lieut. Craven had, as always, done splendid work in the engagement until he was wounded. When war broke out this gallant soldier was a teacher in the service of the Marlborough Education Board

26th September 1917 The Grovetown school-children's effort on behalf of Dr Barnardo's Homes will take place in the Coronation Hall to-morrow afternoon. A musical programme will be rendered, and afternoon tea may be obtained

28th September 1918 The sale arranged and carried out by the Grovetown school children and their friends yesterday afternoon was an enjoyable entertainment, and resulted in a net return of over £8 for the relief of the poor children of London, who this winter will need special help. After the Rev. Mr Seaton had made a few introductory remarks in which he gave some interesting facts s and figures about Dr Barnardo's Homes, the w children gave a short programme, consisting of the following items:—Th-3 National Anthem and "The Union Jack," by the whole school; recitation, Laura Hill; song, David Smith; hoop drill, by the girls; recitation, Pearl Gibbons; song, Zita Herd; duet, Laura Hill and David Smith; recitation, Hazel Congdon; and "Won't You Buy My Pretty Flowers," the words being sung by David Smith and Gertrude Elsmore and the flower girls—May Chandler and Janet Brown—having a busy time collecting the coins thrown on the platform in response to the appeal. The stalls were then opened for business, and the fine collection of articles were soon disposed of by the children under the superintendence of their teachers. A very interesting personage in the shape of Mrs Pankhurst, dressed to character, caused much amusement and guessing as to her identity. The teachers desire to thank. especially Mesdames Wright, Hill, Thompson, and Misses Congdon and Craven, for their untiring efforts which made the gathering successful without encroaching upon the school time of the children.

27th December 1917 The draft of soldiers from overseas who returned to New Zealand on Sunday evening included Lieut. L. A. Craven, of Grovetown, who was dangerously wounded some months ago

1918-1919

1919	72	Grovetown	Ball	Douglas G		Head	£265.00
1919	72	Grovetown	Ladley	Ada B E	C-71	Assistant	£210.00
1919	72	Grovetown	Horton	Freda W		Probationer 1	£65.00

8th January 1918 Proficiency Certificates *(Entitles winners to free places at secondary school)*

Grovetown: Albert Eyles, Leonard Gibson, Hazel Congdon, Muriel Stretch.

10th January 1918 On Tuesday's list the name of Leonard Gibbons, Grovetown, was erroneously given as Gibson.

3rd October 1918 LIEUT. LESLIE CRAVEN

Lieut. Leslie Alex. Craven died at the Wairau Hospital this morning, succumbing to injuries he received fit the second battle of Gaza, Palestine. The deceased officer, who was 24 years of age, was the youngest son of Mr A. Craven, of Grovetown. When the war broke out he was a member of the teaching staff of the Grovetown School, and he immediately gave proof of that high sense of duty "that was one of the traits of an especially fine character, promptly enlisting ;md being a member of one of the first drafts to leave Blenheim. He went forward as a trooper with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, included in the main body of the Expedition-ivy Force, and lie was attached to the machine-gun section. He took part in all the actions at Gallipoli, from the landing of the Mounted Brigade to the. evacuation. There be w.is promoted to the rank of sergeant and then to his lieutenancy, being given command of a section in August, 1916. He was given accelerated promotion for further good work in the field, and he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action at the second battle of Gaza, in the Palestine campaign, on which occasion he was disabled by a shrapnel wound in the spine. He came back to New Zealand grievously paralysed, reaching Wellington on Christmas Day, 1917. After an interval of a few weeks there, he was removed to Blenheim and placed in the Wairau Hospital, where he remained throughout. Lieut. Craven was educated at- the Grovetown School and the Marlborough High School.

Visiting Blenheim is Captain R. P. Harper, who commanded the machine-gun squadron of a section of which Lieut. Craven was in charge and speaking to an Express reported he paid a high tribute to the memory of the deceased. He said a finer or braver soldier never left New Zealand. All through the Gallipoli Campaign although he suffered severely from illness, he could not he got to leave his post. Personally he was a very fine type of man. and he was greatly respected by all ranks for his sterling qualities both on and off the field. The flags were being flown half mast in Blenheim today as a mark of respect to the late Lieut. Craven.

19th October 1918 A resolution of sympathy was carried to be sent to members of the families of several teachers who have recently given their lives in the service of the country. Messrs L. Craven, of Grovetown, and W. R. Forbes, of Flat Creek, were the Marlborough teachers on the list

10th April 1919 DR BARNARDO'S HOMES

.ENTERTAINMENT AT GROVETOWN,

The "Grovetown School Lodge of the Young Helpers' League gave a very enjoyable entertainment in. the Coronation Hall on Friday last. The programme was provided solely by the children, and reflected much credit on the performers and on Mrs Hill, Mrs Allan Craven, and Mrs Wright, who were mainly responsible for their training. It consisted of an opening address by Miss May Chandler, patriotic song by Misa Jean and Madge Rush and Nola Sutherland; song, "Rosalie," by Master David Smith; recitation, "A Small Boy's Troubles," by Master Sid Chandler; and a recitation, "Bath Troubles," by Master Oscar Gibbons.

The last part of the programme depicted street scenes —the well-known songs being sung and the characters illustrated by the children. The items were: "Won't you buy my pretty flowers," Miss Gertrude Elsmore; "Pity Poor Johnnie," Master David Smith; "Caller Herrin'," Miss Maude Broadbent-Jones; a recitation by Miss Hazel Congdon entitled "New Year's Eve and "Only a Penny, Sir," Miss Maude Broadbent-Jones. The various characters were taken by Misses Laura Hill Cicely Mills, Eileen Mills, Dulcie Elsmore, Molly Beamsley, and Rita Mills, and Masters Martin, Broadbent- Jones, and D'Arcy Thomas. At the conclusion the Rev. W, W. Bedwell addressed the gathering, eulogising the good work being done by the children and teachers and giving a short account of the needs for such homes as the Dr.

Barnardo institution. The stalls were then opened for business, and were well patronised, and as a result of the whole effort a sum approximating £13 will be sent forward to headquarters.
19th April 1919 Grovetown:. Messrs J. H. Sutherland (chairman), J. Adams, A. Craven, P. Rush. C. Tapp (all re-elected unopposed).
3rd January 1919 A meeting of Grovetown residents will be held on Thursday, to consider what shall be done to perpetuate the memory of those who served their country on active service during the war
10th September 1919 "GOODBYE " TO MR AND MRS HOLLIS
On- Friday evening last a. very large number of people assembled in the Coronation Hall at Grovetown to bid farewell to Mr and Mrs Hollis Hill and family, who are about to leave the district to take up their residence at Brightwater Nelson. The hall had soon tastefully decorated for the occasion, and during the evening the school children, entertained the audience: with a varied programme, all of the items being greatly appreciated. Messrs E. March and Jamieson also sang, and gave' pleasure to their hearers. During an interval Mr J. H. Sutherland, chairman of the School Committee, chairman Mr and Mrs Hill with a. silver hot-water jug, suitably inscribed, us a, token of the esteem in which they are both held by the scholars and staff of the Grovetown school, as well as by the residents of Grovetown.
Several mem bears of the committee added their testimony to the energy and capability always shown by Mr. Hill, who, with. Mrs-.Hill, was always ready to help in everything pertaining to the welfare of the school and district. On behalf of the old scholars Mr Hill was presented with a Drier-bag.
At. this juncture Roy Tapp, small boy dressed as a baker, crossed the platform and i presented the guests of the 'evening' with a horseshoe, thus signifying the hope that good luck would attend, them in their now venture.
The Rev. AY. W. Bcdweili, on behalf of the Spring' Creek parish, presented Mr and Mrs. Hill with a suitcase, rug, and umbrella, and after expressing the regrets of- the members of the Anglican Church that they were about to sever their connection with the parish, he wished them Godspeed. The Misses Ada and Laura Hill were then each asked to accept a nicely bound church service from the Girls' Friendly Society, of which, they have been popular members. The members of the Mothers' Union, in connection: with the %»ring Greek' parish, then handed over a beautifully bound prayer-book to Mrs Hill, who has been one of its most valued members.
Mr Hill, on rising to respond, was greeted with loud applause' and the singing of "For he's a Jolly Good Follow." He thanked them for their tokens of goodwill, which he and his wife would prize very much, and said that although he was leaving the teaching profession, he would always be interested in the welfare of children and would always be ready to help forward any plan for educational reform. At the close of the concert the guests of the evening and their assembled friends were entertained at supper, which had been nicely laid out at the rear of the platform. Afterwards the hall was cleared and many of the young folk danced for a short time.
Mr Hill, who- has been headmaster of the Grovetown school for the past eight years, has resigned his position to go into business, and he and his family leave in the course of a few days.
17th September 1919 The following resignations from teacherships were accepted by the Education Board at its monthly meeting this morning:—Mr. H. Hill, head teacher. Grovetown;
17th October 1919 Permission was granted: .to the Grovetown Committee to erect a memorial in the school ground to the men who left the district to fight for King and country.

1920-1921

1921	89	Grovetown	Ball	Douglas G	C	Head	£320.00
1921	89	Grovetown	Ladely	Ada B E	C	Assistant	£270.00
1921	89	Grovetown	Cresswell	Phyllis M	D	Assistant	£220.00
1921	89	Grovetown	Gibson	Mary A		Probationer 2	£90.00

17th January 1920 Mr J. Ball, editor of the Wanganui Chronicle, is paying a visit to Blenheim, and is staying with his son at Grovetown.
18th February 1920 At a meeting some time ago it was decided that the **Grovetown** memorial tablet should take the form of a marble tablet to be erected in the public school grounds with the names of all Grovetown boys who were killed or wounded, in the great war engraved upon it. This week in the, Grovetown Hail the movement was curried another step forward, when various minor matters were adjusted.
18th March 1920 Wellington Education Board The Board's architects to visit the district shortly to inspect' and recommend various works. Renovation work was also authorised at the Grovetown. residence
30th April 1920 School Committee Grovetown: Messrs A. Craven, A Mills, P. Rush, C.-Tapp, and J, H. Sutherland.
17th May 1920 In the school competition for the Aiken, Cup, the Borough School team played a Grovetown school team at Grovetown on Saturday, the score being 1 to nil in favor of the Blenheim team.
20th May 1920 Those girls desirous of forming a Grovetown Hockey Club are asked to meet in the Grovetown School at 7.30 on Friday
20th August 1920 Basketball has long been known as a- first-class game for girls, bin, it is comparatively recently that it has been played to any extent in New Zealand. It is now played in most parts of the' Dominion.
Quito recently it was taken up most enthusiastically by many of the schools in Marlborough Last Saturday a tournament was held in the grounds of the Blenheim Borough School. Teams representing Marlborough College, Blenheim Borough School, Picton, Spring Greek, Grovetown, and Springlands schools took part. In the first round Marlborough College defeated Borough 8., Spring Creek defeated Borough C, Borough A. defeated Picton, and Grovetown defeated Springlands. In the second round College defeated Spring Creek and Borough A. defeated Grovetown. The final was won by Borough by G paints to nil.
Basketball is what is now known as netball. The court was split into thirds and 3 players from each team stayed in their third. It was not till later the rules were changed in the 1960's
There are no more Marlborough Papers recorded in Papers Past after 1920

1922-1923

1923	96	Grovetown	Ball	Douglas G	C-126	Head	£335.00
1923	96	Grovetown	Ladely	Ada B E	C-153	Assistant	£253.00
1923	96	Grovetown	Cresswell	Phyllis M	D-200	Assistant	£215.00

Douglas George Ball was born in Wanganui on 19 October 1895, the son of John Ball, a journalist, and his wife, Emma Agnes Shaw. He was educated at the Victoria Avenue primary school and Wanganui Technical School. He then spent four years as a pupil-teacher. Enlisting in the army in 1915, Ball left New Zealand in January 1916 for France. He fought in the battle of the Somme and was mentioned in dispatches. Subsequently recommended for officer cadet training, he was commissioned a second lieutenant.
Ball married Isabel Mary Elizabeth Lee in London on 7 May 1918. On his return to New Zealand he was appointed headmaster of Grovetown, a two-teacher primary school just outside Blenheim. An important inspiration was N. R. McKenzie, a Wellington Education

Board inspector who had studied under the progressive American educationalist John Dewey. Ball described McKenzie's visits as always exciting, with the inspector carrying a suitcase of the latest publications on modern educational philosophy and methods. While at Grovetown, Ball completed an LLB extramurally and received very high grading marks. In 1926 he was appointed an organising teacher to the Taranaki Education Board, visiting isolated one-teacher rural schools accessible only on horseback. During his two years in Taranaki he completed a BA degree extramurally.

In February 1929 Ball was appointed inspector of native schools. Once again he rode to schools in remote areas, later commenting that he was sometimes taken for a drover. Influenced by Dewey's ideas, Ball believed strongly in 'learning by doing' and 'child activity', and this profoundly influenced his work in native schools. His review of the role of the schools led to their being given a fresh direction. Finding the teaching methods over-formal and stultifying, he set himself the task of improving the confidence and competence of the teachers. They were encouraged to replace stereotyped classroom teaching with a more child-centred approach, aimed at stimulating activity and developing responsibility.

When Ball joined the native schools service, he was a comparatively young man, conscious of much needing to be done, and possibly hoped to achieve at least some of his reforms within a short time. The morale of the teachers had been waning and the Native School Teachers' Association losing membership. Because of the remoteness of the schools, teachers had little opportunity to meet together and discuss professional matters. Ball organised regular meetings of teachers on the East Coast and in Northland and provided them with educational literature. He introduced new ideas in a native schools column in the *New Zealand Education Gazette* and announced plans for building up the inadequate school library facilities. He placed considerable emphasis on strengthening links between schools and communities, including visits by teachers to marae and parents to schools.

Ball's most important contribution to Maori education was to reverse the policy of Europeanisation of native schools, which had meant that almost the only indication they were for Maori was the presence of Maori pupils. He was responding to concerns among prominent Maori such as Apirana Ngata that aspects of Maori culture were under threat, and to anthropological theories about the intrinsic value of all cultures. He was also influenced by British colonial policy in Africa, which emphasised that 'Education should be adapted to the traditions and mentality of the people'. Ball introduced taniko (embroidery), carving, poi dances and Maori games, and used Maori stories in history lessons. In order to develop activities of this kind effectively, Ball encouraged teachers to study Maori culture. To disseminate the new approach, teachers attended refresher courses on Maori culture held with Ngata, Tutere Wi Repa, Pine Taiapa and Hera Rogers as guest lecturers, and invitations were issued to Maori experts to visit schools and assist with the instruction.

Like most of his contemporaries, Ball believed that the Maori future lay on the land, and agricultural and gardening activities were consequently expanded. By 1939 he reported that most East Coast and Northland schools were participating in home gardens and stock-rearing projects. Health education also received emphasis, with a new scheme of instruction issued to teachers in 1934.

Ball was also responsible for the inspection of the Maori denominational boarding colleges, which, in order to carry on with depleted rolls and a fall in income caused by the depression, were forced to introduce economies and reduce staffing. In 1937 he advised the principals of the boys' colleges that too much time was being spent on purely practical outdoor work and too little on classroom studies. In a comprehensive report prepared in 1939 he showed that pupils leaving the more remote native schools lacked the opportunity to receive a secondary education. This hastened recognition of the need to build district high schools in remote areas.

Looking back on his years in Maori education, Ball wrote that he had come to recognise how 'The school had been in the pa, but not of the pa. In all respects it had been an English school,…and it had failed the Maori in his critical period of adjustment.' He acknowledged the difficulty of realising a 'blending of cultures and spiritual values' in schools which were Maori in name only, and in which the Maori language was seldom heard. He also stressed the need to abandon 'motivations and objectives almost completely European'. Despite the slow progress in making Maori culture integral to the native school, the atmosphere and environment of many classrooms became more humane and happier for Maori children during Ball's term, and the schools had ceased to be regarded as an outright instrument of assimilation. Ball could also claim to have improved the morale and performance of the teachers.

Ball had been promoted to senior inspector in 1937. He found promotion within the Department of Education blocked by the appointment of C. E. Beeby as assistant director in 1938. He appealed without success, but came to see Beeby's appointment as justified because 'the Department came to life and I enjoyed working under his direction'. In 1940 he took up an appointment as a senior inspector of primary schools in the head office of the Department of Education.

In September 1942 Ball was appointed first director of the Army Education and Welfare Service with the rank of lieutenant colonel. It was a daunting task as New Zealand had no system of army education. He made a thorough study of other schemes, particularly that of the British Army. He established a central office in Wellington, appointing teaching staff from a wide range of professional and trade backgrounds and arranging financial support. By early 1943 the service had begun to provide educational facilities for the troops. Progress was not always straightforward: Ball had to cope with a feeling among some senior army officers that education had no place in a fighting force.

Ball oversaw the development of a series of booklets dealing with training in trades, agriculture and general subjects. Comprehensive university, professional and vocational studies courses were developed with his typical thorough planning. He provided library services and was responsible for supplying 16-millimetre sound projectors and films on military training, education and entertainment.

Ball returned to the Department of Education in 1947 as chief inspector of primary schools. In February 1950 he was promoted to assistant director of education (professional), taking special responsibility for the supervision of the school sector and working on revisions of teacher grading and salary scales. Shortly before his retirement in 1955 he was appointed to chair a committee set up to review Maori education policy.

In January 1956 Ball accepted an invitation from the commissioner of police to take up a part-time appointment as director of police training. He chaired a committee whose report recommended a complete change in the concept and methods of training and a new, larger and better-equipped training college. His influence was clearly evident in the structure and aims of the syllabus and the attempt to achieve greater sophistication in instruction. He was also concerned with the development of in-service training of police beyond the recruit level.

Ball published little, but did contribute a chapter on education to I. L. G. Sutherland's *The Maori people today* in 1940 and co-authored a book on the inspection of primary schools in 1961. In the same year he was appointed chairman of the Maori Education Foundation. His foreword to each of his 10 annual reports drew on his extensive experience to survey developments relevant to Maori education. He commanded the Makara Battalion of the Home Guard from 1940 to 1942 and was a senior officer of the St John Ambulance Association for Wellington, and a member of the Wellington Civil Service Club and the Rotary Club of Wellington. He died at his home at Lowry Bay, Eastbourne, on 8 February 1986. He was survived by three sons and a daughter; Isabel Ball had died in 1978.

John Barrington. 'Ball, Douglas George', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, updated 4-Jun-2013

Post 1923

9th June 1931 Miss D Day appointed infant mistress
6th February 1940 Miss M J O'Brien from Canterbury appointed assistant teacher

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National Archives

National Archives 1908 – 1944

14th August 1908 Shelter Shed erected

18th November 1909 Marlborough Education Board to Director of Education included

a) Teachers residence no longer is inhabitable
b) Please provide house allowance until a new residence is built
c) The present house was built in 1876 of white pine and is in a very bad state of decay
d) Roll September 1909 94
e) House allowance would be at £30 per annum

Director asks, Where is the teacher now living?

29th November Owing to Mr. Ladley's death a relieving teacher is in charge of eh school

The family moved out immediately

4th December 1909 From Director asking if the relieving teacher is living in the house and what would be got for it if sold?

24th December The Board recently called for tenders but so far no offer has been received. The place is in such a decay

The relieving teacher is not making use of it *A H W Thompson Relieving)*

13th January 1910 Three tenders received. The highest for £10 was accepted

21st January 1910 Application for school Residence

One out office 6 foot x 4 foot About 1 acre of land

Inspector of Marlborough Education Board writes I recommend this grant. The other house which was of white pine would probably have been disused earlier but the headmaster had grown old in residence

3rd March 1910 In reply I have to inform you the new outbuilding, consisting of wash house and fuel shed was not included in the recent sale of the old residence

30th March Telegram Is grant for residence available. Teacher unable to get house, living in tent

30th March 1910 In reply to your telegram writes Mr. E Gibbes Secretary for education writes grant is not yet available. I understand Grovetown is only 2 miles from Blenheim why does the teacher find it necessary to live in a tent

27th April 1910 Letter from Marlborough Education Board to Gibbes included

a) No house is available in Grovetown
b) Teacher unable to travel to and from Blenheim because of permanent lameness
c) Moreover there is always some danger in having to cross the railway bridge over the Opawa

d) The roads between the bridge and school are often in a bad state

19th May 1910 Four hundred granted for Grovetown residence

29th November 1910 House of six rooms scullery and bathroom with entrance hall, vestibule and verandah on North Side

Well-built of Rimu with Iron roof and stands on Totara Piles with outbuildings of previous house

21st August Mr. Hylton Secretary of Marlborough Education Board Writes to director

Disregard previous statement this one is correct

a) 1 classroom erected 1878 580 square feet (Rebuilt 1904)
b) 1 classroom erected 1878 899 square feet (Rebuilt 1894)
c) 1 Building 1894 (1878) 564 square feet transferred from Blenheim
d) This was part of the first infant school in Blenheim

1st June 1925 Septic tank for Residence The school has a septic tank system but the residence doesn't

17th August 1925 Department pays half of cost of septic tank for house £17.10

20th December 1926 Application for a toilet for teacher's. None at present

29th April 1927 Wellington Education Board notes re Grovetown school. Note the windows are 8 foot above the floor, consequently poor lighting There is no Teacher's conveniences

5th October 1933 Average attendance 33 Staff 2 Area 1 ½ acres

13th October 1933 Rebuilding shelter shed. This shed has been existence for 60 years the Department think the Board should rebuild it

Wellington Education Board offer to rebuild shed

7th June 1935 Letter from J Thomas Secretary of School Committee to Mr. Healy MP asking for a visit by the Minister of Education because

a) The school is in a shocking state of repair
b) It is unsanitary and unhealthy being too low on the ground and all storm water lodges underneath with no outlet. The school is on a dangerous site for young children as young children have to brave the dangers of both railway and fast motor traffic
c) That it has been condemned by member of the Education Board

25th June Roll is 39

31st January 1936 Notes for visit of Minister

Head Teacher Miss K Hilliard

Roll 40

27th October 1936 Proposal to Rebuild school

1935 Roll 49

Dillon's Point 4 Miles away. Blenheim 2 ¼ miles Spring Creek 1 3.4 mils

Section 38 Wairau West Block II

Proposed Open Air School Conveniences to be connected to present septic tank

Cost £1824.6.0

23rd September 1937 After much promise from Minister Cabinet approves a grant to purchase another acre and replace the buildings

2 classroom building

28th November It is agreed to purchase a new site for Grovetown School

5 ½ acres owned by the Cameron Family

1st September 1939 New land approved

14th February 1940 Purchase settled

26th February 1940 Plans announced

4th May 1940 School Committee claiming nothing has happened. It is now over 4 years since grant has been made for new school

Wairau Pa wants to move onto site of old Grovetown school

29th October 1941 Miss K Hilliard still Head teacher

Roll 372

5th February 1944 The work is signed off by Architect of Wellington Education Board Cost £3917

Hawkesbury (1891-1896)

About 13 Kilometres from Blenheim just off Highway 63 Became Omaka School in 1897

Omaka (1878. 1897-1923)

South West of Blenheim, aerodrome now and in the vicinity of Peter Jackson's Museum

1878	Omaka	Moore	William	Head	£	20.00

14th October 1876 OMAKA EDUCATION BOARD.

The minutes were read and confirmed

A letter from the Renwick teacher was read, asking leave to send children home again while suffering from an infectious complaint.

It transpired that no School Committee had been appointed for the year, the former one having lapsed. The Chairman said in reply to a question that there was no necessity for one, and that the non-appointment was due to the remissness of the Board.

On the motion of Dr Horne, seconded by Mr Jackson it was resolved that Messrs. O'Sullivan, Shaw, Goff, Robert D. McIsaac, and Tunnicliffe be the School Committee.

It was also resolved on the motion of Messrs. Horne and Rose that the letter of the School teacher be referred to the School Committee.

The Secretary reported that the amount to credit of the Board was £49 19s Id. The following accounts were then passed and ordered to be paid Teacher £30 15s 3d, clerk £2 17s, Times Co. £1 11s 2d, Moore, repairing pump 15a, Griffiths, commission £3 8s 10d.

10th January 1877 OMAKA VALLEY. The Chairman stated that he had received a communication from a Mr. Moore, who was teaching in the Omaka Valley, making a charge of ls (*1 shilling)* per week to the children who attended. Mr Moore requested the Board to give him some assistance. Mr Ward said that Mr Moore was a very good teacher and really deserved support. The Chairman stated that hitherto Mr Moore had been in receipt of a small sum from the; Government, but it was a mere pittance. Capt. Baillie then moved— That Mr W. Moore receive assistance towards the school he teaches in the Omaka Valley at the rate of £20 per annum. Mr Ward seconded the motion. Mr Goulter thought it was a mistake to deal with the matter at present. Before they opened any new schools, they should have some definite scheme, and know exactly what would be at their disposal however if this was the

only case he would not oppose. Capt. Baillie would rather see assistance given to education in the out-districts, than in populous centres, where it would be almost self-supporting. The motion was then carried *nem con*

14th February 1877 The Chairman said that they had made a precedent at their last meeting in subsidising a school at the Omaka Valley. It was resolved that the subsidy be granted

9th June 1877 Inspector Lee's report Omaka Valley. Mr Moore who has been many years a teacher, is carefully instructing the few children who can be mustered in this locality. At present the reading wants life, but the writing was very fair, especially the Copy Book writing. Too much Arithmetic was attempted.

6th November 1878 Inspector Lee's Report. OMAKA.. Mr Moore. (6 present. Sound work, so far as it goes, is being done in this, surely the smallest of schools. The children not only read well, but evidently had been taught the meaning of what they were reading. They also recite poetry with correct intonation, and solved whatever sums they attempted. The four who tried the Standards passed, two in the first, two in the second grade

Omaka School Closed 30th September 1879 (Report to Parliament 1879)

28th April 1886 Blenheim School Committee meeting included: Some of the householders of that part of the Omaka district immediately west of the town are -agitating' for a school, and your Committee are of opinion, from the numbers who will attend the school, if opened, that it would be better that it should be a separate school district, and have so recommended, but we leave it to our successors to settle the matter.

1891

1891	15	Hawkesbury	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	52.10

Note this is not Prime Minister Joseph Ward who came from Southland

7th April 1891 HAWKESBURY. Messrs C. Goulter, J. Ward and others wrote asking that a school be established at Old Hawkesbury, three miles from Renwick. Resolved that capitation be granted in the usual way.

5th May 1891 HAWKESBURY The Committee recommended Mr Joseph Ward jun., as master, and the appointment was confirmed, the Chairman stating that the selection was a good one.

There was also a Joseph Ward on the Marlborough Education Board presumably Father and Son

1892

1892	13	Hawkesbury	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	45.10

1893-1894-1895

1893	13	Hawkesbury	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	54.00
1894	14	Hawkesbury	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	57.00
1895	16	Hawkesbury	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	62.10

The Schoolmaster Joseph Ward died 1st June 1938 aged 93. He married in 1881 Alice Frances Bolton, she died aged 99 in 1948. Both are buried in Blenheim. Don't believe they had any children

Joseph (Teacher) was from Great Hayward in Staffordshire, England. His Uncle was also Joseph Ward who was on the Marlborough Education Board His father was an Auctioneer who came to NZ with the whole family, the father died in a lunatic asylum, The family is

tied into several very important families in the region, Joseph's (teacher) 1st cousins are the Redwoods

1896

1896 15 Hawkesbury Ward Joseph Master £ 60.00

14th May 1896 The name of the estate currently called Hawkesbury recently acquired by the Government from Mr C Goulter, has been change to Omaka, so as to avoid confusion with another estate called Hawkesbury, in. the South. *Near Waikouaiti north of Dunedin. Hawksbury without an E*

13th October 1896 New School District. —Mr Redwood Goulter waited on the Education Board today in support of a petition from about twelve householders, asking that the locality of Hawkesbury be constituted a separate school district. The necessity for this educational provision arises through the disposition by the Government of the Omaka (Hawkesbury) estate for close settlement. The number of school children in the locality of school age is 34, and the number under school age 20. Mr Chaytor suggested that the application be considered at next meeting so that all the members of the Board might have a voice in the matter. Finally the application was granted, and the secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps to have the locality constituted a school district

10th November 1896 OMAKA., Mr C Goulter waited on the Board in reference to the arrangement of the new school district in connection with the Omaka Hawkesbury settlement. A School Committee bad been formed, and Mr Goulter elected chairman. It was asked that the suggested boundaries be extended so as to include Mr. Newman's and Mr Bary's properties, and. that the matter be pushed on, and the. School erected , as speedily as possible. On the suggestion of Mr Parker it was decided to include the Tyntesfield homestead in the new district. Resolutions were passed fixing the boundaries as intimated, and instructing the architect to prepare plans and' specifications, for next meeting, for a school to provide accommodation for 50 children, the number of children of school age in the district being given as 34.

1897

1897 16 Omaka Ward Joseph Master £ 62.10

12th January 1897 Erection of School at Hawkesbury £288 Bythell and Co.

10th February Inspectors Report Of the smaller schools not yet mentioned, the following have done very creditable work Hawkesbury, Grove et al

12th May 1897 The request of the Hawkesbury Committee for fencing was granted, one chain of palings to be erected.

1898

1898 28 Omaka Ward Joseph Master £ 80.10

16th February 1898 Request for furniture and as to a water supply for the Hawkesbury School was granted *(As Written)*

Of the 21 Board Schools, seven were very good, seven have done well including Omaka where 9 were examined and 7 passed

12th July 1898 The state of the finances was attributed to the extent of the building operations of the Board, the district being very scattered and it was pointed out that whereas the Board

had spent £610 on the Blind River and Hawkesbury schools, it had received in connection with the work only £80 from the Government

1899

1899	21	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	74.10

2nd March 1899 Inspector's report included
Number examined 17. Number Passed 15 Number re-presented 3 *(If a child passed the standard 1 exam say then the teacher might represent the child to sit the standard 2 exam and if they pass that they would go from Standard 1 to Standard 3 without spending a year in Standard 2*
12th July 1899 OMAKA SCHOOL. The correspondent asked for certain email requirements, which were granted, *Having a correspondent means that no School Committee had been elected*

1900-1901

1900	18	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	67.10
1901	12	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	54.00

17th April 1901 Omaka graded as good, 1 of 11. Twelve were ranked very good and three poor
13th August 1901 Two pounds was granted for repairs to the school

1902-1903

1902	15	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	68.00
1903	14	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Head	£	76.00

21st January 1903 Cattle Straying.—Before Mr T. Scott-Smith, S.M., this morning at the Police Court Bernard Duffy was Fined 2s and 13b 6d costs for allowing cattle to stray on the public road, near the Omaka State School. Louisa Ricketts was charged with allowing cattle to be at large on Ricketts's cross road, Renwick, and was fined 2s and costs 13s 6 d. *(Researcher short of school stuff)*
8th June 1903 The Blenheim Committee wrote endorsing the series of resolutions passed by the Board in reference to the ease lately heard in the Teachers' Appeal Court. Similar communications were received from the Havelock, Kaituna, Cullensville, Omaka**,** and Rai Valley Committees

1904

1904	11	Omaka	Ward	Joseph	Master	£	76.00

9th February 1904 Inspector's report included In addition to the Blenheim private schools, Mr Smith also examined a small" private school at Hawkesbury, the scholars being taken to the Omaka School for the examination, so that no loss of time was occasioned by his doing so. This little school presented to scholars in Standards 2, 3, 4 and 5, and all passed.
13th September 1904 he Education Department notified that the "continuation" class at Saratoga Bay and the needlework class at Omaka would be recognised.
14th September 1904 Mrs G. Bishell's appointment as teacher of sewing at the Omaka school was confirmed.

1905

1905 11 Omaka Ward Joseph Licensed Master £ 65.00 £10.00

The extra £10.00 is a housing allowance for head teachers when no residence is provided at a Board School

11th July 1905 The appointment of Mrs A. Murdock as sewing mistress at Omaka was confirmed

17th October 1905 School gardening is becoming popular in the Marlborough district. Gardens are being cultivated at the following places:—Springlands, Waitohi,. Omaka, Tua Marina, Blenheim,. Okaramio, Waitaria, Grove, Marshlands, Marlboroughtown, Fairhall. At Omaka a special feature is made of the production of grasses.

1906

1906 12 Omaka Williams E M T Female £ 66.00 £10.00

13th March 1906 The Omaka school children held their annual picnic at Picton on the 6th, and a most enjoyable day was spent. Young and old thoroughly enjoyed themselves

21st March 1906 Inspector's report included Omaka was open only 399 half days out of the 420 days it was supposed to be

22nd March 1906 The following schools deserve mention, in addition to those referred to under the head of Drawing: Grovetown (plasticene modelling), Waitaria, Marshlands, Tua Marina, Omaka (gardens.)

13th August 1916 Applications for the position of teachers at .the Blind River, Omaka, Grassmere, and North Bank schools were forwarded to the respective committees.

10th September 1906 Miss E M T Williams appointed

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Inspector reported upon the 15 schools examined. The schools at Fabian's Valley, Havelock, and Fairhall had reached the "good" class. Ten of the 15 schools examined had shown improvement since, last year. This was doubtless due to the teachers' winter school of last year showing results. Miss Goulter's private school at Hawkesbury was also inspected, and favourably reported on

1907

1907 14 Omaka O'Sullivan Frances Female £ 85.00 £10.00

4th March 1907 A pleasing function took place at the Omaka School on Thursday last (writes-our Renwick correspondent), when the scholars, with their parents, assembled to say good-by to the departing mistress, Miss E. M. T. Williams. As a token of esteem and good wishes a very handsome lady's companion and work-box was presented to Miss Williams. The recipient, who was evidently taken by surprise, suitably replied, thanking the pupils for their valuable souvenir and the residents for their kindness during her stay in Omaka. Afternoon tea was then dispensed by the ladies, who all joined in wishing Miss Williams every' happiness in the sphere she is about to enter. Miss O'Sullivan, lately teacher at Sea View, is the newly-appointed teacher at Omaka.

7th March 1907 A wedding of more than local interest was celebrated at. Mt. Pleasant yesterday, when Mr W. Fleming, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robt. Fleming, Rangiora, was married to Miss Elizabeth T. Williams, third daughter of Mr and Mrs John T. Williams, very old residents of Mt. Pleasant. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. B. H. Ward, 8.A., at Holy Trinity Church, Picton, and was fully choral, Miss Fuller presiding at the organ and

playing the Wedding March. The bride looked lovely in a dress of white merv silk, trimmed with drawn ribbon, and embroidered with chiffon. A special feature of her dress was the tulle veil, which was a handsome piece of work done by her mother. She wore also the orthodox spray of orange blossoms, and carried a shower bouquet-. The bridesmaids were Misses Agnes and Myra Williams, who wore dresses of creme crepeline trimmed with lace and ribbon, with straw hats trimmed with pink chiffon, they being assisted by the Misses Mary and Hester Williams, who wore white muslin dresses and Leghorn hats. The ceremony over, the guests proceeded to Mt. Pleasant, where they were received by Mrs Williams, who wore a dress of black merv silk. The sumptuous wedding breakfast was spread in a large marquee, which had been erected for the occasion. After partaking of the good things provided, Mr Yarrall—a very old friend of the family—proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, which was drunk with musical honours, and responded to by the bridegroom. -Other toasts included the bridesmaids, Mr and Mrs Williams, and Mr and-Mrs R. Fleming, while the Rev. Ward, in a nice little speech, gave sortie practical advice. The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a gold bangle. The two elder bridesmaids wore gold rings, while the other two wore gold brooches, also gifts from the bridegroom.. Many and beautiful were the presents received,: and included one from the Omaka School, where Miss Williams was for a time teacher, and also one from the scholars and teachers pf the Koromiko Sunday School. The happy couple to Blenheim, enroute-to their new home at Brooklyn. Seddon, taking with them the good wishes^ of a host of friends. The bride's travelling dress was of navy Sicilian cloth, with ivory vest and pale blue hat.

1907/897	Elizabeth Mary Trengrove	Williams	William	Fleming
1887/15334	Williams	Elizabeth Mary Trengrove	Mary Ann	John Trengrove
1887/13492	Williams	Elizabeth Mary Treugrove	Mary Ann	John Treugrove
1975/32399	Fleming	Elizabeth Mary Trengrove	5/2/1887	88Y

13th March 1907 Omaka open 421 half days out of 420 expected
23rd April 1907 OMAKA. Messrs Dalziel (Chairman), Ching, ' G Bishell, M. Falvey, and R. Patchett were elected.
15th October 1907 Inspector included Omaka in Satisfactory to good class.
12th November 1907 Upon the occasion of the retirement of Mr Joseph Ward from the mastership of the Hawkesbury and Omaka Schools an address and presentation was made him by, the scholars. We have been furnished with a copy of the address, as follows: We, the undersigned ex-pupils of yours (also the parents), much regret your retirement from the mastership of the Hawkesbury and Omaka schools, which positions you have so long and ably filled. We desire to express our appreciation of the kindness, and also of the firmness, tact, and impartiality you have ever shown in your relations with us. You have studied by word and example to advance our education in a moral, as well as in a secular, sense, and we shall always owe you a deep debt of gratitude on that account. We shall look back on our school days, spent in our association with you, as some of the happiest of our lives. In conclusion, we wish you and Mrs Ward long life and happiness, and hope you will accept this small token as a mark of our esteem. The presentation took the form of a handsome tea set for Mrs Ward, and an easy chair and inkstand for Mr Ward.

Mr Murdoch said he much regretted the resignation of Mr Ward, as he had been in close association with that gentleman for 15 years. As a neighbour and teacher he had no rival. His passes were always of the first rank. He was sure they all regretted the inability of Mrs Ward to attend. They hoped Mrs Ward would have speedy recovery from her illness, and a long life and happiness to use the tea set; also Mr Ward to sit in his chair and use his inkstand. Mr R. Patchett also spoke in suitable terms.
Mr Ward, in reply, thanked his ex pupils and their parents for the kindness shown towards himself and Mrs Ward, and was very sorry that Mrs Ward was not able to attend the function. Three cheers were then given for Mr and. Mrs Ward; then afternoon tea was served. In the evening a most successful and enjoyable social was held in the Omaka schoolroom, under the able management of the ex-pupils. Excellent music was supplied by Messrs Herd, Parsons and Martin. The supper,, provided by the young ladies, was all that could be desired, and was under the capable management of Mesdames Murdoch and Patchett. The floor was a credit to the M.C.'s, Messrs Murdoch, O'Connor, and Beal, who worked well to make it a success, dancing being indulged in until an early hour of the morning.
Mr Ward resigned in September 1906

1908

1908 17 Omaka O'Sullivan Frances Female £ 99.00 £10.00

14th July 1908 SHELTER SHEDS. The Marlboroughtown, Tua Marina, and Omaka School Committees wrote asking the Board to grant them a shelter shed, as soon as the Board's funds would permit. Tua Marina sent an estimate of £21 9s 6d for the erection of a shed, and the Omaka School Committee suggested £10 as a probable estimate. A short discussion took place in regard to the question 6| —supplying shelter sheds.' The Inspector reported that the Board had formerly made requests to the Department for various small sums, and had been told that the amounts were so small that the Board had better meet them out of their own funds. He pointed out, however, that with such a number of schools the amount was large. The Government, moreover, had objected to granting money at all for shelter sheds……..
29th July 1909 A very enjoyable social, given by the ladies of it-he district, was held in the Omaka school on Friday evening last, there being about 25 couples present. The music was supplied by Mr Barker, and extras were played by Mrs Newman and Mrs Murdock. Messrs Beale and Murdoch acted as M.C's, and carried out their duties effectively. Mr Connor added to the enjoyment of the evening by contributing vocal items. The supper, which was provided by the ladies, was all that could be desired. Mr Barker delivered a short address congratulating the ladies on the success of the function. Dancing was kept up till the early hours of the morning.
15th December 1908 he Marlborough Education Board at its meeting yesterday re-appointed the following teachers for a further term of twelve months:—Mr Sturrock, Misses Brewer, Brown, Wanden and Harris (Blenheim), Mr Best (Okaramio), Miss O'Sullivan (Omaka) and Mrs Jones (Marshlands). *Marlborough Education Board had a contentious policy at this time of annual appointment of teachers. A number of outside teachers turned down their appointments because of this clause in a number of schools*

1909

1909 19 Omaka O'Sullivan Frances Female £ 112.10

8th January 1909 Cabinet has authorised a grant for the erection of a school residence at Omaka
11th May 1909 The Board's architect recommended that a lean-to be added to the Omaka School teacher's residence. The Chairman moved, and Mr Macey seconded, that the additions be made.—Carried
10th August 1909 The Omaka School Committee applied for a grant of £10 towards the cost of erecting 'a fence around the teacher's residence.
The Secretary said the Chairman of the Omaka School Committee had said he could ge.t the work done for £6.
It was decided that the Board grant £6 for the work.

1910-1911

1910	18	Omaka	O'Sullivan	Frances T	D4	Female	£	120.00	£15.00
1911	22	Omaka	O'Sullivan	Frances T	D4	Female	£	135.00	

1887/17351 O'Sullivan Frances Theresa Mary Ann Timothy
In 1913/14 Frances was at Havelock Suburban School
3rd May 1911 The internal condition have become much brighter and more attractive since the Board adopted the policy of painting the interior. The neatest and best adorned wore those at Riverlands, Blind River, Marshlands, Omaka, Spring Creek, Waikakaho, and St. Joseph's Girls' School (private) but I observed in several other directions an endeavor to improve the environment. Inspector's Report
9th May 1911 The Omaka School Committee applied for the Board's subsidy on £7 11s 6d collected by the teacher and pupils towards the cost of a school library. It was decided to grant a subsidy of £3 15s 9d.
13th June 1911 OMAKA SCHOOL COMMITTEE^ The appointment of Mr H. Chmg as a member of the Omaka School Committee was approved.

1912

1912	18	Omaka	Gayne	Violet E	C3	Female	£	120.00

13th February 1912 Gertrude O'Sullivan finished last of the successful candidates in the Junior National Scholarship examination Gertrude got 411 marks. 533 being the Top Mark
The names of the certificated applicants for the Omaka teachership. resigned by Miss Frances O'Sullivan who has, an engagement in Timaru) were referred to the committee for a recommendation.
12th November 1912 The teacher at Omaka wrote asking for directions in regard to the use of the school for the -purposes of entertainments.—The Secretary was instructed to forward information to the Chairman of the Committee.

1913

1913	17	Omaka	O'Sullivan	Agnes E	C4	Female	£	120.00

10h May 1913 Omaka, W. Reader (chairman), A. Murdock, J. Bishell, D. Bishell junr., A. Watson School Committee
14th May 1913 Inspector reports that a residence has been built at Omaka
10th June 1913 Miss V E Gayne appointed Deep Creek

15th July 1913 After consideration of applications for sole teacherships at Omaka and Onamalutu, it was decided to forward the names of one qualified teacher to the Committee in each case.
18th August 1913 Mr Neil Forbes, who has recently held the position of teacher at the Omaka School, left for the North Island on Saturday. Prior to his departure Mr Forbes was presented by the pupils of the school with a gold mounted silver cigarette-holder as a token of good feeling
9th September 1913 Sole teacher, Omaka: It was decided to forward the application of the only certificated applicant to the committee.

1914

1914	16	Omaka	O'Sullivan	Agnes E	C3	Female	£ 120.00

1st May 1914 School Committee OMAKA. Messrs W. Reader (chairman), D. O'Connor, M. Falvey, J. H. Allsop,. H. Bishell.
9th June 1914 OMAKA. The Committee wrote asking that the kitchen be lined and a bathroom and pantry added to the teacher's residence.—-The architect was instructed to .report.
14th July 1914 OMAKA
The architect presented a report on the state of the school building, and suggested a scheme of improvement. The report was adopted, and it was resolved to apply to the Department for the necessary grant.
5th November 1914 The schools' ambulance fund has been augmented by the sum of 11s 6d donated by pupils of the Omaka school.

1915

1915	18	Omaka	O'Sullivan	Agnes E	C3	Female	£ 130.00

11th May 1915 In reference to the Omaka school -the secretary reported that he had already applied to the. Department for a school residence. It was resolved that the executive committee visit the school to inquire into its requirements.
13th July 1915 The architect reported on the requirements, of the Omaka school, with recommendations. The report was adopted, on the motion of Messrs -Mackay and Conolly.

1916-1917

1917	13	Omaka	Healy	Annie	Sole	£126.00

15th February 1916 Miss A. E.O'Sullivan to Deep Creek
11thApril 1916 Miss Annie Healy to Omaka.
24th May 1916 The residents of the Omaka school district intend holding a carnival next month, when it is expected to raise a considerable amount of money for Red Cross work.
22nd June 1916 THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS.
OMAKA SCHOOL CARNIVAL
For some weeks the Omaka branch of the Renwick Subdivision have been working energetically to raise funds for the carnival held there last Friday Six children of the school were nominated for King or Queen., for whom the children sold votes throughout the district. The very handsome sum of £141 was thus raised.
The result of the voting was: "King," Master O'Connor; "Queen". Miss Litchfield. The other candidates were in the following order .—Miss Murdoch, Miss Craven, Miss Chung, Miss Hart.

After the crowning ceremony a delightful programme was rendered by local and Blenheim patriotic workers, the items being: Selection, orchestra; song school children; pianoforte solo, Miss Watson; trio. Messrs Davies; eon- Miss Watson; whistling selection , Mr Bull: song, Mr Wintringham song Miss Lorna Litchfield; Mayor's address; song, Mr Alsop; duet, Messrs "Parker and Davies; song-, Mr Litchfield; recitation. Miss Hart; song, Mr Plum; trio. Misses Davies; song, Mr John Rose: cornet and trombone duet. Messrs E Rose and Tunnicliffe; song, Mrs Jeffries.

The Mayor's address was received with applause. He referred to the good work that had been done by a very large proportion of the public, but again regretted the poor response made by some rich, persons to the appeal for more funds. He eulogised the few settlors at Omaka for the very whole-hearted manner in which they had worked to carry the present venture to a successful issue The organisers, committee, and secretary were worthy of special mention and thanks. The singers, motor owners, and the Renwick Oddfellows' Lodge were thanked by the Mayor. who also expressed appreciation of the services rendered by Mr A Gray who auctioned the produce

15th July 1916 One of the largest social functions held in the Featherston district .took place in the Kaiwaiwai public hall on Friday evening of last week, the occasion being a farewell social to Miss Annie. Healy who had held the position of assistant teacher in the Kaiwaiwai school for a period extending over six years, and was resigning her position to take charge or the Omaka school, Marlborough. Many regrets were expressed at Miss Healy's departure, and during an interval in, the dance Mr Hutchings, chairman of the School Committee, presented the. guest of the evening; with a handsome gold watch (suitably inscribed) from, the residents of the district. After doing so he read but Inspector Bakewell's report of the splendid work done by Miss Healy, which was received with cheers and the singing of For She's a jolly good Fellow. Mr, Fuge returned thanks on behalf of Miss Healy. Dancing was resumed until an early hour of the morning. "God Save the King" brought to a close a most enjoyable evening. Several private functions were also given, in Miss. Healy's honor, and many parting gifts were received from personal friends.

Kaiwaiwai school is halfway between Featherston and Martinborough . The researcher. Robin Carlyon taught in the Kaiwaiwai School building at Featherston School in the 1960's

25th July 1916 Tenders are called for the installation of a septic tank system at the Omaka school.

1918-1919

1919	15	Omaka	Cresswell	Phyllis M	Sole	£150.00

20th March 1918 Miss A Healey resigns

18th April 1918 Omaka Sole Teacher (Temporary Position) Miss P Cresswell

19th September 1919 The letting of the residence at Omaka (rot occupied by the teacher)1 was approved. Phyllis Cresswell came from Blenheim School to Omaka

1920-1921

1921	9	Omaka	Grigor	Eleanor I Mrs	Sole	£170.00

Miss Cresswell to Grovetown School

1905/2015	Eleanor Irene	Gilbert	Robert William	Grigor
1950/24868	Grigor	Eleanor Irene		65Y
1948/17963	Grigor	Robert William		70Y

1922-1923

1923	9	Omaka	Grigor	Eleanor I Mrs	Sole	£175.00

Post 1923

6th February 1940 Miss D. M. Davies (Wanganui) to sole teacher, Omaka School

National Archives

14th August 1908 Application for a shelter shed Note building was erected in in 1897 and has a floor space of 500 square feet

Application for a new residence at Omaka

15 families in area Renwick 3 ½ miles Fairhall 5 miles Springlands 7 miles

Applied for Residence 2 rooms each 10 foot x 12 foot Porch 5 foot x 8 foot

School built of wood with brick chimney iron roof

I Out Office (Toilet)

Total Cost £125. The Inspector recommends this be built, he is currently on a tour of the country schools

Application by Marlborough Education Board

Note for Department. The School Committee informs me that the teacher (Frances O'Sullivan Female) cannot obtain lodgings within reasonable distance of the school

The Omaka district is growing

Attendance for 1906, 12, 1907, 14, 1908 15, June 1908 17

Teacher paid a housing allowance of £10 per annum

Grant approved 1909

27th October 1914 Application to improve Omaka residence Section II Block 1 Taylor Pass SD. Area 10 acres

Teacher is single sister lives with her as companion

Proposed work erection of wash house fitted with copper, tubs etc., Erection of bathroom with bath. Erection of tank stand 600 gallon over well. Fixing of fence pump and laying on water to the residence 5 chain. Lining of leanto for use as kitchen

Letter from D A Sturrock Inspector to Marlborough Education Board

5th November reply from Department saying The Government is not currently undertaking residences

27th October 1914 Attendance 1912 18, 1913 17, 1915 17

15th March 1917 Letter from Marlborough Education Board asking about progress with residence. Reply still no residences being built

16th July 1915. Strong letter from Mr. Hylton Secretary to Marlborough Education Board included

a) Building consists of two rooms under main roof and an unlined leanto at back
b) The leanto has to suffice for the purpose of scullery Kitchen, bathroom, washhouse, pantry etc. and owing to shrinkage of some of the timber it is really no better than a draughty shed
c) A lady teacher can hardly be expected to tolerate such conditions especially in winter

Then a handwritten note from Department saying money from sale of residence at Okaramio could be used for residence at Omaka
June 1916 Roll is 12. Note 18/10/16 Roll is falling
7th December 1923 Residence destroyed by Fire at Omaka
Police report included

a) 3 roomed cottage, Furniture valued at £ 250. Insured for £200
b) The only property saved was wearing apparel the property of Mrs Grigor *(Eleanor I)*
c) The occupant lit her spirit lamp and set on stove
d) She went to school to get some water to make a cup of cocoa
e) While away the spirit lamp overturned
f) Mrs Grigor as on her own and only succeeded in saving some wearing apparel
g) Mrs Irene Grigor resided with her daughter Lillian
h) On the day of the fire the daughter was in Blenheim for music lessons
i) Mrs Grigor lit the lamp at about 9.45 p.m.
j) The furniture was insured for £150 and the Piano for £50

Residence on site
School closed 1947
18th March 1921 Note re school from Department That telephoned the
Dr McIlwraith recommends reopening . Accommodation made for five children Three out of five are within 2 miles of two schools of school
He is not prepared to recommend the school be reopened
29th December 1930 Application to reopen the school at Omaka
All the children went to Renwick School
Families Fraci, Newman, Webb, O'Connor, Falvey, Bishell, Kennington, Ching
School is already built School has been closed for a number of years
6th March 1931 Approval given by Department to reopen Omaka School but as a Grade 0 school as 5 of the children live only 2 miles from Renwick so therefore roll will only be 5 children the other should still go to Renwick School so that school is not effected.
30th June 1937 Application to build Bicycle stalls . 1936 Roll 17 1937 Roll 18
10th February 1939 List of children who biked school
Reginald Haines 4 Miles,
Nola Watson 1 ½
William Walsh 2 ½
Ruth and Mary O' Conner 3
Patricia Kennington 1
Vernon and Ronald Bishell 1
Shane and Marcus Falvey 1
Ashley and Mervyn Murdoch ¾12th June 1939

a) One classroom obsolete type coved ceiling matchlined throughout. High walls and steep roof over 40 years old

b) Orientation approximately correct ventilation fairly good
c) Open fireplace, brick hobs, floor worn, lining sound, colours drab
d) Well water supply board top on well electric pump
e) Lead urinal trough patent closet pans, iron screen
f) Grounds about 3 acres enclosed, several acres leased

16th August 1939 Bicycle stalls and tool shed applied for

15th October 1943 Needing a new well at Omaka School Declined politely by Wellington Education Board

Land transferred 1957 22nd November

Inspectors' Reports

At the Marlborough Archives there are a collection of Inspector's Reports on the Omaka School starting in 1903. After over 300 school histories this is the first time I have seen a set of these reports. I have taken from them only pieces that are of interest in showing what was happening in this school at the time of the report.

9th September 1903: 17 on school roll, 16 Children present 9 Passed. 4 primers were not counted included One Standard 7 child

Geography: Moderate. Drawing Moderate. Grammar Inferior. History Inferior. Recitation Fair. Drill and Exercises fair.

Instruction of Standard 7 and Primers satisfactory. John Smith Inspector

17th August 1904 Mr. J Ward 13 on Roll 12 present. Hours 9.30- 12.0 1-3.30 Recess and Drill 10.40- 11.00 Recess 2.15-2.35 (2 recesses of 10 minutes are ample)

Some maps would be improved by the use of a few tacks

Some attention is given to the cultivation of the gardens by the children with satisfactory results. D A Strachan M A.

28th March 1906 Standard V Good pupils. Standard IV One very strong pupil. Standard III The pupil examined did her work in excellent style

Standard II Reading is the weak subject. Otherwise the results are satisfactory

I hope and effort will be made to promote all pupils again at the December examination. Hard work will be needed but with good regular attendance the promotions can be made

Organisation. Good Much improved

Certificates granted Certificates of competency to Standard V inclusive 3

Compulsory Subjects

Reading Improved generally but more time to the subject will be well spent. Phrasing enunciation and modulation are very necessary

Composition Several pupils very fair, Oral practice should be given throughout the school

Writing: much improved and many good to many good *(Should that be a second very good?)*

Spelling. Improved many very good. Meaning of words should be known

5th November 1906 Teacher Mr. J Ward Roll 14. Much enthusiasm appears to be shown in connection with gardening. Paint beginning to appear worn

4th April 1907 Teacher Miss O'Sullivan Standard 4- 5 children, Standard 3-1. Standard 2 -3, Primers 6 Present 12 Half days open in 1906 421 half days.. The Out offices *(Toilets)* need attention. The gardens continue to be a feature of this school

17th February 1908 Roll 16 Standard 6 had 3 pupils. An inventory of school apparatus should be prepared and placed among the records
A scheme of work book should also be prepared showing the ground proposed to be covered quarter by quarter, The children are industrious. Most of the slate work was well done but some poor figuring was noticed. Spelling and composition require correlation. Order and Discipline Very Good. In respect to tome the Committee's attention is directed to the Boys' out office . Wire netting should be stretched over the gable ends of the building so as to cover the cross bar and down bar and prevent birds obtaining a foothold One out office requires repairs. Within the school is very neat The pump gives an ample supply of water.
12th August 1908 *Report is type written* All subjects listed with comments. Physical Education used wand but no breathing exercises
Moral Instruction and Health receives attention
Gardens Both flower and vegetable are carefully attended
Instruction of Primer class. Good
Order Discipline and Tone: Excellent
Efficiency of school Satisfactory to Good
Second sheet shows analysis of marks. F O'Sullivan Teacher 19 on Roll.
There is a tendency to promote the pupils too quickly
Next Sheet included all pupils

Age	Name	Attendance	Class	
11-6	Patrick Duffy	254	5	
13-0	Ruby Dalziel	383	5	
13-11	Charles Murdoch	278	5	
11-0	Clara O'Connor	361	5	

Considering the age of 1 and 4 it would be well to give them another year in this standard

11-5	Clarence Hammond	170	4	

Promoted at beginning of year. This pupil should continue in Standard 4 till the end of the year

9-10	Nora Falvey	391	3	
10-4	Athol Reader	398	3	
10-8	Laura Murdoch	386	3	

! and 3 promoted in March Are to finish arithmetic Standard 3 before proceeding to Standard 4 arithmetic
12th August 1908 Teacher F O'Sullivan
The school roll

Age	Attendance	Name	Class
9.1	383	Dalziel Agnes	1
8.2	393	Falvey John	1
9.3	163	Hammond Ruby	1
7.0	366	Dalziel John	Primer 3
8.0	378	Murdoch Amy	Primer 3
8.3	345	Ching Fred	Primer 2
6.10	337	Ching Irene	Primer 2
	174	Bishell Basil	Primer
5.1	74	Falvey Michael	Primer

5th January 1909 Inspector Strachan's report of 9th December inspection included
Teacher Frances O'Sullivan
Standard 6 2 children Average age 12.4
Standard 5 4 children Average Age 12.8
Standard 4 1 child 11.9
Standard 3 Children 10.7
Standard 2 1 child 10.4
Standard 1 3 children 9.2
Primer 2 4 Children 7.10
Primer 1 2 children 5.11
Singing Good, Needlework Good, Drill Good Wand, History Moderate to Fair
Handwork: Brush Drawing and Plasticene Satisfactory to Good. Paper folding and pattern making Good
26th February 1909 Inspectors report on Miss F O'Sullivan
Roll 21 Present 20
Comments included: In the promotion from Standard 5 to Standard 6 Attendance should be considered
If during the winter the rain should not improve the building another coat of paint should be applied. An extra cupboard should be supplied
The gardens present a good appearance. A fine shelter shed has been erected and painted (One Coat)
There are 10 acres of school reserve. The residence is still not under weigh (Sic)
3rd August 1909 Inspector's report included A good tone prevails Physical Instruction Good to Excellent (wand, breathing, dumb bells)
Gardening forms a basis for teaching science The Brush drawing is on the whole good but some graduation in difficulty would improve the scheme. Plasticene modelling- moderate
Excellent progress in Needlework
Order tone and discipline very good
16th October 1910 No Maori Students
23rd March 1910 *(Order as in file)* Miss F O'Sullivan Roll 19 Present 17
95% Attendance History 1 ½ hour per week. Drawing 2 ½ hours per week- Too Long
The general spelling is somewhat weak and the tables (addition as well as multiplication) need attention nevertheless the average work indicates a satisfactory state of efficiency
If the netting were stretched over the frame of the ventilators there would be less foothold for birds; The school however looks better than last year The Blue weed should be kept in check. The fence in front has two bad posts
The school is very neat inside
The gardens are not as well tended as usual but I was pleased to see that a number of young fruit trees were being raised. D A Strachan M A Inspector
26th November 1910 Inspector Strachan's report included recitation sometime inclined to be monotonous . Arithmetic Fair. Geography Satisfactory to Good. More may be made of mapping
History Fair to satisfactory. A rather abstract treatment of the subject but evidently much conscientious labour is given to it.
Order Discipline Tone Very Good

Efficiency of the school: Satisfactory
28th February 1911 Inspector's report included Miss F O'Sullivan ST . Roll 24 present 21
The log book has not been replaced. Percentage of attendance in 1910 93%. Excellent. The . The interior of the classroom is very neat scheme of work has been carefully prepare readers and use of exercises in place of copy books. The children were working quietly an happily and seemed to be making good progress. The books used were the usual in Marlborough but with the addition of Royal Crown
28th August 1911 Gertrude O'Sullivan was tested by Inspector Strachan for Proficiency
13 years of age Weak in History Tested on Reading, Writing and spelling, Composition, Arithmetic, Drawing , Other subjects
School Examination included The gardens appear to be well used and the notes show the educational value of the gardens is appreciated
A beginning has been made with plasticene modelling. Needlework was excellent
Efficiency of the School Satisfactory to Good. Order Tone and Discipline Very Good
6th November 1911 Athol Reader Proficiency Examination Standard 5 certificate if desired i.e. If leaving school Failed
25th July 1912 Inspector's Report included Efficiency Fair Topics satisfactory but ages in Standard 6 too high
Athol Reader Aged 14.1 Passed his proficiency examination which allowed him to go onto College
10th December 1912 Full School Roll

Age	Class	Name		
14.3	VI	Reader Athol	Left	
15.1	VI	Murdoch Laura	Examined at Renwick	
14.3		Falvey Nora	Examined at Renwick	
12.4	V	Falvey John		
12.5	IV	Ching Fred		
12.2	IV	Murdoch Amy		
11.1	IV	Ching Irene	Arithmetic Doubtful	Absent ill
10.6	III	Bishell Basil		
9.8	III	Bishell Victor		
9.9	III	Ching Howard		
9.6	III	Falvey Michael		
10.5	III	Watson Sam		
9.8	II	Murdoch David		Spell Weak
8.9	II	Watson Ada		
7.9	II	Falvey Clara		
8.3	I	Bishell Ira		Good
			Standard II & 1 Promoted in Sept	
7.10	Pr 3	Ching Laurence	Weak Reading Spelling	
7.2	Pr 3	Watson Percy		Good
6.10	Pr 3	Bishell Frank		Good
			P3 Good in Arithmetic	
5.8	Pr 1	Bishell Ethel		

Gayne Head Teacher
31st March 1913 Inspector's Report included Roll 12 Boys 7 Girls
1st August 1913 Order Discipline and Tone Very Good

Efficiency of the school Fair. Standard 6 were examined at Renwick School
22nd December 1913 Inspectors Report included A E O'Sullivan Teacher
Roll 18 10 Boys 8 Girls Needlework None done till November Fair
Physical Instruction All classes breathing and wand drill Satisfactory
Agriculture All classes do practical work Standard 3-6 Elementary agriculture ½ per week
End of 1914

Age	Class	Name		
12.5	S 5	Bishell Basil		
11.7	S5	Ching Howard		
11.6	S5	Falvey Michael		
12 4	S5	Watson Samuel		
12.10	S4	Murdoch David		
10.10	S4	Watson Ada		
9.11	S4	Falvey Clara		
9.4	S3	Campbell Doris		
9.9	S2	Bishell Frank		
10.10	S2	Ching Lawrence		
9.5	S2	Watson Percy		
10.2	S1	Litchfield Myra		
6.8	P	Bishell Elvie		
7.3	P	Hart Rachel		
6.4	P	Craven Lindsay		
8.2	P	Litchfield Lorna		
6.5	P	O'Connor Daniel		

1st October A E O'Sullivan teacher Report included
Holiday for Anniversary of declaration of war and Dominion Day Roll 11 Boys 9 Girls
3rd December 1915 5 Sat Proficiency, 1 Passed, 1 got competency and 3 failed

13.5	Bishell Basil	Failed
12.9	Ching Howard	Failed
12.6	Falvey Michael	Competency
15.4	Murdoch Amy	Failed
13.4	Watson Samuel	Proficiency

13th March 1916 Return O E Hart teacher. Roll 13 Boys 8 Girls
January 24th – 28th School closed for repairs
17th March School closed for St Patrick's Day
30th June 1916 Teacher O E Hart Roll 9 Boys 5 Girls
School closed 6 days for Easter. 1 Day teacher indisposed, 2 days Inclement weather, 1 day school concert
September 1915 Return Roll 9 Boys 5 Girls
School closed Inclement weather 1 day, Dominion Day 1 Day, holiday to attend lecture by Dr Eleanor Parker
Annie Healy Teacher
1st December 1916 Basil Bishell Failed Proficiency at Renwick Got 0 for spelling
25th July 1917 Inspector's Report included Miss A Healy Teacher Roll 14 Present 14
This school has made good progress since my last visit. The best reading was in Standard 4

The part singing was good, nicely in tune and the modulator exercises sat. The preparatory classes did good work. The school gardens were in fair order but the weather has hindered the usual spring preparation . Order Tone etc. Excellent
17th March 1917 Return included 8 Boys 5 Girls
Undated Inspector's Report Signed by H Hills Inspector included
The work in the standard classes is satisfactory in arithmetic, the improvement is marked
Order discipline and tone in the school Much Improved under each aspect of training
The whole school shoes evidence of very marked improvement in the standard classes. The upper results are commendable. Strong efforts should be made to bring up the prep classes in reading and elementary English
17th March 1921 Miss Cresswell teaching. Agriculture Report Manly Nature Study A satisfactory curse for a school of this size. Worked in conjunction with a shrubbery and flower and vegetable plots
The children are interested in the work. Grounds are dug and ready for sowing
No recommendations made as the teacher is leaving for Grovetown
13th June 1921 Albert Wedde Organising teacher reports. Mrs Grigor Teacher. Roll 12 The schemes left by Miss Cresswell were fairly satisfactory
Mrs Grigor will now keep a daily record of teaching as is done in other schools Quality of Work Better than in many schools on my list. There is however room for much improvement
Inventory of Desks 4 Old Seat Fixed Large used for open air school work
10 Duel Desks. Seat Fixed Sizes Number 2 to No 5
21st September 1921 Mrs Grigor Report of Agriculture Instructor
The new teacher prefers to take Nature Study Only/ The gardens will be kept on only as an aid to this/ Arrangements have been made for s definite course of Nature Study dealing with Native Plants and local weeds. For a school of this size this will probably be all that can be done
The shrubs in the front of the school should of course be tended
H Lawton *(Wairarapa Based)*
15th November 1921 Roll 10 3rd Visit Mr. Wedded I would recommend Mrs Grigor to keep a daily work book as previously indicated
224th April 1924 List of needs of school
31st December 1922 Inspector's Report included Roll 11 Mrs E I Grigor ST
The attendance is good The work of this school is in general below the average required Writing is very satisfactory but most of the other subjects vary from weak to fair/ This is due to lack of a proper working spirit among the pupils and of methodical instruction in the ground work of the essential subjects. A considerable improvement is necessary in this school. The behaviour of the pupils is good The school gardens are in a dilapidated condition
13th August 1923 Inspector's report included Mrs E J Grigor Uncertificated teacher. Roll 10 Attendance 8. The attendance is very satisfactory
Standard 4 and Standard 2 were promoted in July These pupils will not be fit for promotion at end of the year. The general standard of efficiency is barely satisfactory. The pupils are well behaved. The school and grounds are in good order
2nd November 1923 Physical Education Inspector included 8 children 6 Boys and 2 girls
A good knowledge of formal work was shown. The children moved smartly and assumed correct positions
Keenness was evinced throughout and marching was well executed

7th- 11th July 1924 Miss Gridley Mr. Wedde visited as organising teacher and his notes included Standard 6 is good in the other standards found at is hardly high enough. Spelling should be taken in with sentence structure. Tables require attention . I will revisit Omaka when a permanent teacher is appointed. I worked this school form home going and coming by car. The expense was much less than if I had stayed at Renwick but the distance is too great in the future I think it wise to stay from home. I did not reach Omaka on Wednesday 9th. I had the misfortune to have two blow outs on the road and had to have fresh tyres fitted. I was on the road all day

28th September 1924 Mr. Wedde's Report included present 6 Miss Gridley Written work has improved On the whole Miss Gridley has proved hardworking and conscientious but she has some slow children to teach and a little more rigour would help

I worked practically a full timetable and believe these children would be better served by attending Renwick School

If the school remains open under the same teacher there is work for me there for quite some time

On the 16th I did not reach Omaka In coming? Up I found that the lining of the fan belt pulley was stripped through the pin . A new pin and lining was necessary before the car could be started It rained heavily all day and ten attendance at Omaka was poor on that day. It is often difficult to know what to do in poor weather. My Experience as too often been one of closed schools no teachers or pupils in bad weather.

September 1924 Report to Wellington Education Board Roll 7 boys 2 girls

A holiday was held for the Funeral of Mr. G Bishell

2nd October 1924 Inspector's report included. Teacher Miss Gridley. Temporary Teacher (Probationer?) Roll 8 Present 6. The teacher appears to be working earnestly but is handicapped by lack of teaching experience. The children are well behaved and under good control

Log Book Omaka

The log book was kept by teacher listing things that effected the school working. This log starts in 1913 and is copied with most entries except for ones that bear no interest like "closed for Easter". Original is in Marlborough Archives

First Entry 7th April 1913 Since taking over the school a year ago- one family gives me trouble/

Notes taken then on Laura Murdoch's conduct

Mr. Ward had also rouble with the same family The Girl is continually talking; does very little work; and it is nearly always late: a bad example to the other children She has failed for the Standard VI

22nd April Shifted A Falvey and I Ching to back desk; as rouble is caused by two Murdoch girls continually turning and talking to them The former are such a trouble

6th May L Murdoch came @10 AM I spoke to her and told her she was a bad example to the school and making out of it a bad practice

I received impudence from her and she even took the ruler to me

I ordered her out of the school but she refused to go and simply sat idling in her desk

Age 15 years

She left playtime for home *(As written)*

7th March Mrs Murdoch saw me re her girl's behaviour: and at last I agreed to take her back, but she is to sit by herself away from the other children while at school: it is impossible to do anything with her. Her books too are all old and torn Attendance 17 Two away
9th May Attendance 18. One girl left total in school 18
20th May Attendance 18 boys finished gardening today
2nd June Tomorrow King's Birthday Today 16 pupils 1 away a very wet day
4th June Written re arrangements for "Battleship N Z" Next Tuesday
Received notice from Board re Midwinter holidays
5th June Attendance 18
9th June Children given their railway passes for to visit NZ Battleship, Picton Tomorrow
13th June Attendance 17
14th July Commenced duties as relieving ST N F
31st July Inspector's Annual Visit
15th August Finished up as relieving ST. N F
20th August Commenced duties as relieving teacher D Heffer
2nd September 1913 Took charge this , morning as relieving teacher and found the work etc. going along very nicely. Found the behaviour of the children was excellent Roll 18. L E Mortimore
8th Has occasion to remind pupils that the playground, especially that part immediately surrounding the school should be kept as tidy as the school room. This has received attention

16th Received a complaint that some of the boys had lately been lighting fires when some distance from school on their way home which resulted in one getting burnt slightly. A careful cross examination revealed the fact that nearly all the male section of the school was implicated, so punished the lot paying special attention to the ringleaders
23rd Wrote to chairman of School Committee re Dominion Day Received permission to close for whole day on Wednesday 24th
15th October The attendance for the last few days has been very poor owing to sickness. One boy left today the roll now being 16
23rd As only four pupils came to school this morning- owing to the inclemency of the weather- the school was closed for the day
24th Finished up as relieving teacher here. During my eight weeks stay here I have noticed that one family- the Murdoch's- seem to have no respect for school regulations
The eldest girl Laura 16 years 1 month- who has failed in her examinations on more than one occasion, seldom if ever comes to school before 10 AM. and is very lax in her attendance. The behaviour of all three in school is very trying and although I have succeeded in obtaining and keeping discipline, I have at the same time incurred the displeasure of Mrs Murdoch. This lady had been a "thorn in the side" of previous teachers as a perusal of this book will disclose. The other pupils are naturally well behaved but the influence of the Murdoch Family is very bad for them Archer E Mortimore 24th October 1913
Archer E Mortimore had been teacher at Blenheim school before Teacher at Omaka
4th November Commenced duties today Roll 17 Attendance 17 The school was closed yesterday the public holiday being taken yesterday instead of on Saturday A E O'Sullivan
13th December School closed for Xmas Holidays Average attendance for quarter was 15.68 Average roll 17.1
26th January 1914 School reopened today Full attendance 17

18th February The committee has decided that school will be closed tomorrow s several families are going to Blenheim to the Garden Fete
17th March Holiday- St Patrick's Day
6th April D A Sturrock *(School inspector)*visited
10th 14th Easter Holidays
3rd June Holiday for King's Birthday
30th June Received notice of Inspector's visit- 28th July
3rd July School closed today for winter holiday.
28th September Dominion Day Kept
30th September Average attendance for quarter 16.89 Roll for quarter 17.83
28th October Holiday for A and P show
2nd November Holiday for Anniversary Day
10th December School used for election
18th December School closed today for Xmas holidays
Average roll 18.6 Average attendance 15.57
1915
3rd February School reopened today
9th March Received notice e marking of daily registers
Usual Holidays then 23rd April St George's Day. School closed for "Gala Day" at Renwick
24th May to 4th June School closed for fortnight for Teacher's physical Culture classes
4th July School closed today for a fortnight- winter vacation
21st July Very wet day- Attendance 7 Roll 19
2nd August new pupil enrolled today Now 20 on roll
3rd August Received clock for school
4th August School closed for celebrations for anniversary of declaration of war
24th August Received notice of inspection visit September 24th
September 24th David Sturrock signs log
30th September No School teacher indisposed
4th October Enrolled new pupil today Roll now 21
27th October A whole holiday given for A and P Show
1st November Holiday for Anniversary day
29th November School reopened today after school being closed since November 4th on account of teacher being ill
10th December School closed today for Xmas Holidays. Reopen on January 24th
31st January 1916 School reopened today. Roll number 15 Attendance 7. The opening of school has been delayed a week as carpenters and painters have been at work here
15th February finished up here today. The boys have tidied the school ground after the carpenters and painters, who have now finished. A report of the classes and work done so far has been left in drawer
A E O'Sullivan
Two children withdrawn 18th February
21st February 1916 O E Hart commenced as relieving teacher
4th March Received salary cheque
7th March Received from Education Board one map of New Zealand; One map of Australasia
17th March School closed St Patrick's Day

30th March Enrolled new pupil
1st April Received from Education Board 6 boxes model bricks, 3 boxes Permodelle, 1 Box Chalk, 1 tin ink, 1 pointer
4th April Received 6 sets stick laying mats. Ten dual desks
12th April Surprise visit from Inspector Sturrock. Roll number 14. Present 13
30th April School closed Teacher indisposed
26th April Two children ill- Measles
1st May very wet day. School closed
26th May Small attendance -9 owing to wet weather
29th May very wet weather No children at school. School closed
31st Continued wet weather Attendance 9
31st May Sickness jaundice and inclement weather have been responsible for the small attendance this month
7th June Wet Day Attendance 7
16th June The Committee has decided to close school today for the carnival
The effort made by the children for the Sailor's relief and Red Cross Funds- resulted in £210 being cleared
30th June School closed for winter holidays today. A report of the classes and scheme of work for the past four months has been left in the drawer . O E Hart
17th July Annie Healy Commenced duty as Sole Teacher Roll number 14. Attendance 12. Children well behaved and diligent
In 1909 Annie Healy was at Onamalutu School
21st July Received circular re Belgian Appeal Day July 28th
21st July Inspector Sturrock's visit
3rd August No School- No children –very wet
18th August Received circular re Annual Examination Forms (Junior National and Junior Free Places)
12th September Received circulars
War Bonus, War Loan, Dominion Day. Appendix B reports of Inspector's of school
Appendix E Public Schools and teachers
20th October Received circulars Notes regarding business of Wellington Education Board , Amalgamation of Education Districts *(Marlborough Education Board joined Wellington Education Board)*
Amendments of the inspection and syllabus of instruction in schools
24th October Compulsory School Attendance
3rd November Received Annual Examination Forms
14th December School closed for summer holidays
20th January 1917 School reopened today- Poor attendance- Two new pupils, Number on roll 15
5th February New pupil admitted, Attendance improved. Number on roll 16
21st February Two boys left to live in Wanganui, Number on roll 14
14th March School excursion to Picton
23rd March received from Education Board Programme of work in Elementary Agriculture and Notice Re Physical Instruction
11th April School reopened after Easter holidays with an attendance of 11
20th April Received circular re Free School Books. Anzac day 25th holiday granted

27th April David Sturrock visited
26th June Circular re gist from Wellington Children for children of London who were injured in air raid- sent 25 shillings from children of this school
26th June Circular re Arbor Day. Circular re education of the deaf
24th July Circular re Junior Free places, writing material for use in schools. Examination forms
25th July Annual visit David Sturrock (Inspector)
18th August Circular re Liberty Loan. Annual Report
21st September Circular re Dominion Day Circular re school contributions to war loan
15th October Visit from Drill Instructor
28th October Concert given by pupils in aid of YMCA fund £9-2-0 collected
26th November Received appendix B and Appendix E
20th December School closed for summer vacation
5th February 1918 School opened with an attendance of 15- 8 present *(As written)*
15th March I finish up here today and leave my Omaka Pupils with feelings of regret Annie Healy
18th March E Jeffries commenced duty as relieving teacher
25th April Holiday Anzac day
1st May P M Cresswell commenced duties as sole teacher. Roll number 17 Attendance 17. Find the children very well behaved
7th May Received circulars No 14/1918, No 15 /1918 re needlework and continuous readers
13th May Visit of the agricultural inspector
27th May Visit of Mr. Sturrock
28th May Visit of Mr. Just Physical Culture Inspector
3rd June Holiday combining King's Birthday and Empire Day
5th July received circular re soldier's Christmas parcel
9th July roll number now 19
16th July Inspector's visit
9th July collected by Penny Trail for soldiers Christmas parcels 13/7 *(13 shillings and sixpence)*
Reopened today with full attendance. Received some Continuous Readers Tale of Two Cities, Aladdin and Gulliver' travels
26th August Arbor Day Planted 2 dozen shrubs 80 pinus Insignia
13th September Received notice of war bonus £3-15
14th September Visit of Mr. Laughton *(Actually Lawton) Agricultural Instructor)* Said the gardens were in good order
25th September visitors today provided the children with a fruit banquet, bananas, apples, nuts etc.
7th October Special holiday for success of allies on all fronts
28th October Labour day holiday
1st November Holiday for anniversary of the Province. Turkey surrenders
4th November Half holiday for Austria's surrender
12th November Closed for epidemics and summer holidays
4th February 1919 N M Harris commenced duties as relieving teacher, No on roll 15
25th February entered two new pupils on roll
7th March David Sturrock Roll 17 Present 14

17th March St Patrick's Day. School closed in afternoon
20th March School visited by Mr. Lawton Agricultural instructor
20th March Received plasticene boards, tools etc. from Education Board
26th March 1st quarterly exams held. Pupils gave satisfaction with the exception of Standard III, both of these pupils being very weak
28th March Ceased teaching at Omaka School. During the time I have been in charge of this school I have found the children most obedient well behaved and with a few exceptions diligent. A M Harris
1st April Recommenced work. Roll 17 Present 16 P M Cresswell
4th April Received good attendance certificate for K Berry. Primer 3 1918
10th April Holiday for election
5th May Visit of Inspector Sturrock
3rd June Holiday for King's birthday
20th June Visit of Mr. Lawton Agriculture instructor
11th July Much sickness is causing poor attendance 4 pupils absent
17th July Inspector's Annual visit
21st July Holiday for peace celebrations
22nd July Inspector's holiday
20th July Entered 3 new pupils
18th September Visit of agriculture instructor
22nd September Dominion Day Holiday
24th September AA Wedde Organiser. *Previously at Blenheim school Mr. Wedde was working with all the Marlborough small schools*
9th October Organiser left
27th November One pupil sitting for Junior national scholarship
28th November Closing for summer holidays
1st December Standard VI examined at Renwick both secured proficiency certificates
19th February 1920 Reopened 13 pupils present
7th March Agriculture instructor visited Roll now 15
16th April Closed for Influenza
3rd May Good attendance certificates awarded
3rd may Reopened Roll now 8
5th May Thos Warren Inspector Roll 8 All present
10th and 11th May School closed for Prince's Visit
27th May Holiday for Empire Day (24th)
28th May Teacher absent
4th June reopened
7th June Roll now 10
28th June Holiday at General Birdwood's request
19th July Open at 9.30 having half an hour for dinner and closing at 3 pm. Roll now 11
16th September E H Quinton took charge as relieving teacher Only 3 present. Roll 10
17th September School cough causing poor attendance Saturday 19th School visited by Wellington Secretary (Mr. Stewart) Mr. Forsyth (Chairman Wellington Education Board, and others
24th Truant officers visit sickness, Attendance poor, Also garden instructor's visit , garden's in good order

1st October Thos Warren Inspector Roll 10 Present
26th October and Quarterly exam held today, children only doing satisfactory work, still very backward in some subjects as marking in "Exam Book" will show
October Finished at Omaka today. During my stay have found the children obedient and well behaved generally but lacking in energy for work, need a special rousing up E D Quinton
9th November Took charge this morning as relieving teacher. Roll 10 Present 8
One pupil left today
Received circular from Head Master Blenheim School re sports to be held on December 17th. Read it to the pupils
15th November Entered two new pupils on roll
19th November Made inquiries re J Halliday's attendance
22nd November One new pupil entered, one also left
23rd November After long absence caused by sickness (Whooping Gough) J Halliday has left. His name removed from register
23rd I Received official notice together with schedules re Standard 6 examinations and proficiency at Renwick November 25th
24th November Held proficiency exam for standard 6
25th November According to Inspector's orders School closed all day to enable Teacher and 6th Standard pupil to attend Inspector's proficiency exam at Renwick School
25th November Issued transfer certificate to K A Berry who attends Renwick
29th November Held Standard examination for Standards 1, 2, 4, and 5
20th November Received from Wellington by post various Department forms for the school
Filled in required examination schedules standard 1-5 and Primer classes
The attendances of 3 pupils from Renwicktown at school to be obtained. Left same with Miss Cresswell to be forwarded to the Board by December 4th
Finished duties as relieving teacher today I endorse all Miss Quinton says regarding the pupils K E Littleproud
6th December Resumed duties. 4 pupils present. Am forwarding examination schedules. Measles causing poor attendance
December Issued Transfer Certificate to Billy Halliday
16th December Closed for summer holidays Roll 9
1st February 1921 Opened school with 8 present. Roll 11
15th February Still no appearance of the Brooks family. Their mother is in hospital
16th February Holiday for championship regatta
Have drawn up a timetable and scheme of work for the first term
21st February Visit from Dr Keith and nurse. Examined Primers and Standard II Spoke to the scholars on care of teeth
24th March Attended Primary School Sports at Waterlea
30th March Reopened after Easter Vacation
31st March Average attendance 9.4
1st April Governor General visits Blenheim
22nd April Held a service for Anzac Day
25th April Placed a wreath for Omaka Pupils on Roll of Honour
26th April Term examinations
6th May Visit of Physical Training Instructor
9th May Inspector's Visit

11th May Agriculture Instructor's Visit
Report enclosed. Took Plant Breathing
13th May Finish my duties here today
31st May Albert A Wedde here today.
2nd June Finished my visits. Recommendations

1. Draft new schemes
2. Keep daily work book and give ample preparation to each day's work
3. Insist on standard in all written work
4. Make work practical and concrete as far as possible especially in Primer classes
5. Watch Recitation Reading and Oral Comprehension and speech generally. Develop answering. Watch spelling in comprehension
6. Continuous schemes in Nature Study and singing on lines shown

Albert A Wedde

31st May 1921 E I Grigor commenced duties as sole teacher. Roll 11 present 11. Entered one new pupil
3rd June Holiday King's Birthday
6th June Children very backward- inattentive- need growing up continually
14th June Inventory of school furniture is required by Education Board
23rd June Visit from Mr. Logan to inspect school house and any work to be done in the school
29th School door mended and men working as school house
Average attendance 10.4
4th July Blackboards repainted- unable to be used for over a week- unsatisfactory
13th July Sent list of stationery required for next year
18th July Entered one new pupil Roll 13
19th July School journals to hand
20th July The three Brook children left school and have gone to live in Renwick Roll 10
3rd August Received from Education Board Booklet- notes on teaching of free drawing. Memorandum of Prince's portrait and letter. Also- Bylaws of Education Board
9th August Thos Warren Inspector Roll 10 Present 9
13th August Received Prince's Portrait- Chairman has had it framed and hung in school
23rd August A A Wedde visited
26th August AAW writes Completed today. I left early as school is braking up for school holidays
13th September Reopened school after two weeks' vacation Roll 10 Present 8
13th Received clock, blotting paper, Foolscap and box of coloured chalks from School Committee
Received copy of Board's annual report- Dominion Prize Essay Competition- Circular re Alcohol- Also circular re flag and flagpoles
26th Received School Journals (September)
27th September Visit of Agricultural Instructor
3rd October Received copy of Organising Teacher's report.
14th October Received circular from Education Board re Essay competition Alcohol
27th October Holiday for A and P Show
1st November Holiday for Sunday School Picnic Anniversary of Province= Mr. Poullerrs Paddock

2nd November Visit of Mr. Wedde Organising Teacher also 3rd and 4th
7th November Received circular re annual exam for proficiency certificate
16th November received 5 pound (weight) of plasticene
24th November Held exams, Received Journals
2nd December Holiday granted by Committee for opening of Waterlea park
6th December School closed for Proficiency Examination- 2 candidates at Renwick
22nd December School broke up for Xmas holidays- concert and Christmas tree in evening
7th February 1922 School reopened Roll 11 Present 7
8th February Entered 1 new pupil
13th February Received school journals
17th February School closed for school picnic- Omaka and Renwick school went to White's Bay Glorious Day
28th February Visit from Mr. Warren
6th March Received school journals. Visit from Mr. Warren (Inspector) and Mr. Lawton Agri instructor
19th March Memo re reduction of Salaries
21st March Received Memo re Oath of Allegiance- signed and returned to Head Office
28th March Received copy of Inspector's report (1921)
20th March received copy of Agriculture Instructor's Report
19th April School reopened (After Easter) Roll 9
25th Holiday Anzac day. Roy Byford absent- in hospital
30th May School reopened (after holidays) 2 pupils enrolled- Primers
2nd June Circular with regard to term reports- copy of form enclosed
26th June R Byford returned to school (10 weeks absent)
30th June End of quarter Roll 11 Average 9.7
3rd July Visit from Mr Warren
7th July School closed for teacher to attend conference
13th July Received Warmouth's Atlas 7 Copies
5th September School reopened (After holidays) Wet Day- 2 pupils- no school
15th September Enrolled 1 new pupil Roll 11
23rd October Labour Day – holiday
25th A and P show
1st November Anniversary Day (Holiday)
1st December School closed for Proficiency Exam. 1 Candidate
7th December General election holiday
15th December School closed for Xmas Vacation
1st February 1923 School reopened 10 pupils
16th February Holiday for school picnic spent at White's Bay Joined with Renwick School
21st February Visit from Mr. Lawton (Ag Instructor, Mr. Laughton (Truant Officer) and Mr. Logan
13th March School closed for election of licensing committee
4th April First visit Roll 10 Present 10 Thos Warren
24th April Received from Education Board 1 Box coloured chalk, 1 white chalk, 3 packets glyplokos *(Plasticene)* 10 tools, 1 packet maps and strips- 6 weaving needles

June Promoted R and L Byford to Standard IV R Bishell and J Byford to Standard II. I Grigor to Standard 1. All these children will need 12 months in their standards – possibly longer for Standard IV
3rd August School closed for teacher to attend conference
10th August School closed- teacher ill (Influenza) poor attendance during week on account of sickness
13th August A visit from Mr. Warren- all day
22nd October Holiday Labour Day
25th October Holiday A and P Show
29th October Received Continuous Readers 2 Dick and his Pah Primer. 3 little people in far off lands Standard II. 2 Water Babies Standard IV
1st November Holiday for Anniversary of Province
20th December School closed for Summer Vacation
5th February 1925 School reopened. Roll 9 Present 7. 2 pupils left school. Roll 7
14th February Visit from Mr. Lawton agriculture inspector. Final visit as school too small for work required
21st February First Visit Roll 7 Present 4. Thos Warren
22nd February Holiday for school picnic. Renwick an Omaka- White's Bay
4th March Received from Board. 1 Box white chalk, 1 box coloured chalk, 6 pounds (Grey) Glyptokos A packet mats and strips. 125 sheets of white paper
23rd April School reopened after Easter- very wet day only two pupils at school
24th April Roy Byford sent to Hospital- septic knee
25th April Anzac day
27th May School reopened (After holiday) Monday 26th taken as a holiday in place of June 3rd
Roll 7 present 5
9th June Two new pupils Boy aged 6 years 2 months and Girl 4 years 4 Months
1 entered on register. Roll 8
16th June 1 new pupil Roll 9
June Have promoted Standard II pupils to Standard III. Spelling and reading are weakest subjects
Standard IV students have worked through exam and promotion tests in arithmetic with satisfactory results- could now proceed with Standard V Arithmetic
Mental arithmetic, Spelling and reading are weak subjects
Standard 1 Both pupils are keen workers and intelligent children – one boy is doing Standard !! arithmetic- a very satisfactory class
30th June I finish my duties her today after three years sent in Omaka. The children are well behaved and obedient, but not particularly intelligent- they lack energy and are inclined to be very careless. Need continual stirring up, especially the two pupils in Standard IV
E J Grigor
1st July M Gridley commenced duties as relieving teacher. Roll 9 Present 9
7th July Albert A Wedde visited today All present
10th July Visit from Mr. Wedde organising teacher
11th July Mr. Wedde completed visit
15th July Received from Mr. Wedde 30 sheets of cardboard
19th August Holiday granted on account of funeral of Mr. G Bishell

9th September School reopened (After Holiday) 4 pupils present
15th September Mr. Wedde visited today
19th September Mr. Wedde wrote in log. The children of this school need oral training. Less book work and more conversation lessons
2nd October Visit from Mr. Irwin School Inspector
15th, 16th 17th School closed on account of bereavement in teacher's family
17th November Visit from Mr. Wedde 18th and 21st also
11th December Holiday on account of proficiency examination at Fairhall (1 Candidate)
20th April 1925 School reopened Enrolled 2 Pupils Roll 9 Present 9
11th May School closed at 11 a.m. on account of death of Mr. Massey (Prime Minister)
14th May School closed on account of Funeral of Mr. Massey
225th Visit of Mr. Blackit (Half Day) *Haven't come across Mr. Blackit before*
3rd June King's Birthday
11th August Visit from Mr. Lawton (Ag Instr) left thermometers and 5 test tubes
31st August School reopened All present 5
Received Continuous Readers. Little People in far off Lands (4), Sunset to Sunrise (3), Babyland Series (5) books, Nisbet's Story readers (10 Books), Aladdin, Sleeping Beauty, Puss in Boots
15th October wet Day No attendance
20th October Visit from Mr. Blackie (1/2 day) *Presume Mr. Blackie and Blackit are the same person*
29th October Holiday for A and P Show
30th October Holiday for Labour Day
2nd November Holiday for anniversary of province
4th November Holiday for General election
18th December School closed for summer vacation
1st February 1926 Reopened school Admitted 2 new pupils roll 7
19th February Closed for school picnic, spent at Onamalutu- joined with Renwick School
Mar Visit for Mr. Lawton
8th April A A Wedde Called in this morning. Found teacher away ill. Have gone to Fairhall to complete the day
10th May Reopened school after being absent since March 22nd (April 7th excepted on account of illness. 2 pupils present

This ended part One of the log and presumably the school closed at this time

2nd Log Omaka School

9th March 1932 Omaka School reopened after a period of seven years . Those present included Mr. Powell, Architect for the Board, Mr. McCallum Member of the Board and Mr. Kenney Chairman of the school committee
There were eight children to be admitted but there were no materials for working and no conveniences either out of doors or in. Cicily J Smart. Relieving Teacher
25th March – 30th March School closed for Easter holidays
5th September School opened for the third term School very much in need of a coat of paint inside and out. Much material and other appliances needed. D Gale Permanent Teacher

14th October Bernard Jack and Greta O'Brien strapped as they were 29 minutes late. Nearly every day one or the other is late
16th December School closed for summer vacation
1st February 1933 School reopened. The building has been painted outside but is still in need of a coating inside
22nd May School reopened for second term Roll is Six
4th September School reopened for third term. The school was painted inside during the vacation and is vastly improved. D Gale
20th December The school was closed for the summer vacation The number is now back to 10
5th February 1934 School opened The grounds and school have been greatly improved during the past year. Under the unemployment scheme much work in tree felling and fencing has been done in the school grounds
21st May Tom Lambert Opened school for second term. Used last part of 1st term's workbook for weekly work
1st June Was supposed to leave for Sea view yesterday but stayed as the permanent teacher had not and did not arrive/ Proceeding to Sea view tomorrow Sat 2nd June . Tom Lambert
11th June E Collette Permanent teacher opened school. 8 pupils present. James Wolley has left school. Spent time improving interior of classroom. Varnished desks, painted fireplace etc.
3rd July Heavy snow storm. Very dark in school so closed at One O'clock
4th September Four new pupils have been enrolled making roll number 12
16th October Mr. Wyn Irwin Inspector visited the school today
30th October Two boxes of chalk received from Education Board
14th December Received word from Board that an electric pump will be installed during the summer vacation. Received two desks from the Picton School
18th December School closed today for summer vacation
5th February 1935 School reopened today with a roll number of fifteen. During the holidays an electric pump and lights were installed in the school
11th February Mr. Gascoigne (Member of the Education Board) visited the school this afternoon in order to inspect well, which is not giving sufficient water
28th February Mr. McIsaac completed digging well 20 feet
8th March Mr. Watson Inspector of schools visited the school today
16th March Mr. Brockett Inspector of Agriculture visited the school today
27th May School reopened today for 2nd term Roll number 16 Reginald Haines admitted
18th July Mr. Dyer and Mr. Pike Chairman and Marlborough representative of the Board respectively visited the school today
1st August Received three desks and 1 easel from the Blenheim Borough School
9th September School reopened today with a roll of 16. 8 Boys and 8 Girls
27th September Mr. Partridge Inspector visited the school today. The Standard 6 boy has been accredited his proficiency
25th October Mr. F C Brockett agriculture inspector visited the this afternoon. Left Maize seed to be planted
26th November Dispatched one blackboard and easel to the Grovetown School
6th December Attended Primary school sports in Blenheim

30th January 1936 Arrived prematurely to take over duties. Made inquiries from Committee concerning stability of families and then proceeded to ascertain the teaching facilities of the school. Noted the following deficiencies which detract from the efficient running of the school

1. No maps available
2. Lack of gardening implements
3. Poorly equipped in science apparatus
4. Insufficient Board space (Movable)

I have written a letter to the Board advising the purchase of Maps
?? Turbett
2nd February Commenced school with roll of 21. Notified the board as to shortage of ink wells and Forms H-Sch 16
6th February Notified the Board of my acceptance of the position as sole teacher of the Omaka School. Received notification to effect that the matter of the easel and Board is receiving consideration
8th February Received inkwells. Three Broken
21st February School visited by Agriculture Inspector, whose assistance in outlining schemes of interior and outdoor work proved invaluable. An inventory of science materials and gardening tools was made and deficiencies notified
25th February Received Easel for Blackboard
28th February School picnic at Picton
1st March Teacher ill. Received stroke on Sunday Morning Doctor diagnosed the trouble as nervous prostration produced by over consciousness due to mental and physical overstrain
17th March Patricia Boyd left this school. A very bright pupil whose absence has left the children a little duller
17th March Received following supplies. Barometer tube and mercury, Length of rubber tubing, 1 dozen corks, 3 Borers (Corks), glass tubes, Funnel for rain gauge, Filter paper, Thermometer
Have procured two maps. 1 map of NZ and 1 map of the World
8th May Broke up for holidays. The term has been quite good from the point of view of the educational progress of the children. Great interest is being taken by the children in the cultivation of graceful and flexible bodies and astonishing progress has been made. The children have steadily progressed in all other branches of the school curriculum
A notable feature of the term was the trouble with parents on certain petty points. After many embarrassing situations the situation was eased and an atmosphere of general passivity now exists T T Turbett
The school broke up with a short concert and dance (For school children only)
25th May School opened with roll of 20. Boys 8 girls 12
7th June Admitted one infant pupil Arthur Gledhill
2nd July Mr. Turbott met with serious accident
I am not sure of spelling Turbott or Turbett
8th July Commenced duty here as relieving teacher I E ?
6th August School visited by Dr Irwin and nurse
10th August Admitted one Standard III pupil Nola Watson
21st August Closed for Vacation I E Price Relieving teacher
7th September Resumed duties in the interim The roll number has dropped to 18

2nd September New Pupil Shane Falvey
16th October Visit of Agricultural Inspector, scheme of work discussed
9th October Telegrammed for permission to allow children show day as holiday- Granted!
2nd November Anniversary of Marlborough Province holiday
24th November Shone Falvey (Primers) sustained slight abrasions to the eye and nose, the result of being knocked down by a frightened pony. The Committee has decided to fence a portion of the school grounds for use as a horse paddock
30th November Proficiency examination Three pupils sat, Yvonne Thompson, Valda Thompson, Ray Newman. All passed
7th December representatives of the Banardo's Home spoke to the children for a few minutes with the aim of arousing and enlisting the sympathy and assistance of the pupils
18th December School closed prematurely owing to the spread of Infantile Paralysis
T T Turbett
22nd February 1937 Returned to duties assessed teaching materials, listed general requirements prepared scheme and time table and preparation for year's work
1st March School reopened 5 new pupils (infants) Roll 11 Boys 9 girls
13th March Saturday school picnic at Picton
19th March Agricultural Instructor arrived and gave invaluable assistance in outlining scheme and in discussing plots and gardens
1st April The children are beginning to evince a certain lassitude towards their work. The cause seems to be physical. Colds have been present and some pupils have been taken to hospital, Ruth Ngaire and Mary O'Connor , A careful supervision is being taken of the Children's condition to prevent the rouble developing into anything serious. It appears to be a mild form of influenza
5th April School visited by Nurse who examined number of children. Teeth in bad conditions Unfortunately this school is not allowed Government clinic service. A move will be made to obtain the concession
The nurse recommends the removal of Pat Kennington's tonsils. The parents have been notified
8th April Pat Kennington has entered hospital to have his tonsils removed
11th May The School Committee wishes the children to attend Coronation Celebrations in town. Thus the school will break up today
24th May School reopens Same Roll Number Same Pupils
8th June ~~Received badges (Coronation) and distributed them to children~~ *(As in Log)*
5th June King's day
4th- 8th June. Received hockey injury to hand and have been unable to use Blackboards or complete work book entries
15th June Brian Newman (Primer aged 6 years) broke his arm and has been taken to hospital
22nd June School nurse visited school
2nd July Broke school up at 12 O'clock Leg in bad condition and decided to visit Doctor without delay. Have been unable to teach actively
16th July School broke up for week's holiday to allow teacher's an opportunity of visiting Educational conference in Wellington
26th July School reopens Hyloplate Boards have arrived (*Blackboards)*
1st August Plumbers arrived and installed wash hand basins in porch. Further necessary improvements are on hand

16th August Concert held in schoolroom. Successful function. Proceeds for piano
6th September School reopens
16th September Received from Education Board that £16 has been granted towards the purchase of a piano
It has been decided to hold a concert in Renwicktown to accumulate funds for the library which is sadly in need of refreshment
Concreting work has been carried out by the Committee of the grounds (bare and unbroken) have now assumed a neater appearance. An attempt is to be made to put the grounds in order. They are still in need of much improvement
29th September Concert held in Renwicktown. Overwhelming success. The library problem in on the brink of solution
30th September Received desk and cupboard from Blenheim School in sound condition, the' suffering in places with Sculptural refinements
6th October The committee have requested a concert for town householders and children are enthusiastic. Considerable time is necessary in the production of such but the self confidence which the children are developing makes the effort worthwhile. The accumulation of funds for the library is also driving factor compelling active and immediate measures
23rd October Success attended the concert and dance held in Blenheim. The outcome is a closer cooperation among the valley peoples., greater and closer unanimity of outlook, development of self confidence among the children, and an accumulation of hard cash that bids fair to solve the library problem
The children are enthusiastic over Melva Woolley's success in the recent show. She now holds the title of "Marlborough's best girl rider" Her subject work at school lacks concentrative effort, so time will be given off to permit her to attend various shows in the district and outside to contest and retain her title. Horses indubitably play a major part in her life
2nd November Admitted Doreen Benseman as new pupil she has been taught at home for the past 2 years Prior to that she had 3 months at Renwicktown School
1st December £2 has been granted to the library by the Committee
3rd December Sports Day tony Goulter sustained a fractured arm
9th December Beryl Newman obtained School Certificate
19th December Broke up for summer holidays T T Turbett
1st February 1938 Scholl started
2nd February Mr. Hammond and Mr. Pike inspected the school, foundations, ventilation etc.
2nd February The aim for February will be to accumulate ideas of "Keep fit and well" and to develop the bodies along on healthy and correct lines
Have made personal contact with a case that appears to be infantile paralysis. The case is under doctor's observation
12th February The case has been diagnosed as infantile paralysis/ Health inspector considers closing of school
13th February School closed (This does not mean isolation of school. Just isolation of teacher)
14th February Board Notifies
15th February New Teacher appointed
15th February Arrived to take temporary charge AS Mackenzie

21st February Back! Attendance still low. Parents are still diffident Parents are not anxious to send children to school on account of Infantile paralysis
10th March School picnic heal at Picton
31st March Mr. Brockett visited school
10th April Received handwork materials from Board
12th April Heavy Rain. Small attendance . Cancelled half day
25th April Anzac Day
6th May Broke up for holidays. Received notice at lawnmower is on its way
7th June Received notification that lawn mower is on its way
9th June Received permission to the following to go to town and view the coronation robes/ William Webb, William Walsh, Reginald Haines, Tony Goulter and Melva Woolley
5th June New pupil from Picton Borough School Joy Gridley
New lawn mower arrived
5th August Permission given to Melva Woolley to attend Seddon Hunt
8th August Melva Woolley gained first place Seddon Hunt
8th August Dental Nurse visited school. Appointments made for primers and Joy Brisley
This is the first session upon which the Omaka Children have visited the clinic
Received notification that tools from the Board on the wagon after a delay
12th August Primers visited the clinic. Also Joy Gridley
6th September Reginald Haines is in hospital wherein he underwent an operation for appendicitis. He entered hospital on the 8th September Other members are absent with severe colds and bronchitis
8th September The first case of measles has been reported. Patricia Kennington
9th September Received supplies of seeds from agriculture inspector *(Mr. Brockett)*
1 Korean Lespedeza, 2 Kobe,, 3 Samisen
12th September William Webb granted permission to sit for his music examination in town
Received following tools 1 spade, 1 rake, 1 drag hoe
28th September Tony Goulter is the second case absent through measles epidemic. Two other pupils Marcus and Shane Falvey are absent. Measles suspected
28th September Received copy of Teacher's salaries regulations 1938
8th October District Nurse visited the school and inspected the children. Very few defects were noted. This is particularly gratifying as so far as health has been regarded as one of the chief subjects
The agriculture inspector also visited the school and gave much useful assistance and advice
19th October Show day. Melva Woolley secured Girl's Championship and also secured 11 firsts in the pony section. This year she has been especially encouraged at school
25th October Melva Woolley contracted measles prior to the show and has been absent for 10 days
26th October Bill Webb granted permission to assist his father with the driving of some stock to town
27th October Ngaire O'Connor took ill, High Colour, feverishness, and headaches were some of the symptoms displayed
2nd November Brian Newman a former pupil returned, He will attend the school while his family are engaged in local work. (At present they have their residence in Blenheim and will return there in 2 weeks)
22nd November Brian Newman left

24th November Melva Woolley returned. She has attended the Nelson Show, for participation in which she was allowed time off. Many successes were hers.
Best Girl rider and many other prizes. Encouragement to this girl has brought unprecedented success
1st December Sport's Day Very few of the Omaka Children attended, Difficulties in transport was experienced
5th December Melva Woolley attended Motueka Show on Wednesday and again was successful in many events
15th December Break up held in classroom. Prizes distributed
Those gaining Form II certificates were William Webb, Ngaire O'Connor, Patricia O'Connor and Antony Goulter
16th December Today the school year ended T T Turbitt
1st February 1939 School opened 8 Boys (7 present, 5 Girls 94 Present)
I have forwarded a letter to committee appraising them of certain matters that require early consideration.

1. The fence around the horse paddock has been broken down by fierce winds
2. The water supply for gardens is inadequate (The Committee promised a supply last year)
3. 3 Every "holidays" (Summer) the gardens are wholly or partially destroyed by roving stock. I have recommended the provision of stronger fences

7th February Mr. Pyke and Mr. Drummond visited the school to inspect the buildings and enquire as to the suitability of building a bicycle and tool shed. The provision of such has been eagerly sort by committee and teacher for over 3 years. Almost yearly the board has promised assistance but the matter has been held over for more consideration
9th February Swimming has been an important part of the school curriculum for the past few days. Much time has been devoted to the teaching of non swimmers. Ruth O'Connor and Patricia Kennington crossed the pool and with more practise should become good swimmers. These girls were two of the three above Standard 4 unable to swim
The swimming facilities are not good, the pool being 3 miles distant and shallow, but advantage is taken nevertheless of its limited attractions
10th February Workmen arrived to renew piles and remodel windows
10th February Shane Falvey and Mary O'Connor visited dental clinic
19th February The Committee has decided to hold the school picnic on Saturday at Picton
Mrs Webb has resigned her position as caretaker of school as yet the committee has not able to procure the services of another person willing to undertake to the cleaning of the school. The parents refuse to allow the children to participate in any scheme involving them in the cleaning work
The Secretary has offered the job to the teacher at £5 per year
16th February Committee arrived and installed water pipes for school garden and lawns. The playground was rid of long grass and weeds
Throughout this week the workmen had been busily engaged in remodelling end section of the school. Work inside in any given form has been impossible and lessons have been taken outside (Such lessons being swimming, life saving, safety first, first aid, hiking, health) In cold afternoons it has been necessary to send the children home
17th February Children conveyed to school baths in Blenheim. Ruth O'Conner gained her learner's certificate. Two others also have learned and are practising for their certificate

18th February School picnic at Picton
21st February Tank and well dry. No water
Mrs Webb has decided to take the sewing
2 girls have undertaken cleaning duties with teacher
25th February Visited baths Pat Kennington gained his learner's certificate. The children attended a picture *(Movies)* in town specially presented in connection with "keep fit" week
25th February A workman has been engaged to clear wood and cut hedges
Melva Woolley granted permission to attend Rai Show
27th February Melva Woolley rode with distinction gaining Girls and Lady's championships
Mr. Bland (?) inspected school buildings *(As written)*
New tank installed. Old one almost eaten through with rust
The Secretary of the Education Board has enquired if there is a possibility of my accepting the position of Physical Instructor at the Wellington Training College for 3 months during the absence of Mr. Longbush. I am considering the proposal
8th March Declined offer
31st March The Roman Catholics of the school had been given time off this week to attend the Mission (Redemptionist)
Melva Woolley given day off to attend Ward Show. To defend title of best girl and Lady Rider (in Marlborough)
5th April Melva Woolley successfully defended the title
5th April Received ankle injury in playground. Visited doctor in afternoon
6th April Injury is a torn ligament
12th April School routine again interrupted! Workmen are engaged in lowering windows improperly constructed
13th April The painters arrived in the afternoon to complete the renovation work
5th May The work has not gone to schedule, thanks to the many interruptions. Emphasis has been placed on HEALTH this term; it being quite obvious that most children do not care for their bodies as they should, diet in particular is bad in some cases and bronchial discharge, headaches, nervous disorder, persistent colds may be traced either to improper nutrition on to senseless living of some kind
This teacher of health will receive primary consideration next term and the other subjects will receive emphasis also.
Owing to drought conditions, resulting in a scarcity of water little attention has been given to gardens, and an air of neglect surrounds them T T Turbitt
22nd May Reopened 11 present New pupil in Shirley May Webb. It has been decided to make additions to the library £5 of boos to be purchased
2nd June Workmen arrived and fastened bolts to windows. Also painted window shields
12th June Mr. Keller inspected school buildings
26th July Melva Woolley's attendance has been irregular this term (The doctor has diagnosed, has pronounced blood pressure. Relaxation has been ordered. Melva Woolley rides 5+ miles to school and the result has been irregular attendance
31st July A film of snow covered the valley and surrounding hills today. Attendance adversely affected
2nd August Arbor Day All lessons to deal in some way with trees, focus. spelling, writing based on trees
Planting of trees in the school grounds

Thanks specially must be given to Mr. W Walsh who generously donated an expensive tree "Silken Oak" planted with due and fitting ceremony in a circular plot in front of the school
4th August Dr. Boyd inspected the school medically. The children were fairly sound, few defects being present. A good standard achieved.
14th August The vegetable garden has been visited by lambs. I have asked the Committee to consider the erection of a fence
15th August The Committee has decided that such an understanding would be too early. Roving stock have repeatedly destroyed the gardens and no records have been sent into the Board upon main crop owing to the fact that the ravages of wandering animals have made the keeping of accurate records impossible
6th September School resumes after holidays
11th September Shirley Webb left she is living in Blenheim her mother is having an operation
14th September Melva Woolley left today
29th September Bill Walsh and Reg Haines given permission to attend cricket match in Renwick. Opening of Boys competition practice. Allowed to leave at 1.45
2nd September Shirley Webb returned
16th October Mr. Brockett visited the school Much valuable information given concerning future agriculture studies
15th October Show day holiday
1115th November Received notification of appointment to position, sole charge teacher in Granity school Southland *(Granity is inland of Riverton there was also a Granity school North of Westport)*
Notified Wellington Board. Sent for new cheque book
25th November Received word from Nelson Board that Miss Laurie infant adviser intends to visit the school
30th November Miss Lawrie visited the school and gave much useful material for future infant teachers. Thanks must be given to the sponsors of the idea. Opportunities of getting in touch with teachers with progressive ideas are rare
8th December William Walsh given permission to attend the Primary Schools Tennis Tournament (Tournament cancelled due to inclement weather
16th December Xmas Tree and prize presentation held at night/ Personal presentations made for which I record grateful thanks
8th December Break up day Reg Haines granted Form II certificate
The entire day was spent in tidying up and placing school in order.
Children dismissed for summer vacation T T Turbitt
8th February 1940 Arrived two days late owing to sickness. 12 children present all particularly clean and well behaved a delightful tome pervades the school The children are a pleasure to work with *Unknown teacher*
8th March School picnic Picton foreshore
28th and 29th March School closed on account of death of Prime Minister Mr. Savage
8th April Mr. Brockett Agricultural Instructor
9th April Visit of Mr. Woods Inspector for the district
Many helpful suggestions from both visits
3rd May End of term During holidays ordered Physical Operation with leave of absence for 3 months

21st May *Unknown* Commenced duties as relieving teacher
18th June *Original Teacher* Recommenced duties as much improvement shown after fortnight's rest but staying at Blenheim
Two parents still continue to interfere with school work and discipline. The tone continues good despite the needless interference
Mark and Shane Falvey removed from school to Convent as parents unable to cease interference seems the only solution
During the term Inspectors Stubbs and Johnston visited the school to investigate complaint teaching of "Silent Night" . This previous to the removal of the Falvey's
3rd September School opened has been well cleaned in the holidays Stock have again destroyed the garden "The Fence" has again been asked for
Ruth O'Connor Beginner Swimming Certificate arrived to be presented end of year
Nurse Craig inspected the children. Highly commended their cleanliness
The wire meeting has reached the shelter shed. Lambs, pigs, calves and dogs from the neighbouring property (Mr. Webb's) continue to destroy the gardens
16th October School closed sickness of teacher
25th October 1st November School closed Teacher's refresher course at Blenheim School
4th December School closed Anniversary Day changed Owing to many breaks Teacher attended and any child who decided
12th November Visit of Inspector H G Johnston
25th November School closed King's Birthday
19th November Sport's Day All standard's except Pat Kennington and 1 primer attended 4 out of 6 got into finals
9th December 11.30 a.m. shot fired by 2 boys (Fairhall Scholars) from shot gun breaking windows and narrowly missing 3 children eye level. Police communicated and full report sent toy Education Board
10th December Abuse from mother of 2 children
11th December Visit by chairman members of the committee and Constable Robinson to investigate further
16th December During weekend new pane of glass put in
19th December Break up for Xmas vacation as December 20th holiday given by Governor General
3rd February 1941 School reopened after Xmas vacation. School not cleaned according to regulation although breakup function held in school after departure of teacher. Out houses not left clean as left by teacher. Water undrinkable smelling of sewerage. Reported to chairman and to health inspector. Three biggest girls cleaned and scrubbed school
5th February Visit of health inspector Water condemned for drinking purposes unless previously boiled
11th February Visit of Health inspector for inspection of water
10th March Visit of Inspector Bryan
19th March Visit of Mr. Brockett Agriculture instructor
4th April Absence of teacher- sickness
9th May Break up for term holidays Visit from Mr. Bishell ordering promotion of Vernon. No notice taken
25th June Visit of Messrs. Duckworth Drummond and Webb to inspect school water supply etc.

31st July Visit of school nurse. Noticed undernourishment of boys. These children have been unable to throw off colds all winter
5th August School closed teacher's illness
8th September 3rd term commenced. No cleaning done or girl's paid for previous term
6th October Visit of Miss Whitta (Morning) Physical Culture specialist
22nd October Show Day
23rd October Visit of Miss Whitta and Mr. Brockett Agric Instructor
22nd October Labour Day
3rd November Anniversary Day
17th November Visit of Mr. Bringans School Inspector
5th December Sport's Day
12th December Al Benzine *(Petrol)* licences cancelled owing to state of emergency
5th February 1942 School reopened 3 ½ days later. 5 Boys 2 girls present
12th March Visit of Mr. Brockett agriculture instructor
13th March Friday School picnic at Picton
20th March Attended school but no children present. 7 had gone to clinic and weather prevented other two from attending. School was closed
23rd March Visit of Mr. Johnson School Inspector
8th May Closed for School Vacation N Saunders Relieving Teacher
New Handwriting Another unknown teacher
25th May School reopened 6 Boys 2 girls present
1st June School closed to observe King's Birthday Holiday
24th June Visit of School Nurse. Children examined
10th July Visit of Mr. Johnson Inspector
3rd August 21st August L Smith sole teacher, on special leave of absence on account of marriage. During this period school was closed from August 3rd to August 7th no relieving teacher was available from August 10th to August 21st. J Mackenzie was relieving
7th September School reopened
18th September My resignation was accepted by Wellington Education Board Lena P Smith
21st September Commenced duty as relieving teacher
28th September Visit of Mr. Johnson Inspector
2nd October two pupils absent- measles Vernon and George Bishell
15th October Visit of Mr. Brockett, Agriculture Instructor
26th October Labour Day School closed
2nd November Anniversary Day School closed
27th November Annual School Sports- School closed
18th December School closed for Xmas vacation Day spent in cleaning and tidying up, of games
J ??i?den
2nd February 1943 School reopened One day late 9 Boys and 3 girls present
8th February Visit of School Nurse- Children examined. Visit of health inspector re water supply
10th February Holiday for Trooping of Colours
2nd March School picnic at Picton
8th March Visit of Mr. Brockett Agriculture instructor
24th March Visited school today J F Bell Inspector

25th May School reopened for 2nd term Roll 3 girls and 8 boys
7th June King's Birthday celebrations
30th June 2nd July School closed because of Teacher's absence- time to be made up so attendance will be marked on these days Boards permission granted
5th July Visit from Traffic Inspector to show films on read safety
23rd July Holiday given by returned men of 2nd NZEF
4th August Arbor Day Discussion on trees- followed by walk through plantation
9th August Visit of Mrs Dutton Dr. Barnardo's Home
5th September School reopened 4 girls 8 boys on roll
10th September Special holiday Italy's Surrender
1st October School closed Teacher absent
4th October Urgently called to fiancés after air crash
25th October Labour day School closed
6th December School sports at Marlborough College postponed from Friday 3rd December
1st February 1944 School reopened I commenced duties as sole teacher under war appointment Sent to Education Board for attendance registers scheme book
8 boys 4 girls present
8th February Admitted Leslie Russell from Renwick, his mother thinks a change of teacher would be to his advantage after and illness last year
17th February School picnic held at Picton
32nd – 25th February School closed to enable me to attend the refresher course at the Blenheim Borough School
3rd March. Mr. Drummond (Architect) Duckworth and Hyndman visited the school to inspect the well which is being renewed
20th March Mr. Bell inspected the school, two children being absent
24th March Mr. Hesse visited the school two children being absent and gave valuable help on the work to be done in the garden. Three absent
18th April Shane Falvey admitted to hospital partly as the result of an accident incurred while playing football *(Rugby not soccer)*. Secondly as soon as his foot has recovered he is to undergo an operation. Altogether he will probably be absent for the next five weeks
22nd May School reopened today, ten boys and four girls being present
6th June School closed for King's Birthday celebrations
11th June Shane Falvey returned to school after an absence since April 18th
31st July School reopened after my two au absence July 27 and 28 owing to an attack of Plarayngitis (Sic)
4th September I returned to school (After holidays) to find no children. On going to see the Secretary of the Committee I learned that the Education Board had accepted my resignation and had not advised me. Today I sever my connections with the Omaka School after a happy stay. I found the children a very good crowd to work with and I have had no trouble of any kind since I have been here
Signed A L Green
5th September Reopened for third term I commenced I commenced duty as relieving teacher. Present 10 boys 4 girls. Admitted one new pupil Nigel Watts. A Hawkins
20th October Visit of Mr. Hesse agricultural instructor
21st October Health Inspector from Blenheim to take further samples of water from well

22nd October School closed. Notified Chairman of School Committee that I was not well enough to travel out to school that day. Form for leave of absence forwarded to Board 23.10.44
6th November Anniversary day of Marlborough Province celebrated by a day's holiday
7th November After much hard work the vegetable garden is now showing some improvement Board's experimental crop of maize and sweet corn are up. Though some have been taken by a late frost
20th November To my great disappointment sheep have been in the garden during the weekend and have eaten the tops off all the seedlings and vegetable plants
Admitted two new children from Blenheim School- Betty and Jennifer Mead. The roll number now is 17
24th November School judging of four calves entered in the calf rearing competition. Mr. Harold Goulter was judge and his placings were 1st Shirley Webb, 2nd Mervyn Murdoch 3rd George Bishell, 4th Vernon Bishell. Mr. Goulter presented certificates of merit to these children and congratulated them on the very high standard which their calves had attained. The four calves are to go to Spring Creek on We November 29th for the district judging. The Committee has arranged transport for the calves and it is hoped that at least 9 of the children and I shall go to the judging
29th November At the district Judging today. George Bishell's calf was placed first in the Junior Section for care and handling and second in the combined section for best dairy type calf
5th December At the judging of all school's entered in Marlborough Boys and Girls animal rearing competition George Bishell's calf was placed first in the junior section for care and handling a very encouraging result for him and indeed for all the children who entered
14th December Christmas Tree end of year concert was held in the school. An attendance of about forty parents and friends was very gratifying
15th December School closed today for Christmas vacation. I presume my relieving duty ceases today. The term has been one of great interest and enjoyment for me. (Roll number 17) Alison Hawkins
Mary O'Conner and Shane Falvey gained leaving certificates
5th February 1945 A L Green School opened today for 1945 Present were ten boys and five girls
24th February Two pupils Patricia and Maureen Benseman arrived from Renwicktown. I later in the day received a letter from Mr. Gibson asking me to refuse the children in order to put an end to the changing of schools. I rang Mr. Hyndman and found I could not do this
Later I heard that the two brothers of the above pupils were coming so I sent home a message stating that I had insufficient accommodation. The two girls did not attend Omaka School February 19th – 23rd. I learned from my pupils that they had returned to Renwicktown. I have had no word from either the pupils, parents or the master of Renwick School
6th March School closed yesterday for the Annual School Picnic
20th March Today the school was visited by Mr. W Hesse the Agricultural Instructor. Approval of the outdoor work was made and new tools were promised/ As many children as possible to be encouraged to join the Boys and Girls Agricultural clubs.
Also Miss Davidson the District Nurse paid a visit. Children who had been recommended to be treated were examined. In all cases, bar the Tyrrell family, the treatment had been carried out

9th April A new pupil admitted, Patricia Hancock who has attended Correspondence School before coming here
24th April Anzac day- school ceremony. A visit from Messrs Irving and Bain to address the children
25th April School Closed Anzac Day.
3rd May School closed one day early for May Vacation. Day granted by the Education Department in honor of N Z Army in Italy
22nd May School opened one day late for the winter term. One days holiday granted by the School Committee in honour of New Zealand's war effort in Europe
5th June School Closed in celebration of King's Birthday
25th June Visit from Miss Davidson, the District Nurse. She examined every child and commented very favourably on the cleanliness of the children/ their health and the cleanliness of the classroom
4th July Took up relieving duties today as Miss Green has fortnight sick leave. 16 present
13th July My last day as relieving teacher Miss Green commences again on Monday
16th July A Green commenced duties after sick leave
8th August School closed owing to floods
15th August The news that the war has ended was received early in the afternoon. As the roll has been marked for the afternoon the School Committee instructed me to close the school on Au 16, 17 and thence to the 3rd of September
25th September A visit from Mr. O'Connor school inspector
Usual Labour, show and anniversary day holidays
20th December School closed today for Christmas Vacations. A very happy and successful year. Mervyn Murdoch and Vernon Bishell passed Form II
5th February 1946 School reopened for summer term Gardens very unhappily have been eaten by animals and all have for our work is bare ground. Three new pupils admitted A L Green
7th March All pupils attended Dental Clinic during the day so the school was not opened. In the afternoon the Inter School swimming sports were held and for the first time the school had children competing. Shirley Web gaining second [place in the 25 yards free style and Betty Mead Third place Breaststroke
19th March Mr. O'Connor Inspector visited the school today
20th 22nd March. This school was closed to enable me to attend the refresher course and NZEI annual meeting held at Blenheim School
26th March Mr. H W Hesse Supervisor of Agricultural Instruction visited the school today
10th April Miss Stone and Mr. O'Conner Area Organiser of Physical Education visited the school this day
10th May School closes today for May vacation. I have received an appointment to Queen park School Wanganui so this is the finish of my time here. I should like to place on the record that since I have been here I have found the School Committee and admirable body to work with, the children are a very happy family and that it is with regret that I am leaving A L Green
27th May Commenced duties as relieving teacher Roll 11
18th June Trip to Picton in the afternoon to see the Achilles
28th June Relieving duty ends today Jean Wood
1st July Commenced duties as permanent teacher G Thorpe

Present 6 Boys 4 Girls. Roll 7 Boys 4 Girls
15th July Commenced half yearly survey of standards
17th July School closed n afternoon- took the boys to selection game for Marlborough representation at Primary School's tournament to be held on August 3rd
3rd August Marlborough Primary Schools' rugby tournament. Les Russell on wing and Ashley Murdoch emergency for Western Districts team (defeated in semi final) Les chosen for town and Country match on August 10th as final trial for Marlborough reps at Seddon Shield Districts Primary Schools' tournament
3rd August Very enjoyable social and dance held in the school to raise funds for Xmas Tree party at end of third term
7th August Arbor Day Silver Birch planted in front gardens
21st August At 2 pm the whole school went down to Fairhall School where, Les, Ashley, George, Michael and Nigel plus one from Fairhall played a six aside rugby game The result was a win for Omaka (16-5) and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all/ Many thanks to Mrs Watts who kindly supplied some of the transport
22nd August School closed for term holidays one day early to enable me to travel home on Friday's train
12th September Plumbers visited the school during the afternoon and removed blockage from pipe feeding the lavatories and wash basin
16th September At 2 pm the whole school ravelled to Renwicktown where a seven aside Rugby game was played. We were soundly beaten 24-8 but that did not detract in any way from the enjoyment of the game or the afternoon tea which was dispensed at the conclusion
18th September At 1.20 pm Michael O'Connor gashed his leg on some broken glass while playing in Mr. Webb's paddock. I set the school some work to do and took him into Dr Watters in Webb's Car. From there we went to the Lister Hospital where several stitches were inserted
8th October Mr. Hesse Agricultural, Instructor visited the school
14th October Alison Rowan of Tynesfield started in Primer 1. Roll now 12. Lambs have been in the grounds and ruined the asters and marigold seedlings which were doing nicely, also the marigold's along the North side of the school and several geranium cuttings. This will necessitate the complete replanting of the borders
17th October Mr. R Robinson inspected the school in the afternoon
21st October From 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm I took the school to the Omaka Aerodrome to witness the arrival and departure of the Union Airways plane through the kind cooperation of the Control Pilot we were able to listed to the plane communicating with the 'drome before landing. The visit was the start of a series of lessons on the development of air travel, particularly in New Zealand. Also as part of this series I am taking the older members of the school for short trips in a tiger moth
School closed for Labour Day and Anniversary day but not show day
11th November Miss Simpson, District Nurse examined the school and commented favourably on the general standard of pupil's health
20th November DR Williams examined the school in the afternoon
26th November School closed to enable pupils to attend the judging (Group) of calf and lamb club entries at the show ground. As judging commenced at 12.30 pm it was not worth while holding school in the morning, We were not successful with the two calf entries (Leo and George) but Elvie Bishell secured third place in both the wool type and breeding classes

27th November School used as a polling booth for the General Elections so no classes held
6th December All pupils (and Teacher) attended Primary Schools Sports meeting at Lansdowne Park. No school
12th December At the finals judging for calf and lamb clubs Elvie Bishell won the Shand Medal for the best ewe for breeding purposes
17th December A very enjoyable Concert and Christmas Tree evening was held in the school at 8.00 pm. The pupils entertained for an hour after which Xmas presents were distributed among all the children present. P L C's *(Presumably Proficiency)* and leaving cards were presented to the four Form II pupils after which the evening was sent in dancing and supper.
19th December The last day of term and my last day at Omaka, as it is closing next year due to a lack of pupils. I am sorry to be leaving as my 6 months here have been happy ones. I wish to place on record my sincerest appreciation of the spirit of cooperation which the School Committee and the parents generally have shown G Thorpe

The progress and achievement register from 1928 is available at Blenheim Archives Marlborough Museum

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Renwick Error! Bookmark not defined. (1878- 1923)

12 Kilometres from Blenheim on Highway 6

Pre 1878

1868

18th July 1868 Renwick School. — On Wednesday last a meeting of householders was held at Renwicktown, for the purpose of determining whether the school should be continued or not Mr. A. Monro occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. A report from the committee appointed last week was handed in, from which it appeared that the number of householders liable for the rate are 62 with this and other minor sources of income it was considered advisable and competent that a school should be maintained in the district. The meeting adopted the report, and determined to continue the school as heretofore. The following gentlemen being appointed a committee to "manage and control" it: Messrs. R. McIver, McIsaac, R. Watson, G. Watson, and T. O'Sullivan.

1873

18th January 1873 The Wairau County Board was also the Wairau Education Board. The Board then met, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr Tissiman's appointment as, teacher of the Renwick School was confirmed. A long discussion took place on the state of the school buildings, but owing to the small amount in the hands of the Board, nothing could be done at present for their improvement.
Resolved— That certain articles of school furniture required for the Renwick school be obtained
31st May 1873 Marlborough Provincial Council £80 for enlarging schoolhouse at Renwick (Mr Macaulay to build)
28th June 1873 Marlborough Provincial Council Mr Ward said he would move a further amendment, that the amount be he knew that several Schools required help which the

County Board could not give, Marlborough Town, Spring Creek, Renwick, and North Bank of Wairau were all short of funds. The master at Big Bush might have a money grant instead of building a house

8th November 1873 The following tenders were received for the enlargement of the Renwick school H. Simmonds £52, J. McAlister £59 16s, J. T. Berry £45 10s (accepted)

The report from the Chairman of the Renwick School was received, showing the attendance of scholars and the amount of fees collected, and asking for aa increase of teacher's salary. It was I resolved that £20 be granted towards house rent for the year ending 31st Dec, 1573 and that specifications be drawn and tenders called for erecting a teacher's residence.

6th December 1873 The Board met when the Road Board had adjourned, the same gentlemen being present. A letter was received from the Renwick School Committee asking for a grant for the purpose of giving prizes at Christmas. Resolved that the following sums be voted for this purpose, viz., Renwick £3, Spring Creek £2, Big Bush £1 10s. The Board recommended that each local Committee conducted its own examination with the aid of the teacher, and that parents be invited to attend.

31st December 1873 RENWICKTOWN. [From our own correspondent] On Monday and Tuesday last the first examination which has yet been made of the school, was conducted by the local Committee, with the assistance of Mr Tissiman. Notwithstanding the opinions of a recent letter in a local newspaper, I am certain that no foul play was done by the teacher and from the very active part taken in the affair throughout by Messrs Thomas O'Sullivan, Shaw, and Macaulay, and at intervals by the other members of the Committee, it became evident that they were not only willing but able to carry the matter to its proper termination. Dr Renwick was present while one of the first classes was being examined, and at the conclusion complimented both scholars and master, and also promised a very valuable prize to the boy who should show the greatest general merit. Mr Shaw gave a prize to the girl who should distinguish herself in a like manner and Mr O'Sullivan gave two prizes, one for the best penman, and the other for the best arithmetician The following are the results

First Class. --Geography, John McIver, 1 H. Hopgood, 2.
Second Clasp.-Geography, C Bary.
Third Class. Geography, A. J. Shaw.
First Class. -Tables, Jean McIsaac, 1.
Second Glass. Tables, V. Bary. 1.
Third Class. Tables, Kate Shaw, 1
Fourth Class. Tables, C. Anderson.
First Class.--Grammar, John McIver, 1. .
Second Class. —Grammar, Eliza Simmonds, 1.
Committee's Prize for Writing, R. D. McIver.
Mr Sullivan's Prize, C. Bary.
First Class. Reading, Jean McIsaac and Minnie Shaw.
Second Glass. Reading, A. Shaw,
Third Class. Reading, Kate Mitchell.
Fourth Class. Reading, S. Susan and Annie McAllister.
First Class. Spelling. John McIver.
Second Class. - Spelling, C. McIver.
Third Class. Spelling, Kate Mitchell.
Fourth Class. - Spelling, J. O'Leary.
First Class. Arithmetic, M. D. McIver.
Second Class. - -Arithmetic, T. O'Leary.
Third Class. Arithmetic, Clara Hopgood.

Good Conduct, Eda Dawes.
Dr Renwick's Prize, John McIver.
Mr Shaw's Prize, Jean McIsaac.
On Monday morning commenced such a day's triumph as the people of Renwick have never before enjoyed, and will never forget. It was a quaint but happy idea of the teacher's to ornament all the prize-winners with a blue ribbon tied round the left arm. Long before 9 o'clock these and the other scholars, in their Sunday clothes, might be seen at the school-room. Shortly after that hour Mr T. O'Sullivan commenced his address to the children and parents. In happily chosen words and pithy sentences he pointed out the great benefits of education and concluded an admirable address by urging on the scholars obedience to their teachers, their parents, and their God. After the prizes had been distributed, John McIver, on behalf of the school, read an address to .Mr Tissiman, thanking him for his endeavours, and congratulating both him and themselves on the surprise and admiration which their progress had excited in the minds of the Examiners. Mr Tissiman made a few funny remarks in answer, but the one that pleased everyone most was his grand finale "And now off to the Picnic." Yes, sir we had a picnic, and a jolly one too. We camped out at the foot of the Delta Hills. After a day spent in the usual manner- osculating circles, &c. — the party returned home in traps (man-traps), in drays, on horses, &c There was not one accident, not one disappointment, not one event to mar the pleasure I have been at many of these things, but 1 never was at one yet where the ruling principle so evidently was Let everybody try to make everybody else happy."
On Wednesday also two foot races were run by Roderick McIver and George Green for £20, the distances agreed on were 100, 150 and 200 yards, but at both the: first distances "Roddy" won as he liked. After this Murphy gave Roddy. 5 yards in a 100 and won by about 2 ½ yards. Murphy and Hutchinson then started level, and Murphy won by 5 yards. Hutchinson and McIver then .ran on equal terms, when McIver: again won by 3 yards. The last three races were all 100 yards.
£20 is worth $2538.34 in the 1st quarter of 2016

1874

7th February 1874 The following accounts were ordered to be paid, viz. Prizes for Renwick school £3 2s, salary £3 5s 3d, repairs 10s

21st March 1874 Accounts from Renwick school, amounting to £18 10s. were paid.

13th June 1874 Inspector Bowden's Report Renwick town school. A mixed school of 48 children under a master. The settlers of this district seem to take a pride in their school. A school room, and a very neat though small teacher's residence, have been erected, and the attendance of the children at school is very regular, the average daily attendance exceeding 90 per cent. Great progress appears to have been made during the last twelve months, and with the exception of arithmetic, the children passed a very good examination. The arithmetic, however, in the two highest classes was up to or above the standards. The same classes passed a very good examination in grammar and geography, and two of the boys have made very fair progress in the Latin Delectus and in Algebra. The same boys had also drawn maps of New Zealand, which for neatness of execution are deserving of high commendation The copy-book writing throughout the school is neat and careful, and reflects much credit both upon scholars and teacher. The discipline appears mild and firm, and the children orderly and well-behaved. No proper attendance register has been provided, but I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the average quoted above. On the day upon which I unexpectedly visited the school, 46 were present out of 48 upon the roll.

If fairly encouraged and assisted, this school promises to attain a very satisfactory state of efficiency, but au assistant or a pupil teacher will shortly be required.

11th July 1874 The Clerk was instructed to request the owners of two sections in High-street, Renwick, to clear the gorse oft" the footpaths, as children going to School from the West end are now obliged to walk on the newly-formed road.

11th July 1874 A letter was received from the Renwick School Committee requesting an increase of salary for the Teacher, on the ground that the work was very heavy because of the number of children, and also the standard of education high. Resolved, that all teachers be entitled to fees of all children exceeding an average attendance of 25, and above 5 3>ears of age

Renwick Messrs O'Sullivan, Goff, Macaulay, Barry, and Shaw. Appointed School Committee

16th September 1874 will be remembered that in reference to an application from Mr Tissiman, the teacher of the Renwick School, the Wairau Education Board passed a resolution according to him as a bonus the school fees paid by all children attending the school over 25 in number. At the last meeting of the Board, it was ruled that the same regulation should apply to all the schools in the Province, which gives more importance' to the matter, and induces us to publish the following letter, which was sent by Mr Tissiman to the Chairman of the Renwick School Committee "Sir, With reference to the resolution passed by the Education Board respecting the advance of salary I applied for, I beg to submit the following objections The resolutions fixes a very uncertain amount. Neither the Committee nor anyone else will ever be able to say what the salary is,

and with limited incomes, men require to know what they have to live upon with some degree of exactness. "Therefore another objection to this mode of payment, will be that through no fault of mine my income may be decreased, ten, fifteen or twenty pounds per annum. Because the Committee remit school fees when absence is caused by sickness, and in the case of epidemics schools have to be closed altogether. Should great commercial depression arise, many parents would be unable to pay their fees, and then I should object to be the loser. The question is would the Board bear the loss. How is the division of money to be made between the Board and the teacher Is the average weekly fees to be multiplied by the excess over 25 attendants "In case parents do not pay their school fees regularly (and this often occurs), it would be very inconvenient for the teacher to have to wait for his salary. Would the Board pay it at once, and relieve him of any trouble in collecting school fees. It would not be advisable to throw teachers into collision with parents on money matters this has bred great mischief always. I can point out to Wairau Valley and the Bush as instances. It would be far easier for all parties all ways if the Board would make a settled advance of salary, and I think, as other schools are getting advances of £20 with about half the work, (taking into consideration numbers and attainments), I ought to have an advance of "I am, Sir, "Yours Faithfully, "W. TISSIMAN. "Ren wick, Aug. 1st, 1874."

23rd September 1874 Sir, —In the last issue of the Express appears a letter emanating from the Teacher of the Renwick school to his Local Committee, which would not have claimed my attention had not that gentleman, with more zeal for the school he presides over, and his own importance, than discretion as Clerk to the Education Board, overstepped the limits assigned to secretaries in general, by stating that the masters of the Wairau Valley and the Bush Schools, were instances of collisions between teachers and parents in money matters. The Wairau Valley affairs are not mine, but the Bush School fees and their collection I am thoroughly posted up in, and it is with pleasure I can state that during the two years and a half I have had charge of the school I have never had occasion to remind a child of parent of

unpaid fees. By glancing over the last two years' balance sheets of the Education Board it will be seen that I received less subsidy from the Board, than any other teacher (Renwick excepted), consequently, I must have collected more fees, as the Board guaranteed £100 per annum to all teachers alike. My only annoyance arose from the Board's delay in remitting the balance. From occasional complaints embodied in my quarterly returns to my Committee on the matter, the Secretary to the Board has surmised his charge against the parents of the Bush School. I am, &c, Geo. S. Mitchell, Teacher of Bush School.

14th October 1874 The question of fencing off the school property at Renwick was deferred

7th November 1874 A tender was received from Mr Barton, offering to fence in the school ground, Renwick, for £2 4s per chain. On the motion of Messrs Macaulay and Parker, the tender was accepted

INSURANCE OF SCHOOLS. The Clerk pointed out to the Board that all the schools in the county were insured for £100 each, with the exception of that at Spring Creek, and the master's residence at Renwick, and stated that it would be as well if the Board would instruct that these buildings should be insured at once

1875

6th January 1875 We had an opportunity yesterday of inspecting a map drawn by John McIvor a pupil under Mr Tissiman at the Renwick School. It was one which gained the approbation of Mr Justice Richmond for excellence out of 26 exhibited at the late distribution of prizes; this exceedingly well-drawn, and does credit to both pupil and master

6th January 1875 RENWICK SCHOOL.

Air examination of the scholars in the above school was held on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th ult., by the Rev. W. Shirriffs, M.A. On Wednesday Sir D. Monro, accompanied by His Honor Mr Justice Richmond, visited the school, and took considerable interest in the progress of the pupils. The students in geography displayed a considerable number of maps, the skill displayed in the drawing of which called forth very high encomiums from the gentlemen named. His Honor briefly addressed the little ones, and urged them to be even better men than their fathers Sir D. Monro gave three special prizes for the following subjects Latin, English composition, and mapping. A special prize for general proficiency (boys school) was also presented to the Hon. T. Renwick in the form of a very handsome volume on natural history. A fund had been raised to pay Mr Shirriffs for his attendance as examiner, which he declined to accept, requesting that it should be given to the pupils as special prizes. Mr T. O'Sullivan, the chairman of the School Committee, distributed the prizes on Thursday evening to the successful competitors as follows Geography 1st class, John McIvor 2nd class, Robert Thompson. English Grammar 1st class, John McIvor 2nd class, Eliza Simmonds. Special prize Minnie Shaw. Tables 1st class, B. Lawson 2nd class, James O'Leary 3rd class, A. Macallister. Algebra John McIvor. Arithmetic— John McIvor 2nd class, Minnie Shaw 3rd class, Robert Thompson 4th class, Kate Shaw 5th class, C. Berry. Mapping— 1st class, J. McIvor 2nd class, Robert Thompson. Reading— First class, Robert McIvor 2nd class, Robert Thompson. Reading 1st class, Robert McIvor 2nd class, Margaret Lawson 3rd class, James O'Leary 4th class, Sidney Shaw, W. Macaulay. English Composition Kenneth McIvor. Spelling 2nd class, Clara Hopgood 3rd class, Kate Shaw 4th class, M. A. Macallister. Writing (Boys), 1st class, Kenneth, McIver, Samuel Dawes, H. Hopgood, equal. 2nd Class, Jas. O'Leary. (Girls), 1st class, Eda Dawes, Kate Mitchell, equal. 2nd Class, S. Simmonds. Latin. John and Robert McIvor, equal. Dr. Renwick's Prize. J. McIver. Special Prizes for general merit (Girls), Minnie Shaw. An address to Mr Tissiman, the master, was read by the recipient of the Renwick prize thanking him in the name of the School for his attention and assiduity. Mr Tissiman made a suitable reply, and urged upon the

parents present the necessity of backing up his efforts by keeping the children to regular attendance. The address was responded to by three cheers, which closed the proceedings.
A picnic and athletic sports, with prizes for the young competitors was got up on Boxing Day, which passed off very successfully, the only contretemps being the breaking of a vaulting pole, by which Samuel Dawes sustained a sprained wrist. We are happy to add that the dislocation was reduced on the spot by a person present, and no very serious inconvenience is likely to result.
9th January 1875 RENWICK SCHOOL. Mr O'Sullivan sent the accounts for the quarter. The. highest number on the books during the quarter was 50; daily average, 45; no new scholars; 62 3 18s 9d, master's salary £ 25,
Mr Tissiman, master of this said that when Mr Lee, the Inspector, was here, he had recommended him to get the Nelson series of school-books as reading books. He had since got a set, from Mr Weiss, head master of the Blenheim Borough Schools, which he had submitted to the chairman of the School Committee, but on examining them that gentleman had found at the head of two chapters none of the books a verse of the Bible. And as the schools were under the secular system, he wished to obtain the sanction and opinion of the Board before getting a supply of the books in question. The books were handed to the Board who examined them closely, but found nothing that could be considered objectionable, and leave was given to get a supply, on the motion of Mr Parker. Mr Macaulay asked the Chairman of the Board. to appoint a place of meeting for the Renwick Committee. Mr Ward declined, saying it was for the School Committees to regulate their own business, and that they could meet wherever they saw fit. Authority was given to purchase a number of school requirements, including maps, inkstands, rubber, black board, and a series of reading books.
27th January 1875 Inspector Lee's report included The following pupils passed Standard II
1 Schrempf, Annie, Kaituna, 178 marks, aged 14
2. McIvor, John, Renwick, 173 aged 15
3. McIvor, Robert, Renwick 168, aged 13
4. Conolly, George, Picton, 153, aged 11
5, McIvor , Kenneth, Renwick, 120 aged 11
I recommend that these pupils receive Certificates of Merit. I will append to my report (1), certain details on the state of each school and (2.) a few suggestions for the future guidance of the County Boards. I beg to thank members of Committees and School Teachers for the courtesy and kindness with which I was everywhere welcomed. I have the; honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, Robert Lee, Inspector of Schools. To His Honor the Superintendent, Marlborough.
27th January 1875 Renwick Town. Mr Tissiman has been fourteen years a teacher working in private schools. Though he holds no certificate at present, he is an efficient teacher. The children in this, as in the Spring Creek district, have mostly been several years at school. There are ten in this school who have attended over five years, and 41 who have been over one year. Considering the facts that the master teaches the whole 50 children single handed, and that there boys passed in Standard 111, I think the results are exceedingly creditable, and as good as in the Kaituna school, which in percentage results is the highest. Two advanced pupils were learning Latin and algebra, taught in school time. Ugly block and swing desks were in use. Eight remarkably good specimens of map drawing were exhibited. The school room was suitable, except that three windows and three blocks of parallel desks are wanted. A new suitable four-roomed house detached from the school has lately been erected. The playground is unfenced.

3rd February 1875 RENWICK SCHOOL. An order in favor of John Neame, signed by John Barton for £ 26 8s, was presented. This, it was explained by- the Clerk, was the amount due for fencing Renwick School ground. The contract was let to Mr Barton, hut he had gone to Onamalutu, and sublet it to the claimant. The work had been done, and passed by the Clerk and the Chairman of the School Committee. The account was passed.
6th March 1875 RENWICK SCHOOL. Mr Macaulay said a corner cupboard was much wanted at this school, at a cost of £2 10s. The amount was granted.
15th May 1875 We learn that on Thursday at Renwick, Mr Ward, as chairman of the Wairau Education Board, presented the certificates of merit awarded to two of Mr McIvor's sons by the Inspector of Schools on his last visit. A similar certificate was awarded to another of the same gentleman's sons, bub as he had gone to employment in Nelson Mr Tissiman forwarded it to him there some time ago. We cannot but envy the father of these boys, and trust their example will not be lost on their companions, but that when Mr Lee comes again there will be a large number to pass the Third Standard
29th May 1875 The political meeting was held in the schoolroom. This building reflects great credit on the Educational Board of the district. Inside, it has a "teachy" appearance, which makes a fellow ardently desire to learn. In that room I studied geography, and now am proud to be able to describe an island or a peninsula. An island is a form drawn upon something white, in shape somewhat like the neckless body of a plucked goose, rimmed round with red and blue paint. On the white space enclosed write "Island," and outside the blue paint write the word "sea" once or twice, and the things done. For a peninsula attach a neck to the goose island, and let the head disappear from sight write peninsula instead of island, and feel grateful for the modern ease with which young minds can there be developed.
13th October 1875 Omaka County Board Meeting …….. Also, that he had received a letter from Mr Tissiman, who was willing to do the duty of Secretary and Treasurer to the Board for the remaining portion of the current financial year, viz. to June 30th, 1876, for the sum of £20, this would include the work of both the Road and Education Boards…… Mr Rose asked if the Renwick School would suffer in any way by the appointment of Mr Tissiman The Chairman said it would not, aa Mr Tissiman would give the School another day, when he was compelled to be absent. It was moved by Mr Rose, and seconded by I Mr Shaw, that Mr Tissiman's offer be accepted, and that the Road Board should pay £15, and the Education Board £ 5 of the salary agreed to. After some unimportant remarks, the motion was carried.
13th October 1875 Omaka County Board : RENWICK SCHOOL. A letter was received from Mr Tissiman, stating that he had not received any salary as Master of the Renwick School since March last. After accounting for school fees received, there was £40 18s 9d due to him to end of the last quarter. The Chairman entered into an explanation of the financial position of the Board, and stated that a balance to credit at the Bank of New Zealand was available to the extent of £28 3s Bd. Some conversation followed with reference to the Education Act. and the Chairman moved that the school fees at Renwicktown remain as at present until the expiration of the current financial year. It was moved by Dr Home, seconded by Mr Houldsworth, and earned, that the sum of £28 be paid on account of salary as schoolmaster to Mr Tissiman. The Chairman moved that the sum of £5 be paid to the Secretary of the Education Board as soon as the funds were available. The motion was seconded by Mr Shaw, and carried.

13th November 1875 Omaka Ed Board The chairman said as they now had over £13 in the Bank he would move that the balance of £12 18s 9d, due to the schoolmaster at Renwick be paid. The motion was seconded by Mr Rose and carried. Mr Shaw moved "that £5 be appropriated for prizes for the Renwick school. The Chairman in seconding the motion, said the vote was always supplemented by the public, who subscribed last year over £8. The motion was put to a division. The ayes were 3 Messrs O'Sullivan, Shaw, and Rose noes 3, Messrs Horne, Jackson, and Houldsworth. The Chairman exercised his casting vote and the motion was carried. The Board then adjourned.
15th December 1875 The Chairman reported that the school at Renwick had been examined by the Government Inspector with very satisfactory results, reflecting great credit on* the teacher and he felt sure when the report was published, that the Board would feel highly gratified by having such a school under its control. The sum of £5, voted at the last meeting for prizes, was ordered to be paid, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rose, as also sundry small accounts, amounting to £5 19s

1876

1st January 1876 RENWICK SCHOOL.
[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] On Friday last the prizes were presented at this school. An examination had been held on the previous Thursday, December 23rd, by the Rev W. Shirrif's, A.M., assisted by Mr Stenhouse, and the rewards were given in accordance with their decisions. Mr T. O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Omaka Education Board, presented the prizes, and before doing so, he said he was pleased to find that the standard of the School was higher than ever it had been before bat he would still exhort the pupils to persevere.; they had not attained the highest possible standard yet. It gave him great pleasure to refer to the position attained by Robert McIvor he had passed the Fourth Standard, and, as far as is known, is the only scholar in the province who has done so. But this and the other successes were, of course, mainly due to the teacher's exertions. He could compare those who had' not taken prizes to a tree with no fruit. They required pruning, cutting back, and probably will show the better crop next year. He advised them not to be discouraged, as the future always speaks of hope to honest workers. With regard to those boys, and that delicate little girl who had passed the Third Standard, he would say Do not be conceited remember that great philosopher who, in his old age, after having made some of the greatest discoveries of all ages, said that he was only like a boy on the ocean shore gathering shells, while the great ocean of truth remained unexplored. And to those boys the ocean of life had yet to be travelled. Having examined the attendance register, he was struck by the fact that those who had not distinguished themselves in the examinations, were those who had been most irregular in their attendances and he would urge upon them and their parents the urgent need of regular attendance at school, He desired, along with the Committee, to render their thanks to Mr David Campbell, who had, by a large donation, assisted the Board in giving these prizes. It was extremely praiseworthy of a gentleman who had no immediate connection with the school, having no children of his own, to show his interest in education by exciting the endeavours of the pupils to win some of the prizes he was about to distribute. He, would like to see the children enjoy the holidays, but to enjoy them innocently and not idly or wickedly. Those who are now leaving the School must not be satisfied, but pursue knowledge all their lives. Education should be turned to good use, or it might be a curse, and not a blessing for an educated villain was worse than an ignorant one. He would advise them]to be careful in the choice of books, reading only those which tend to cultural or intellectual advancement. The prizes were then given as follows

History.— 1st Class, Kenneth McIvor; 2nd Class, Richard McCullum. Arithmetic. 1st Class, R. W. Farmar, and T. O'Leary; 2nd Class, James O'Leary; 3rd Class, Joseph Mitchell and Annie Berry, equal; 4th Class, William McLennan 5th Class, Frances Thompson.
Composition. 1st Class, Kenneth McIvor and Harry Hopgood, equal 2nd Class, Rich. McCullum.
Spelling. —1st Class, Wm. McLennan. Mapping.— Kenneth McIvor, 1st H. Hopgood, 2nd. Spelling.— 2nd Class, Sidney E. Shaw.
Geography. 1st Class, Kenneth McIvor 2nd Class, James McIsaac.
Grammar.— 1st Class, Amelia Ellen Shaw and T. O'Leary, equal 2nd Class, A. J. Shaw and E. C. McIvor, equal.
Reading.— 1st Class, Kenneth McIvor, 1st Robert Thompson, 2nd. 2nd Class, A. J. Shaw. 3rd Class, C. E. McIvor. 4th Class, Sidney E. Shaw.
Tables. —Annie Berry, Joseph Mitchell, and W. Macaulay, equal.
Writing. -Eda Dawes, 1st; A. E. Shaw, 2nd A. J. Shaw, 1st Harry Moore, 2nd.
Highest number of marks. Annie Berry, Blanche Watson, and Mary Ann Macallister. A very handsome prize was given to Robert McIvor, who, having passed the Fourth Standard at Mr Lee's examination, declined to compete for other prizes. Dr Renwick's prize for the best male scholar, was also awarded to the same boy and the Committee's prize for the best female scholar was awarded to Amelia Ellen Shaw.
The following address was then read by the Senior Pupil Renwick School, "Dec. 24th, 1875. "To Mr Wm. Tissiman, Teacher. "Dear Sir,— "Before taking leave of you for the enjoyment of our midsummer holidays, we are desirous of expressing to you our deep feelings of gratefulness for your labours on our behalf, which have been very great during the past year. "In doing so we cannot omit to mention the very proud position you have enabled us to take in the examination made by Mr Lee last week, and for which so many of us thereby entitled to certificates of merit. And although some amongst us will this day quit this School as scholars for ever yet you have enabled them by your energy and zeal to take their credentials with them in the form of a well-grounded education, with which they can face the world and all its difficulties with such encouraging prospects that they will, we feel sure, always look back with feelings of love respect to their benefactor. The sincere feelings of respect felt by us towards you have not been alone confined to ourselves, but have also been participated in by our families and friends, who have upon this occasion placed in our hands the means to make you an offering, which you will be able to keep in remembrance of us and we hope in after years when we are all grown up, and following the several paths that are marked out for us through life that you will then be able to lookback to this day with feelings of pleasure, and, that the pleasure you feel will be made to move that the thought that you are not then ashamed to point to. any of us as. men and women of whom you are proud, and in whom you can trace the seeds of your .early industry ripened into rich fruits.
In making you this presentation, we cannot help expressing the wish, that as you have not spared your labours night or day for our benefit, that this watch may long continue to work for you, continually reminding you of this day which we hope you will long remember with pleasure. And now we all join in wishing you every pleasure and happiness that your short repose of labour, and the time of year can afford you and that God in his infinite goodness may long preserve you to us, and give that good health' which you so much need to continue to perform the labours required of you in this school is the fervent prayer of,— your loving and dutiful pupils R. D. McIvor, K. B. McIvor, W. M. Shaw, W. Farmar, T. O'Leary, H. Hopgood, H McCallum, C. Hopgood, S. Dawes, E. Dawes, Charles Bary, A. J. Shaw, C. McIvor, E. Thompson."
At its conclusion a very handsome gold watch bearing the following inscription Presented to Mr William Tissiman by the Pupils of the Renwick School, 1875," was handed to the teacher

by Miss A. E. Shaw, who said Allow me, Sir, on behalf of the pupils of the Renwick School, to make this presentation to you. and may God long spare you to enjoy it."
Mr Tissiman, on receiving the testimonial, said, Mr Chairman of the Education Board, ladies and gentlemen, and my dear children, On former occasions of this kind I have said I am proud of my school, and I do not know that I have any occasion to say different this year. I thank you heartily for the present by which you have shown your appreciation of my services. It is always pleasant to know that one's honest efforts are properly estimated. I have striven hard for success, and have taken for my motto the words of the wisest man that ever lived, "What thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." Perhaps one of the most difficult tasks a schoolmaster has to perform is to get parents to exercise proper control over their children. It is not enough to send a child into a room by himself to learn lessons those who have the control must see that the lessons are done. But there are some parents who are too proud to learn of a schoolmaster. If I was using a saw, and a carpenter came into the place where I was using it, and said, You are not holding the saw right," I should be willing to learn from him—it is his business to know how. It is my business to know how to train children, and, without boasting, I may say that I know my business. But notwithstanding the position the school holds in the inspections, there are parents who will not admit that I should have any control over their children out of School. I can only point to those over whom I am allowed to have that control as the most successful scholars I have. And I intend still to try to obtain more influence over those children whose home discipline is not what it ought to be. I think the thanks of the community are due to the two resident members of the Education Board, and those members of the Committee, who have shown by their presence at the examinations, such an interest in the welfare of the School. The name of this little machine you have given me is watch, a good text for a sermon. Let us all keep in mind the old adage that Time flies," whether we stand still or not. Now let us give three hearty cheers for the School Committee. The children stood up and responded heartily to the call of their teacher and just as heartily when Mr O'Sullivan called for "three cheers' for Mr Tissiman,"
5th January 1876 Sir., "Truth," says .your regular correspondent, informed you about Mr Henderson's address at Renwick, &c. So he did and the Times informs you of the same thing exactly. Then he says that you published a report, in the same issue "of the Renwick School." which is stated to be from our own correspondent." So it was. Then he says, "naturally anyone would suppose that that was the regular correspondent, who informed the Express all about the meeting" Well, anyone may ,suppose so if he likes supposing is cheap now—a -days. But I should like the man who calls himself Truth-, but is ashamed of his real name, to feel sure that the regular correspondent of the Express is neither a myth nor a fabrication, but yours, &c, TISSIMAN. Renwick, January 4th , 1870.
12th January 1876 An account from the master of the Renwick Town school was then read, and on the motion of Dr Home, seconded by Mr Jackson, the balance due to him of £l5 2s 9d was ordered to be paid Omaka Education Board
29th January 1876 Omaka Education Board 29th January 1876 RENWICK SCHOOL. The Chairman brought up the question of the insufficient salary paid to the schoolmaster. At present he received £100, and a share of the school fees, making altogether about £135. Mr Lee said his school took the foremost position of any in the Province, having passed the largest number of boys in a certain standard than any other school. He had about 58 scholars under his care. It was true they were paying 3d in the £ but the fame of the school would cause an increase in the fees paid, so he considered they. might fairly give their teacher an increase. He would propose that his salary he raised to £175 per annum. He could see their way to pay this amount, but if they did not they would have-to provide an assistant. If they

gave the proposed sum, the teacher was willing to remain, and do without an assistant. Mr Jackson seconded the motion on the understanding that no assistant would be required in case the motion passed. The motion was carried, and the Board adjourned.
29th January 1876 Wellington Education Board Inspector Mr Lee wrote Renwick. This is by far the best school in the Province. The work is uniformly good in j all classes and in all sections. New furniture and a side organization would much improve the school. Robert Daniel McIvor, aged 14 years and 7 months, is the best scholar in the Province, and the only one who has passed Standard IV. His brother Kenneth Bruce Me Ivor, aged 12 years 'and 8 months, was the only other really good candidate for Standard IV and h« is, therefore, the sec rad best scholar in the Province. Amelia Emma Shaw of this school, is an intelligent girl of only 1 1 years of age. Of the girls she is the best pupil in the province. Of the six new passes in Standard 111, Richard William Farmar, aged 14, and Timothy O'Leary, aged 14 years and 5 months, worked all ten sums set in Arithmetic exactly right and Farmar answered every one of the twenty questions in Geography and History correctly and without hesitation. All the work is done by the master unassisted.
Robert Daniell Mc Ivor aged 14.9. 147 Marks Only child in Marlborough to pass standard 4.
Standard 4 was the highest level of classification in all schools at this date
Passing Standard III were
1st Richard William Farmar. 14 years 0 Months, 170 Marks
3rd Timothy O'Leary 14 years 5 months, 165
4th Amelia E Shaw 11 years 0 Months, 164
5th Harry Hopgood, 14 years 3 months, 161
12th Richard McCallum 12 years 3 months, 130
16th Charles Barry 12 years 0 Months, 122
There were 25 passes in all Marlborough
Renwick, 6
Blenheim , 12
Havelock , 3
Spring Creek, 3
Picton, 1
24th June 1876 Part of a long letter The young men attend Mr Tissiman's night school four nights, and are nearly all Odd Fellows, *(As in Lodge membership)* so that only one night out of the fortnight is unoccupied. Now I cannot conceive how anyone can wish to ridicule a set of young men who are spending their evenings either in gaining education, which shall be useful in business, or in gaining a knowledge of an accomplishment which will smooth the rough corners off their manners or in exercising a careful thought for a future, which may bring sickness and loss of employment by Mr Tissiman
19th July 1876 Omaka Education Board The following accounts were voted and ordered to be paid Secretary's salary 50 shillings, Renwick School, master's salary £43 15s less school fees £14 7s 6d, leaving £29 7s 6d due
14th October 1876 Omaka Education Board letter from the Renwick teacher was read, asking leave to send children home again while suffering from an infectious complaint.
It transpired that no School Committee had been appointed for the year, the former one having lapsed. The Chairman said in reply to a question that there was no necessity for one, and that the non-appointment was due to the remissness of the Board.
On the motion of Dr Home, seconded by Mr Jackson it was resolved that Messrs. O'Sullivan, Shaw, Goff, Robert D. McIsaac, and Tunnicliffe be the School Committee.

It was also resolved on the motion of Messrs. Horae and Rose that the letter of the School teacher be referred to the School Committee.

18th October 1876 OMAKA EDUCATION BOARD. The same gentlemen were present as above. The Chairman reported that the Renwick School Committee had met on the previous evening, and had requested him to apply to the Board for a grant for necessary repairs to the School-house. He then proposed that a sum not exceeding £10 be voted to the Renwick School. This was seconded by Mr Rose and carried.. The Board then adjourned

1877

10th January 1877 At a meeting of the Renwick School Committee it was decided to ask Dr Muller and Mr Heath, to undertake the examination of the classes at the expiration of the Christmas term. These gentlemen having expressed their willingness to do so, the examination was held on the 21st and 22nd December, and the result was as follows

1st Class.
Grammar.— Kenneth McIvor and Amelia E. Shaw.
Arithmetic. Amelia E. Shaw.
Geography. -X. B. McIvor.
Composition. H. Hopgood,
History. K. B. McIvor.
Recitation. A. E. Shaw.
2nd Class.
Grammar. G. Jackson. Arithmetic. J. O'Leary.
Geography.— G. Jackson.
Composition. A. J. Shaw.
History. J. O'Leary.
Recitation.— C. Hopgood and Alex. Shaw.
3rd Class,
Grammar. Mary Bary.
Arithmetic. Mary Bary.
Geography. Kate Shaw and Kate Mitchel.
Composition. James McIsaac.
Recitation. Margaret Lawson.
4th Class.
Geography. Ellen McIsaac.
Arithmetic. Ellen McIsaac.
Reading. Ellen McIsaac.
Spelling. Christina E. McIvor.
5th Class. Arithmetic. W. Macaulay.
Reading. W. Macaulay.
Spelling. Ellen Lodge.
6th Class. Arithmetic. Walter Watson.
Reading.— Arthur U. O. Goff.
Tables. Annie Watson.

The writing prize of the Upper School was awarded to James O'Leary and at the Lower School to Richard Wm. McIsaac.

The 1st Class Arithmetic paper contained also two problems in mensuration of superficies, and an Algebraic Equation, all of which, to the surprise the Examiners, were correctly worked by the prize-winner.
At the conclusion of the second day's examination, the prizes were distributed by Dr Muller, who in a short speech to the children, and to many of the parents and friends who were in expressed himself exceedingly pleased with the attainments of the scholars, congratulated several of the most proficient, and spoke in very complementary terms of the master, Mr Tissiman, and of the School, which, he said, occupied a primary position amongst the schools of the Province.
Dr Renwick's prize for the best scholar in the school was awarded to Amelia E. Shaw. .
Mr T. O'Sullivan, Chairman of the School Committee, addressed the scholars, and after having thanked the Examiners, dismissed the children for a month's holiday;
24th January 1877 Civil Service Examination. The following is an extract from the list of candidates gazetted as having passed the junior examination in the order of merit in which their names appear. The list includes 35 names: "22 McCallum, Robert, Blenheim, Blenheim Borough Schools 8 years Renwicktown School, 6 months. 25 Farmar, Richard William, Blenheim, Borough Schools, Blenheim, 5 years; private schools, Blenheim, 2 years Renwick School, 6 months." The number passed in the junior examination was 35 out of about 100 candidates. The numbers of the successful from each Province are apportioned as follows Wellington (College), 19 Nelson (College), 2; Wellington, principally from the College and Grammar Schools, 6 Canterbury, one from the Normal School Christchurch and one educated in England Otago. 2 from the District Schools, and one educated in England Taranaki, one educated in England and Marlborough, 2 from the Borough Schools.
14th February 1877 Marlborough Education Board RENWICK TOWN SCHOOL. The Chairman stated that he had received a lengthy communication from Mr O'Sullivan Chairman of the Renwicktown School Committee, urging the necessity for new furniture, and the painting of the School. The Committee also requested the erection of two additional rooms for the master's residence at as early a date as possible. There were 28 boys and 27 girls in attendance, four having passed the third Standard and 11 being nearly up to it, 15 had passed or were nearly up to the second standard, 10 were in standard 1, and there were 15 who would be classed as infants. 14 or 15 scholars were studying the higher branches of education speaking comparatively with the elementary system, which necessitated a great deal of time and attention on the part of the teacher. The Committee therefore thought it advisable to provide an assistant being of opinion that an efficient female teacher could be got to do the work for a less sum than a male teacher: A female teacher would also supply a want long felt viz. that the elder girls could receive instruction in branches of education particularly pertaining to their sex. With respect to the teacher's salary the Board would probably adopt some scale and if so the Committee would have nothing to say on the subject. But if they did not adopt a classification, the Committee would submit that the teacher's labours should be rewarded by a fitting salary. The Committee had incurred a liability of £11 10s for timber which two defaulters in school fee payments had worked up in the erection of an anteroom,- which was much needed. The committee also recommended that the old gable should not be removed as suggested by Mr Douslin.
7th March 1877 SCHOOL. The tender of John Smith for eight ventilators at 20s was accepted. RENWICK SCHOOL. T. O'Sullivan tendered for the work at this school (if the gable were not removed) at £3 16s. Mr Goulter pointed out that at the last meeting it was agreed that the

whole subject of the Renwick school should be left over until after Mr Lee's visit. The matter then dropped.

6th June 1877 Renwick School and teacher's residence, By reference to my letter you will see that I solicited the Board to place iv the school new furniture to paint the buildings, the addition of a couple of rooms to the house, the employment of a female assistant teacher, and finally the invisibleness of certain works that the Board had proposed to do, being carried out. With one exception the Board granted nothing that was asked for, namely, the last, respecting the proposed alteration. "lam instructed by the Committee to express the regret of that body that the Board should see lit to pass over everything asked for till after the inspection, especially as the principal improvements asked for come in no way under the Inspector's notice. The Committee was quite prepared for the appointment of an assistant being deferred, and to a certain extent also the providing of furniture till the Inspector's report was before you, but certainly not prepared for the whole of the very much needed improvements asked for to be passed over in the way the Board saw fit to do. "It is much to be regretted that the school buildings were not painted while the good weather lasted, for it is very little use painting these old buildings while the wood is go wet from absorbing the rain.

The postponement of the enlargement of the teacher's house, and the delay in granting other requests, coupled with the delay in the looked for increase in salary, has nearly been the cause of Mr Tissiman's accepting an. offer from a neighbouring Province, and it now depends upon the present action of the Board whether we hold our present teacher or nob, (for he, with the Committee, cannot help noticing what looks. to be an injustice to the Renwick School on the part of the Board, for other schools have readily received votes for improvements immediately without question, while this school, which holds perhaps the best name of any school under your Board, has been utterly neglected. Looking at it from this point of view, you must not be surprised should the present teacher, having in hand a good offer, resign this school if the Board still continues to neglect it. The number attending this school is now 63, thus more urgently demanding an assistant. The Committee are of opinion that it would aid to make the salary of the Teacher more worth his while if when adding the two rooms asked for to the house a couple of upstairs rooms were also added which would enable the teacher to keep a few boarders. This would also extend the benefits of Education to settlers who reside far away where no school can be reached. About five of such boarders are now offered Mr Tissiman. I endorse statement showing requirements as per form received. I have to inform you that the Committee have already got the firewood required for winter as usual. This was necessary as the bad weather came on so soon this year. A cheque for the account for the wood is solicited. I am requested to ask for a clock and school bell for this school, as it is very awkward for children to be got together at proper time in a place like this, where no regular time can be taken such as, in a town. I am &c. T. 0. Sullivan, Chairman Renwick School Committee.

The Chairman said that considering they had only just received Mr Lee's report, he had no hesitation in saying that the letter was a most impertinent one. It was resolved on the motion of Mr Fell seconded by Mr Dive That the consideration of Mr O'Sullivan's letter be postponed until such time as the Inspector's report is discussed. PETITION. The following petition was read by the Chairman Renwick, June 4, 1877. 'To the Chairman Board of Education, Marlborough. A vacancy occurring on your Board by the resignation of Mr Cyrus Goulter, we the undersigned inhabitants of Renwick and surrounding district, request that you will be pleased to recommend the appointment of Mr T. O'Sullivan. From the great interest he has always taken in education we feel confident that he would be an efficient representative of the district. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c." [Here follow twenty-five signatures.] The subject did not give rise to any discussion.

6th June 1877 Inspector lee's report included Disparity in the Results of the Schools. In the Table of Results, which as an appendix (No. 1) to my reports is always in itself a digest of the whole report, it will be seen that the work done in the best schools, is very far in advance of the work done in other schools, and not only in such other schools as have been lately opened, but in schools which have been sometime established. I often wish the pupils and teacher of one school could see the better work done in another school. What a surprising contrast, for example, there is between the results at Renwick and the results at Tuamarina or Kowhai The numbers attending Renwick and Tuamarina are 55 and 42 respectively 42 have passed Standard I. at Renwick and only 8 at Tuamarina and 22 have passed Standard 11. at Renwick, but only 1 at Tuamarina. Above this standard there is nothing at Tuamarina but no less than eleven passes have been made! in Standard 111. and 2 in Standard IV. at Renwick, whilst two boys held scholarships at the Nelson College from Renwick school. I think, however, notwithstanding the necessity of raising the standard of the inferior schools, the interests of education generally would be best served by placing those teachers, who are found most efficient, in charge of schools which form centres of adult population, so that advanced pupils, attracted by the better teaching power, could trust to such schools. If good schools were thus established at Blenheim, Picton, Havelock, Kaikoura, Renwick, one between Blenheim and Havelock, and one between Picton and Blenheim, all advanced pupils could reach one of these schools, and schools teaching well the work of even two standards might suffice as district schools in other localities. IV. New Buildings and improvements
9th June 1877 Renwick. Six infants had learned to read arid write small words in four months. The school is uniformly good in all subjects and in all sections. The table of results will show the excellent work done. In justice to the master, it must be stated that if McIvor, who obtained the Nelson Scholarship, had not been removed, there would have been another good pass in Standard IV. Amelia Ellen Shaw, aged only 12 years and 6 months passed Standard IV. with high marks, sixteen months after passing Standard III., She is a very good girl in all respects. James O'Leary, aged only nine years and four months, obtained all the marks but two in Standard III. sixteen months after passing Standard II. These are extraordinary results, which reflect the highest credit on the master, Mr Tissiman. The pupil classed unsatisfactory in this school was absent from the examination, and I am informed would certainly have passed if present but the parent, possessing a peculiar idiosyncrasy of character, objects in Toto to public examinations, and deprives his child of the privilege of gaining distinction for himself and credit for his school and master. In addition to the work of the standards, four pupils are learning Latin, four Drawing, 14 Euclid, and four Algebra. The master is unassisted. I recommend the appointment of Amelia Ellen Shaw as Pupil Teacher. The Renwick School fully maintains the position it has taken during the past three yea! s, as being, taken as a whole, the leading school under your Board. The average of the whole school is nine years and one month.
23rd June 1877 It was resolved That the Secretary do communicate with the Renwicktown School Committee as to whether they would like Mr Lee's recommendation for the appointment of Amelia Eileen Shaw to be carried out, and that in the event of their replying in the negative, the Secretary do advertise for an assistant female teacher at a salary of £50 per annum with £20 allowed for rent.
It was resolved that a set of five dual desks be obtained from Wellington for the Renwicktown School. Mr O'Sullivan's letter was then dealt with. The Chairman thought it was out of the question to supply accommodation for boarders. Captain Baillie said that it opened up a large question and they should not dismiss it at once. The Chairman said that one

reason {they wanted a Grammar School for was to supply accommodation for boarders and he was sure Mr Tissiman could not board children any cheaper than they could in Blenheim. Those who could afford to send their children to Renwick could afford to send them to Blenheim, and he was sure that with a common centre they would get better teaching better discipline and better everything. If they granted the application they might be sure that it would not be the last one. Mr Fell thought they would have a dozen. Captain Baillie said a question would arise as to whether the class of boys who would go to Mr Tissiman would go to the Grammar School. The Chairman said they were not going to set up a college, and Mr Lee had recommended them to start at Standard 11. What they wanted was to establish a leading school, where a higher class of learning could be obtained than in the Primary Schools, and they could do this much more efficiently in a common centre. If Mr Tissiman were to take in boarders, he might put himself under the imputation of attending more to them than to the other pupils. It ought to be all or nothing, and if they were to have a Grammar School it should be quite distinct from the public elementary schools. Mr Hodson thought they ought not to make any exception in favor of Renwicktown. It was resolved. That two rooms be added to the Teacher's at. Renwicktown, that ventilators be provided for the school, and the windows repaired that the painting of the school do stand over until Spring, and that the question of furniture be considered when the dual desks are received from Wellington. Mr Fell asked if it was proposed to reply to the letter in any way. The Chairman said, that he did not think it was worthwhile to take any further notice of it

27th June 1877 Marlborough Education Board In discussing the Teacher's conditions of service, it was considered undesirable that Teachers should meddle with public affairs which would interfere with their school duties, and the employment of the Renwick Schoolmaster as Clerk to the Road Board was described as irregular

7th July 1877 Mr Tissiman ranked as Class III Division 1 the second highest teacher ranked in Marlborough (Mr H P Macklin of Blenheim School ranked Class 1 Division 1)

5th September 1877 A letter was read from Mr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, stating that as they understood no applications had been received for the Assistantship, he was instructed to lay before the Board 1st. That assistance is urgently needed for the school, and 2ndly. That it is no doubt the smallness of the salary offered that has prevented candidates from offering themselves. The Committee thought £85 or £90 should be offered. Mr O'Sullivan also laid before the Board a number of requirements for the school. In answer to Mr Fell the Secretary stated that under Mr Lee's scheme Renwick was only entitled to a pupil teacher. Mr Paul said that he did not feel inclined to accede to the request for an increase of salary. It was resolved on the motion of Mr Fell seconded by Mr Paul— That the question of the increase of salary for the Renwick assistant be postponed until the passing oi the Education Act and that the Advertisement be continued. It was resolved on the motion of Mr Paul, seconded by Mr Fell That the Committee be authorised to get a porch erected for the Teacher's residence, the specifications to be approved by Mr Douslin, and that the Secretary do obtain a bell and clock for the school

3rd October RENWICK,

Letters were read from Mr O'Sullivan, chairman of the local committee, acknowledging the receipt of specifications for a porch at the teacher's residence and stating that the work could.be done by the builder in a modified form for £13 10s. The committee had received an application from Miss Thomas of Blenheim as assistant teacher, and requested, that they might have further time for consideration before accepting it. They had. appointed Charles Bary, the senior male pupfl.as pupil teacher at a salary of £25 per annum,, a view of relieving Mr Tissiman of a portion' of his heavy work. The appointment was initially from month to

month. r It was resolved on the motion of Mr Hodson, seconded by Mr Paul— That an expenditure of £13 10s for the porch be authorised, that the action of the committee in appointing Charles Bary from month to month be confirmed, and that Miss Thomas' application be referred to the committee

1878

1878	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head	£	180.00
1878	Renwick	Bary	Charles	Male Probationer	£	30.00

6th November 1878 Inspector Hodgson reported: RENWICK. Mr Tissiman and a pupil-teacher. (69 present.) I have seldom seen Handwriting so generally good as that of the scholars here. In Arithmetic the performances of those who took up the three lower Standards were creditable. The reproduction of a story was well done by the two upper classes, who, also, read correctly and with good emphasis. I was somewhat disappointed with the Reading of the younger scholars, and with the Arithmetic of the four children who passed in the fourth Standard. These last were, however, very young to attempt such advanced work, their average age being under 12. At the close of the examination, the children sang, from note, in very respectable time and tune, several rounds. The spirit of emulation would seem to have been pushed too far here, if one might judge from the profuse and prolonged weeping that followed each announcement of even a partial failure in any subject.

9th November 1878 This raised a discussion on pupil teachers and it-was considered by most of the members that the regulations intended that after 12 months trial as a pupil teacher, such teacher would be entitled to £25 on passing his or her examination instances were given. Miss Mouat had been more than 12 months thus engaged, and received no remuneration, and a pupil teacher in Renwick had been paid for some time past. It was resolved that Miss Monat be paid £25 for her last year's services as pupil teacher at the Picton school.

9th November 1878 List of Scholars who passed in standard III. 55 passed in all of Marlborough. Renwick had the second most successes Blenheim had 15 successes

Name	Age		Marks
	Year	Month	
McIver Christina E	11	8	149
McIsaac Helen	10	9	151
Macaulay Wilhelmina	10	8	169
Mitchell Emily	9	10	148
Mitchell Catherine	11	8	159
Watson Blanche E	13	4	15
Berry Annie	14	1	183
Mitchell Joseph	13	4	163
Shaw Sydney Edward	9	7	153
McLennan William	12	9	195

Standard IV had 17 passes

Shaw Alexander	12	10	149
+McIsaac James	11	10	136
Shaw Julia	11	4	133
Bary Mary	10	11	128

Renwick had 75 on roll with 69 present at examination
Standard 1 8 passed
Standard 2 12 Passed
Standard 3 10 passed
Standard 4 4 passed
72 % of those presented passed
18th December 1878 Renwick building, additions, &c. E. Bythell £106 (accepted), G. Mason £134 12s J. T. Berry £133 10s, D. Wemyss £ 112.
Renwick, school furniture. G. Mason £71 10s, D. Wemyss £ 659 shillings, E. Bythell £ 2 8s for each desk (accepted)

1879

1879	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	180.00
1879	Renwick	Bary	Charles	Male Probationer	£	30.00

There are no copies of Marlborough papers on Papers Past for 1879 and until august 1880

1880

1880	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	180.00
1880	Renwick	Bary	Charles	Male Probationer	£	41.13

3rd November 1880 School Inspection.—We understand that Mr Hodgson will inspect Renwick School tomorrow. We shall look anxiously for the results and will publish them as soon as they can be obtained.
4th November 1880 Mr A. J. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee wrote to the Board re the stoppage of the grant to the Committee.
The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Mills that no mistake had been made in the matter.
22nd November 1880 Renwick. .Mr Tissiman. Pupil Teacher, C. Barry. (Present 66; on roll 75.) This school, as usual, passed an excellent examination.: The Reading, Geography, and, above, all, the Penmanship, deserve special mention, The general neatness of the work, which extends also to the Drawing, is note-worthy. Part singing is remarkably well taught. The Arithmetic, this year, was only moderately good. The pupil teacher is doing very good work, and reflects great credit on Mr Tissiman's careful training. I was sorry to find that the girls had not got over the "foolish habit of bursting into tears when they failed, however slightly, in any point.'
8th December 1880 ……from being behind, considering the average percentage of attendance. Mr A. G. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, wrote informing .the Board that the Committee recommended, the appointment of Miss M. L. Gee to the position of Sewing mistress to the school. Mrs Mary Macaulay wrote objecting-to the appointment; on the ground (1) That the Committee did not meet on November 13th the date on which they were to make the appointment; (2) That on that date hers was the only

application sent in, and that she therefore, had a right to claim the appointment (3) That an illegal meeting of ,the Committee was held on November 20th, at which another person was appointed, who,, had not sent in an application on the day; appointed. The letter was referred to the Renwick School Committee

The payments by results were :—Blenheim School £24, Picton £3, Havelock £3, Tua Marina £5, Renwick £15, Spring Creek £14. *Written as tabled*

1881

1881	73	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	172.00

I have checked At the end of the year William Tissiman was teaching 73 children on his own!!

5th January 1881 A large amount of correspondence was read from the Chairman of the Renwick School Committee and Mrs Macaulay with respect to the appointment of a sewing mistress to the .Renwick schools. Mr Conolly said assuming that Mrs Macaulay's contention was correct, he did not apprehend that the Committee were compelled to recommend her for the appointment. Mr Henderson moved that the matter be referred back to the Renwick School Committee, and that the business be commenced de novo and carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Act

2nd February 1881 The Renwick School Committee wrote informing the Board that the Committee recommended the appointment of Miss M. L. Gee to the position of sewing mistress.

The Committee's appointment was confirmed.

9th February 1881 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The above held their first meeting on Monday, the 31st ultimo, at 7 p.m. o'clock, when all the members were present. Mr Mills was voted to the Chair. Mr McIvor proposed, and Mr Watson seconded, that Mr Tapp be Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr Gee proposed and Mr Frazer seconded that Mr Mills be Chairman for the ensuing year. The Chairman called tor a show of hands, which resulted in favour of Mr Mills, who was therefore declared duly elected. The Chairman proposed and Mr Tapp seconded, that the proceedings of this Committee be open to the public. The motion was put and carried. The name of Mr Geo. Gee was struck off the banking account, he having ceased to be a member, and the name of Mr W. Tapp substituted. Proposed by Mr Gee and seconded by Mr Fraser, that Mr Tapp and the Chairman a sub-committee to report upon the advisability and cost of erecting a division fence between the girls' and boys' playground. Carried. Mr McIvor proposed and Mr Bary seconded that the resolution of the late Committee recommending the appointment of Miss M. L. Gee as sewing mistress be now rescinded, and that Mrs Macaulay be recommended for that office. .Some discussion here took place as to the legality of this Committee proposing to rescind a resolution passed by a former Committee, some members speaking very strongly against it.

Mr Fraser proposed an amendment to the effect that as Miss Gee had applied for the office and had been honourably elected by the late Committee this Committee do not interfere with her appointment The Chairman seconded the amendment, which was put and carried. The original proposition was then put and declared to be lost. This terminated the proceedings, and the Committee adjourned.

10th February 188. The Nelson Scholarships.— Correctness in all details, at least as regards Marlborough, is not one of the points on which we can commend the Nelson Examiners' report on the recent scholarship and prize examinations held by them. The grossest error, however, is the statement that all the girls that competed for the Vogel and other prizes came

from the Blenheim High School. The correctness of this may be judged from the fact that out of the four prizes offered for the girls of the Marlborough Schools, Renwick school has gained three Miss Bary having taken the Vogel prize, Miss Macaulay the second Seymour prize, and Miss Wemyss the Macklin prize. Renwick school sent three competitors and gained three prizes; Blenheim schools sent four competitors and gained one prize

22nd February 1881 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The above held a meeting on Friday evening, the 18th inst., when the following members were present: Messrs A. C Mills (Chairman), Fraser, McIvor, Barry, and Tapp. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was received from the Master, Mr Tissiman, informing the Committee that I several children had passed the Sixth Standard, and requesting to be allowed to charge fees for so doing. The Chairman stating that since receiving the letter he had seen Mr Tissiman, and had pointed out the impossibility of the Committee granting his request, but stated that he might teach these extra subjects after school hours. The Chairman also referred to Clause 86 of the Education Act, and moved that Mr Tissiman be granted leave to use the schools for teaching purposes after the regular school hours, and that he be allowed to charge a fee not exceeding one guinea per quarter tor such extra teaching. Mr Tapp seconded the resolution, which was put and carried. The sub-committee appointed to report upon the cost of fencing, &c, at the last meeting, recommended that the work be not done at present, the cost being too great. It was resolved that a copy of a circular, as prepared by the Chairman, requesting parents to send their children more regularly be sent to every householder in the district. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr McIvor, that a letter be written to the school congratulating the scholars who competed for, and gained, three of the prizes offered by the Education Board. Carried unanimously. The Committee then proceeded to the election of members to fill the vacant seats upon the Education Board. Mr Bary proposed, and Mr Frasor seconded, that Mr William Sinclair be tbc only person elected by this Committee. The motion was put and carried, the members agreeing that in their opinion some fresh blood was required upon the Board.

16th March 1881 Mr W. Hodgson, Inspector of Schools, wrote regretting, that in consequence of insufficient information having been sent it. Mr Mackay and himself, Catherine Wemyss, Mary Bary, Wilhelmina Macaulay, children of the Renwick school, had been erroneously stated in the report on the recent examinations to have belonged to the Blenheim Borough Schools.

6th April 1881 In a long letter from Picton School Committee recommending that their head teacher was incompetent and should swap with Mr Tissiman: the Committee would recommend that an exchange in situation in accordance with Clause 45 of the Education Act be made between Mr H. W. Harris, of Picton, and Mr Tissiman, of Renwick, the latter of whom has consented to the exchange conditionally that his salary be not less than £210 per annum, and that the expenses of his removal be not a charge upon him. The Committee would recommend that these terms of Mr Tissiman's be agreed to, as the Inspector stated that the master here should be in the receipt of a higher salary than is now paid. The Committee would also recommend that the expenses incurred by Mr Harris in removing his family to Renwick should be paid out of the funds at the disposal of the Board. The adoption of the foregoing recommendations, together with the appointment of a certificated female teacher in the place of Mr Robertson, the Committee unanimously believes would bring about a much needed change, and it now leaves the matter with the Board, hoping it will receive the favorable consideration of its members. I have, etc.

21st April 1881 ……The Renwick Committee were involved in the matter, and he most decidedly considered that they should be communicated with about it. Mr Conolly's motion was carried. Mr Henderson moved that an intimation be sent to the Renwick School Committee that there is a proposal before the Board that a change of head teachers take place between Renwick and Picton, and that the Board requests the Renwick Committee to express its views on the subject. Mr Parker seconded the resolution. Mr Conolly thought that there was another party to be considered, namely, Mr Harris. They could not tell Mr Harris to go to Renwick unless he were willing to go. He thought they should have direct communication with all four parties to the matter. He would have something to say when the time came about the extraordinary letter from the Picton School Committee. Mr Henderson amended his motion in the direction specified by Mr Conolly. Mr Ward said that it appeared that Mr Tissiman was not inclined to go to Picton unless his salary were increased. Mr Henderson was of opinion that if the Board were not prepared to pay Mr Tissiman £210 a year and his travelling expenses, there was a. short end to the proposal of the Picton Committee, Mr Ward moved and Mr Conolly seconded as an amendment that the Picton Committee be informed that under the existing circumstances the Board cannot entertain their application. In doing so he was not in any way hostile to Mr Henderson's motion. The letter of the Picton School Committee carried its own condemnation on the face of it, and was in contradiction with the Inspector's reports. If Mr Harris was only capable of imparting rudimentary education as Picton said, and Mr Tissiman capable of teaching up to the 6th Standard, was it fair to put that teacher on Renwick ……

10th May 1881 Renwick School Committee. The above held a meeting on Saturday evening, 8th May. Present: Messrs A. J. Mills (Chairman), McIvor, Bary, Gee, Tapp, and Fraser. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following resolutions were passed:— (l). That the Chairman arrange for repairs to chimney (2). That Mr Tapp arrange with Mr Bremner for clearing the school ground (3). That the Chairman call for tenders from the local carters, for the supply of firewood; (4). That the school be divided by a substantial fence, and that Messrs Tapp, McIvor, and the Chairman be a Committee to decide position of fence, and call for tenders for the same. The following accounts were passed for payment Dobson, ink wells, £I 10s, Litchfield and Son Is 10d, A. B. Litchfield 15s, W. Tissiman (school requisites) candles, etc., for Committee meetings, 6s 9d. A cheque was received from the Board of Education for £6 4s 2d, allowance for last quarter. This concluded the business, and the Committee adjourned.

28th June 1881 Renwick School Committee. The Committee met last week to consider a complaint laid against the Head Master, by Mr D. Mills, for turning his boy out of the school. Mr Tissiman was present by request to explain the matter. It appeared that Mr Mills was quite mistaken in the affair, and 'I sat the boy had only been sent home for the afternoon, a note to his parents fully explaining the master's action. The Committee was fully satisfied with Mr Tissiman's account of his conduct, and expressed themselves of opinion that no blame attached to him. It was resolved that the winter holidays be held for a fortnight, and that the week for which the school was closed, on account of Mrs Tissiman's illness be not taken off. Mr Tissiman thanked, the Committee for their kindness. The Committee then adjourned.

5th July 1881 Blenheim School Committer.— A special meeting of. the Blenheim School Committee was held this morning. Applications were considered for pupil-teacherships in the Borough Schools from Charles Bary, Renwick John Withey, Spring Creek Mary Bary,

Renwick; and Edith A. Stratford, Blenheim. It was decided to recommend the appointment of Charles and Mary Bary and Edith Stratford.
5th July 1881 Marlborough Education Board Applications were received for pupil teacherships in the Blenheim Borough Schools.
The School Committee recommended the appointment of Charles Bary and Mary Bary, of Renwick, and Edith A. Stratford, of Blenheim.
On the question of the male pupil teachership, some discussion ensued. The salary apportioned to this teacher in the new scale for Blenheim being only £25 per annum, whilst Charles Bary asked for his present salary, £40.
Mr Paul moved that John Withey be appointed. He had lost his right arm, and was shut out from any other hope of employment. Mr Squires gave a very high testimonial of his abilities, and he considered him in every way fitted for the work,
Mr Ward seconded, not exactly for the reasons advanced by Mr Paul, but because no other applicant offered at the salary attaching to the post. The motion was then put and carried. Mr Dodson, who was present, stated that the Committee were willing to make up the difference between Charles Bary's salary and that offered by the Board. The Committee wished to secure an experienced pupil teacher, and they were afraid that however much they might sympathise with the lad Withey in his misfortune, the loss of his right arm incapacitated him from being able to acquit himself in an efficient manner of the duties that would be imposed on him. Mr Sinclair thought the case of the boy Withey very unfortunate, but considered that that the Blenheim Committee were quite right in wishing to have the best pupil teacher they could get. Mr Conolly pointed out that the promise of the Committee to pay the difference in the salary would only hold good till the next School Committee Election, Mr Ward said that the matter had gone so far that Withey should be appointed. The matter then dropped. It was moved that Mary Bary and Edith Stratford be appointed to the female pupil teacherships,
Mr Dodson pointed out that Mary Bary could not accept the office unless her brother was appointed to the school also.
The Chairman said that no harm would be done by appointing her. If she declined to take the position under the circumstances, they must of course advertise for fresh applications.
The Picton Committee wrote asking tie Board to comply with their request for an exchange of masters between Picton and Renwick, or to take such steps as would secure efficiency in the teaching of the school, and also to supply a blackboard stand and a stove. They further requested the Board to reconsider its decision re payment of Smith and Co.'s account for £2 12s 3d.
It was resolved to supply the blackboard and stove.
5th August 1881 The Pupil-Teacher Trouble.— A correspondent writing to us from Renwick today says quite a commotion was caused in our little town on Thursday, after the issue of the papers, and it became known that the Education Board had decided to exchange pupil-teachers with the Blenheim and Renwick schools. Members of Committee might be seen running about to find their colleagues, and it at length became known that circulars had been issued for a meeting of the School Committee for Saturday evening, to take into consideration the action of the Education Board in having appointed pupil teacher, Withey, to the school, and removing pupil teacher Bary without consulting the Committee. Some amusement was caused by Mr Sinclair's remarks (as reported in the Express), where he says that if the Board persisted in thrusting the boy Withey on Blenheim, it really would be doing him an injury. At Renwick his work would be very different, and doing this under Mr Tissiman's able tuition, at the end of the year he might become an efficient teacher. What a plum for our little dominie, and what a compliment to the Blenheim teachers It appears to be the public opinion outside, that Renwick is a fit asylum for schoolmasters, who cannot teach

above the third Standard (as per Picton), and pupil teachers who, according to the Government regulations, should never have been appointed (in per Blenheim). Mr Sinclair offers us poor people one consolation however for he says, "If, of course the Renwick people object to take the lad then it would be for the Board to reconsider the position." I should say that the Committee cannot do better than take the advice of that young lawyer, and advise the Board to reconsider the position

9th August 1881 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING.

The above met on Saturday evening last. The business was to consider the removal of pupil teacher Bary, and the appointment of Withey. Present Chairman, Messrs H. Gee, Fraser., McIver,, Tapp, and C. Watson. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and sundry accounts passed for payment. The Chairman read, a letter from Mr T. Robinson Secretary to the Education Board, notifying the removal of pupil teacher Bary from Renwick to Blenheim, and the appointment of pupil teacher Withey to Renwick. The Chairman severely condemned the action of the Education Board in appointing Withey to Renwick without consulting the Renwick School Committee, as illegal, reading clauses in the Act to support his argument. Ha had called the meeting, to protest against the slight offered to Renwick. Messrs Gee, Tapp, Fraser, and McIver, severally objected to the manner in which the removal an., appointment had been forced upon Renwick Mr Watson considered that the committee should make a firm stand, for there was no knowing whether the Board might not take it into their heads to remove Withey, and appoint Mr Macklin. (Laughter.) The Chairman moved that the Chairman be requested to write to Mr Charles Bary and inform him that his services as pupil teacher cannot be dispensed with until the Board is first consulted with. Also to write to Mr Withey and inform him that his services are not required at the Renwick school. Also to write to the Minister of Education and inform him of the action of the Board in this matter. Seconded by Mr C. Watson, and carried unanimously. Mr Tissiman requested leave to speak. He felt great anxiety for his school under the present circumstances, having an average of 75, which meant teaching 80 at times without assistance. It seemed to him (Tissiman) that the Board were endeavouring to concentrate all the available ability in the Blenheim schools. He suggested that the master be authorised to appoint a pupil teacher temporarily. The Chairman proposed, and Mr McIver seconded that the master be authorised to employ either Mr Mackintosh or one of the scholars. Mr Fraser proposed as an amendment, and Mr Tapp seconded, that Mr Tissiman be authorised to employ Mr Mackintosh temporarily in place of Bary, in the event of Bary not attending on Monday. The amendment was put and carried. After some minor business the Committee adjourned.

12th August 1881 People are almost commencing to tire of the pupil- teacher trouble, as it has been designated, but as this trouble is likely to extend over a considerable period— at least until the next meeting of the -Education Board we may be pardoned in reverting to it. In a recent issue we were able, by a plain matter of- fact statement, to clear away many false impressions on the subject of the lad Withey's appointment and subsequent removal from Blenheim. We shall now endeavour to show how it was that he happened to be sent to Renwick. .It will be remembered that the .reason why the Blenheim Committee's' recommendation to appoint Charles Baby was not acted upon was that the salary required by him was £40, he being a pupil-teacher in his third term, whereas the- amount set apart by the Board for the male pupil teacher to the Borough Schools was £25. The offer of the Committee to make good the deficiency of £15 out of their own' private pockets was refused by the Board, on the ground that the guarantee could only hold good until the election of the new Committee, the Board totally ignoring that they would in any case have to increase the pupil teacher's salary next year £10. When the matter cropped up again at the last Board meeting, the request to appoint Baby was not placed on quite the same basis as before. This time the Committee having found that the school, though only open one day, numbered over

800 pupils— the extreme limit provided for under the new scale of teaching staff for Blenheim deemed, and we. think rightly, that it was for the Board to undertake the payment of the necessary teaching power. Moreover, and this was carefully pointed out, the Board could well afford to give the additional £15 to Bary, in as much as by the Borough Schools having been without teachers during the entire month of July, it had saved some £52 in salaries, made up as follows:— H. P. Macklin, £25 J. W. Alloway, £15 Mrs Macklin, £8 15s Miss M. Macklin, £8 15s. Furthermore, it was pointed out that under Clause 8 of the regulations for the employment of pupil-teachers Withey's appointment was contrary to law, it being distinctly laid down that, to be eligible for appointment,' a young person must be free from any bodily or other defect or infirmity detrimental to usefulness or efficiency as a teacher." As we know, some members of the Beard argued I that the logs of an arm, even a right one, was not detrimental to usefulness or efficiency and the sound logic of their contention is so manifest that we really have no need to adduce evidence in support of the contention, and, knowing that the word detrimental" means "prejudicial" or "disadvantageous," we are quite prepared to hold against all the world that if you lop off a man's right arm he is quite as useful and efficient as before, and that the loss of his arm will place him at no disadvantage nor cause him any inconvenience. Our New Zealand Act does not enumerate the bodily defects or infirmities detrimental to usefulness or efficiency, but the code of regulations issued by the Education Department of England and Wales contains the following provisions as to what constitutes disqualification as regards health for the office of pupil teacher Scrofula, fits, asthma, deafness, great imperfections of. the sight or voice, the loss of an eye from constitutional disease, or the loss of an arm or leg, or the permanent disability of father arm or leg, curvature of the spine, hereditary tendency to insanity, or any constitutional infirmity of a disabling nature, is a positive disqualification in candidates for the office of pupil teacher." It being evident that if the removal of Withey was requested on these grounds it would be opposed, and it being, moreover, felt that the same result would attend if an increase of salary was pressed for, the .only means by which the end in view, namely, the appointment of Baby to Blenheim, was to be accomplished was to effect an exchange of pupil teachers. Though great indignation has been since expressed at Baby's removal, Renwicktonians should bear in mind that no member of the Board or Committee had the remotest idea that they would oppose his appointment to Blenheim, and if our readers will review the events of the preceding few weeks they will see that members had every reason for acting under this belief. Early last month it was well-known in Renwick and to Mr Tissiman that Charles Bary was an applicant for the male pupil teachership at Blenheim. If we are correctly informed, Mr Tissiman now expresses great indignation at having lost Charles Baby, but he seemingly forgets that he himself wrote Bary a very handsome testimonial or recommendation for the appointment. Mr Henderson, who disagreed with the removal of Withey to Renwick, certainly was under the impression that Bary's appointment to Blenheim would not be opposed at Renwick. Mr Henderson, by the way, has been accused of endeavouring to curry favor with Renwick, by stating that Withey should, not be appointed there until the Committee at that place had been consulted, but no one conversant with Mr Henderson's consistent advocacy of the rights of school committees could have expected him to have taken any other course than that he did. The exchange of pupil teachers was a means of accomplishing the appointment of Baby to Blenheim it being clear to everyone having a knowledge of the Education Act that Withey's appointment to Renwick would be but an appointment in name. The case of John Withey is a sad one, and we must confess that we cannot approach it without a certain degree of pain, our regret being that circumstances have compelled us to do so.

20th August 1881 Explanation. On the subject of the letter from Renwick that appeared in a recent issue concerning the pupil teacher, Mr H. W. Harris writes as under to the Press Sir.—

Allow me (after many months of enduring contumely, from certainly not disinterested persons), to occupy a space in your columns. In the "Express" of August 5th appears an article from a correspondent, stating that It appears to be the public opinion outside that Renwick is a fit asylum for schoolmasters who cannot teach above the third standard (as per Picton.) In the issue of the Express" of the 10th August a quasi-apology, stating that to reflection, &c, was intended on me either by the Express or its correspondent. Now, Sir, I can accept the apology as from the "Express" but certainly not as from the anonymous scribbler (whoever he may be), who no doubt wrote the article with malice prepence, and being myself a plain man, I distinctly challenge the statement as a lie. Any person (not being an imbecile,) looking at the tabulated report since the standards came into use, will see that the Picton master has passed candidates in the fourth, fifth, and sixth standards and 1 think it is generally known that when a Picton pupil took the Marlborough Scholarship that it was by fair competition, and not a gift to the fourth (the then highest), standard boy, as was the case with a former holder. Further, sir, I wish to say that during twenty-seven years career as a teacher in the colony, no one can say of me that I ever did such an ungentlemanly action to a brother teacher as to meet his School Committee, and make arrangements to take his position, when the would be victim had not even been consulted in the matter.

29th August 1881 AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the Express. Sir The Express of Saturday is just to hand. In it I see a copy of a letter written by Mr H. W. Harris, of the Picton School, complaining of a passage in my communication of the 5th August, as follows "That it appears to be the public opinion outride that Renwick is a fit asylum for schoolmasters who Cannot teach above the Third Standard (as per Picton,) and accuses me of “malice prepence" in making that statement. I wish to assure Mr Harris that, to my knowledge, I have never seen him, and, therefore, have no personal knowledge of his capabilities as a teacher. I wish, further, to assure him that the paragraph was not written as a reflection upon him as a teacher, but rather upon the late action of the Picton committee, and am extremely sorry that he should have taken a personal view of the subject. The whole of Mr Harris' letter is evidently aimed at some person whom he thinks is trying to do him a personal injury. I, at least, never had such intention, and trust that he will cease to consider me as one of his enemies. I am, &c, Alf. O. Mills. Renwick, August 23, 1881.

7th September 1881 letter was received from Mr John; Withey reporting that the. Chairman' of the Renwick School Committee had refused to accept his son as a pupil, teacher, at the Renwick School.

Mr A. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, wrote as follows I have the honor to acknowledge recent of a letter from the Education Board, dated August 5th, informing ,the Committee that the Board had decided to remove pupil teacher Bary from the Renwick School to Blenheim, and pupil teacher Withey from Blenheim to. Renwick.

The Committee feel that in. removing pupil-teacher Bary the Board. have done, the school a great injustice as he was fast becoming an efficient teacher., and would submit that this has been done in opposition to the spirit of the Education Act. The Committee feel that they would not be doing their duty to the public were they to entertain the appointment of Mr Withey, and accordingly informed him that his services were not required

The Committee, at their last meeting, passed a resolution that the Board be requested to appoint ~a female assistant teacher to the school I would. wish. to point out the following facts for the Board's consideration (1) The number of .scholars upon the roll is 90, the majority of whom are girls (2) The average attendance for. the last four-weeks was 73, the minimum being 70 (3) The Board have been paying the following sums for assistance in the schools Pupil teacher, £40 Tissiman, instruction of pupil teacher, £10 Sewing Mistress, £20:

The Committee would leave it entirely to the Board to fix the salary, but believe that a female assistant teacher, might be. obtained, without materially increasing the Board's expenditure. I may state that Mrs Gee, the sewing mistress, has understood -from the first that In the event of the Board appointing a female I teacher, her services would not be required
The Committee and the public have long felt that something more was required to form the ideas of their, daughters, and would point on that however amiable men may be, they are ill adapted to that work." The Secretary of the Education Department forwarded copies of correspondence with the Renwick School Committee re the appointment of John Withey, together with a number of the Marlborough Express containing the report of the Board's last meeting. Mr Sinclair moved that a female teacher be appointed to the Renwick School. The attendance was now sufficiently large to warrant the Board taking this course. The letter of the Chairman of the Renwick Committee showed that the appointment of the Sewing Mistress .would terminate if a female teacher were appointed to the school, and.as the Sewing Mistress; received a salary of £20, and Charles Bary would shortly, have received £45 per annum, an assistant teacher could he obtained at £65, and a saving: of £5 to the Board effected thereby. Whilst speaking on the question, he gave it as his opinion that Section. 45 did not apply to pupil teachers but exclusively to teachers as shown by the interpretation of the word teachers in the Act. The Renwick Committee. would| not accept John Withey, and, as he had said at last meeting, the Board should not. force his appointment on them He moved that the matter be treated "as" one of urgency, on account of the short time left before the Inspector's examination. Mr Parker seconded the motion. Mr Paul would rather see the matter postponed till next meeting. The Secretary stated he had received a memorandum from Mr Hodgson, to the effect that he hoped to commence his inspection about the end of September. Mr Ward could see no immediate necessity for appointing the assistant female teacher, and opposed the matter being treated as one of urgency. The motion of urgency was consequently lost. The Chairman-remarked that the Board were still in a difficulty concerning. The boy Withey Mr Paul would like to know what position the Board was in with the Committee. The boy had been twice appointed to schools by the Board, and both School Committees had refused to allow of his teaching in their schools. It seemed to him the Board were merely nonentities. Mr Conolly said that as far as the Blenheim School Committee was concerned their proceedings had been- confirmed by the Board. Mr Sinclair proposed to allow the matter, to stand over as he understood from Mr Parker that some arrangement in connection with the Grove Town school might be come to between the trustees of John Withey and that Committee during the month: Mr Ward moved as an amendment that the lad Withey receive three months' notice. The position of Board and Committee seemed to be most anomalous. He thought that the proceedings throughout the appointment of the lad Withey had ;been most irregular. Mr Paul -seconded the motion,- and considered it only right the lad should receive three months' notice, in order that he might undertake any other employment that offered. The motion was put and carried.
John Withey was born in 1866, probably at Spring Creek, to John Withey, a labourer and small time farmer. In 1878, aged just 12, he lost his right arm at the shoulder whilst working at Robinson's Flax Mill, his arm was caught in the stripper and had to be amputated. As a result of this he had no other working prospects and in 1881 he was given a pupil teachership at Blenheim, largely due to the loss of his arm. They subsequently attempted to swap him to Renwick who refused to take him, and he was afterwards given 3 month’s notice. That was the end of his teaching career, he next worked as a cook at Spring Creek until around the war, he next moved to Blenheim where he worked as a Billiard Marker and a Club Steward. He died in 1926, in Blenheim, unmarried and having lived, likely, a much reduced life. Research by Grandson Sam

28th October 1881 The Renwick School. We are pleased to learn that the result of this year's examination goes to maintain Mr Tissiman's reputation as a teacher, he having passed no less than 58 children out of the 60 presented to the Inspector, or nearly 97 per cent. We understand that six pupils passed in the Sixth Standard
8th November 1881 On the recommendation of the Committee, Miss Huskisson was appointed assistant-mistress to the Renwick school
10th November 1881 Three applications for the position of Assistant-mistress at the Renwick school were received. Mr Alfred Mills. Chairman of the Renwick Committee, waited on the Board and stated that- the Committee recommended the appointment of Miss Huskisson. On Mr Henderson's motion it was resolved that the Committee's recommendation be adopted.
Two additional desks were directed to be supplied to the Renwick school
6th December 1881 Miss Huskisson's acceptance of the assistant mistress-ship of the Renwick School was received.,

1882

1882	83	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	190.00
1882	83	Renwick	Huskisson	Sarah A	Assistant Female	£	66.00

24th January 1882 RENWICK. The election of members of the Renwick School Committee for the current year took place in the schoolroom, Ren wick, last evening. The Chair was occupied by Mr H. Walker. The nominations were —Messrs G. Gee, G Monro, J. Brydon, Chas. Watson, by Mr Mills seconded by Mr Tapp Mr Bary, by Mr Hopgood, seconded by Mr Fraser Mr H. Fraser, by Mr McLennan, seconded by Mr Neame; Mr Tapp, by Mr Hounsell, seconded by Mr Vorbach; Mr McIvor, by Mr Bartlett, seconded by Mr Hopgood Mr G. Boyce, by Mr Tapp, seconded by Mr H. Fraser Mr J. Shaw, by Mr J. Gee, seconded by Mr Tapp. A poll was then taken, and resulted as follows
G. B. Monro 54
G. Bary 51
J. Shaw 47
H. Fraser 42
Jas. Brydon 42
E. McIvor 33
C. Watson 32
W. Tapp 24
G. Boyce 23
G. Gee 2
Messrs G. B. Munro, G. Bary, J. Shaw, H. Fraser, Jas. Brydon, B. McIvor, and C. Watson, were accordingly declared duly elected.
31st January 1882 At the first meeting of the Renwick .School Committee, held last evening, Mr G. B. Munro was elected Chairman
4th April 1882 Mr Hodgson reported on his late examination for pupil teachers. He reported that the candidates who presented themselves for examination were: Frank Markman, Blenheim, aged 13 yrs. 9 months; Alice Carter, Blenheim, 14 yrs., 2 months Nellie Hosking, Grovetown, 17 yrs. Margaret Wemyss, Blenheim, 15 yrs. 11 months Wilhelmina Macaulay, Renwick, 13 yrs. 5 months Lilian Tissiman, Renwick, 13 yrs. The four first-named had passed

5th September 1882 The Chairman of the Renwick School Committee (Mr G. B. Monro) applied to the Board to replace the fence round the Renwick School grounds. Mr Seymour from his recollection of it did not think the fence was in bad order. The architect was instructed to report on the fence, and also to furnish an estimate as to the cost of a new one
30th September 1882 The Renwick School. We understand that Miss Huskisson, the assistant female teacher at the Renwick school, has resigned her position
3rd October 1882 Miss Huskisson wrote resigning her position as assistant mistress at Renwick.
22nd December 1882 Measles. The measles are very prevalent just now at Renwick, and in consequence the attendance at the school has been very poor during the last month

1883

1883	67	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	190.00
1883	67	Renwick	Tosswill	Mary	Assistant Female	£	80.00

23rd January 1883 RENWICK SCHOOL. At the householders' meeting at Renwick last evening— Mr Tissiman in the chair— the following were nominated for the new Committee Messrs H. Fraser, W. Tapp, H. Gee, G. Bartlett, J. Brydon, G. Bary, B, Warmouth, G. Coward, and J, Shaw. The voting resulted as follows W. Tapp 38, H. Gee 37, G. Bary 35, H. Fraser 32, J. Brydon 28, J. Shaw 19, J. Bartlett 19, E. McLellan 18, G. Coward 13, B. Warmouth 9. Messrs Tapp, Gee, Bary, Fraser, Brydon, Shaw, and Bartlett were declared elected, *As reported*
6th February 1893 Mr H. Fraser, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, applied to have the school house and teacher's residence painted. The Architect was instructed to report.
28th February 1883 To the Editor of the Express. Sir,— Who is the "Teacher, Middle Renwick Road who writes to the "Times" on the subject of the appointment of teachers? There is no teacher on the Renwick Middle Road, unless it be at the School House, Renwick, but I should be sorry to know that that teacher had again been frying to burn his fingers with anonymous correspondence. If the Blenheim School Committee recommended Miss Treadwell's appointment, it may be assumed that they knew as much about the matter as the "Teacher," who could have known absolutely nothing, and considered that she was the best of the candidates who offered. In disparagement of Miss Treadwell, the same correspondent says that she also applied for the Assistant Mistressship Of the Girls' School at the lower salary of £66 per annum. It may so have happened that the. young lady in. question would have been glad to have got away from the Renwick School or its teacher, at any price. I think a 'Teacher," if he is one, should: be heartily ashamed of himself for the unmanly attack he has made upon an unoffending fellow-teacher:
5th March 1883 The Renwick School Committee met on Friday night. Present; Messrs Fraser (Chairman), Bary, Tapp, Brydon, and Shaw. The principal occurrence was the recommendation to the Board of Mrs M; Tosswill for the vacant Assistant Teachership. The applicants were Mrs Tosswell, Miss Hosking, Miss Wrigley, and Mrs McLean
6th March 1883 The Renwick School Committee recommended Mrs Tosswell for the assistant mistress-ship of the Renwick School.
3rd July 1883 Mr Sinclair moved that Miss Tosswell's salary, as mistress of the Renwick School, be increased £20. Mr Parker seconded. The Chairman, without objecting to Miss Tosswell's salary, pointed out that these applications were becoming so general that the Board should have some proper system for giving increases. The motion was put and carried.

Though the newspaper refers to her as Miss or Mrs Tosswell, there are no one of that spelling being born or dying in New Zealand and the name may well be Tosswill

1884

1884	55	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	190.00
1884	55	Renwick	Bird	Elizabeth	Assistant Female	£	60.00

26th January 1884 Renwick.—We learn that vigorous rehearsals for the forthcoming concert at Renwick are being held under the able conductorship of Mr Tissiman

1st March 1884 Renwick School.— Mr Hodgson inspected this school on Thursday. The result was that 93 per cent, of the children who were presented passed in the respective standards. Friends of Mr Tissiman will be very glad to hear of this, as, last year, owing to the incapacity of his assistant, the examination was not by any means up to the usual standard . We learn that Mrs Tosswill succeeded in passing every child who |was presented in Standards I and IL

8th April 1885 RENWICK. An application by Mrs Bird, assistant teacher, for an increase of salary was held over for a month. Letter from the School Committee asking for certain repairs, fencing, and object cards. Also urging that Mr Tissiman should be compelled to carry out his former intention of resigning. Resolved that the committee be asked why it desires the Board to give Mr Tissiman notice to resign.

5th May 1885 RENWICK SCHOOL, Miss Bird's application for an increase of her salary of £60 was further considered, Mr Henderson considered the school would be amply officered by Mr Tissiman and a pupil teacher. Although he believed that Miss Bird was well worth more money elsewhere, he felt compelled to move that her application be refused for the present. Mr Ward seconded the motion. The chairman said that the Renwick School certainly did not compare favorably with the Havelock school so far as expense was concerned. Mr Henderson said the Renwick school had been falling off for some time past. Mr Lambert questioned whether Mr Tissiman was not Receiving too much (£190) and Mrs Bird too little. Captain Baillie pointed out. that the Inspector alluded, in his report, to the absence without excuse of 17 children out of 74. There was evidently something wrong. Mr Ward said that other schools had their 17 absent, but the Inspector had said nothing about it. Mr Henderson spoke highly of Mrs Bird's services, and was really sorry that he could not agree to raise her salary. But an assistant teacher was granted when the attendance was 80. The falling off had been such that the school required only a pupil teacher. Mr Hutcheson pointed out that Mr Tissiman's salary had really been increased only £10 from the commencement. Mr Henderson's motion was carried unanimously.

13th May 1884 The agitation which for; some time .past has been going; on in Renwicktown in connection with Mr Tissiman, the school .teacher, and his appointment as Secretary of the Omaka Road Board has today, we should hope received its quietus. 'The Board unanimously agreed to change ,its meeting days from the second Tuesday to the second, Saturday in every month, and this arrangement will leave Mr Tissiman free to teach school five days in the week, as by law provided, and attend the Board meeting on the second Saturday without interfering with his other duties in the slightest degree. Mr Tissiman is known to be one. of. the ablest and best teachers under the Marlborough Board, and the, public are to be congratulated on being able to continue his services in both capacities without their clashing.

19th September 1884 RENWICK SCHOOL.

(To the Editor of the Express.) Sir,— Knowing that your columns are open to the discussion of question of public interest, please allow me space to make a few remarks on the adjourned meeting of the Education Board held on the 16th inst. relative to the appointment of an assistant teacher to the Renwick school. First, re the Committee's letter to the Board, in which the Chairman states as follows The Committee prefers an assistant mistress at the salary hitherto paid to the present assistant, and suggesting that the extra twenty pounds ought to be taken off the head teacher's salary. It appears to me to be a somewhat remarkable proceeding of the Education Board,— taking into consideration the classification of the two teachers, viz., the head teacher and assistant (I presume that, the question of reduction is a financial matter with the Board, and would apply to the present assistant if she had not resigned), as the third sentence in your local of the 16th inst. under the heading of a "Hard Case fully endorses, and reads as follows "It ls no doubt a fact that the attendance of the Renwick school is not sufficient to justify the appointment of a first class teacher at a high salary." Now I as yon, Sir, if the Committee has not asked the Board to deal in an equitable manner with the reduction of the
salary. The practical financial test of the matter stands thus: The head teacher (for whom I entertain a profound respect) is in receipt of a salary of one hundred and ninety pound per year and residence free, which is equivalent to £210 Now, sir, allowing the head teacher a fair and just amount for responsibility and supervision. I maintain that the Committee has in no way degraded him, with reference to Mr Henderson's motion, and I must confess that I have been greatly surprised at his prefatory remarks previous to his motion, in which he says that he would like to effect economy. Now sir, I am a strong advocate of economy when used in an equitable channel, but I must say that Mr Henderson should not make a monopoly of the head teacher's salary to the detriment of an assistants Fair play is a jewel, and I sincerely trust that the readers of your valuable paper —more especially those interested in educational matters will carefully weigh Mr. Sinclair's arguments in favor of the deduction at the proper time, and I think it would be infinitely more creditable, and certainly a matter of equity, to take the £20 from the head teacher's £210, than encroach upon the miserable pittance of £80 allotted to the assistant. Fair Play. Renwick, Sept. 18, 1884.
29th September 1884 A Good Teacher.— Mrs Tosswill, who for some time past has been assistant teacher at the Renwick School, leaves to-day to take charge of the Brightwater School, Nelson. At Renwick she proved herself an excellent teacher— painstaking and clever, and her services will be difficult to replace. The School Committee met on Saturday night and decided to present Mrs Tosswill with an illuminated address as a token of their high appreciation and regard,
8th November 1884 THE RENWICK SCHOOL.
j [To the Editor of the Express Sir,— As Mr Seymour's statement in the Times' report of the proceedings of the Education board of the 4th instant, that the refusal of the Board to reduce the salary of an old and deserving teacher is at the bottom of the complaint, is calculated to disparage the Committee in the estimation of those by whom they are elected , with your permission I should like to avail myself of your space to avail myself of your space to give 'Mr Seymour's statement an emphatic denial. I have pointed out through the medium of your columns on a former occasion that the question of reduction in the Renwick staff emanated from the Board, and not from the committee. 1 therefore hold that it will not be considered irrelevant if I draw Mr Seymour's attention to that part of my letter to the Board of the 4th ult. which says,— "The Committee is of opinion that the reduction of £20 from the assistant's salary has had the effect of checking competition Now, I submit that the reasonable inference.to be drawn from Mr Seymour's statement is that matters relating to the head teacher and the Committee will in future be treated by Mr Seymour as an attempt to reduce the head teacher's salary. In conclusion, I ask Mr Seymour to substantiate his statement by

some tangible proof, or otherwise retract it, as there is not the slightest foundation for imputing such base and selfish motives to the Committee. Yours, etc. H. Fraser, Chairman Renwick School Committee.

20th November 1884 To Editor of the Express.] Sir,— Mr' Tissiman's statement in the Times' issue of the 15th inst. respecting Miss Wemyss' dismissal with, the exception of the part that says, "and I did say I would see that her salary was paid," is. a gross misrepresentation. Mr Tissiman "has his peculiarities," and one of the most remarkable is his accommodating memory; for example— he remembers saying to Miss Wemyss he would see that her salary was paid., but he does not appear to remember or perhaps it is distasteful saying (I (quote from Miss Wemyss' letter to the Committee Nov. 6th) the Committee has simply made a tool of you. Mr Tissiman alleges as his reason for saying that he would see that her salary was paid, because the Committee had never thought of appointing a temporary assistant until I wrote to him on the evening of Supt. 26th. (I enclose Mr Tissiman's letter dated Sept, 27th. Not Sept. 26th). The Committee is prepared to corroborate my statement, that they have always received three clear days' notice prior to a meeting to be held. How then does Mr Tissiman account for saying "that the Committee had never thought of appointing a temporary assistant &c." His fertile brain has produced the presumptuous inference that if he had not written to the Committee on Sept. 27th (the, myths and nonentities as he has frequently termed them) would have never thought of appointing an assistant. The following part of his letter is somewhat amusing. Seeing that they had neglected to supply assistance until I asked them, I naturally thought I should have to remind them of the payment due to each assistant," He has not reminded the Committee, the remission of which is creditable to him, as the Committee has reminded him on several occasions to mind his own business. With regard to the Committee allowing the meeting of the Education Board to elapse without informing that body of Miss Wemyss' appointment," I submit that is a question between the Board and the Committee and one which the Committee will try and arrange without Mr Tissiman's assistance. I may state that I am not the anonymous correspondent to which Mr Tissiman alludes, and I intended to let the matter drop, after receiving his letter stating that he wrote to the Board saying that he wished to resign, but when I find Mr Tissiman misrepresenting the Committee's actions, I think I am quite justified in making this explanation. In conclusion, I would suggest to Mr Tissiman that the most effectual method of testing his popularity in Renwick, is by a public appeal to the residents. This ends the controversy with Mr Tissiman as far OB the Committee is concerned. Tours, H. F. Fraser. Chairman Renwick School Committee. ,[We have permitted Mr Fraser to have. another innings on this subject, but it must be distinctly, understood that all correspondence upon it is now finally closed.— Ed. Express.]

20th December 1884 Renwick School.— The Head Teacher, Mr Tissiman, having offered a special price for the best map in the school, the exhibits were judged to-day by Messrs W. F. Terry and Richard Winter. The competition was exceedingly close, most of the maps being capital specimens of drawing, penmanship, neatness, and colouring. The Judges had difficulty in awarding the prize, but ultimately gave it to James Dawes, a 6th Standard boy, and highly commended Kenneth Munro, of the 5th Standard. It is evident that the Head Master has made a great feature of map drawing.

1885

1885	63	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Master	£	190.00
1885	63	Renwick	McDonogh	Marian	Assistant Female	£	60.00

24th January 1885 The annual examinations for teachers' certificates begin in the Council Chamber on Monday morning. The following are the candidates for D, Robert McCallum

(Blenheim), and Wm. Tissiman (Renwick). For E, Mary Bary. Edythe Stratford, and Mary Wrigley (Blenheim), Gladys Prichard (Grovetown), Ernest Bowden, and Antonio Vannini (Picton), and Stephen Carrick. The examinations will last at least five days next week. The hours each day are from 10 to 1 o'clock, and half past 2 to half put five o'clock

8th April 1885 RENWICK. An application by Mrs Bird, assistant teacher, for an increase of salary was held over for a month. Letter from the School Committee asking for certain repairs, fencing, and object cards. Also urging that Mr Tissiman should be compelled to carry out his former intention of resigning. Resolved that the committee be asked why it desires the Board to give Mr Tissiman notice to resign

24th April 1885 Renwick School.— An adjourned meeting of the Renwick School Committee took place last night, for the purpose of considering the reply to be sent to the letter from the Education Board asking the Committee's reason why the Board should call on Mr Tissiman to resign. The members present were Messrs Fraser (chairman), G. Gee, H. Gee, and Tapp. Three members wore absent. After transacting certain routine business the meeting adjourned until Saturday the 2nd May, the chairman being instructed to induce every member to attend on that occasion, so as to have a full meeting.

4th May 1885 RENWICK SCHOOL AFFAIRS.

(To the Editor of the Express.)

Sin,— For the benefit of whom It may concern, the Renwick School Committee have resigned their office. The Education Board ask them to give a ration for wishing the removal of the head teacher. The Committee consider they have rendered sufficient reasons without adding to the number, and refer them to their minute book. It seems to me that Mr Tissiman is in such high favour with the Board that they wish him to hold the office of head teacher of the Renwick school, irrespective of the wishes of the Committee or those they represent, and. as they seem to wish the welfare of Mr Tissiman rather than the school, they had better deal with him without the medium of a committee.—I am to.,

Vrba pro Gratis, Renwick, May 2nd.

8th May 1885 Renwick School..— The present position of School Committee affairs at Renwick is rather curious, All the Committee men but ono have resigned, and that ono is in doubt whether he has or has not the power to fill up the six vacancies. The Act says that in the event of any of the members retiring the remaining "members" shall "elect" successors to fill their places, But Mr C. Bary, who is the "last rose of Renwick left blooming alone," cannot be described, even by a figure of speech, as members and it is not easy to see how fresh Committee men can be elected unless a meeting is held for that purpose, in which case Mr Bary, not being two single gentlemen rolled into one, could not form a quorum by himself. He has been sensible enough not to take the reckless advice of the Chairman of the Education Board who told him to nominate six others and go on again but Mr Bary has very properly written to the Minister for Education and asked for directions how to proceed. We venture to think that even Mr Stout will be a little puzzled about it. Meantime the Renwick teacher and Mr Bary are masters of the situation.

29th May 1885 Renwick School-.- Mr Bary has nominated six Renwick residents to note as his colleagues on the School Committee. A meeting will be hold to-morrow night, until when Mr Bary deems it inadvisable to disclose the names of the people he has Re-elected

30th May 1885 RENWICK SCHOOL MATTERS.

[To the Editor of the Express.] Sir,— Great perplexity has recently existed in Renwick with reference to the value of a School Committeeman’s vote. Various opinions have been assigned, but the most novel one is— that the essential value of a School Committeeman's vote is a load of straw. As I have succeeded in placing myself in a pit of confusion with

regard to the load of straw, and cannot possibly extricate myself, dear Mr Editor, would yon kindly exert your intelligence to assist me in unravelling this knotty question I shall shortly resume on ye veritable .School Committee— Yours, etc. , Enigma.

19th June 1885 RENWICK SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Express. Sir,— ln the present age of enlightment and progress, ono of the essential elements relative to its promulgation, I consider is education, and any matters or measures bearing on the subject should receive careful consideration. The Education Act generally speaking is a grand institution, but notwithstanding its beneficial influence, ono part of it, treating of the duties of School Committees, is somewhat intricate. As an illustration— the Renwick School Committee— for reasons which they consider .reasonable and sufficient, tendered their resignation to the Marlborough Education Board (with superior body, and one which should be the medium of communication between the committee and the Education Department But from the nature of the proceedings which took place at Renwick on the 30th ult., when a now Committee was constituted it is evident that the Education Board, the superior body, lifts boon entirely ignored. The surviving member of the old Committee has written to the Minister of Education (so he, the member. stated at the meeting) asking him how to proceed regarding the formation of a new Committee. As neither his communication to the Education Department, nor yet the reply, was laid before the mooting convened for the purpose of constituting a new Committee, I now ask that gentleman, aa a householder, and one who takes an interest in the these matters, to give publicity to his authority through the medium of your columns, as at present the communication to which he referred when nominating his Committee, is wrapped in profound mystery. A Renwick Householder

20th June 1885 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

[To the. Editor of the Express.]

Sir,— Will Householder, in yesterday's Express, be good enough to place his dictionary at the disposal of the Renwick public for, say, one week if so, I have no doubt another Householder will make an effort to reply. To be left in the Library room at Renwick, I am, etc., Resident.

29th June 1885 FOOTBALL IN RENWICK.

[To The Editor of the Express.] Sir, -The Blenheim Borough Schools football team, in compliance with a challenge of about a fortnight back, addressed to the Head Teacher, Renwick, duly arrived on the convincing ground at 2 p.in. last Saturday, in charge of the deservedly popular Head Teacher of the Borough Schools. I can easily imagine the surprise of the latter gentleman when he arrived in the village of the plains, on finding that the Renwick Head Teacher had loft that morning for Blenheim. Could he not have telephoned to Blenheim, telling Mr Lucas that he would not be able to be present, as a matter of courtesy, at least? To leave his own boys in their maiden football match, clearly shows that he does not take much interest in their athletic welfare. Educational matters and petty grievances should be sunk on an occasion like this, when one's school plays another a friendly game of football. I would encourage the boys to go into the game in an energetic way, never mind the late defeat, and no doubt some worth coach will turn up and teach thorn to play in a plucky spirit, although losing.— l am, etc., A Footballer, Blenheim, Juno 29, 1885.

17th July 1885 Now that this extraordinarily constituted Renwick School Committee has obtained possession of the books, in consequence of an authority from the Education Board, a few remarks concerning the validity of their appointment may induce an abler pen than mine to enlighten those interested in educational matters, as to the means by which they occupy their present position. Renwick school squabbles have received sufficient ventilation through the medium of your columns therefore it is not necessary to revert to the reasons which compelled the former Committee to tender their resignation to the Education Board, and I am doubtful whether the resignation was tendered to the proper authorities. I am

inclined to believe that the householders, by whom they were elected, are the proper authorities. The constitution of the present Committee, so far as I can understand, is due to the receipt of an authority from the Minister of Education to the then surviving member of the former committee and if neither the authority, nor yet a copy of the representation which induced the Minister of Education to empower Mr Bary to constitute a Committee, were laid before the meeting (if I may term it a meeting) when the present Committee was nominated, the groundwork of Mr Bary's authority remains in peaceful oblivion. It Is worthy of remark that some of Mr Bary's nominees have not had the privilege of beholding the precious authoritative document, and I am doubtful if any have Been a copy of the representation to the Minister of Education. Bo that as it may, Mr Bary, to set himself right with the householders, should furnish them with justifiable proof in support of his action, and not arrogate the absolute control of school matters. Some time ago, Mr Bary was asked by a Renwick Householder," through your columns, to give publicity to his authority, and I have been anxiously waiting for its appearance, but find I have to practice the old maxim Patience is a virtue." However, I trust he will end this notorious comedy, by at once furnishing those who are entitled to an explanation— l refer to the householders with a copy of his communication to the Minister of Education, and the Minister's reply. To return to the question of validity. I ask, by whom were the present Committee elected— by the householders?— no. By the Education Board —no. That body has no power to elect or appoint under the circumstances, and I can find nothing in the Act empowering the Minister of Education to elect, in proof of which Mr Stewart is introducing an amendment clause to provide for such singular oases, of which, be far as I am aware, Renwick form a precedent. Then, by whom were the present Committee elected=- echo answers, by whom? I trust the above remarks will be received by Mr Bary in a friendly spirit, as my solo object in writing, I have already stated, is for the express purpose of enlisting the service of some one more competent to deal with the matter than— Yours &c, Inquired Renwick, July 10th, 1885.

6th October 1885 RENWICK. Letter from Mrs McDonough, formerly of Havelock, and now of Wellington, applying for the Assistant Teachership at the Renwick School. This was the only application. Resolved, on the motion of Major Baillie, seconded by Mr Henderson, that the application be sent to the Renwick Committee, and that, subject to their approval, Mrs McDonough be appointed.

1886

1886	73	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1886	73	Renwick	May	Elizabeth J	Assistant Female	£	60.00

12th January 1886 Captain Baillie reported that the chairman of the Renwick Committee had complained to him and Mr Paul about the absence of water at the school, and they had authorised Mr Douslin to have the matter attended to. The cost of a new well would be about £6 The action taken by Messrs Baillie and Paul was approved

Mrs McDonough applied for an increase of her present salary of £60, as assistant teacher at Renwick. Mr Lambert contended that the salaries at Renwick needed readjustment. The head teacher got too much, and the assistant too little. Mr Ward contended that a head master and a pupil teacher were all that were required at Renwick. The Chairman said that this school had for a long time past been coating too much. Mr Ward said that the Committee in seeking for a re-adjustment of salaries were really trying to get rid of the head teacher. Mr Lambert instanced other schools, in which there was great disparity of salaries

Mr Henderson pointed out that the Renwick school was costing more than the Board got for it. Mr Lambert moved, and Mr Ward seconded, That Mrs McDonough's application be taken into consideration next month. Carried unanimously

2nd March 1886 F. Craig (well-sinking, Renwick) £17 were passed for payment.

29th April 1886 Renwick School Committee. At the householders' meeting, held at Renwick, on Tuesday evening last, Mr A. G. Mills occupied the chair. After the adoption of the report and balance sheet, the following gentlemen were elected as the new committee Messrs H. Fraser, J. Boyle, H. Rowe, F. Fraser, R. Paul, J. B. McIver, and S. Tapp. Mr H. Fraser was elected chairman

4th My 1886 Letter from Mrs McDonough resigning her appointments Assistant at Renwick. Resignation accepted

1st June 1886 Miss Eliza J. May, of Picton, applied for the assistant teachership at Renwick. This was the only application Resolved that Miss May's application be sent on to the Committee, and that, if they approve of her, she be appointed.

4th August 1886 Mr MAYHEW. Mr Lambert asked if the Board intended to pay the month's salary to Mr Mayhew, who left directly after the last Board Meeting without waiting for his month's notion to expire His resignation was to take effect from the 20th of July, and Mr Mayhew left on the 8th of July. Mr Lambert complained that a similar case happened at Renwick, where Mrs McDonough was paid for time during which she was absent, and Miss Tissiman who did her work got nothing at all. The Secretary explained that Miss Tissiman was paid for every day she worked. Resolved, on the motion of Mr Parker, That Mr Mayhew be paid only up to the day he left.

20th September 1886 Renwick School Committee.— A meeting of the Renwick School Committee was held on Thursday night to enquire into a climate of excessive punishment of a child brought against the Head Teacher by the child's father. The Committee after hearing witnesses came to the c inclusion that no evidence was adduced in proof of the charge, which was accordingly dismissed.

7th December 1886 RENWICK. Letter from the Committee, drawing attention to the bad slate of the chimnies (Sic) at the teacher's residence. Resolved that the Architect attend to the matter

1887

1887	71	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1887	71	Renwick	May	Elizabeth	Assistant Female	£	60.00

1st March 1887 RENWICK. The architect was instructed to examine and report upon the state of the roof of the Renwick School. The Board was unable, for. want of funds, to paint the school

5th April 1887 Inspector Hodgson's report RENWICK. Mr Tissiman assistant Miss May. Present 81 on roll 98. As has been almost invariably the case here, the work of the scholars was uniformly good in every class, and in every subject. Four only of the fifty four scholars presented in Standards failed, and that in no more than a single subject. The discipline and organisation continue to be quite as good as the teaching. It is not, however,' creditable to the parents that seventeen scholars should have been suffered to absent themselves from an examination made in fine weather, and after ample notice.

6th April 1887 RENWICK. Resolved, That the architect be instructed to have the roof of the school repaired

2nd August 1887 Renwick (chimney end partition) Alfred Mills (accepted) £17 8s, John Miller £29 15s, A. Peddie £25. Porch ; &c.—Alfred Mills (accepted) £18 11s, John Miller £23 l5s, Howard and Woodham £37 15s— and for partition £10 3s.
The Chairman of the Renwick School Committee forwarded an application from Miss E. J. May, asking for an increase of salary. The Committee strongly recommended that an increase should be given. A letter was enclosed from Miss May, drawing attention to the disparity between the salary of Mr Tissiman, the bead teacher, and that she had been receiving, and stating that she intended going up for examination for the D. degree. The Secretary stated that the average attendance of the school for some years pass was 76. Mr Parker moved that Miss May's application be taken into consideration at next meeting
19th August 1887 School Standards.— At the monthly meeting of the Marlborough Branch of the Educational Institute, to be held tomorrow morning, Mr Tissiman, teacher of the Renwick: school, will read a paper entitled, The Standards what they, are worth.'
7th December 1887 A- letter was read from Mr A. G-. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, requesting that a female assistant teacher should be appointed, at a salary of £70 per animal, and should the Board not see its way to comply with the Committee's request, that the salaries paid to the teachers of the school should be so readjusted as to enable it to be done. It was resolved that the matter be considered at next meeting.

1888

1888	72	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1888	72	Renwick	May	Elizabeth	Assistant Female	£	60.00

8th February 1888 RENWICK SCHOOL. Mr A. G. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, and Mr Tapp, a member of the Committee, waited on the Board, stating that they had written to the Board several times, but had received no answer, asking for the appointment of an Assistant Mistress. The only thing in the shape of a reply the Committee had received since September was au intimation that Miss McAuley had been temporarily appointed Assistant Mistress at the rate of £40 a year. The Chairman stated that the first letter written by the Committee in September had not come to hand, and the terms of the letter written in October had been complied with.
Mr Mills stated that he had sent down the letter, and Mr Robinson told him that he had received it. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Parker that a Mistress should be advertised for at the rate of £60 per annum
20th February 1888 Renwick School— We hear that the results of the examination at the Renwick School, which took place last Saturday week, were very satisfactory, and that the percentages are higher than at any previous examination.
6th March 1888 Renwick. Mr Tissiman. Temporary assistant, Miss Macaulay. On roll 99, present 73. Renwick still fully maintains its well-earned reputation for thorough teaching and excellent discipline and organisation. The quietly effective manner in which a class is instructed might well give a lesson to some of those teachers who fancy that nothing can be done without loud speaking. There were no failures among the 49 standard scholars. I have again to deplore the absence of more than a fourth of the children from the examination. Eleven of the absentees were candidates for the standards.
7th March 1888 RENWICK. SCHOOL. Misses Macauley, Tissiman, C. Roberts and E. Macey applied for the appointment of assistant teacher at the Renwick School. Resolved that the applications be forwarded to the Committee for consideration.

28th May 1888 Renwick Library. At a meeting held last week in connection with this institution it was decided, in consequence of the lack of funds and meagre support accorded, to close the Library and hand over the books to the school committee, until such times as the inhabitants thought fit to revive the library. The withdrawal of the Government subsidy is severely felt by libraries in outlying districts and it is to be hoped the House will reinstate the vote this session

18th August 1888 Concert. A grand concert will be given at Renwick on Tuesday evening in aid of the Christmas school treat. Mr Tissiman will conduct, and the talent will be entirely local

18th December 1888 Concert. A concert will be given in Shaw's Hall, Renwick, on Thursday evening, in aid of the school funds. Surely a conveyance, laid on from Blenheim, would be gladly taken advantage of, on a moonlight night.

1889

1889	73	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1889	73	Renwick	Matthews	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

5th February 1889 The Renwick Committee reported that the paling fence round their school would cost £23. The Board resolved to call for tenders for a three-railed fence. Mr Hillman was appointed auditor

19th February 1889 Renwick School Committee. —At a meeting held last evening, there were present Messrs H.-Fraser (Chairman), Rowe, Tapp, Rawlings, and Secretary (Mr McIver). The matter of prosecution of the parents of absentees was left over for a short time. It was decided to make several alterations in the school playground, the Chairman being authorised to v see to the work. The following accounts were passed for payment Hillman 10s 6d, Vorbach 11s.

5th March 1889 Barton and Sons tender for repairs to Renwick school fence (£4 15s) was accepted

6th March 1889 RENWICK SCHOOL FENCE.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir, The Education Board last month directed the Architect to have a three railed fence put up round the Renwick Schoolhouse ground Yesterday they accepted a tender for repairs to the fence, the Architect having (despite the resolution) called for tenders for repairs. Is this consistent I am, etc., Education.

6th March 1889 Tenders were received as follows: (1) Fencing Renwick school, (repair) Barton son £4 15s; D. Munro £5 9s; Peddie £13 10s J. Hounsell £13 10s (erection) J. Dawes, £14 10s; D. Munro, £23. Mr Douslin (the Board's architect)-, re-" ported that much of the fence was in good order; ore side of it being likely to.be a good live fence in two years. He had therefore thought repairs would suffice, and had drawn out specifications accordingly. Messrs Barton's tender was accepted, the Board approving of the proposal to repair.

2nd April 1888 The Board decided to advertise for fresh tenders for fencing at Renwick.

3rd April 1889 The question of Miss Macey's-resignation and transfer from Renwick to Wairau Valley School came up and Mr Rawlings, who was in attendance, said though not deputed by the Committee, he had (railed in to say that they wished the. Board to advertise the vacancy without delay. It would save time. The Chairman Do you come at the instigation of the Committee Mr Rawlings No. I was just passing by, and I thought I would save time, that's all. Mr Conolly thought this a case -where they might find a vacancy for one of the pupil teachers in their service. The matter then dropped. Mr D. Monro wrote offering (as the

Renwick fencing contract was not completed) to execute the work for £7. The Board decided to call for fresh tenders

17th April 1889 Havelock School Committee: A letter was read from Mr J. T. Robinson, Secretary of the Education Board, to Miss Laura Matthews, offering her the situation of Assistant Mistress at Renwick. A' letter was also read from Miss Laura Matthews, accepting the situation. Mr Reynolds, Head Master, wrote as follows: "The school roll is 119, and average attendance 94. Miss Laura Matthews has accepted the position offered her by the Education Board -as assistant at Renwick. Miss Matthews, both as an old pupil of mine and as a teacher in the school, has done herself much credit. I am exceeding sorry to lose so able and industrious a co-worker

24th April 1889 RENWICK. Mr Tissiman was voted to the chair. 17 persons attended the meeting. Eleven candidates were proposed and Messrs Rawlings, S., Tapp, H. Fraser Coward,, McIver, Rowe and Paul elected. Mr Stephen Tapp was afterwards, elected chairman

7th May 1889 TENDERS were received for Renwick School fencing as follows Mr McIsaac, £6 10s (accepted); J. Fraser, £6 15s D. Munro, £7 14 6d J. Hopgood £8

30th May 1889 Renwick School Committee. The usual monthly meeting was held last evening. Present Messrs Tapp (Chairman), Paul, Fraser, Rawlings, Coward, Rowe, and McIver (Secretary.) Mrs Mills was appointed cleaner of schools, vice Mrs Boyce, resigned. The Chairman and Secretary's action re supply of firewood was endorsed. The Chairman was authorised to get two more fireguards for the school. The Chairman was also authorised to get a supply of pines for the school ground. Accounts amounting to £5 were passed for payment.

5th August 1889 Renwick School Committee.— A meeting of the above Committee was held on Wednesday evening. Present: Messrs Tapp (in the chair), Rawlings, Paul, Rowe, Coward, and McIvor (secretary). The Chairman reported that he had seen to several necessary works. Accounts were passed for payment. The Committee decided that in future they would prosecute those parents whose children did not attend school for the required number of days.

2nd November 1889 Renwick School Committee. The Committee met on Wednesday evening. Present: —Messrs S. Tapp (Chairman), Eraser, Coward, Rowe, Paul, Rawlings, and McIver (Secretary). Correspondence received from Head Teacher, complaining of a falling off in. the average attendance. Mr Fraser proposed, and Mr Rowe seconded, "That the Chairman wait on those parents whose children have been attending irregularly, and take what steps he deems necessary, failing the production of d satisfactory excuse." Mr Fraser proposed, and Mr Paul seconded, That the Secretary write to the Education Board calling attention to the dilapidated state of the schoolmaster's residence." The Committee then rose

2nd December 1889 Renwick School Committee.— At a. meeting of this Committee there were present: Messrs S. Tapp (Chairman), Rowe, Rawlings, and K. McIver (Sec). The Chairman reported that he had received satisfactory excuses from parents, whose children have been attending irregularly. Mr Rawlings proposed and Mr Tapp seconded, That the Christmas holidays commence on 20th December, and end 13th January 1890:" Carried. Resolved that the next meeting be j held on the last Wednesday in January." The Chairman was authorised to obtain the services of a man to do some little repairs. Accounts amounting to £2 5s 6d were passed for payment, and the Committee adjourned

1890

1890	70	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1890	70	Renwick	Matthews	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

1st April 1890 Renwick—Mr Tissiman assistant, Miss Matthews; "On roll, 102; present 91. Although the scholars here, on the whole, acquitted themselves fairly well in most subjects; and exceedingly -well in several, their success was not so prominent as it has been on previous occasions. There was much careless spelling, even in the upper classes, whose English papers certainly fell below the mark attained in former years. In penmanship, in map drawing, and in the general neatness of the work, Renwick well maintains its old superiority

2nd April 1890 Marlborough Education Board That, in reference to the complaint of Mr Tissiman (Renwicktown), of inconvenience to which he was subjected by delay in the completion of the contract for the enlarging of his house, the architect be instructed to enforce the immediate completion of the work

2nd May 1890 Renwick School. At a meeting of householders, Mr Tissiman in the chair, the following were elected as a new Committee Messrs A. Jackson (37), K. McIver, (23), H. Gee (21), B, Rawlings (17), H. Hillman (15), D. Munro (11), R. J. Paul (10) At a subsequent meeting Mr McIver was elected Chairman.

1st August 1890 Renwick School Committee.— The above Committee met last evening. Present: Messrs K. McIvor (chairman), Hillman, Munro, and Paul. Mr Andrew Gibson was elected a member of the Committee in place of Mr B. Rawlings, deceased. It was. decided to close the school till 11th August, and, if necessary, from week to week until the prevailing sickness has passed away. Messrs McIver and Paul were appointed a visiting committee for the month of August. The Chairman was authorised to see to several repairs, and also to the fumigation of the school. The meeting then adjourned till 27th August.

6th August 1890 The Renwick School.— It is expected that the Renwick School will re-open on Monday next, the 11th August

29th August 1890 Renwick School Committee. -At the last meeting of the Renwick School Committee, there were present Messrs K. B. McIver (Chairman), Paul, Gibson, Munro, Jackson, and Hillman. Mr James Brydon was elected a member of the Committee 'in place of Mr H. Gee. It was decided to close the school till Monday, 8th September. Messrs Hillman and Gibson were appointed a Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. The meeting then adjourned.

13th September New Zealand Educational Institute met in the Borough Schools this morning. The election of officers resulted as follows —President, Mr Tissiman;…… The next meeting of the Institute is to be held on the second Saturday in November, when Mr Tissiman will deliver an address on the culture of teachers.

1891

1891	75	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1891	75`	Renwick	Matthews	Laura	Assistant Female	£	60.00

13th January 1891 FENCING. Mr Hillman, Secretary of the Renwick School Committee, wrote suggesting a baton fence in place of a post and rail, such as tenders had been called for. Mr Douslin was called in and questioned as to the difference in cost between batons and palings, and said the former would cost a great deal more than the rough white pine palings, which was the alternative to post and rails as advertised for. Tenders were received as follows: —Monro and Coward £17 15s post and rails, £22 17s 6d palings; Burton and Sons £19 17s, and £23; Fraser £1. 14s 9d and. £2 2s a chain. Monro and Cowards' £22 17s 6d tender was accepted

The Renwick, Springlands, and Canvastown Committees forwarded the names of their auditors, and the gentlemen named were appointed.

29th January 1891 Renwick School Committee. The School Committee met last evening present, Messrs K. McIver (Chairman), W. Tapp, A. W. Jackson, Munro, C. Coward, and Gibson. Correspondence was received from Head Teacher, re non-attendance of children from Messrs Parker, Hutcheson, and Ward, asking to be nominated for the vacant seats on the Education Board. Messrs Joseph Ward and W. B. Parker were nominated. The Chairman was authorised to take legal proceedings against the parents of those children who did not attend the required number of days last quarter. The balance sheet, shewing a balance of £14 1s, was adopted and read. Accounts amounting to £1 Is were passed for payment.

3rd March 1891 Renwick School Committee.— This Committee met last evening, present Messrs Hillman , Coward, Munro, Gibson and McIver. It was decided to close the school for Easter holidays from Wednesday 25th 1 March to 6th April. Resolved that Chair. man call for tenders for four cords of red t pine. Messrs Coward and Munro were appointed a visiting committee for the ensuing month. Accounts amounting to 10s 6d were passed for payment, after which the meeting adjourned

23rd March 1891 Renwick School Committee. The Renwick School Committee held a special meeting on Thursday the 19th inst. Present Messrs Hillman (Chair) Coward, McIver, Tapp and Munro. The business considered was a letter from the head teacher concerning the closing of the school on account of the prevalence of whooping-cough etc., and from the Education Board for an estimate of amount required from the building fund. Mr Tapp moved, and Mr McIver seconded that the school be closed from to-morrow (Friday) until Monday the 10th April. An amendment was moved by Mr Munro seconded by Mr Coward that the school be not closed until Wednesday the 25th inst. For the amendment, the mover and seconder; for the motion Messrs Tapp, Molver and Hillman. A very careful estimate for an iron roof, ventilator and painting, was made out, and ordered to be forwarded to the Board, The meeting then adjourned till Wednesday the 25th inst.

23rd March 1891 WHOOPING COUGH AT RENWICK.

TO THB EDITOR. Sib, Kindly grant me a little space in the Express anent the closing of the Renwick school owing to the prevalence of whooping cough" as published in Saturday's issue. I believe we have whooping cough here, but in a very mild form indeed, certainly not severe enough to be the cause of closing the school. I will endeavor to show why the school is closed. At the regular meeting of the Committee in February the head teacher asked permission to close the school on the Wednesday before Easter instead of Thursday as usual, as he was going a journey which concession was at once granted. Meantime whooping cough arrives on the scene, and the teacher is jubilant. On Monday, the 16th instant, he notifies the Chairman of the Committee that whooping-cough is reducing the average and suggests that the school be closed. On Thursday five members of the committee met, when by a majority of one they decided to close the school on the following day although the average attendance had improved, and now the head teacher has gone on his way rejoicing-- rejoicing that he has done his supporters by closing the school one day earlier than stipulated by them.— l am, etc., D. Munro. Renwick, 23rd March, 1891.

6th October 1891 The Inspector gave a very satisfactory report of his visit to the Renwick school, which he said was one of the best he had seen in the district. A copy of the report, will be sent to the Committee. Marlborough Education Board Meeting

1892

1892	70	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1892	70	Renwick	Williams	Alice	Assistant Female	£	70.00

24th February 1892 Teachers Examinations. The following Marlborough teachers passed Class D: Mary Farmar and Laura Matthews.

7th June 1892 RENWICK, Miss Williams was appointed assistant teacher, end the temporary appointment of Miss Tissiman agreed to.

15th July 1892 The latest Gazette contains the classification of the teachers of the colony. The following are the highest in Marlborough, all of them D1 :~Miss Morgan, Messrs Lucas, Ladley, Tissiman and Wilmot

In 1894 Laura Matthews was at Havelock Suburban and in 1909 was in Waihakeke School out of Carterton

1893

1893	64	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1893	73	Renwick	Williams	Alice	Assistant Female	£	75.00

25th April 1893 School Committee Elections RENWICK.

At the meeting of householders about twenty people were present. Six candidates bad been previously nominated, viz., F. Fraser, T. Gleeson, H. Hillman, W. Hounsell, A. G. Mills, D. Munro. Mr Tapp was nominated in the room, and these seven were declared elected. Mr Hillman, the Chairman of the meeting, read the Balance Sheet which showed a surplus of £9 19b 3d. The Committee met after the householders' meeting. Mr A. G. Mills was again elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. It was resolved to call for tenders for 4 cords of firewood, and also for cleaning the school, The Chairman was directed to send notices in the statutory form to the parents of certain absentees that summonses will be issued unless the children attend school. The Committee decided to meet on the last Wednesday in each month. Messrs Hillman and Tapp were appointed a Visiting Committee. Some discussion took place as to the pine trees surrounding the **school,** and at the suggestion of the Head Teacher the Committee will inspect the trees at an early, date and decide as to the advisability of removing some of thorn.

26th May 1893 School Committee. The Renwick School Committee met last night, the whole of the members being, present, and Mr A. G. Mills in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, A letter from the head teacher re blinds and other matters, was left to the Visiting Committee to see to. The Chairman called the attention of the Committee to a minute passed at a special meeting held on May 21, during his absence from the province, granting a bonus of one guinea to the Secretary for past services, pointing out that this was in contravention of clause 71 of the Education Act. He would, therefore, move that this minute be rescinded. Seconded by Mr Tapp and carried. Mrs David Mills was appointed caretaker of the schools at a salary of 3s 6d per week. Resolved that the school close for the winter holidays on Friday, the 16th June, and reopen on Monday, 3rd July. Messrs Munro and Fraser were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. A discussion ensued as the advisability of placing gravel or asphalt beneath the children's' swings, and the majority were in. favor of the cheaper material. The chairman reported that he had accepted Mr John Boyce's tender for firewood at 19s 6d per cord Resolved that Mr A. Mills be paid one guinea for travelling expenses during the past year. The Committee then adjourned,

6th November 1893 Renwick Drawing Examination The following very satisfactory results have been obtained at Renwick School in the recent drawing examination ln freehand 12

children passed in geometry 14 passed in scale 16 passed and in model drawing one passed. *I presume these are the drawing examinations run from WELLINGTON and were much loved by some Wairarapa rural schools*

4th December 1893 MB HOWARD DODSON DROWNED. A very great shock was experienced in the community to-day when it became known that Mr Howard Dodson had been drowned while on his way from Picton to Blenheim. The scene of the fatality was Mudford Flat, in the swamp, about a mile and a half beyond the Tua Marina Hotel. There was a great deal of flood water in the swamp, and when Mr J. McAllister came through at about 830 o'clock the. road was covered in several places. No one can say with certainty how the accident happened, but it is surmised that in crossing a culvert at the place indicated, the trap went off the road, and partly capsized, throwing Mr Dodson out into deep water, The body was found at about 10.30 a.m. by Mr W, Robinson a few yards from the roadside, and the deceased had evidently made an effort to reach the bank. The horse, with the trap uninjured, was caught when coming through Spring Creek. Every effort was made by Mr Robinson and others to restore animation, but without avail. Deceased, with his wife and several other members of his family, had been on a visit to Picton yesterday, and were all to have driven through to Blenheim this morning. Owing to the heavy rain, however, the ladies of the party came on by train. Mr Frank Dodson left Picton very early, and Mr Howard Dodson was to leave at 9 o'clock. The body was brought into town about noon by Mr K. Molver. The circumstance is of an unusually distressing character. Mr Dodson was a man of promise, upright in all his dealings, and universally respected for his probity, and geniality of temperament. He was open-hearted and liberal to a fault, and P 1 his untimely death will be deplored by every resident in the district. To his sorrowing relatives we tender our heartfelt sympathy

6th December 1893 The Renwick School Committee very kindly closed the School this afternoon to allow Mr Tissiman to attend the funeral of the late Howard Dodson. Howard and his brother Frank were amongst the first pupil Mr Tissiman taught in Marlborough, and it was a graceful act of the Committee to allow the schoolmaster to attend the funeral of his old scholar

1894

1894	73	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1894	73	Renwick	Williams	Alice	Assistant Female	£	75.00

10th March 1894 A long piece on the Inspectors report included In arithmetic it is true, the Inspector seems to be less satisfied than is the other two subjects, but there were some exceptionally good percentages of pass« Bin this very important subject, the following schools showing a really admirable record Renwick 96; Havelock 95; Deep Creek, 93; Havelock Suburban, 81…….

21st December 1894 Renwick **School.—** This school closes today for the Christmas holidays, and will reopen on Monday 14th January, being three week's holiday. Mr Tissiman has now completed twenty-two years' work at this school, and work, aa most people know of the very best kind.

There were other Alice Williams working in Marlborough and probably two different ones at Renwick

1895

1895	78	Renwick	Tissiman	William	Head Master	£	190.00
1895	78	Renwick	Williams	Alice	Assistant Female	£	75.00

12th February 1895 Sergt. Major Scanlon was believed would consent to the appointment of a member of the police. The Grovetown, Renwick and Kaituna Committees also asked that the Board appoint Truant Officers. Mr Chaytor moved that the Secretary enter into negotiations with Sergt -Major Scanlon as to the engagement of a member of the police force as truant officer. Carried. On the motion of Mr Baillie the salary was fixed at £12 a year for the inner circuit," which includes Renwick, Kaituna, and Tua Marina. The Secretary wag empowered to appoint the officer after communication with Sergt. Major Scanlon ’

27th February 1895 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir, A few days ago I saw your paper that truant inspectors were appointed for both town and country, and should parents require their children to stay from school for any purpose an excuse in writing has to be sent, with all of which I agree but when our School Committee, in the face of these laws, give our head teacher holidays indiscriminately, I j think the truant officer may be dispensed with. The Christmas holidays are scarcely over since then a holiday for a picnic, and now another, forsooth, to go a-gipsying." Of course there will be two or three before Easter St Patrick's Day, and so on. Really, I think it is ridiculous. To those of us who can only afford our children a limited education, such an action from a School Committee is highly reprehensible. They certainly do not strengthen the hands of their paid officers. Truly this is the happy hunting ground of the teacher. The subject, which should be of importance to all of us, must be my excuse for taking up so much of your valuable space. I am, &c, Parent,

Renwick, 27th February, 1895,

2nd March 1895 TO THE EDITOR. Sir, Permit me to say a few words anent the manner in which a few of the Renwick parents vent their grievances in school matters. Now, Sir, when they assemble as they generally do at the telegraph pole and in the water-tables, the first subject is to protest against the action of the School Committee in granting a holiday, and woe betide the unfortunate member of committee who first comes along, for he has either to make a blue streak, or sit down in the aforesaid water-table and take all the mud that is hurled at his devoted head. Again, if he resists any of the indignities hurled at him by those heads of families, the Education Board will be interviewed, and the whole boiling will be dismissed from office. Now, Sir, as I am averse to being baited in this manner, I would suggest that those parents who have grievances wend their way to the Renwick schoolhouse on Monday evening next, when the Committee will be happy to hear and consider any lawful grievances brought before them. Parents, householders, and guardians put the Committee in office, not the Education Board. I am, etc., Committeeman.

13th August 1895 RAVENSCLIFF. The appointment of Miss Tissiman as teacher was confirmed. Ella Harriett Born 1874

26th November 1895 Messrs G. Houldsworth, Chairman of the Omaka Road Board, A. J. Litchfield member of the Board, A. McLaughlin, farmer, W. Ching, farmer and carter, and W. ***Tissiman,*** *law clerk, living at Renwicktown, gave evidence as to the road' where the stakes were lying being quite safe to take a horse along-, This would be a reference to William Tissiman Junior*

1896

1896	70	Renwick	Tissiman	William	D1	Head Master	£	190.00

1896 70 Renwick Williams Alice E3 Assistant Female £ 75.00

12th February 1896 Inspector Smith's report of principal schools

as follows :—

School.	Presented.	Present.	Passed.
Blenheim ..	434	246	225
Blenheim Girls..	186	169	159
Picton ..	198	123	112
Grovetown ..	141	102	88
Springlands ..	131	69	66
Renwick ..	102	62	53
Havelock ..	100	68	60
Canvastown ..	75	52	44
Okaramio ..	75	54	36
Tua Marina ..	70	55	45
Waitohi ..	65	47	42
Fairhall ..	52	35	26

9th June 1896 RENWICKTOWN. Messrs Munro and Coward, as a deputation appointed by the School Committee, waited upon the Board, and represented that a new school was urgently required at Renwicktown. Neither Mr Tissiman nor Miss Williams, the teachers, had sufficient accommodation, and at the request of the Committee eight children were being kept away until some provision had been made. It would be better economy to erect a new building than to add to the present building, which was the oldest in the district. The roll number of the school was 107, and the average attendance 82. - The architect reported on the matter of additional accommodation, and concurred with the Committee's deputation as to the dilapidation of the present building. On the motion of Mr Buick, it was resolved to call for tenders for the removal of the old school building, and to instruct the architect to prepare plans for a new building

31st July 1896 Tenders are again invited by the Marlborough Education Board, dosing on Monday next, for the purchase of the old school buildings at Renwick.

11th August 1896 OLD RENWICK SCHOOL. One tender was received for the school building at Renwicktown, but it was resolved not to open it, and to defer consideration of the matter of selling the building, it being suggested that the Board should retain the school for teaching purposes pending the erection of the new school. A resolution was also passed that it was desirable to obtain a small piece of ground near the school, and the Secretary was instructed to make enquiries with this end in view.

22nd August 1896 Renwick School —This school was examined last week and the results—as usual were very creditable to both teachers and scholars. Seventy-three candidates had been prepared, of whom four were absent and five failed, leaving 'the number of passes at 64, One girl passed in the Seventh Standard and three boys passed in the Sixth. As this may be the last examination to be held in the old school, we are glad that its walls, which have seen so many victories under the leadership of Mr Tissiman, have witnessed another triumph

24th October 1896 INSULTING LANGUAGE.

Robert J Paul was charged yesterday afternoon, before Mr J. Allen, S.M., with having, on October 17th, at Renwicktown, used provoking and insulting language to Wm. Tissiman wherefore the informant asked that defendant be bound over to keep the peace, Mr Conolly appeared for complainant and Mr McCallum for defendant, who pleaded not guilty. The evidence of complainant, the master of the State school at Renwick, was to the effect that, on the afternoon of the 17th, defendant accosted him in the street, and asked him why he had sent his boy home for money to get a school book. He replied that he did so in accordance with the usual practice. After saying that that statement was untrue Paul questioned witness why he asked at a public meeting the reason a certain person was not present. Witness denied having asked such a question, and then defendant called him names pertaining to the animal creation, and repeatedly said he would slap him in the month." Witness warned him to desist, and finally was allowed to pass on. Defendant appeared to be slightly the worse for liquor, Reuben Watson, a young man, who was working a few yards away while the affair was going on, corroborated complainant's evidence. Defendant said he was a carter. Ha protested to complainant against his action in sending his child away during school hours to get the price of a two penny book," and told him that he should treat all scholars alike Complainant said "You're drunk." Witness said he was not drunk. He had had only two glasses, and retorted You are the drunkest of the two." He took complainant to be drunk. He also took exception to complainant's insinuation, at a meeting, against the official of a public body. He denied using the alleged language. w. 'Watson, wheelwright,, said he was working with Paul shortly before the affair, and noticed that he had a little "stagger- juice," but knew what he was about. Defendant, recalled, admitted that lie told complainant before parting from him that if he thought he would summons him he would smack him in the face. Cross examined After complainant had laid the information against him he went to the police and informed them that he (Tissiman) had been seen drinking in a public house while prohibited. His Worship convicted defendant, and ordered that he be bound over to keep the peace for six months in two sureties (one personal) of £10 each.

24th October 1896 LIQUOR PROHIBITION CASE.

At the S.M. Court yesterday afternoon (before Mr J. Allen, S M.,) William Tissiman was charged with having, on October 5th, - while a prohibited person, entered the licensed of Mr Shaw, at Renwicktown, Mir Conolly appeared for defendant, who pleaded not guilty. Sergt. Moller said that defendant had made the admission to him of having entered the hotel, but said he had gone there for the purpose of visiting his relatives. He did not wish to lay frivolous charges. He wished it to b 9 known that prohibited persons could not enter a hotel. Mr Conolly said he -wished to make a few remarks before the hearing of the case proceeded. There was so doubt that a technical offence had been committed. But he did not think the Act was meant to have such, an application to cases in which the prohibited person had relations living at the hotel. The facts of this particular, case were these Mrs Tissiman and Mrs Shaw were sisters, and the children of the latter were therefore nephews and nieces of defendant. For years the families had been in the habit of exchanging visits. The offence consisted of this That Mr Tissiman on this occasion visited his niece at the hotel. Instead of going round the private part of the premised he walked through one of the front doors, and, without stopping an instant, walked down the passage to the private rooms. The private and public parts of a hotel were' entirely different. It was very hard indeed if a person were not permitted to visit a relative, Mr Tissiman was a highly respected schoolmaster, and it was important to him that he could clear himself in the eyes of the public. Mr Tissiman himself asked for the prohibition order. It was necessary that some evidence should be given before the order could be granted^ and it was arranged that Mrs Tissiman should formally apply for it. Since then Mr Tissiman had never touched a drop of drink. The licensee of the hotel would say that defendant had never asked for or obtained liquor. The information was laid by the defendant

in the previous case, who, on hearing that Mr Tissiman had summoned him for abusive language went to the police in a miserable manner and informed them that Mr Tissiman had been seen passing through the hotel, Counsel called R. Paul, who said, in. the course of his evidence that he would not have laid the information but for defendant having summoned him, To Sergt. Moller When he saw defendant in the hotel the latter was quite sober. Defendant corroborated counsel's statements. His Worship said that he was quite willing to believe that Mr Tissiman had acted up to the order. The offence was technical. Mr Tissiman's case was a very hard one. The law provided that no part of a hotel could be entered by a prohibited person. The interpretation of "licensed premises" was very wide, and included everything. He could not help Mr Tissiman; in any way. He would make the fine as small as possible—ls with 19s costs.

10th November 1896 The following fresh tenders were received for the erection of a new school at Renwicktown Jas. McIsaac and Geo. Coward, £417; J. Wemyss & Co., £442; R. Brewer, £475 Bythell & Co., £460 J. Fawcett, £451 6s 6d. The tender of Messrs McIsaac & Coward was accepted. In his report the Architect said the estimate of cost of erecting the school that he submitted in the first place was based on the prices of past contracts, but, as in some instances these prices were not profitable to the contractors, 10 or 15 per cent, might be added on to the estimate. RENWICKTOWN The Secretary said that Mr John Sharp, one of the trustees for the Renwicktown reserve, which the Board has in view as a school site, had written saying that it had been found since last meeting that the property had really been devoted to Government purposes. The Government had been further communicated with on the subject

16th December 1896 RENWICKTOWN. With regard to the Renwicktown school site it was resolved to ask the Land Board to recommend the authorities to hand over to the Education Board a portion of the Government reserve, and that the Secretary, "with the Committee, at once select the site for the building.

1897

1897	86	Renwick	Tissiman	William	D1	Head Master	£	190.00
1897	86	Renwick	Williams	A M R	E3	Assistant Female	£	80.00

20th January 1897 A portion of the reserve for public buildings at Renwicktown is to be vested in the Education Board as a school site. The Land Board agreed yesterday to have a conveyance prepared

10th March 1897 RENWICK. Mr Tissiman, teacher, wrote asking that, in consideration of his long service and the success of his teaching as evidenced by examination results, the Board increase his salary. It was resolved' to reply that, while the Board fully recognised Mr Tissiman's abilities, his long service, and excellent records, it would point out that his salary already reached a higher place on the scale in existence than conformity to the size of the school demanded, that concession having been allowed when the regulations were framed; and that, in any case, the regulations would not permit of an advance. It was also resolved to reply in the latter terms to the application made by the assistant lady teacher for an increase of salary

8th May 1897 Renwicktown School Concert, The Oddfellow's Hall was crowded last night to bear the concert given by the school children in aid of the library fund. As nearly every item on the programme was encored, it is needless to say that the concert was a decided success. The rounds in the first part of the entertainment were well and tunefully performed, the enunciation was dear, and the expression very good. The best were, "The Bell doth Toll" and

Cook-a-doodle-do." The last was an original composition of the Head Master, and took immensely. Perhaps the best feature of the concert was the Fan Drill, by sixteen of the younger children. The drill was perfect, and Misa Williams is to be congratulated on the result of her efforts. The second part of the programme consisted of solos, glees, and action songs. Some Folks to do the solos were taken by Misses Ryan, Tapp, Vorbach and Brydon and the youthful soloists did their work well. Little Sister" was very nicely done, and the bolo part taken by Misses Eraser, Barry, and Brydon was a creditable performance. Drummer Boy," an action song, with red white and blue flags, had a very good effect. "The Skater's Song," "Fire Brigade," and Forest Echoes" were also well rendered. Before singing the Good Night" round, Mr Tissiman thanked the audience for their attendance, and he stated that now they would be able to start the library; and considering the numerous colds, he thought the children had done very well. This was greeted with rounds of applause. By special request "The Bell doth tell" and the "Fan Drill" were repeated. Everyone present was delighted with the concert, and a short dance was held after the concert. Miss Dempsey acted as a capable accompanist

12th October 1897 The following tenders were received for the erection of a fence round the Renwicktown school Wm. Tapp £25, D. Munro £28, G. Coward £25 (accepted)," Nicoll Bros. £85 15s. Two of the tenders being equal, the question was decided by lot, and the name of G. Coward was drawn

26th October 1897 The Surveyor General wrote stating that part of section 163, Omaka, Renwicktown, had been permanently reserved for a public school site.

1898

1898	90	Renwick	Tissiman	William	D1	Head Master	£	190.00
1898	90	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Assistant Female	£	80.00

16th February 1898 The Committee of the Renwicktown School wrote asking that the verandah be asphalted. The matter was left in hands of architect

16th February 1898 Inspector's Report included that Renwick school was in the 2nd group of 7 schools as "done well" There were 7 in the Very Good group above Renwick

13th April 1898 Mr W. Tissiman writes to us as follows A statement is being industriously circulated here that I wrote a letter signed Back a Book finding fault with the Renwick Post Office. I never wrote the letter, nor did I know of its existence in any way until I saw it printed in the Express. In justice to Mr Tissiman, who is schoolmaster at Renwick, it is only fair to say that his denial is perfectly correct.

5th May 1898 Social at Renwick.--" Madge" sends us the following On Monday evening Mr Tissiman gave an evening party to about 60 of his young friends, in the old schoolroom, the occasion being the celebration of his 57th birthday, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, cards, games and dancing being indulged in. The schoolroom had been beautifully decorated by the Misses Tissiman, and with the bright dresses of the ladies the scene was very effective. Mr and Mrs and the Misses Nina and Zoe Tissiman were assiduous in their duties to their guests, and the supper was excellent. During the evening the guests took the opportunity to present Mr Tissiman with a token of their esteem, in the form of a handsome writing desk, and the following illuminated address: "Fugit Hora. To W. Tissiman Esq. -In wishing you many happy returns, please accept on the occasion of your 57th birthday, this small token of regard and esteem from a few of your many friends in the Marlborough district, also aa a mark of high appreciation of your abilities as a teacher , more especially in the Renwick

school. We sincerely hope you will [enjoy the same good health and success in the future as you have in the past 25 years."
Mr Andrews was deputed by the old scholars, and in a few well-chosen words, calling Mr Tissiman before his guests, referred to his abilities as a teacher in flattering terms, and made the presentation, which was handed to him by the tiniest girl in the room— Dorothy Thorpe. Mr Tissiman replied in a short but very feeling manner, thanking his guests for their kindly thought, and hoping they would always reserve a warm spot in his recollection. The address was illuminated most tastefully by Mr A. J. Stratford, of Blenheim. One and all agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable socials ever held in Renwick. Songs were contributed by Mr Tissiman, and Miss L. Stratford Mrs Andrews playing the accompaniments and the dance music in her usual efficient manner, assisted by Misses Fairhall and Dempsey. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a most enjoyable evening to a dose.
13th September 1898 RENWICK. The Committee wrote forwarding the resignation of Mr Tissiman as head teacher, with three months' notice. The resignation was accepted with regret, and the Board passed a resolution placing on record its high appreciation of Mr Tissiman's services, extending over many years- a quarter of a century" said one member
It was resolved to call for applications for the vacancy at once, in accordance with the Committee's request.
4th October 1898 RENWICKTOWN. A letter was received from the Committee saying they had learned with regret that a petition had been circulated in the district and had been numerously signed, praying that the services of Mr Tissiman be retained as head teacher of the Renwick school.., Should such petition be presented to the .Board, the Committee prayed that they might be consulted before the Board arrived at a decision, and stated they were prepared to place substantial reasons before the Board as to why the services of Mr Tissiman should not be retained in this school. A petition was received, signed by 44 householders and residents of Renwick, stating that they had learned with the greatest regret of the resignation of Mr Tissiman, their old and well-loved teacher. They truly said our" because many of the fathers and mothers had been taught by him themselves, during the; first years after he came to Renwick. They earnestly asked that Mr Tissiman be allowed to withdraw his resignation, for they were extremely unwilling to part with one whom they knew so well as a teacher and esteemed so much as a townsman. They affixed to their names the number of children they individually had at school, with the number yet to be educated. The parents whose names appeared represented 105 children, it was stated that the roll number was 122. Mr Tissiman said. that late last night he was shown the petition. Although it had been got up in a hurry, through its promoters not knowing that the Board's meeting was to be held a week earlier than usual, it was so largely and so influentially signed, that, to him, it expressed unmistakeably the wishes of a large majority of those whose children were under his care, as well as those who would soon be of school age. He was quite willing to place himself in the hands of the Board, and, if it were allowable that his resignation might be withdrawn, and the Board agreed to that course, he would withdraw it. He had every confidence in his ability (with fair chances given him) to lead the Renwick school on to more, of those victories by which it had been made famous. The Board decided to refer the petition to the School Committee , whose reply is expected for next meeting of the Board,
15th November 1898 After considering the matter in committee, the Board decided to adhere to its resolution with regard to the Renwick school. The committee recommended the

appointment of Mr D, McLennan, Woodville, as teacher, vice Mr Tissiman, resigned, and this recommendation was adopted

16th November 1898 A Novelty.— One of the applicants for the Renwick teachership enclosed his photograph with his testimonial. The idea was commended by the Education' Board.

16th November 1898 RENWICKTOWN. Matters affecting the Renwick school were considered in Committee at some length. On resuming, it was reported that the Committee had resolved to abide by the resolution of the September meeting with reference to the resignation of Mr Tissiman, teacher. The Chairman and two other members of the Committee, who awaited the pleasure of the Board, were called in and informed of the Board's decision. The Committee recommended that Mr Duncan McLennan (D 4), master of a Woodville school, be appointed teacher at Renwicktown in succession to Mr Tissiman. The second choice was Mr D. Cosgrove (D 1) of Westport. The applications received numbered 21. A sab-Committee consisting of the town members was deputed to appoint Mr McLennan on receiving the usual testimonial as to character

21st December 1898 SOCIAL.

A FAREWELL SOCIAL to Mr Tissiman will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Renwick, on Boxing Night, MONDAY, 26th. Gents, 2s Ladies free.

24th December 1898 Furniture Sale,— On Thursday next at 2 p.m. Mr W. E. Green will sell at Renwick, at the residence of Mr W. Tissiman, who is leaving the district, the whole of his furniture and effects.

28th December 1898 Social at Renwick.— A farewell social was given to Mr and Mrs Tissiman and family on Monday evening, Mrs Brydon, senior, being the chief mover. A great many were present, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, The supper was managed by Mrs John Brydon, assisted by a number of lady friends and, needless to say, everyone was well attended to. The music was supplied by Mrs Andrews, assisted by Miss D. Williams, Miss D. Dempsey, and Miss and Master Brydon. Immediately after supper Mr F, Goff, who made a capable M.C., asked those who were present to kindly give their attention for a few minutes. Mr and Mrs Tissiman were then asked to come forward, when Miss Joan Brydon read a short address to them, and Mrs Brydon, senior, handed to Mr Tissiman a handsome dressing-case, and to Mrs Tissiman a beautiful floral album. Mr Tissiman replied in suitable terms, thanking the people for their kindly thought. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

1868/7832	Mary Louisa	James	William	Tissiman

1869/21211	Tissiman	Lillian	Mary Louisa	William
1870/22768	Tissiman	Minnie Eliza Mary	Mary Louisa	William
1872/23452	Tissiman	Ida Harrietta	Mary Louisa	William
1874/43758	Tissiman	Ella Harriett	Mary Louisa	William
1877/15594	Tissiman	William	Mary Louisa	William
1878/16895	Tissiman	Nina Maud	Mary Louisa	William
1880/13948	Tissiman	Zoe Mabel	Mary Louisa	William

Ida Harrietta's death is recorded as 3 weeks old died as Ida Harriett Tisseman

1891/702	Minnie Eliza Mary	Tissiman	Charles Edward	Chittenden

1891/2371	Lilian Jane	Tissiman	Walter	Elliott
1902/2889	Zoe Mabel	Tissiman	Thomas	Rogers
1904/3164	Nina Maud	Tissiman	James Andrew	Dailey
1899/1340	Ella Harriet	Tissiman	Joseph Atwill	Prince

1901/3752	Tissiman	Mary Louisa	60Y
1909/2820	Tissiman	William	68Y

1861 William was a schoolteacher at Scarborough in Yorkshire

Harriett is sister was aged 15 and a school teacher

4th October 1863 William Tissiman arrives in Auckland arrived as a cabin passenger on the Ida Zeigler after a 92 day journey

10th October 1863 William Tissiman was at the Auckland Provincial Council with a Private grievance

30th January 1864 Playing cricket in Auckland

27th September 1864 Secretary of Auckland Cricket Club

16th May 1865 In Magistrate's Court giving evidence as the Bank pf New Zealand ledger keeper

25th October 1865 New Member of the West End Cricket Club

25th November 1865 Giving Readings at the Literary Association in Auckland

12th October 1866 Still giving readings at Literary society

4th February 1867 Playing re Cricket for Wellington against Nelson

16th May 1867 on Wellington Athenaeum Committee

No Marlborough papers on Papers Past for a period of time

11th January 1873 MRS. OLD (late of Ballarat), will take a limited number of Young LADY PUPILS, commencing on Monday, the 20th instant, in the School formerly occupied by Mr Tissiman, Alfred-street. Terms One Guinea per quarter. Grammar, with Parsing and 4 Analysis Geography, with the use of Maps; His- tory, Dictation, Writing, Arithmetic.

18th January 1873 Resolved That Mr Tissiman be appointed Clerk to the Board, at a salary of -£20 per annum. Wairau County Council

Mr Tissiman's appointment as, teacher of the Renwick School was confirmed. Wairau Education Board

8th February 1873 As most of our readers are aware, some effort has been made to nil the vacancy occasioned by the departure of Mr Tissiman, and for which purpose an advertisement appeared in our columns. "We are able to state that a reply has been received from, a- gentleman of the name of Carron accompanied by very high testimonials as to character and ability from Bishop Selwyn and others, including the Rev. Dr Kidd, Head Master of Auckland Grammar School, and H. H. Lusk, Esq., Provincial Secretary for that Province. Those persons who desire to give their sons a higher class of 'education than that afforded by the Borough School will doubtless find this an opportunity worthy of their consideration. The testimonials may be seen at our office.

24th October 1874 BIRTH.

On October 23, at Renwicktown, the wife of Mr Tissiman, schoolmaster, of a daughter.

19th April 1874 Still Secretary Omaka Road Board *The names kept changing*

6th January 1899 ACCOUNTS. ALL Accounts owing by Mr W. **Tissiman,** of Renwick, will be settled up to WEDNESDAY, 11th inst., by MESSRS GREEN & CO., Auctioneers

DEPARTURES. Jan 5— Opawa steamship, 60 tons, Eckford, for Wellington Passengers Misses Tissiman (2), Mesdames Tissiman, Weyburn, O'Leary and Clarke, Messrs Tissiman (2), North, Weyburne (2), Smith and Griffin
Went to Hawera
On 1900 Electoral Roll Mary Louisa, Nina Maude, William Bowler were at Hawera. William Tissiman was on o electoral roll
31st July 1901 TISSIMAN.— July 29, 1901, at King-street, Newmarket, Auckland. Mary Louisa Tissiman. of Otakeho Taranaki, in her 60th year. Hawera and Blenheim papers please copy.
3rd August 1901 TISSIMAN.-On July 29, 1901, at King street, Newmarket, Auckland, Mary Louisa Tissiman, of Otakeho, Taranaki, in her 60th year.
30th March 1903 The old pupils of Mr W. Tissiman, who was master of the Renwick school for 23 years, have combined for the purpose of presenting to the friend of their youth a testimonial expressive of their esteem and their appreciation of his long association with the school. The ceremony takes place at Renwicktown this week. The length of Mr Tissiman's connection with the school, the mastership of which he resigned a few years ago, forms a record for the Marlborough district
28th December 1903 TENDERS are invited for purchase of freehold first class farm of about 20 ½ acres Tenders are invited for purchase of freehold first- class farm of about 20 ½ acres being parts of Section 94," Block V., Waimate Survey District, The property of the Late Mrs M. L. Tissiman, deceased. Tenders to be accompanied with cash deposit of 10 per cent, balance payable on 8th February, 1904. Tenders close at one o'clock p.m. Monday, 9th January, 1904. Tenders to be addressed to and further particulars from W. B. TISSIMAN, Otakeho. Or H. HALLIWELL, Solicitor, Hawera.
23rd June 1909 MR WILLIAM TISSIMAN.
There died at New Plymouth on Monday night, at an advanced age, a very old. Marlborough identity in the person of. Mr William Tissiman. Late.. In the sixties Mr **Tissiman** conducted a private school in Blenheim, between High and Alfred Streets, nearly opposite the .Wesley Church., The: building has long ago been demolished. Among, his pupils were Messrs 'McCallum (3), F. B. Farmar, Bary, Budge (Hawera), and T. Mowat (Hunterville). Early in the seventies. **Mr Tissiman** was appointed, under the Marlborough Education Board, as head teacher at Renwicktown. This appointment he held for a space of 27 years, after which long service he was compelled through ill-health to resign:.
He then went to the North Island,. where he resided for many years with his married daughters, of whom he had three. He had also one son, who is also married. His wife died many years, ago in Auckland. He finally went to New Plymouth, where .he resided up to the time of, his death.':
Mr Tissiman, although, he never aspired to high educational honors was considered one of the best grounding teachers in Marlborough. -;When the Nelson Education Board offered a. yearly free place by examination ;to scholars in the Marlborough district for two years in succession the free place at Nelson College was won by pupils of Mr Tissiman. The first two- were Messrs R. D. McIver, now a solicitor at-Kaikoura and Mr K McIver, of this town. Mr Robert McCallum really won the,. Examination in the second year, but was over age, and the award went Mr K McIver,, who was next in place
Mr Tissiman was .well-known in Marlborough as a genial man and an honest teacher, and his. old pupils always kept a warm spot in their hearts for their old time teacher

19th July 1909 There lately died in the New Plymouth Hospital an inmate of the Old People's Home who at one time had been prominent in educational matters in Marlborough. This was Mr. William Tissiman, who was for 27 years headmaster of the Renwick School, Marlborough, and who was 68 years old at the time of his death. On learning that Mr. Tissiman was in the institution, an old pupil of his acting tor several others, wrote to the Taranaki Hospital and Charitable Aid Board expressing their desire to make their old master's lot a little happier by means of small luxuries. Before a reply could be sent to this letter, however, Mr. Tissiman died. He was buried in the board's plot in the cemetery, but the cost of the funeral was paid by his relatives. His former pupils now desire to raise a modest memorial stone above his grave, and the matter came before the Board at its meeting to-day. The board, which places a small tablet of a uniform design above the graves in this plot, was of the opinion that a stone such as that proposed would spoil the>appearance of the plot, and it was decided to write to the ex-pupils to that effect. It was suggested that a more appropriate memorial would be a couple of seats for the hospital, with memorial tablets

29th July 1909 IN MEMORIAM. TISSIMAN. In loving memory of Mary Louisa Tissiman, who departed this life July 29, 1901, at Newmarket, Auckland. Inserted by her daughters, E. N., Z.

20th July 1909 AN EX-SCHOOLMASTER'S MEMORY. One of those little incidents which throw a warm glow upon the daily round of life has just occurred in connection with the passing of Mi. William Tissiman, an inmate of the Old People's Home at the New Plymouth Hospital recently. On the day before Mr. Tissiman's 'death the secretary of the hospital Board, received the' following letter from Mr. Kenneth McIver, of Blenheim: "It has come to my knowledge that Mr. W. Tissiman is in your Home. I have seen several of his old scholars amongst whom I count myself, they have asked me to write and ascertain whether the old fellow wants anything. He is too proud to write direct."

(Mr. Lepper showed the letter to the old gentleman, and he, was much touched by this sentiment from those who had been boys at his school. He wrote a reply, and Mr. Lepper also undertook to write. Next day, however, he was gone, and it fell to the secretary to telegraph news of this to Mr. McIver. Back came the wire: "Provide a decent funeral; and send account to me."

Once again, then, was the desire of the "old boys" thwarted, for Mr. Tissiman's own relatives undertook this. Mr, McIver has now written that many of Mr. Tissiman's old scholars were desirous of erecting a tablet over the grave, and asked Mr. Lepper to obtain quotations from local monumental masons for n slab bearing the following inscription: "In memory of William Tissiman, obit 21st June, 1909 at 68 years. Born at Scarborough England. died at New Plymouth. Erected by his pupils at Renwick school, Marlborough, where for 27 years he laboured.

The chairman said he had not seen his way to accede to the request. He pointed out that the Board had set aside a plot in the cemetery for the interment of inmates dying in the Home, and had provided for a uniform tablet over each grave. A tombstone such as this gentleman proposed would look entirely out of .place there. Messrs McDonald and Hill expressed regret that such a commendable desire should be thwarted. The secretary remarked that Mr. Tissiman's son and son-in-law had been here at the funeral, and had been refused permission to erect a memorial other than that approved by the Board. There were two alternatives. The body could be moved into another part of the cemetery and the memorial erected there: or Mr. Tissiman's old scholars could donate, say, a couple of memorial seats for the hospital grounds. It was decided that the secretary should write explaining the position to Mr. McIver.

1899

1899	117	Renwick	Leslie	David Ernest	D1	Head Master	£	189.15
1899	117	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Assistant Female	£	85.00
1899	117	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		Female Probationer	£	12.00

David Ernest Leslie came to Renwick from Napier School where he was an assistant earning £147

1873/31046 Leslie David Ernest Mary Ann David

14th February 1899 RENWICK. A letter was received from the Committee asking that the interior of the teacher's residence be renovated, that a cooking range be supplied, and that the question oi establishing a water supply for the school and house be taken into consideration. The matters were referred to the Architect for a report. The teacher wrote as to the necessity of providing new maps, the old ones being out of date, and also charts of animals, globe, etc. The Secretary was instructed to send to England for a number of sets of picture cards and supply them to the principal schools, including Renwick. He stated that new maps had been supplied to the Renwick school

22nd February 1899 The school picnic last week was a great success, and much credit is due to Miss Williams and Mr J. Bary, the energetic secretaries; The school children made a great show with their twenty or thirty flags flying in the procession. Their banner, Advance Renwick, took the townspeople by storm. The school is doing splendidly under the new management, and Mr D. E. Leslie is to be commended upon its marked improvement The average attendance has increased from 75 to 3 112 pupils— a record attendance for Renwick Callisthenic drill to the girls, and dumb bell drill to the boys have been introduced with much success. Mr Leslie's efforts are ably second d by Miss Williams. It is pleasing to note that the teachers have met with every encouragement k from the School Committee and Education Board.

A meeting was held in the schoolroom last evening to receive the report and balance sheet in connection with the school picnic. Mr A Q. Mills occupied the chair. The balance sheets showed the receipts to total £17 7s, the expenditure £13 6s leaving a credit balance of £1 1s to stand over till next year. Votes of thanks were passed to those who had assisted, special reference being made to the work of the secretaries, the treasurer (Mr R. Bryan), the handicapper (Mr Houldsworth), the starter (Mr Leslie), and the judges (Messrs G. Bary and J. Brydon).

1st March 1899 Mr W. Marple, teacher of shorthand under the Education Board, meets with fair encouragement here, about twenty pupils availing themselves of the tuition thus offered. The examiners appointed by the Board will test the ability of the pupils about the end of March

2nd March 1899 Report of Inspector of 1898 Examination. Renwick 46 examined, 29 passed 12 represented *(Represented meant after passing one standard then sat for the next Standard.)*

Okaramio 38,32,3. Canvastown, 38, 34,5

11th March 1899 Renwick. The supply of four desks and two easels was authorised. The Architect reported on the necessary repairs and water supply at the Renwick School. The matter was left in the hands of Mr Carter to report.

19th April 1899 No nominations were received by 9 the Secretary of the School Committee. up to last night for the election of members to serve on that body for the forthcoming year. It is understood, however, that the following B members of the old committee have r consented

to be nominated on the t evening of the election Messrs Alf. Mills, Jordan, Coward, Munro, J. Brydon, and Tapp. There is no possibility of these gentlemen being returned unopposed, which would be desirable, as the proceedings next Monday night will be more interesting than was at first supposed.

4th May 1899 The School Committee met on Monday evening, when there were present Messrs Mills (chairman), Munro, Coward, Tapp, F. Fraser, Jordan and Brydon. The Visiting Committee suggested that the school yard be filled in, that a maypole be erected in the old school for the benefit of the girls, and that the- Board be again urged to put the school residence in repair. Resolutions embodying these suggestions were carried. The headmaster re- ported the average attendance for the month to be 124, and applied for certain necessaries, which were granted.

13th May 1899 Recently the Inspector, Mr J. Smith, paid a surprise visit to the Renwick school, and his report was read at the last meeting of the School Committee. That the methods and quality of the instruction followed by the present teachers, as well as' the order and discipline of the school with respect to diligence, alacrity and obedience, have met with the entire approval of the Inspector is certain; Of the former he writes, very intelligent and educative," and of the latter" excellent." In concluding the report Mr Smith writes:— "A great change in the internal aspect of the school has been effected. Pleasant pictures and other ornaments, mantel drapes, etc., give the rooms a bright and cheerful appearance. Other novelties have been introduced by the teacher, all of which have a tendency to increase the attractiveness while improving the discipline and general tone of the school."

22nd July 1899 Yesterday, being Arbor Day, was made the occasion of tree planting at the Renwick school. All the morning the Committee, teachers and children were busily engaged in setting Macrocarpa trees round the school fence. Should the trees grow a hedge kept well-trimmed to the height of the fence would be a distinct improvement to the present bare appearance of the school grounds. I understand that Mr D. Munro, a member of the Committee, spent a day and a half in preparing the trenches for the children to plant their trees. But this is only one example to show the lively interest the Renwick Committee (and this gentleman in particular) take in their schools Whilst on school matters, I have much pleasure in taking this opportunity of congratulating Miss Minnie Brydon upon her appointment to the position of pupil teacher

7th September 1899 The Inspector of Schools, Mr J. Smith, has been examining the Renwick school during the last two days. The return showed that 138 pupils were present at the examination. This is a record for Renwick. Not one pupil was absent. Of these, 48 pupils were in the preparatory Glasses leaving 90 pupils in the standards. I understand that Mr Smith was very pleased with the work shown. and made special mention of singing, and drill. The Inspector's report will be submitted to the committee in the course of a few days

20th November 1899 RENWICK SCHOOL CONCERT.

There was a large attendance again on Saturday night in the Oddfellow’s Hall, Renwick , on the occasion of the school children's entertainment. That the programme met with the greatest approval was evident from the long and continued applause which greeted almost every item. The programme commenced by a prologue capitally and very clearly delivered by a mite of six summers, Miss Sid Shaw Then followed such juvenile efforts in songs as "Nursery Rhymes," Buzz Fuzz (in which Master W. Haines took the solo part), A Donkey's Lullaby (which met with a great reception) and a solo and chorus, The Musicians by Master G. Hounsell. this little fellow appeared in several characters throughout the evening and in each fulfilled his part splendidly. A recitation entitled "My Ma, she Knows," by Master J. Branton

was capitally said, the usual dreary monotone of a school boy's recitation being entirely absent. A pretty little duet, Busy Little Mother," in which the soloists were seated round a diminutive afternoon tea table, was now sung by Misses M. Waters and A. Brooks. Vocal waltz, Sea Saw," (with action) was the next item and Miss J. Munro and Master R. Fraser, assisted by Sambo, kept good time on their sea-saw as the infants sang their pretty chorus. A decided encore was scored for the action song, "Tommy's Army," and the accompanying drill of eight "Grenadiers" was much admired. A sword contest between a party of Boers and English now occupied the stage. The Beers being vanquished, Oom Paul (Master C. Waters) met John Bull (Master Strickland) and after being “dropped” was taken prisoner. The boys performed their parts well. A funnyism "The Cobbler and the Tailor," in which Masters W. Herbert and J. Branton took the characters, evoked roars of laughter from those in front. Eight little girls dressed in sweetly pretty white costumes, as fairies, now danced on to the stage bearing garlands of flowers outlining their faces. They looked and danced in a truly fairylike fashion and the curtain fell upon rounds of applause. It would be well to mention here that perhaps the greatest success of the concert lay in not only its novelty, but in the great variety of its programme. The teachers must have gone to great trouble to arrange such an entertainment. During the interval Miss Eva Ball played selections from the opera, A French Maid" in skilful manner. The second part of the programme, provided by the senior pupils, opened with a chorus "Hail, Britannia!" the curtain being rung up on a pretty tableau of a triple throne, the centre figure, Britannia, being taken by Miss J. Watson. Throughout the concert, this performer said her lines in a clear and dramatic manner. After the solo, The Triple Throne," very nicely sung by Miss P. Brydon, Scotia (Miss J. Jordan), and Erin (Miss M. Ryan), with their attendants appeared, and introduced themselves in happily-chosen lines. The Queens, and indeed all the characters, were appropriately and well dressed. A Merry March by Misses A. Bary and K. Ryan and a recitation "For Her Bake," delivered by Scotia in a splendid manner followed. A lieutenant (Mr D. E. Leslie) accompanied by a number of sailors now appeared, and Mr Leslie sang Britannia's Sons and scored an enthusiastic encore. The accompanying march by the chorus was very effective. But it would be hard to state which item pleased most. The darkies (Masters B. Tapp, Eves, and H. Andrews) provoked roars of laughter with their song, dance and local hits. After the march past the Queens, a chorus, The Cornstalks," was sung. A. squad of eight lads now performed about twenty dumb-bell exercises with such precision that the encore which followed was a natural consequence. These exercises showed that the physical development of the Renwick schoolboys receives full attention. A quartette, Fisher Girls," by Misses R. Paul, 0. Haines, M. Munro, and P. Brydon, was sung very sweetly, the voices of the four girls blending admirably. Master A. Brooks recited A Mutineer," very dramatically. Masters H. Hounsell, P. Branton, and H. Herbert, made capital Chinamen, the first-named singing a solo. The weight-lifting by the Chinamen and the dialogue with the niggers was very funny, the entrance of a mite, Miss K. Brydon, who ran away with the apparently very heavy weights, proving a climax. A chorus "Federation," was sung in good time and tune. Indeed, throughout the concert, the choruses showed the greatest evidence of diligent preparation. Masters J. Branton and A. Jordan as a clown and nigger (Sambo) respectively rode hobbyhorses as Volunteers for the Transvaal," and their antics and the manner in which they cleared the stage of Boers provoked roars of laughter. A may-pole dance by sailors and lasses, and a medley Patriotism," (a pretty stage effect) closed a, concert which is unhesitatingly recognised as the best ever given in Renwick. The two concerts were held to raise funds for the school organ and prize funds, and the result must have been gratifying to all concerned. We congratulate the staff of the Renwick school upon the able manner in which the children were trained.

9th December 1899 The School Committee hold a special mating on Saturday evening, when natters of importance will be discussed. The net proceeds from the We school concerts, in aid

of the school organ fund, amount to £20 03 4d. With the subsidy usually granted by the Education Board, the committee should be in a position to purchase a really first-class instrument for the school. The school holidays will be fixed at this meeting, and probably the summer vacation will commence in a fortnight's time

20th December 1899 It is understood that the majority of the School Committees in the district have fixed the length of the summer holidays as six weeks. The Springlands and Renwick Schools will be closed for this period. The Tua Marina Committee, however, taking its cue from the Blenheim body, has gone as low as three weeks.

1900

1900	112	Renwick	Leslie	David Ernest	D1	Head Master	£	193.80
1900	112	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1900	112	Renwick	Bary	Edward		Male Probationer	£	20.00
1900	112	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		Female Probationer	£	12.00

v16th February 1900 The School Committee met on Saturday evening last, when there were present— Messrs Tapp (in the chair), Munro, Fraser, and J. Brydon. It was stated that in the infant room there were 82 children, and only desk accommodation for 60. It was decided to apply to the Education Board for four additional desks. The Headmaster recommended that, as the increased attendance warranted the appointment of a second pupil teacher, Master Edward Bary be suggested to the Education Board for the position. After several minor matters had survived attention, the Committee adjourned.

Quiet as our township seems to the traveller passing through, it must have seemed quieter yesterday. The tradesmen all closed their places of business at 11 O'clock, for it was the occasion o! the annual people's picnic The children assembled at the school at 10 o'clock, and under the charge of their teachers marched through the town singing patriotic songs. They looked very happy with their bright flags flying in the procession, and they seemed bent on having a pleasant outing, despite the threatening clouds. Arrived at the picnic ground (a paddock kindly granted by Mr Fleming at the back of the township) and dismissed, they were soon engaged in various games. The paddock is an ideal picnic ground, sheltered it is on three sides by graceful weeping willows. By three o'clock quite a large number, of adults reinforced those already on the ground, and the scene was one of great gaiety. Cricket, foot races, rounders, baseball, the charms of Aunt Sally, football-and all being carried on at one and the same time— were the diversities of the day, to say nothing of the numerous lolly scrambles. At 8.30 p.m. a heavy shower of rain fell, and the games were stopped for a while, but upon the rain slackening sports were renewed with vigour. It had been decided to distribute the attendance prizes won last year by the children attending' the Renwick School. But the School Committee met on the ground and decided that it would not be advisable to distribute them on account of the rain. The children, however, were got together, and they sang several songs to the evident enjoyment of all.

The headmaster then read the list of those who, by their regular attendance, had won prizes. The prizes were divided into three classes— first, those who had been present the whole year or who had not missed more than one half day second, those who had not. missed more than four half days third, those who bad not missed more than fourteen half days. Sickness, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, does not count against a child. The really splendid prizes will be distributed at the school on Friday afternoon The following is the prize list First class prizes Martha Brooks, Mabel Tapp, Jane Catley, Frank Hounsell, Moira Munro,

Dorothy Thorpe. Second class prizes Alice Bary, Diana Fraser, Ethel Mille, Even Andrews, George Hounsell, Chas. Brooks, Emily Eves, Chrissie McIsaac Third class prizes Victoria Williams, Beatrice Williams, Phoebe Brydon, Mary Wemyss, James Eves, Percy Catley, Lawrence Gibson, Bernard Tapp, Stanley McIsaac, Annie Fraser, Margaret Haines, Annie Brooks, Bertie Andrews, Jessie Brooks. Since last February two pupil teachers have been appointed to the school . I congratulate Master Edward Bary upon his appointment made by the Board at their Monday's meeting.

Renwick Museum Photo: David Ernest Leslie, Alice Mary Williams in front and Minnie Brydon and Minnie Brydon standing

3rd March 1900 At Renwick yesterday the news of the relief of Ladysmith was the signal for an enthusiastic demonstration. The shops closed, and the schoolchildren were marched through the township singing patriotic songs, and Mr J. Bary brought twelve of the older scholars to town to see the celebrations here (Blenheim)

30th April 1900 Goodwill at Renwick.— Under date April 27th our Renwick correspondent writes Yesterday, Mrs W. Brydon, senior one of the oldest settlers in Marlborough, and who is often affectionately designed the mother of Renwicktown," attained her 81st birthday. As a token of their love and respect for her, the school children here resolved to present the old lady with a handsome easy chair. Mrs Brydon was not well enough to accept an invitation to visit the school in the afternoon, so two representatives from each class, accompanied by Mr Leslie, headmaster of the school, Mr P. Jordan, Chairman of the School Committee, and Mr J Brydon, representing the visiting committee, proceeded to her home at Comely Berk. The presentation was made by the headmaster, who assured Mrs Brydon that the children desired her to know that the gift was their very own; nobody else had helped. He thanked her for the great interest she had always taken in the Renwick School, and concluded with the hope that she would still long be spared to enjoy many happy returns of her birthday. Mrs Brydon, who had been completely taken by surprise, returned thanks to "the dear bairns" (to use her words) for their kindness and then treated all right royally to refreshments. The children afterward sang several songs at Mr Brydon's request

17th May 1900 For some time past the location board have been approached to provide the school with a proper water supply but nothing been done The matter repeatedly brought up by the Renwick School Committee has been deferred by the Board from meeting to meeting. Now the Committee here are so unanimously of opinion that the school should not only be provided with a proper water supply but that the grounds should be thoroughly drained; that it has been decided to bold this special meeting to consider the whole matter

11th June 1900 They (Town Committee) also reported having received an urgent request from the Renwick Committee that an insanitary ground hollow under the school be drained, and having ordered the improvement to be effected at a cost of £14 10s.— The action of the Committee was approved

24th July 1900 BEAUTIFY THE CEMETERY. The trustees of the Renwick cemetery received a generous offer from Mr W Pollard to not only provide labour free of charge to thoroughly clean the cemetery but also to donate a large number of ornamental trees. These trees were to have been planted by the school children on Arbor Day, but the weather was too unfavorable and the school was not closed. This (Friday) afternoon, however, the children were granted a half-holiday, and the work was performed under the supervision of Messrs A. G. Mill, J. Parsons, and the School Teachers. Mr W, Pollard's generosity is highly appreciated by all.

SCHOOL MATTERS. At the last general meeting of the School Committee, the report of the Inspector on his surprise visit to the Renwick School was read. The following is its full text List of Standard classes and teachers:

Standards VII, VI, V, IV, and III, (D. E. Lesley and E Bary) \

Standards II, I. and class P. (Misses A. Williams and M Brydon).

Remarks on the organisation Satisfactory.

Suitability of time tables Judiciously drawn up and carefully observed.

Remarks on the methods and quality of the instruction in general Very good.

Order and discipline and the tone of the school with respect to diligence, alacrity, obedience and honour Excellent .

Supervision in recess: Attended to.

Manners and general behaviour of the pupils Very good.

State of buildings, ground, and fences In good order.

Sufficiency of school accommodation About sufficient.
Cleanliness and tidiness of rooms, including school material and apparatus satisfactory.
Special circumstances affecting the work of the school The school is rendered bright and attractive by the exhibition of pictures and diagrams. Regularity of attendance is much enhanced by the teacher's system of monthly reports to parents, on the attendance of each child. Other topics Registers neatly and correctly kept with the exception of some slight errors in the Ages, and in the column for attendance of each scholar.
This school continues to show evidence of zealous interest in its general condition, on the part of the teachers."
Some weeks past a Renwick parent had been making himself decidedly objectionable to the school staff , and the Committee held a special meeting the other evening to consider a report from the head-master on the matter. Mr C. Jordan occupied the chair, and all the other members (Messer's. Tapp, Brydon (2), J. Bary, A. Shaw, W. Gibson) were present. By invitation, the parent and the teacher were also present, and evidence was given at length. The Committee found that the whole trouble had arisen through the parent objecting to his child being punished for having numerous errors in spelling, although the parent admitted that the punishment had not in any way. been severe. The Committee unanimously peered the following resolutions:— "That the action of the head-master be upheld." That Mr— be written to stating that he had seriously interfered with the tone and discipline of the school, and that he at once send his children to school
Scarlatina , which has been racing "off and on" for six months, is still fairly prevalent.
23rd October 1900 The annual examination of the Renwick school by Inspector J. Smith commences on Thursday next, October 24th. In view of this visit, and in accordance with the new regulation?, the Headmaster has during the past week examined the standards 1 to 5 in the pass subjects. should the pupils acquit themselves in the Inspector's test as satisfactorily as, I understand, they have done in the Headmaster's examination, then the school staff will have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their year's work.
8th November 1900 The Renwick School Committee met last night, when all the members were present, Mr C. Jordan occupying the chair. The principal business of the evening was the consideration of the results of the Inspector's examination, held on November 1st. The headmaster reported that the average attendance for the month was 118, the roll number being 140. The Committee were of the opinion that many parents detained their children needlessly, and passed a resolution instructing the secretary to apply to the Board to appoint the headmaster truant officer for the Renwick district. Several lads under school-age exemption, are kept away at this period of the year fleece picking at the neighboring Stations, and the Committee's attentions will this year be directed towards the enforcing of the attendance of these r offenders. Some correspondence was also instructed to be forwarded to the Board re the old school residence. The Committee then carefully considered the results of the Inspector's examination of all the standards from the first to the seventh. The schedules showed a total of 139 scholars, 91 of whom were in classes. Out of classes 3 to 7 only five pupils failed to pass, making a result of 91 per cent, of passes. The work shown in the junior division was equally praiseworthy, the Inspector making special mention of the singing and the quite novel musical drill. "Your Own" must single out May Gudgeon for special mention, this pupil securing the admirable result of 81 per cent, of the total marks in Standard VI, Lawrence Gibson standing next, on the order of merit. The Committee unanimously passed a

resolution that a letter be forwarded to Mr Leslie conveying most hearty congratulations to himself and staff on the excellent result of their year's work. The meeting then adjourned

19th December 1900 The Renwick School closed for six weeks summer vacation on Wednesday last. The following is a list of the pupils who are entitled to the attendance prizes, which are to be publicly presented during the first week in February. First class prizes Alice Bary, Annie Brooks, Margaret Haines, Dorothy Thorpe, Hilda Ricketts Emily Eves, Charles Brooks, Cyril Gibson. Second-class prizes '.—Connie Ricketts, Noel Andrews, Myrtle Mills, Willie Ricketts, Jessie Brooks, Edith Paul, Willie Haines, Ethel Mills, Laura Mills, Charles Gleeson, Moira Munro. Third-class prizes: Amelia Mills, Alex Haines, Bettie Andrews, George Catley, Adrian Jordan, Sid Shaw, Mary Wemyss, Kathleen Brydon, Horace Andrews, Willie Gleeson, Lawrence Gibson, Neil Forbes. Ab• pence through illness does not count against a pupil's chance of gaining a prize. Mesdames F. J. Smith and W. Brydon, the examiners of the sewing, awarded the first prize (mistress's special) to Ethel Mills, and the second prize (master's special) to May Gudgeon. On the vote of the whole school, the prize awarded for the most, conscientious pupil" fell to Phoebe Brydon, Jessie Jordan, and Edith Brydon stood next in order on the poll. A very pleasing function took place just prior to dismissal. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr C. Jordan (chairman) presented the Head Master with a very handsome butter cooler, which "bore the following inscription Presented, on the occasion of his marriage., to D. E. Leslie, Esq., from the Renwick School Committee— C. Jordan (chairman), W. Tapp, J. Brydon, J. Bary, W. Brydon. W. Gibson, A. Shaw; December 19th, 1900." Mr Jordan stated that the Committee asked Mr Leslie's acceptance of the gift as a

token of appreciation of the won that be (the Head Master) had performed in the school. Mr W. Tap also spoke, referring to the admirable relations that existed between the teacher and the children and between the teacher and the parent representatives, the Committee. He hoped that Mr Leslie would accept the gift not so much for its monetary value, but as a mark of the Renwick Committee's esteem. The recipient feelingly thanked the Committee for their handsome gift, and for their very encouraging remarks; and assured them that he would always treasure their gift, as well as the children's gifts of the previous day a very greatly indeed. It is rumoured that the balance of the school concert fund, after paying for the attendance prizes, will be donated towards providing for a steamer excursion for the Renwick children to Port Underwood. And the kiddies say, Golly surely that sounds too good to be true.

1901

1901	109	Renwick	Leslie	David Ernest	D1	Head Master	£	174.40
1901	109	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1901	109	Renwick	Thorpe Mrs	C E		Relieving	£	40.00
1901	109	Renwick	Bary	Edward		Male Probationer	£	30.00
1901	109	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		Female Probationer	£	16.00

6th March 1901 daughter of Mr. S. Watson fell from a swing on the play-ground of the Renwick School yesterday, and broke her wrist. The child was brought into Blenheim for medical attention

17th April 1901 Inspector Smith places Renwick as one of the 12 Very Good Schools (Top Ranked)

23rd April 1901 RENWICK.

At the meeting of the householders last night the members of the School Committee elected were: Messrs A. G. Mills, C. Jordan, D. Munro, W. Tapp, W. Brydon, A. McGregor, and J.

Andrews. At the meeting of the Committee held immediately afterwards Mr Mills was elected Chairman.

1st May 1901 Renwick School. —During the visit of-the Teachers' Salaries Commission to the Marlborough District six of our schools were visited. The following entry was made in the log-book of the Renwick School, and must be gratifying to the Education Board, the Committee, the parents, and the teachers alike:—"Visited this school and was delighted with all I saw. The rooms are admirably clean and well arranged, the appliances are good, and the library is a credit to the teachers. I am sorry the children were away, but for all I saw, it seems to me that Mr Leslie is maintaining the high position he formerly occupied in my district H. Hill, B.A., F.G.S., Inspector of Schools, Napier, H.B."

14th May 1901 SCHOOL COMPARISONS.

TO THE EDI TO/;

Sir, —I desire to publicly protest against the action of the Head Master of the Borough Boys' School in drawing a comparison with the results gained at the Renwick School and the results gained at his own Blenheim School at last examination. I fail to see why Grovetown and Renwick (and Springlands, for that matter) should have been mentioned at all by- Mr Sturrock in his letter to his Committee. The comparison was made by the Committee between the Blenheim Girls' and the Blenheim Boys' Schools. The matter should have been confined to the two schools. Mr Sturrock surely does not place a country school, where the responsibility of the work rests on two certificated teacher;.:, on an equality with his own school and its large staff? But, since Mr Sturrock thought fit to mention that the percentage of passes gained at the Renwick School last year was 83, I shall add that for the senior division the percentage was 90, and for the infant department 77 (on account of the mistress's indisposition during a great portion of the year).—l am, etc., D. E. Leslie. Renwick, May 11th, 1901.

20th May 1901 The recently-elected School Committee held their meeting last week, and all the members were present. Mr A. G. Mills, chairman, read the headmaster's report, which showed that the average attendance for the month had been disappointing, only 110, with a roll number of 137 that the school had been visited by Mr H. Hill, BA., and Mr A. J. Litchfield, member of the Marlborough Education Board; and that the school had been classed this year by the Inspector in the highest class of efficiency. The master also recommended that a merit board be erected in the lobby, and that a large and absolutely safe see-saw be provided in the girls' playground similar to one in use at the Auckland Blind Asylum. The report was freely discussed, and the entries in the Log Book-made-by the visiting gentlemen were read with great pleasure by the members. The Committee, although ox-pressing their approval of the recommendations made in the report, could not see their way to sanction any expenditure through lack of funds. It was decided to apply to the Education Board for certain necessaries. Mention was made by the chairman of the completion of the teacher's residence. Messrs Andrews and W. Brydon were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month, and the>,Committee adjourned.

4th July 1901 THE SEQUEL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Would you kindly .publish the accompanying letter, received by me from Sergeant-Major Mason 1 think, Sir, It entirely substantiates the statements made in my letter to you of June 22nd. Allow me, too, to most emphatically repudiate the accusation made by your correspondent, "Friend of the Boys," in his last letter, that I, by my addressing you, aided or abetted the excessive drinking that might have taken place on the occasion referred to. If your correspondent and his friends chose to take that meaning from my letter (which its wording certainly did not convey), then the fault lies with them, not with me.—l am, etc., D. E. Leslie.

Renwick, 3rd July, 1901. p^,—The police enquiries were not made at my instigation. —D. E. L. Police Office, Blenheim, July 2nd, 1901. Sir, —I am in receipt of your letter of 1st instant re a statement that school children at Renwicktown were made drunk or were supplied with intoxicating liquor at certain wedding festivities recently held there, and .in reply I have the honor to inform you that the investigations of the constable who made enquiries into the matter fail to show that any school children or any other children got drunk, were supplied with intoxicating liquor, or even were present on the occasion in question. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, W. Mason, Mr Leslie, Sergt.-Major. Head Master, Renwicktown Public School.

14th December 1901 —Pending the receipt of an inspection report on the school, the Committee at its last meeting deferred consideration of the results of the recent inspector's examination. I learn that out of 129 pupils who wave present for examination, only four failed, making a percentage of 96 passes of those who were in standards. This is the best result the school has obtained since 1886, when the percentage of passes was 96 Nine pupils were presented in Standard VI. this year, and five of these obtained credit passes, with totals of 95.5, 89, 88, 87, and 83 per cent, respectively. There was also an improvement in the class subjects, and both departments of the school did equally well. The school closes on Friday, December 13th , for six weeks' summer holidays, re-opening on January 27th, 1902

1902

1902	117	Renwick	Leslie	David Ernest	D1	Head Master	£	220.14
1902	117	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Assistant Female	£	100.00
1902	117	Renwick	Bary	Edward		Male Probationer	£	40.00
1902	117	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		Female Probationer	£	20.00

10th February 1902 SCHOLARSHIPS. A deputation from Renwicktown asked that the High School scholarship regulations be amended to provide for the conversion pf the "town" scholarship to which Renwicktown was entitled into a "country" privilege. Renwicktown was just inside the radius, the regulation distance being seven miles, and, as there were no convenient public means of travelling to" and from the High School, scholarship winners were at a considerable disadvantage as compared with children in other parts of the district.

A letter on the subject was received from the mother of a Renwick scholarship holder.

The Board decided to give to the Renwick girl the country allowance that had been presented to the Board by Mr White, of Onamalutu, the father of another scholarship winner. It was also resolved to thank Mr White for his generosity. The question of altering the regulation to give Renwicktown "country" privilege in connection with the High School was deferred.

The Renwicktown Committee protested against the Blenheim Committee's proposal to raise the scholarship age. The deputation were assured that the Board had no present intention to do this

11th February 1901 The Hon. C. H. Mills wrote that he was forwarding the M.H.R. medals won this year by pupils attending the Renwick school. The fact was mentioned that this was the first occasion on which both medals were taken by the one school.

7th March 1902 The School Committee met on Monday evening, when the following members were present: Messrs Tapp (in the chair), Jordan, Andrews, W. Brydon, and J. Bary. The Headmaster reported an average attendance of 113 with a roll number of 135 pupils. He forwarded a list of 22 offenders under the School Attendance Act, during the previous four weeks but pointed out that except in 12 classes the parents of the offenders could have claimed exemption certificates. Considerable discussion took place, some members being of the opinion that several parents should be at once summoned. Eventually £he matter was

deferred. The Secretary was instructed to again write to the Board regarding the draughty windows. A request for a donation to the School Games' Fund was not entertained, the Committee being "out of funds." After routine business had been transacted the meeting adjourned. The annual school concert in aid of the prizes and school funds, which is to be held in a few weeks' time, promises to be a distinct success. The pupils are practising assiduously.

11th March 1902 With regard to draughty windows at Renwick, the Committee were recommended to use calico screens.

15th March 1902 Inspector's report included ……Singing is practised at 10 schools, viz.—Blenheim Boys', Blenheim Girls', Cullensville, Havelock, Marlboroughtown, Marshlands, Okaramio, Onamalutu, Renwick, and Springlands

Drill was presented hi 9 schools Blenheim Boys', Blenheim Girls', Canvas town, Cullensville, Grovetown, Okaramio, Renwick, Spring-lands, and Tua Marina. In the Blenheim and Renwick schools the drill and the exercises of both boys and girls were very good.

22nd March 1902 Renwick School Concert.—With teachers it must be a difficult matter to provide year by year something novel for the school concert. But a perusal of the Renwick school concert programme for Wednesday evening next leaves no doubt with us that this entertainment will out-rival all previous efforts. The infants, as Japanese minstrels, are to occupy the stage for the first hour, and the pretty solos, choruses, and fan, parasol, and lantern drills from the mites attired in their quaint costumes and backed by elaborate decorations are sure to win the hearts of the audience. For the second part a musical sketch (in two scenes and a tableau), by Assheton Du Cane, entitled "Hands Across the Sea," allows full scope for fine fancy dressing, effective grouping, and catchy music.

25th March 1902 Renwick School Concert. The school concert to be held at Renwick tomorrow evening promises to be a most successful function. The programme, in addition to the musical sketch Hands Across the Sea," is interspersed with such items as sash drill, hoop drill and dumb-bell drill; and perhaps one of the most interesting items will be a dialogue entitled "Back to South Africa," specially written by a Blenheim young lady. The dialogue takes place between a New Zealand Contingenter and his little sister of 7 years of age. For the convenience of non-cyclists from Blenheim, a drag will leave McKenzie's stables at 6.30 on the night of the concert for Renwick, returning immediately after the concert. But as there is the proviso should sufficient inducement offer intending patrons are advised to book their seats to avoid disappointment.

27th March 1902 Renwick Concert.—A packed house greeted the performers at the concert last night, and right well did they deserve it. The first part, consisting of solos, choruses, tambourine, scarf, and parasol drill by wee Japanese boys and girls, was entered into with a zest that was worthy of their elders. Miss Williams ably conducted in this part, and she and Mr Leslie deserve great kudos for their efforts. The second part, a delightful little cantata entitled Hands Across the Sea," was capitally performed, each child acting the allotted part wonderfully well. The dumb-bell drill was a treat to see, and was undoubtedly the best item on the programme. During the cantata an introduced song was sung by Miss Jordan, entitled Castles in the Air while Mr Leslie recited in capital style a piece composed by Miss Beattie Elbeck. Mrs Leslie proved an efficient accompanist. We congratulate the master on the huge success of the efforts.

29th March 1902 M.H.R. Medals. —During the Ren! wick concert on Wednesday evening Mr A. G. Mills, Chairman of the Renwick School Committee, presented the M.H.R. medals for

1901 to Miss Paul and Master George Gee, the winners of them, and both pupils of the Renwick School

29th April 1902 RENWICK.

There was a good attendance of householders last night at Renwick to elect a School Committee for the en suing year. Mr A. G. Mills was voted to the chair, and presented the balance sheet of the outgoing committee, which showed a small credit balance. After much proposing and declining the following gentlemen agreed to be nominated:—Messrs James Brydon, D. Munro, J. Andrews, T. Bran ton, A. Fairhall, W. Tapp, J. Parsons, J. Bary, and W. Haines. The Rev. T. J. Smith and Mr W. Brydon were appointed scrutineers, and the poll resulted in the first seven named securing the majority of the votes. Mr A. G. Mills therefore declared these gentlemen elected. A feature of the meeting was the interest manifested by the ladies, who attended and voted in praiseworthy numbers. At the subsequent meeting of the new committee, Mr D. Munro was elected chairman on the vote of Mr James Brydon, who headed the poll; and it was decided that the committee should meet on the first, Monday in each month.

6th May 1902 The attendance prizes, which were allotted to the successful pupils at the school some three weeks ago, and which have been on exhibition in Messrs Bary & Son's window since, were formally presented to the children on Friday afternoon by Mr D. Munro, Chairman of the School Committee. The I following was the prize list

First class prizes: Emily Eves, Bertie Andrews, Dorothy Thorpe, Jessie Brooks, Annie Brooks, and Olive Brooks.

Second-class prizes: Alice Bary, Mary Wemyss, Connie Ricketts, Annie Fraser, Noel Andrews, Moira Munro, Mary Catley. Amelia Mills, Myrtle Mills, Willie Haines, Margaret Haines. Third-class prizes: Phoebe Brydon, Mary Fleming, Marion Waters, Chas. Brooks, Robert Haines, Willie Ricketts. Laura Mills, George Catley, Willie Paul, and Janet Munro. Silver medal for maximum attendance, 1899-1901: Dorothy Thorpe

7th May 1902 Renwick School Committee. Under Tuesday's date our correspondent writes: The newly elected School Committee held their first ordinary meeting last evening, when there were present Messrs D. Munro (chairman) Tapp, J. Brydon, Parsons, Fairhall, Andrews and Branton. The Headmaster's report showed that the average attendance for the past month was 114 and the average roll number 130 pupils. A list of offenders under the School Attendance Act, 1901, was considered, and it was decided to publicly warn parents that the Committee intended in future to rigidly enforce the Act. It was suggested that a meeting of the mothers of school children be called and the matter of attendance placed clearly before them. The Committee decided to again approach the Education Board regarding draughty windows. It was resolved to call tenders for a supply of four feet length firewood. The headmaster forwarded £1 4s 5d, stationary fees, for the past fortnight. The Chairman reported that the attendance prizes were presented by him on .Friday afternoon, and mentioned how the very cleanly and tidy appearance of the children could not but be remarked. Messrs Branton and Tapp were appointed Visiting Committeemen, and the matters of appointing boys to attend to the fire-lighting and of procuring new door mats were left in their hands

20th May 1902 done for all.

Renwick.—At a special meeting of the Renwick School Committee last night, at which Messrs Munro (Chairman), J. Brydon, Andrews, Branton, Parsons, and Fairhall were present, it was unanimously resolved That this Committee request the Education Board to appoint a Truant Officer for Renwick, the Committee undertaking to contribute a portion of the cost." This action was taken, because pf the continued attendance pf some pupils, and the very unsatisfactory replies to absentee notices received from parents.

6th June 1902 SCHOLARSHIP REGULATIONS.
TO THE EDITOR.
Sir, —An anonymous correspondent, "A Parent," in a letter which appeared in your Saturday's paper concerning the Education Board's scholarships, levels charges against all and sundry teachers, Committee, and Education Board—simply because he has not the manly courage to lay his complaint in writing before his Committee where his grievance (real or imaginary) might be remedied. I have known parents to make verbal complaints against a teacher to individual members of Committee who, when requested by the Chairman to do so in writing, refused point blank. I have no sympathy with parents who run to the newspapers with their little grievances on school matters they wildly accuse the teachers of partiality, favoritism, animus—anything, everything,—and little think how seriously they are endangering the discipline of the school of the very children for whose welfare they appear to be so greatly concerned. In conclusion, I would remind "A Parent" that his method of attacking the teacher is most unfair, as on account of his position he is precluded from replying thereto. —1 am, etc., D. Munro,
Chairman Renwick School Committee. Renwick, 2nd June, 1902.
6th June 1902 The proclamation of peace was received with great jubilation in our little township. At 10.10 o'clock the flag was hoisted at the Post Office, and a few minutes later saw the school children dismissed, flags hoisted in all directions, friends shaking hands with friends, and the excitement of deep pleasure beaming from the faces of old and young. Hope long deferred makes the heart faint," perhaps; but not so on this occasion. Soon Mr D. Munro, Chairman of the School Committee, and the Rev. T. J. Smith, of the English Church, were arranging to celebrate the happy event in a suitable manner. In the evening a very fair audience assembled in the Oddfellows Hall for a thanksgiving service. Hymns, Scripture readings, and prayers suitable to the occasion were offered up and Rev. Mr Smith gave an appropriate and splendid address on War v. Peace." Regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence, in the Awatere, of the Rev. Mr Webster.
On Tuesday afternoon Mr Munro's efforts on behalf of the children resulted in a most enjoyable sports and tea. All kinds of games were indulged in on the school-ground by old and young; foot races were much in evidence; and "the spread" at tea was plentiful and toothsome. Had the outing been arranged after weeks of deliberation the success of the gathering could not have been greater. All entered heart and soul into the arrangements, and enough dainties were prepared in a few hours by parents as would have fed twice the large number that were present. A large meeting of residents of both ladies and gentlemen was held in the school on Tuesday evening for the purpose of considering and discussion the best way of entertaining the children on Coronation Day. A resolution was carried unanimously that the children be conveyed to Blenheim to take part in the procession of children and other items as set forth in Mr Dunn's circular to Mr Leslie, the head teacher of the school. Separate sub Committees of ladies and gentlemen were appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements and report to the general meeting to be held on the 11th inst. The Revs. Webster, Smith and Mr Leslie were appointed delegates to the general meetings to be held in Blenheim
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9th June 1902 The Renwick Committee asked that a Truant Officer be appointed for its district, and stating that it would contribute £2 a year towards the cost. The Inspector was instructed to offer the Truant Officer an additional £5 a year for the supervision of Renwick School.
23rd June 1902 At a recent public meeting at Renwick in connection with Coronation celebrations it was resolved that, on account of very many difficulties, the elaborate tableau that was being prepared be removed from the day's proceeding. Enthusiasts were disappointed at this, with the result, that it has been decided to represent the Renwick School by two simpler tableaux. Your Own tenders the public's thanks to Mr W. S. Watson, our patriotic townsman, for bringing about this successful issue.
15th July 1902 Mr E. Thomas wrote accepting the position of Truant Officer for the Renwick School district at £5 per annum.
10th September 1902 At the Magistrate's Court this morning Renwick School attendance cases were adjourned for hearing until Friday.
12th September 1902 School Attendance. —This morning at the Magistrate's Court, James Herbert, Renwick. was charged with a breach of The School Attendance Act." Defendant, it seems, is seriously ill, and Dr McArthur, S.M., under the circumstances, allowed the ease to be withdrawn, but intimated that the attendance of the boy was very bad, and in any similar case he would be compelled to deal severely with the offender.
20th September 1902 Renwick School Children £1.0.0. for war memorial
14th October 1902 RENWICK. The Committee asked for a grant of £10 for apparatus for instruction in, physical science, also for 30 New Zealand readers.—Resolved that the Board regrets its funds will not allow it to grant these requests
4th November 1902 The Renwick School is to be examined by Inspector Smith on November 17th, and, unfortunately, several children are debarred from attending just now on account of the prevalence of chicken, pox in their homes
20th November 1902 On Monday last the annual examination of the Renwick School was held. The pupils assembled at 8 30 and were addressed by Mr D. Munro, Chairman of the School Committee. Cheers were given for the Chairman, the Committee, and teachers. The Inspector was welcomed by Messrs Munro and J. Brydon on behalf of the Committee. Of 129

pupils presented for examination, 94 were in classes. Three pupils were unavoidably absent, one being sick and two being blocked by the flooded Opawa river. The Headmaster informs me that Mr Smith expressed great pleasure at the progress evidenced. He specially remarked upon the excellent writing of the whole school, of the plasticine modelling, of the drawing (notably of the upper classes), of the marked improvement in the singing, especially of the Infant Department, and of the splendid drill of the girls as well as of the boys. All the thirteen pupils in the VI. and VII. Standards scored full marks in writing, on copy book and foolscap tests, a similar result being recorded last year,—

24th December 1902 RENWICK SCHOOL.

At the annual examination of the Renwick School 129 pupils were presented and 94 per cent, of those in classes .passed. Following are the names of the successful candidates

Standard VII: H. Andrews, J. Mills (credit pass), M. Munro, B. Paul (credit pass).

Standard VI: S. Jordan, L. Tapp, H. Watson (credit pass), P. Brydon (credit pass), P. Fraser, L. Forbes (credit pass), O. Haines.

Standard V: N. Andrews, J. Catley, M. Brydon, H. Forbes, F; Gleeson, E. Mills C Ricketts.

Standard IV: J. Brunton, K. Daniels, L. Pinter, B. Fraser, G. Hounsell, A. Jordan; N. Mitchell, E. Tapp, H. Watson. G. Wemyss, E. Eves, A. Fraser, ,C. McIsaac, H, Ricketts, M. Vorbach.

Standard III: J. Branton, R. Boyce, H Catley, Fraser, Gibson, W. Herbert, Reid, Ryan, Strickland, Waters, M Catley. A Eves, M Fleming, M Kerr, M McIsaac, M. Monro, E. Tapp, J Watson, L Watson

Standard II: Andrews, Brooks, Daniels, Forbes, Gleeson, A. Haines, J. Haines, Hounsell, McIsaac, R. Watson H. Watson. Girls J. Brook, K. Brydon, M. Mills, A. Mills, L. Mills, J. Munro, E. Paul, S. Shaw, D. Thorpe, M. Waters.

Standard I: Boys—L. Bary, A. Brydon, Catley, W. Haines, J. Herbert, W. Mills, J. Miller, L. Watson. Girls A. Brooks, K Daniels, K. Eves, E. McIsaac, E. Mitchell, M. Watson, D. Wemyss.

The following was the prize-list:— Dux of School: Phoebe Brydon (Mr E .H. Penny's prize) First Class Attendances (present Whole year).—Girls: M. Munro, H. Ricketts, E, Eves, A. Brooks, O. Brooks, E. Mitchell, G. Mitchell, D. Wemyss, M. Shaw, M. Mills, A. Mills, J Munro, E. Paul, D. Thorpe. Boys N. Mitchell, C. Gibson, G. Catley, A. Hounsell W. Ricketts. Second Class Attendances (missed one or two half-days).— Girls; A. Haines, E. McIsaac, J. Brookes, N. Fleming, L. Mills. Boys :C. Wemyss, B. Andrews, F. Catley, J. Haines, W Haines. Third Class Attendances (missed not more than eight half-days.—Girls: M. Fleming, M. Catley M. Brydon, E. Mills, A Fraser, S. Shaw, K. Brydon, M. Waters. Boys: L. Strickland, N. Andrews, W. Mills, W. Paul, F. Brydon, G. Brooks, B. Watson, L. Watson.

Absence on account of sickness did not count against a pupil's chance of gaining an attendance prize.

1903

1903	110	Renwick	Leslie	David E	D1	Head Master	£	217.14
1903	110	Renwick	Williams	Alice M K	E2	Mistress	£	100.00
1903	110	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		FPT2	£	30.00

Edward Bary went to West End School in New Plymouth as assistant teacher

1904/3893	Alice Mary	Williams	Albert	
1904/16720	Bary	Mervyn Albert	Alice Mary	Albert
1905/21757	Bary	Joyce Alice	Alice	Albert

1911/3733	Bary	Hilton	Alice Mary	Albert
1913/20966	Bary	Marie Alberta	Alice Mary	Albert

10th January 1903 The M.H.R. Medals.—The gold medals awarded by the Hon. O. H. Mills to the two pupils who gain the highest number of marks at the annual examination of the primary schools throughout Marlborough, were won last year by Alfred Dalton, of the Canvastown School, with 343 marks out of 380 (equalling 90 per cent), and Phoebe Brydon, of the Renwick School; with 341 marks (equalling 89 per cent

13th January 1903 Both the Blenheim and the Renwick School Committees have sent letters to the Education Board expressing appreciation of the manner in which the Truant Officer, Mr Thomas, has carried put his duties. They spoke of his work as having been performed fairly and impartially, and as having been successful in securing better attendances.

13th January 1903 A Successful Year's Work.—At the Inspector's annual examination the Renwick School secured 94 per cent of passes. The school's two scholarship candidates secured free places" tenable for two years at the Marlborough High School, and one of the M.H.R. gold medals, for the premier pupils, boy and girl, in the Sixth Standards throughout the whole province, falls to Phoebe Brydon, a Renwick schoolgirl. When the Hon. C. H. Mills was informed of the latter he thus wired to Mr Leslie at Wanganui:—" The Inspector of Schools advises me that Phoebe Brydon of your school is the winner of one of last year's M.H.R. medals with 341 marks out of a possible 380, being 89.7 per cent. I had pleasure in congratulating you and your staff on the unique distinction achieved by scholars of your school at the examinations in 1901 in winning both medals. Let me again congratulate you on your further success.'*

10th February 1903 The Renwicktown Headmaster wrote in acknowledgment of the Board's congratulations on the success of his school in taking scholarships

The Department intimated that under the regulation scale there was still one pupil teacher in excess at the Renwick school.—It was decided to make the readjustment as opportunity offered. PUPIL TEACHERS. The Inspector reported the result of the recent pupil teachers' examinations, the first held by the Department itself. The most successful of the seven candidates were Ed, Barry (Renwick), who gained 687 marks, and Bertha Tindall (Springlands), 501 marks. With regard to the other five candidates, the results wets not good, but there were the considerations that the examination, the first of its kind, was of a more difficult nature that a considerable portion of the year had elapsed when the subjects for examination were announced; and that the Government syllabus was not easy to digest. Correspondence on the examination was received from headmasters of principal schools. The Board passed a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with some of the results; and, in accordance with the regulations, terminated the engagement of a candidate who had failed twice.

11th February 1903 Inspector Smith’s report included: Military drill is undertaken at all the schools having men teachers, and by a few conducted by women. The drilling of the boys and girls at Renwick was particularly effective, and included wand drill' for girls, and dumb-bell exercises for boys

20th February 1903 To raise funds to make additions to the school library and to defray the cost of prizes, a concert is to be held in the Oddfellow's Hall, Renwick, early next month. The co-operation of the Marlborough Orchestral Society and of several leading vocalists has

already been secured, and Mr D. E. Leslie, who has the matter in hand, assures me that the programme will be an excellent one.
23rd February 1903 Civil Service. Mary Angela Maude Gudgeon, of Renwick, who sat in Wellington for the junior civil service examination, appears in the list of successful candidates. *Born in 1886*
5th March 1903 Renwick School Committee. A correspondent states that the Renwick School Committee did not meet on Monday last (the usual date) and has not met since the 10th of last January, when the meeting was rather abruptly closed by the chairman. Some say the chairman exceeded his duties at that meeting, but the chairman maintains he was within his rights in net accepting a certain motion, bat was willing to accept a notice of motion. The mover persisted, but the chairman was firm in his adherence to a notice of motion, and closed down on only a quorum meeting.
12th March 1903 Renwick. —Our readers are again reminded of the Renwick concert tonight. For the convenience of Blenheim visitors McKenzie's large drag will leave the Post Office at 7 sharp, at the small fare 1s return
16th March 1903 FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) The Express of Friday evening briefly reported last week's concert, but, as it was undoubtedly-the most successful concert musically that has ever been given in Renwick, a fuller report should be of interest. A crowded audience greeted the rise of the curtain, the overture" Siege of Rochelle" (Balfe) being splendidly played by the Marlborough Orchestra. Wrecked and Saved" (Knowles), a descriptive song, was contributed by Mr G. W. McIntosh, who received most hearty applause. Mrs »& P Lucas followed with the fine composition Alia Stella Confidante" (Robandi), and the vocalist's marked success was greatly assisted by a 'cello obbligato by Mr Hale. The vocal duet "O'er the Hill, O'er the Dale" (Glover) by Mesdames Edwards and Mitchell received the first encore of the evening. The two voices blended admirably, and a repetition of the last verse scarcely satisfied the audience. "Banjo" Paterson's Rio Grande's Last Race," capably recited by Mr J. D. Mitchell, was encored, and Glaskie on the Clyde," in response, met with hearty laughter. Mrs R. McCallum then contributed a pretty song by German, "Love, the Pedlar," in an artistic manner, and more than deserved the prolonged applause that followed. The comic element was supplied in his entertaining manner by Mr G. Edwards, and "Is there Anything Else you'd Like?" demanded an encore, "Monte Carlo." Mr Edwards's contributions are .invariably truly comic, without being vulgar—a feature frequently overlooked nowadays. After a short interval a lively and catchy selection—Mexican dance, "A Media Noohe" (Aviles)—was contributed by the orchestra, .whose playing throughout, the evening was so much enjoyed. Indeed, a great measure of the success of the concert was due to the orchestra, and Mr R. J. Logan, conductor, is to be heartily congratulated on its efficiency. Mrs G. W. McIntosh was in splendid voice, and "By the Waters" (Adams) was delightfully interpreted by the vocalist. A violin solo, Carnival de Venice" (Danbe"), by Mrs G. Edwards, was heartily encored, and a selection from "II Trovatore" was given in response. Miss L. M. Brewer, a vocalist comparatively new to Marlborough audiences, pleasingly sang "La Paasegiata" (Rossini), and bowed her acknowledgment of an encore. My Bonnie Jean," a humorous song by Mr Orr, met with appreciation, and the old Scotch favorite, Bonnie Dundee," was contributed as an encore number. There were no tiresome waits. Mr F. Bull was ready, with a whistling solo, "High School Cadets' March" (Sousa), and,., assisted by Mrs Lucas at the piano, roused feelings of envy in the boys at the back. A fine, spirited war march from Athalie". (Mendelssohn) and

the National Anthem by the orchestra brought an excellent programme to an end shortly After 10 o'clock. Mesdames Lucas and Mitchell and Miss Jacombs made efficient accompanists. During a suitable Interval Mr Leslie apologised for the unavoidable non-appearance of the vocalists, Mr. and Mrs J. Rose; and on behalf of the School Committee, teachers, and children heartily thanked the performers for so kindly giving their services to assist the school fund. A vote of thanks was enthusiastically carried by acclamation. Before leaving, the performers,; who were treated to refreshments by several Renwick ladies, expressed pleasure at all the arrangements made for their comfort throughout the evening.

21st March 1903 THE LAST DEPARTURE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—l trust that, should this edition of your valuable paper ever meet the eye of our respected poet who wrote the following verse I shall receive his pardon tor the awful use I have made of his beautiful poem, The Last Departure," which runs thusly—

Twelve hundred million men are spread

About this Earth, and I and you Wonder, when you and I are dead,

What will those luckless millions do Myself and others in this small town of Renwick often wonder what will become of the local school if not the world when we are dead. Goodness knows. The actions of the local School Committee during the past three months have been and are sufficient to set the lightest hearted wondering. From what I can gather there is a huge war raging between the members (a war something like what we would expect to find between school children rather than school committeemen) the result of which is that five out of the seven members elected declined to sit on the committee with the other two members, and consequently no meetings could be held. The management of school affairs has fallen to the chairman, who has acted officer in all departments, much to the chagrin of the five independent members. This state of management dragged on until yesterday (St. Patrick's Day) when four of the five referred to above took upon themselves to close the school for a full day. This, I believe, was without the knowledge of the chairman, who claimed to be sole conductor of affairs. This last departure, in common with all other actions of the belligerent committee, should call for some explanation at the annual meeting of householders nest month— first a public explanation through the medium of your valued columns. I await with interest the said explanation and the result of the election of the school committee for the year 1903 4.—1 am, “Black I Am." Renwick, March 18th, 1903.

27th March 1903 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—With your permission I have a few words to say in reply to that letter in your last Saturday's Express over the signature of “Black I Am." Who he is I cannot guess, but from the letter I gather little, except, that tome, "Black I Am" appears like a calf in a barn, whose bellowing draws people to look in, and, as they turn away, say: It's only a calf; I suppose the poor thing has lost its mother. He says, from what I can gather, five members of the Renwick School Committee refuse to sit with the other two. He must have found this statement in the barn, where, from his excessive bellowing, the strain upon his mental capacity has reduced his ordinary intellect to that state of conception sufficiently soft to receive an impression of the above kind, and to state it without verification is an act done only by those whom the police snare with a rope. There is no war raging between the committeemen here that I know of, and the only reason why the meetings have not been held is a matter which parents should bear in mind when electing a committee. In a small place life this a committee should be elected from, as nearly as possible, those whose calling in life allows them to be mostly at home, for what benefit does the school derive from the election of a proved good member" if his occupation will not allow him to attend the meetings? Circumstances over which the

committee have no control have been the sole cause of the no meetings, and not, as "Black I Am" would have you to believe, a universal hatred. When from want of a quorum we have not been able to hold our monthly meetings, our chairman has been unfortunate in calling the special meetings upon an unsuitable night, and, for instance, under ordinary circumstances our next special meeting will be a failure, for it is called for the 26th inst., the last race night, an oversight no doubt of our chairman's. I have mentioned this latter fact to save the roof of the barn. “Black I Am" expects a public explanation. This is mine (as a member of the Committee), and 'I hope it will be satisfactory .—I am, &c, J, A. Andrews. 23rd March, 1903.

30th March 1903 The old pupils of Mr W. Tissiman, who was master of the Renwick school for 23 years, have combined for the purpose of presenting to the friend of their youth a testimonial expressive of their esteem and their appreciation of his long association with the school. The ceremony takes place at Renwicktown this week. The length of Mr Tissiman's connection with the school, the mastership of which he resigned a few years ago, forms a record for the Marlborough district *(Repeated from Biography above)*

1st April 1903 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sib,* —I~ read, marked, and endeavoured to inwardly digest that production over the name of "J. A. Andrews" in your valuable paper of Friday last, with the result that I am now a dyspeptic. Did J. A. Andrews really write that? I thought it was too infantile for a man of his years. The only point I have to affirm is that I shall adhere to the facts contained in my previous letter—viz., ":that there is, and has been, very bitter feeling between the Members of the Committee, and that to the detriment of the management of affairs." I would refer J. A. Andrews to the writing of St. Paul when he states: When I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put all childish things away." J. A. Andrews go thou and do likewise, and you will never again produce such another letter as yours of 23rd inst.—l am, &c, "Black I Am."

4th April 1903 Renwick.—The presentation of Mr W. Tissiman’s photo by his old scholars to the Renwick School takes place on Monday night after the Committee have transacted their usual business.

7th April 1903 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir,—I must tell you that the call got out of the barn. I saw him with his tail up going at full speed, and bellowing as he went, quite heedless that he was running right into a bog. I went to see what had become of him, and found him in a hopeless state, struggling for life, with just his head out; and to save him I had to get a rope and snare him. Let me tell "Black I Am" that a statement made without foundation does not stand any better by being glossed over with the statements of an apostle. "Black I Am" might as well have told us that St. Paul had told a brother apostle to pull up his socks. I sometimes think that "Black I Am" was one of the defeated candidates at our last election for the Renwick School Committee, and it seems he is now trying to show the parents here how foolish they were to reject such a star—one who, if elected this time, is quite able to run the show himself. The cap I wove. In my last letter seemed to pinch a bit. I hope this one will fit better.—I am, etc., J. A ANDREWS .

9th April 1903 Renwick. The distribution of nearly fifty handsome prizes was (writes our correspondent) made by the Rev. T. J. Smith at the Renwick School on Friday afternoon. The Committee was represented by Mr Jas. Brydon. Mr Smith had some kind and appropriate remark for each winner as the prize was presented, and later addressed the children on the need of regular attendance and the advantages of a sound education. As the dux of the school, Phoebe Brydon received Mr E. H. Penny's special prize. There was enthusiastic applause. Cheers were given for Mrs Smith and Rev. T. J. Smith, the Committee, and the teachers.—

The School Committee met on Monday evening for the first time for three months. Besides transacting the usual routine business, it was decided to at once call for tenders for a new picket fence in front of the school residence and the repairing of the present fence on the remaining three sides. Messrs Andrews and Brydon were appointed visiting committeemen for the ensuing month. The annual balance-sheet, duly audited, was adopted. The headmaster reported that a balance of £4 remained in hand (after purchasing prizes) as the nett proceeds of the recent concert. It was decided to apply to the Board for the usual subsidy. The Easter holidays were fixed as from Thursday April 9th to Wednesday April 15th.

9th April 1903 PRAISEWORTHY ACTION

[own correspondent.] After the monthly meeting of the Renwick School Committee on Monday evening a very interesting function took place. Some thirty old scholars, headed by Messrs K. B. McIver and J. O'Leary, waited on the Committee. The former, in the course of a very able and feeling speech, said that, as the oldest scholar of Mr W. Tissiman present that evening, he had much pleasure, on behalf of that gentleman s "old scholars," of presenting the School Committee with an enlarged photograph of their old master Mr McIver feelingly referred to Mr Tissiman as the "old boys'" "life-long adviser and friend," and spoke of the very marked success that had attended that able educationalist, especially during his early years in Renwick. He regretted that the idea of a memento had not occurred to them before, but hoped that now that the idea had taken practical form the photograph, hung in a prominent position in the school "gallery," would always remind visitors that Mr Tissiman's old boys were not wholly indifferent to the benefits they had derived from his excellent tutorship. The speaker resumed his seat amidst prolonged applause. Mr J. O'Leary spoke in a similar vein, and referred to his happy school days under Mr Tissiman. One remark—that his teacher worked on the principle that" persuasion is better than force" and always appealed with every success to the sentiment of his scholars—met with great approval. The Chairman of the School Committee, in accepting the gift on behalf of the school, eulogised the old boys in no uncertain manner for the feelings which had prompted their praiseworthy action; and promised that the photograph would be prominently hung and treasured. other speakers were Messrs W. Tapp, Goff (the originator of the presentation), Bary (who worked hard for its accomplishment), and Mr Leslie, the present master. At the call of the chairman the "outsiders" gave three hearty cheers for the old boys" for the splendid sentiments prompting their action; and Messrs McIver and O'Leary, in replying, said that a balance in hand would by mutual consent, with the Committee's permission, be donated to the school library, fund. On the motion of Mr. Tapp a hearty vote of thanks was passed for this extra gift to the school, and the gathering dispersed; but the occasion will live in the memory for many years to come. The enlarged photograph (a splendid likeness) is elaborately framed in gilt, and bears a silver plate containing Mr Tissiman's name and the years that he occupied the position of master in the Renwick School.

28th April 1903 RENWICK.

The election of a new School Committee was made on Monday evening. There was only a fair attendance of householders, and no excitement was displayed. Mr Munro was voted to the chair, and read the retiring Committee's balance-sheet, which disclosed a small credit balance. Twelve candidates were then nominated. Messrs A. Q. Mills and W. Brydon were appointed scrutineers, and the poll was proceeded with. Shortly after nine o'clock the following result was declared :—Donald Munro 25, James Brydon 25, John Bary 25, Chas. Mitchell 20, Hugh Gee 20, William Tapp 17, John Parsons 17 J. A, Andrews 17, Thos. Branton 13 Thos. Gleeson 12, Robert Paul 7, Richard McIsaac 0. The Chairman, who was obliged to give his casting vote, declared the first seven named the Committee for the ensuing twelve months. This body subsequently met, re-elected Mr D. Munro chairman, and decided to meet regularly on the first Monday in the month as hitherto

29th April 1903 Merit Board. —We were shown yesterday the merit board which has been constructed to be placed in the Renwick school. The Board already contains the names of a number of scholars, winners of scholarships, M.H.R. medals, and dux of the school in their respective years. It is of very handsome design, consisting of three panels, the centre one overhung with an ornamental over mantle, and intermediary pillars of unique design between each panel. The names of the scholars are placed on small slips affixed on the panels. The board is of kauri with totara pillars, and was constructed by Messrs Bythell & Co the decorating being the handiwork of Mr O. Lane.
29th April 1903 Trained as a scholar and as a teacher in the Renwick School, Master Edward Bary is severing his connection with the Marlborough Education Board. He has received an appointment as assistant master in the West End School, New Plymouth, and leaves here at the end of May. Master Bary, as a pupil teacher in his third year, sat for his Class 10 certificate last January and succeeded in gaining a partial E, one branch of drawing (out of three) being responsible for his partial failure His promotion has been earned by indomitable perseverance and industry as a scholar and undoubted ability as a teacher. “Your Own" wishes him continued success in his now sphere
11th May 1903 The tender of Mr Malfro, £20 10s, for the erection of a picket fence in front of the Renwick School was accepted, the architect to supervise the work
25th May 1903 A' very "pleasing ceremony took place at the Renwicktown School previous to closing on Friday afternoon, when Mr E Bary, who was leaving the school to take up the position of assistant master at the West End School, New Plymouth, was the recipient of a very handsome silver mounted Russian leather wallet, suitably engraved, from the teachers and scholars. The headmaster, Mr Leslie, in making; the presentation, referred to Mr Bary's abilities, not only as a teacher, but in all matters pertaining to school work, and said that though they all regretted he was leaving the school, they were very glad to know that he had secured promotion. The recipient feelingly thanked the teachers and pupils for their gift, and said that in his new sphere he would always strive to do credit to the Renwick School, where he had been educated and trained. He heartily acknowledged the kindness of the teachers to him at all times and the help that the scholars had been to him in being almost invariably thoroughly attentive when under his tuition. Three ringing cheers by the pupils for Mr E. Bary further showed the genuine regret of the donors at losing a successful and popular master, and the school dismissed.
29th May 1903 On Empire Day the pupils of the Renwick School were assembled at the usual hour, and after roll call were marched into the playground by their teachers. Formed into a square, they were addressed by Mr D. Munro, Chairman of the School Committee, who prefaced his remarks by reading the circular letter received from the Education Department with regard to the observance of Empire, Day. Then followed a very spirited and patriotic speech. He showed the children the greatness of the Empire on which the sun never sets," and made clear to them the value of Imperial citizenship. With the aid of a diagram Mr Munro impressed on the pulpit that it was wrong to call the flag then held by the standard bearer the "Union Jack of Old England." It was, he .explained, the flags of England, Scotland, arid Ireland conjoined that formed the union, and that it would be more correct to say the Union Jack of the Empire." He concluded his remarks by instilling into the scholars the fact that in being obedient to the laws of the home and of the school they were preparing themselves to become good citizens. The girls and the boys in two companies then performed the "march-past" saluting the flag. The girls' company especially marched excellently. The scholars being again formed in square, the following patriotic songs wore sung God Save the King," "God Bless the Prince of Wales," and "The Red, White, and Blue." Miss M. Brydon accompanied on the organ, which had been brought into the playground. Three hearty cheers were given for the King, and the children were granted a holiday for the rest of the day. ln

the afternoon a football team of the Renwick School boys tried conclusions with the Fairhall boys, and were successful by 35 points to nil. Mr Bowden, teacher, received the visitors kindly.

8th June 1903 With regard to the Truant Officer's salary, the Executive Committee recommended an increase from £18 to £25. It was explained that in addition the officer received £5 from the Blenheim Committee and £2 from the Renwick Committee. The Board decided to take over the whole responsibility of the employment of the Truant Officer, and itself pay the full salary, £32.

12th June 1903 The Renwick School Committee held a special meeting last Saturday night, the usual monthly meeting having lapsed owing to their being no quorum. The headmaster reported the average attendance for the month of May to have been 113, and the average roll number 132. The wet weather bad seriously affected the attendance, but the elder scholars had attended very irregularly even when the weather had been fine. An addition of some forty books was being made to the library as one of the result of the last concert, and several necessaries were applied for. The report referred to the loss the school occasioned in the resignation of Master Edward Bary. The Committee granted the headmaster's request, and decided to close the school from June 19th to July 6th for the midwinter vacation. The Committee passed the following resolution, That the school inspection report of last March is very satisfactory, and that the Chairman convey to the headmaster and staff the thanks of this Committee and their congratulations upon the good conduct of the school and the other matters referred to in the report." Messrs Munro and Parsons were appointed visiting committeemen for the month of June, and the meeting adjourned.

15th July 1903 Mr D. Munro, chairman of the Renwick School Committee, is at present employed as a temporary clerk in the Valuation Department, Wellington. Mr J. Bary has been appointed acting-chairman of the Renwick Committee

8th August 1913 Why Not?—. After an interesting discussion at their Monday night's meeting, the Renwick School Committee unanimously passed the following resolution to be forwarded to the body concerned:—•' Will the Education Board take into consideration the advisability of applying to the Education Department for a grant to establish a Technical School in Blenheim, similar to those already established and splendidly equipped in various parts of the Colony

12th October 1903 A request from the Renwick Committee that the school and fencing be painted was held over for further consideration

16th October 1903 School Attendance. —An information under the School Attendance Act was heard in Court this morning, the defendant being John Brydon, of Renwick. He explained to the Magistrate that he had kept the child from the Renwick School on account of the bad weather, and her susceptibility to rheumatic fever, and he so notified the teacher. The Truant Officer said the teacher had informed him that he received no replies to the absence notices. After ascertaining that defendant did not get an absence certificate, Mr T. Scott-Smith, S.M., inflicted the usual fine of 2s with 7s costs

14th November 1903 Chairmanship.—At the last meeting of the Renwick School Committee, Mr j. Bary, was elected Chairman, rice Mr D. Munro, of Wellington, resigned. The latter is now employed in the Land Valuation Department.

16th November 1903 The resignation of the assistant mistress at Renwick was accepted, and in accordance with the Committee's request it was resolved to advertise in Wellington as well as locally for applications for the position

30th November 1903 I have been shown the result of the examination of the Renwick School held on November 17th and 18th. In spite of the fact that for three months prior to the examination the attendance was very irregular, because of illness, the school has again done

well. The total presented was 129 pupils, of whom 91 were in classes. Of the latter the junior division presented 3,5, passed 32; senior division presented 56, passed 51, the strong passes (passed in all subjects) here totalling 31, fair passes (failed in one subject only) 17, and weak passes (failed in two subjects) 3. There was thus 91 per cent, of passes for the school. Standard VI. did remarkably well, four out of six pupils presented securing credit passes. In the class and additional subjects, history, science, geography, and recitation are marked satisfactory; grammar, moderate; while sewing, drawing, plasticine modelling, singing, and drill met with the greatest approval from the Inspector. November 30th, 1903,

15th December 1903 The Renwick Committee reported they had selected Miss Tansey Brownlee, of Oamaru, for the position of mistress at the Renwick School

18th December 1903 Renwick School. The Renwick School closed for the midsummer holidays yesterday. An enjoyable afternoon was spent by the pupils. Songs were given, the names of the prize winners were announced, and presentations were made to Miss Williams, the retiring mistress. The committee, parents, and old scholars were well represented

19th December 1903 Presentations.—Miss A. Williams, who is retiring from the position of Infant Mistress of the Renwick school, was yesterday the recipient of five handsome and valuable gifts. On behalf of the committee, teachers, and children, the headmaster presented her with an opal dagger brooch, a greenstone heart mounted in gold bearing the words "Kia Ora," and a first class morocco leather purse mounted in silver. Mr Leslie referred to the faithful 12 years' service that Miss Williams had performed in the cause of education in Renwick both in and out of school, of. the goal results always secured by her, of her energy in training the children for the school concerts and of her readiness at all fines to adapt the best methods of education. When handing the gifts to the recipient, Mr Leslie said that he hoped the opal dagger would never pierce the kind feelings that Miss Williams took away with her, that the greenstone pendant would bring her "Kia Ora" (good luck), and that the good lock would cause her always to have the purse full. The recipient feelingly replied, and thanked the donors most heartily for their lovely gifts, which she would prize always as mementos of the happy 12 years she had spent in the Renwick School. She dwelt on the fact that the good con duct and industry of her scholars bad materially assisted to make her duties very pleasant, and, referring to the school merit board, she reminded them all that there was always room at the top." The scholars most enthusiastically cheered the speaker. On behalf of the parents, Mrs H. Ricketts then presented Miss Williams with a mahogany lady's cabinet and a silver backed hair brush, and said that the parents felt that they could not let so unselfish a teacher leave them without extending to her some slight mark of their gratitude for the exceptional interest she bad taken in the education of their children for so many years. Mr J. Bary, Chairman of the School Committee, also spoke, iterating what had been said by previous speakers as to the faithful manner in which Miss Williams bad carried out her duties. The recipient, who was visibly affected at the generosity, and good feeling shown towards her, said that she could not find words suitably to express her thankfulness towards them, but assured the donors that she would never forget their, kindness to her. Again three hearty cheers were given for Alias Williams, and the ceremony concluded.

1904

1904	109	Renwick	Stratford	Herbert A	D1	Head Master	£	221.00
1904	109	Renwick	Brownlee	Tanzie H	D4	Mistress	£	100.00
1904	109	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		FPT3	£	40.00

9th February 1904 Renwick.—Miss Brownlee. formerly of the Oamaru North School, was introduced to the teachers and scholars at Renwick yesterday morning by Mr J. Bary, Chairman of the Committee, and immediately commenced her new duties as assistant mistress in the school. Miss Brownlee holds excellent recommendations, and should prove an acquisition to the staff
9th February 1904 It was notified that Miss Hilda Ricketts, Renwick, would not avail herself of the free place won as a candidate for the Education Board scholarships.
17th March 1904 Mr D. Leslie (Secretary of the Renwicktown Committee) spoke of the movement being very popular in the Renwick district. The school children had caught the enthusiasm, and they would be represented by various specimens of school work, and in the singing and elocutionary competitions. The Marlborough Industrial Association meeting
16th April 1904 The annual presentation of prizes was made at the Renwick School yesterday afternoon by Mr J. Bary» Chairman of the Committee. Forty four valuable books were handed to the winners with a few suitable words of encouragement. The following is the prize list:—Dux of School (Mr E. H. Penny's prize), Noel Andrews. First class attendance prizes (present whole year): Newey Mitchell, Hilda Ricketts, Dorothy Thorpe, Moira Munro, Annie Brooks, Olive Brooks, Eila Mitchell, Gwen Mitchell, Willie Ricketts Second class attendance prizes (absent one or two half days): Annie Fraser, Jessie Brooks, Kathleen Brydon, Edith Paul, Sidney Shaw, Cyril Gibson, Bertie Andrews, Willie Haines, Willie Paul, Colin Wemyss, Kate Eves, Ella McIsaac, Clarice Ricketts. Third class attendance prizes (absent not more than eight half-days): John Haines, Noel Andrews, Amelia Mills, Agnes Eves, Laura Mills, Janet Munro, Reggie Watson, Adrian Jordan, Wilfred Mills, Charles Brooks, Fred Catley, Ted Gibson, Alex Hounsell, Jack Brydon, Jack Shaw, Hugh Haines, Stewart Shaw, Sarah McIsaac, Nellie Fleming, Kate Gleeson, Dycie Wemyss.
16th April 1904 Concert.—A concert in aid of the Renwick school prize and library fund will be given in the Oddfellow's Hall, Renwick, on Tuesday week, April 26th. An excellent programme is promised.
26th April 1904 RENWICK.
There was a good attendance of householders at the annual election of a School Committee last evening. Mr H. Fraser was voted to the chair, and he read the annual report and balance sheet. The latter showed a small credit balance, and the report made mention of the appointment of Miss Brownlee, of Oamaru, as assistant mistress, and eulogised the able manner in which she was fulfilling her duties at Renwick. The following seven gentlemen were proposed as members, and were duly declared elected-— Messrs W. Tapp, J. Bary, T. Gleeson, J. Parsons^ D. McVean, A. Fairhall! and J. Andrews, Mr J 4 Bary was re-elected chairman, and Mr H. Fraser secretary.
13th June 1904 Requests from Onamalutu and Renwick for the painting of the schools was postponed till the spring
11th July 1904 A grate was granted for the Renwick school-house
1st August 1904 RENWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
[from a correspondent.]
The above Committee held a special meeting (Mr W. Tapp in the chair) on the evening of Thursday last, to receive the Headmaster's resignation, which was accepted with, sincere regret. Mr Leslie has occupied his present position for a period of five and a-half years, and during that time the success achieved by the school has been in a large measure due to his constant and close application to his duties. Hard work has been Mr Leslie's keynote from the first day he took charge of the Renwick school up to the present. Not only as Headmaster of the Renwick School will he be missed but his valuable assistance in local affairs—always

given gratuitously and voluntarily, and which has won for him the respect and esteem of the residents—will be hard to replace. His appointment as first assistant master of the Gisborne District High School will prove a valuable acquisition to that school; and as the appointment means promotion, to a teacher of Mr Leslie's calibre I feel confident that it is only the steppingstone to further advancement in his profession. I am credibly informed that the result of his work, more especially in the cause of education, will receive suitable recognition previous to his departure. lam informed that the School Committee have forwarded Mr Leslie's resignation to the Education Board, with a resolution expressive of genuine regret at the loss of his services, asking them to call for applications in the local and Wellington papers to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. With the present fixed salary of £200 a year, six shillings capitation and a first-class residence (free), the Renwick School Committee should have no difficulty in securing the services of a thoroughly up-to-date teacher. It will not be out of place to mention that three of Mr Leslie's pupils have joined the teaching profession—one is assistant master in the West End School in New Plymouth; one is in charge of an aided school at Waikakaho: and the other one has received an appointment to an aided school at Kakapau Bay, A fourth is a third-year pupil teacher at Renwick School.

6th August 1904 Renwick.—At the usual monthly meeting of the Renwick School Committee this week Mr W. Tapp was appointed permanent chairman for the remainder of this Committee's term. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr J. Bary was filled by the appointment of Mr H. Ricketts as a member of the Committee . The Chairman was instructed to wire to the Secretary of the Education Board asking that applications be immediately called for the headmastership; and Miss Brownlee was appointed to take charge till the arrival of Mr Leslie's successor. The Chairman was instructed to call a public meeting for Tuesday evening next to consider the most suitable way to recognise the headmaster's service in Renwick, previous to his leaving for Gisborne. A. draft testimonial for Mr Leslie was submitted for approval, and adopted. Leave of absence was granted to Mr Gleeson for the meeting, and to the headmaster for the last week in August. The Secretary was instructed to authorise the headmaster to have the names of Noel Andrews and Hilda Ricketts placed on the merit board; and the Secretary to apply to the Board for copies of the Education Act and amendments

8th August 1904 RENWICK. The resignation of Mr D. Leslie, a headmaster, was received; and it was mentioned that Mr Leslie had been appointed to the position of assistant master at the Gisborne School.

Mr Parker moved That the Board accepts the resignation of Mr Leslie as teacher of the Renwick School, and, while congratulating him on his pro motion, regrets the loss the Board has sustained in being deprived of the service of an efficient teacher, whose 5-i years connection with the Board has been marked by such eminent success."

In seconding the resolution, Mr Mc- Callum said that on the Board he had always set his face on the giving of testimonials to teachers, but he regarded the character of Mr Leslie's work so highly that he thought it should be specially recognised.

The Chairman spoke eulogistically of Mr Leslie's services, and said that the resolution proposed was desirable, as showing that the Board appreciated good work. Mr White also thought that Mr Leslie was deserving of hearty praise and Mr Ferguson said that the ability and industry that Mr Leslie had applied to his work was worth holding up as an example to the general body of teachers.

The motion was carried.

It was reported that steps were being taken to fill the position, which would be vacated by Mr Leslie at the end of August.

10th August 1904 That the Committee hears which pleasure of the promotion of Mr D. E. Leslie (headmaster at Renwick) to Gisborne, although members regret: the great loss the Association will sustain by reason of his removal from the district and that the Committee desire to express their appreciation of the valuable assistance lie has rendered to the cause of the Association by creating an active interest in the school competitions of the Exhibition among the children of the Renwick district."
23rd August 1904 At a meeting held last night, the? Renwicktown School Committee selected the successor of Mr D. Leslie, the headmaster, The successful candidate is Mr H. Stratford, the teacher at Canvastown Mr Bell, of Moeraki (Otago) is the second choice and Mr Bayly, of Woodville, third. There were thirteen candidates, the majority of whom held Dl and D 2 certificates.
In view of Mr D. E. Leslie's forthcoming departure for Gisborne, the pupils of the Renwick School made a presentation to him on Friday afternoon, when singing, etc., added to the pleasure of the affair. Miss Brydon,. assistant teacher, handed the gift to the recipient. On Thursday last the old pupils of Mr Leslie, at the hands of Master George Gee, presented their late teacher with a silver-mounted walking-stick. On both occasions Mr Leslie feelingly responded. We understand a public function, at which Mr Leslie will be farewelled, is to take place on Wednesday evening.
At end of 1904 D E Leslie was the third teacher at Gisborne District School with a roll of 702
1905 Still at Gisborne with roll of 808 and a wage of £240
In 1912 to 1917 he was at Masterton School and then from 1919 to at least 1923 was Head Master of the Terrace School a big school in the centre of Wellington
In 1924 Became a school inspector in Auckland

1905

1905	101	Renwick	Stratford	Herbert A	D1	Head Master	£	220.14
1905	101	Renwick	Brownlee	Tanzie H	D3	Mistress	£	100.00
1905	101	Renwick	Brydon	Minnie		FPT4	£	50.00

22nd February 1905 The case of a boy who was reported to have left his home at Renwicktown with no boots and slept out for, six nights was mentioned before the S.M. to-day by the Truant Officer. The father was not fined, as it was evident he had honestly tried to make the boy go to school
Two truancy cases were heard by Mr T. Scott-Smith, S.M., to-day, la the case of a boy whose attendance at the Renwick School had not been what it should have been, defendant, W. Watson, was fined 5s with 7s costs. The other case was dismissed, the Truant Officer having explained that the boy seemed to be incorrigible
28th February 1905 One of the top 7 schools was Renwick
6th June 1905 RENWICK NOTES.
MEETING OF HOUSEHOLDERS.
The largest meeting of householders that Renwicktown has seen for years was held last evening, there being over sixty voters present, a considerable number of whom were ladies. Great interest was shown in the proceedings. Mr G. Coward was elected Chairman for the evening, and on taking the chair called upon the Secretary to read the report and balance sheet for the past year. The report, which was of a comprehensive nature, referred to the resignation of Mr Leslie, under whose headmastership the school had made such progress, and it referred to the unanimous selection of Mr Stratford to the position, the Committee being convinced that the high status oi the school will be maintained. The report also embodied thanks to the Education Board for its promptness and courtesy throughout the year.

the, outgoing Committee urged upon parents the necessity of regular attendance. The balance-sheet showed the expenses to have been £61 15s 9d, and the receipts £69 11s 3 1/2 d. Nominations for the new Committee were then received, the result of the election being as follows:—Messrs W. Tapp 49, J. Parsons 48, A. Fairhall 46, H. Ricketts 44, J. Andrews 43, H. Fraser 40, T. Gleeson 26, D. McVean 23, J. Waters 17. The first seven were declared duly elected, and at a subsequent meeting of the Committee Mr Tapp was re-elected Chairman.

27th September 1905 Two Renwick school attendance cases were dealt with in the Magistrate's Court this morning. Thomas Branton was fined 4s and 7s costs for failing to send a child to school the requisite number of times. The truant officer said this was the fifth offence of the defendant. Robert Forbes was fined 2s and costs for a first offence.

4th November 1905 Trafalgar Day was suitably acknowledged in Renwick; the pupils of the school saluted the flag, sang the National Anthem, and gave cheers for King and Empire. Some members of the School Committee were present at the ceremony, and congratulated the pupils on their general work. It is understood from good authority that Inspector Strachan's examination of the" school was attended with highly successful results. The teachers must be congratulated.

4th December 1905 RENWICK SCHOOL V. PICTON SCHOOL.

The Renwick boys journeyed to Picton on Saturday to try conclusions with the boys there, and the day being a beautiful one, a most enjoyable trip resulted. Renwick, captained by Fraser, made 22 and 43; Picton, captained by Junges, responded with 30 and 31, Renwick thus winning the match by four runs. The batting was not as stylish as we had hoped to see, but the bowling and fielding were, both very good. During the progress of the game and at its conclusion the boys were treated by the Picton young ladies with refreshments, which were, needless to say, greatly appreciated. Mr V. Tapp kindly lent his break and horses to convey the Renwick boys to and from the Blenheim railway station, thereby making the trip more pleasurable

18th December 1905 THE RENWICK SCHOOL "BREAKING-UP."

More than usual interest was manifested in the "breaking up ceremony at the Renwick School on Friday" last, as the occasion was marked by a presentation to Miss Minnie Brydon, who is severing her connection with the school. The Committee were represented by Mr W. Tapp (Chairman) and Mr A. Fairhall, and there was a large attendance of parents and friends, as well as a number of old pupils of the school. Mr Tapp having welcomed the visitors, and explained the objects of the gathering, Miss Janet Waters (Monitress), on behalf of the scholars, then presented Miss Brydon with a prettily designed gold necklet with greenstone heart pendant surmounted with a gold shield and suitably inscribed, asking its acceptance as a token of the regard of the scholars, and as a souvenir in days to come of the Renwick School. Mr Tapp, on behalf of the Committee, presented Miss Brydon with a very nice silver jewel case, and in doing so bore testimony to Miss Brydon's popularity and attention to duties. He introduced her successor, Master Eraser, hoping that his career would be prosperous, and he congratulated staff on the excellence of the school work. Mr Fairhall also made complimentary references to the departing teacher, and to the school results. Miss Brydon feelingly replied. Mr Stratford expressed his appreciation of Miss Brydon's work, and thanked the Committee for their kindly references to the staff, and to the boys and girls for the hearty cheers they had given the teachers. Miss Brownlee, head mistress, conducted the musical portion of the ceremony, the part singing of the pupils having art inspiriting effect upon the proceedings and giving pleasure to all.

24th March 1906 Thomson-Brydon—On the 19th inst., at Renwick Presbyterian Church, Thomas, third son of Mr James Thomson, Old Renwick Road, to Minnie, fourth daughter of

Mr James Brydon, Renwick. *Minnie (Actual Birth Name) was one of 12 children born to James and Ruth*

1906

1906	106	Renwick	Stratford	Herbert A	D1	Head Master	£	225.00
1906	103	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M I	Licensed	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1906	103	Renwick	Fraser	Ernest M		MPT1	£	25.00

8th January 1906 Inspector reported that Miss Brydon was withdrawing from the service
8th February 1906 A Mistress is wanted for Renwick School. Marlborough Education Board
12th February 1906 Several applications for "'pupil teacherships in Renwick and Blenheim schools were," on the motion of Mr Mc- Callum, forwarded to the Committees to make recommendations; the Town Committee of the Board to have the power to approve or otherwise
3rd March 1906 Before the close of the Renwick School on Friday last a large number of parents and friends assembled to bid farewell to Miss T. H. Brownlee, who has resigned from the mistressship of the school. Miss Annie Fraser, on behalf of the scholars, presented a pair of handsome silver-mounted photo frames and a well-bound copy of Longfellow's poems to Miss Brownlee, as a souvenir of her two years' teaching in Renwick. Mr W. Tapp (Chairman of the Committee) then made eulogistic references to the departing teacher. Miss Brownlee's work had always been highly appreciated by the Committee. He asked her to accept an inscribed silver jewel case and a testimonial as a mark of the Committee's high opinion. Mr H. Fraser (member of the Committee) and Mr J. Bary (a former Chairman) also made complimentary references to the departing, teacher. Mr Stratford, head-master, spoke, thanking Miss Brownlee for her assistance and active interest in the work of the school, and stating that he hoped the scholars would continue to work for the welfare of the school in general as well as their own personal welfare. The scholars then rendered Love at Home," after which Miss Brownlee feelingly replied, thanking the scholars and the Committee for their valuable presents, and saying that her work had been made pleasant by the sympathy and assistance of the Committee, the support of the parents, and the obedience of the scholars. She hoped that the scholars would each have a happy, useful, and prosperous life. Cheers were given, and the school dismissed.
6th March 1906 Your correspondent regrets that through the illness of her parents, Miss Brownlee has been compelled to sever her connection with the Renwick School. He feels sure that the breach this caused will be hard to fill. Several applications have already been before the Committee, but have been rejected.
21st March 1906 Renwick rated by Inspector Strachan as being Good included Renwick. 10 schools were so rated. The inspector took examples of writing from Renwick School to show other schools how to do it.
10th April 1906 Renwick.—It was resolved that fresh applications for assistant teacher at Renwick be invited, the Committee being dissatisfied with previous, applications
11th April 1906 At the Magistrate's Court this morning Mrs Miller, of Renwick, was lined 2« tor failure to send her child to school, the number of times deemed by the Statute.,
8th May 1906 The meeting of householders held a fortnight ago was a large and interested one, there being about- 50 voters present. The report of the outgoing Committee showed,- among other items, that there was a fair credit balance; that a mistress to succeed Miss Brownlee had not yet been appointed to the school; and that the Inspector's annual report

showed that splendid results had been gained by the school. There were 11 or 12 nominations for the Committee, the following gentlemen being elected:—Messrs Bary (Chairman), Brooks, Eraser, Gleeson, Parsons, Tapp, and Wemyss.
9th July 1906 Tua Marina—It was decided to refer to the Committee the other applications for the position vacated by Mrs Peake, Miss Williams, the one selected, having taken the Renwick position
5th October 1906 Under the provisions of the School Attendance Act, two Renwick parents were fined at the Magistrate's Court this morning. Mr Frank Woolley was fined 2s and costs on each of two informations in respect to his son Clifford and Mr Salter 2s and costs. on one charge in respect of his son Arthur.
12th December 1906 The M.H.R. medals, presented by the Hon. Mr Mills, have this year been awarded to Neil Forbes (Renwick) and Dorothy Cheek (Blenheim). Each obtained 725 marks out of 800.
12th December 1906 Mr Strachan, Inspector of Schools, reported to the Education Board last night that the annual pupil teachers' examination had been held, when all had passed also two out of three probationers had passed, viz., Mary Catley and Annie Fraser, both of Renwick. In presenting a confidential report upon the schools of the district, Mr Strachan explained that when he commented on a school as satisfactory he wished the Board to understand 'he did not mean unsatisfactory."

1907

1907	103	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	225.00
1907	103	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D3	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1907	103	Renwick	Fraser	Ernest M		MPT2	£	35.00

13th March 1907 Renwick was one of the eight “Good Schools” announced by the inspector. This being the topped ranked
13th March 1907 M.H.R. MEDALS. Master Neil Forbes notified that fee "would not be attending the High School this year to take advantage of the scholarship awarded him. The Board resolved to grant Master Forbes the £2 allowed, to be spent on books for the prosecution of his education at the Renwick School till next year. The Chairman then presented to Dorothy Greek (Blenheim School),, and Forbes (Renwick), who were presented the-M.H.R. medals donated by the Hon Mr-Mills for the girl and boy gaining the highest places in the district in the annual primary school examinations. The marks gained were equal -725 each; and the result was -entirely; creditable to the recipients of the; medals. He proceeded to address the. children appropriately upon the question of the advisability of examinations as a test of knowledge, Messrs! Hodgson and Smith, former inspectors, had the idea that examinations were not the best test. -Mr Strachan, too, was against the cramming - and sweating in class subjects that would .probably not benefit a child in after school. The modern trend was against a hard and fast -course for all pupils alike. However the school system of the present preceded for the set examination, and he hoped the recipients would not take his remarks as in any way detracting from their merits. Mr Penny, in supplementing .the Chairman’s remarks,, spoke of the increased efficiency of the Blenheim school during the past twelve months The Renwick School also had a great reputation
10th April 1907 The Renwick School Committee, in accepting with great regret the resignation of Mr H. Stratford of the head teachership, recommended the Education Board to prepare a testimonial to him in recognition of his splendid service in placing the Renwick

School in the position of the premier school in the province." Mr Stratford, in his letter to the Board, said he had been in the service of the Board 17 years, having taught in the Blenheim, Deep Creek, Cullensville, Canvastown, and Renwick Schools

23rd April 1907 RENWICK. The Renwick School Committee was elected as follows:— Messrs A. G. Mills (Chairman), J. Bary, W. Tapp, W. Brooks, D. Wemyss, R. McIsaacs, and J. Parsons.

4th May 1907 RENWICK.

FROM RENWICK On Wednesday a large number of parents assembled at the Renwick School to bid farewell to- Mr, H. A. Stratford, the headmaster, who has resigned to take up similar duties at Ngaire, near Hawera. Expressions of regret were general. Miss Williams, in a few well chosen .words most decidedly showed that the teaching staff sincerely regretted the departure of their chief, and presented Mr Stratford (on behalf of the staff) with a pair -of handsome field glasses, as a small token of the esteem in which he was held by the teachers. Upon the conclusion of this presentation and speech, and before Mr Stratford had time to reply; Neil Forbes stepped forward to read an address from the scholars. He expressed the children's regret at the resignation of their teacher. He said they were all sorry Mr Stratford was going away, and to show their esteem they had subscribed a sum of money amongst them to purchase a small present. He then handed Mr Stratford a pair of razors, attached to a silver plate on which was the following inscription; "To Mr H. A. Stratford, from the pupils of the Renwick School."

Mr Tapp then addressed the meeting, and though regretting the departure of Mr Stratford, was pleased to record the good work he had done during his stay in Renwick. "He had known Mr Stratford from boyhood, and had always found him a thoroughly hardworking and conscientious man. He wished him success, long life, and happiness.

Mr Bary apologised for the absence of Mr Mills, the chairman of the Committee, who, he said, had requested him (Mr Bary) to act as his substitute. 'Mr. Bary then spoke feelingly as follows:—To-day I am placed in the unpleasant position of wishing good-bye to our old friend. For a long time Mr. Stratford has officiated as headmaster of this school: During this he has done a great deal for the scholars, who have, I believe, done much to learn the lessons that their teacher has given- them. Our school stands in the foremost position of all the schools in the district. This fact is most gratifying, not only-to the teacher, but also to the Committee .and pupils of the school. This year the Renwick School has won the M.H.R. medal, and at least one scholarship has fallen to its lot. The Inspector has spoken most highly of the general tone of the school. Many subjects are decidedly stronger than those of rival schools. On his departure from Renwick Mr Stratford must surely feel proud of his old pupils for having done so much during his stay here. This will, I feel sure, somewhat relieve the weight of regret with which he is now laden on account of leaving, not Renwick only, but Marlborough— his birthplace. Personally, I think Mr Stratford is doing a very unwise thing in leaving friends, relations arid old associations to try his luck in new, fields. I would remind Mr Stratford just now of the old proverbs, viz., Distance lends enchantment to the view and Distant fields are greenest." I am aware, however, that Mr Stratford is ambitious, and on that account there is some excuse for his leaving here. In Taranaki, where he is going, there is a very large sphere for teachers that place is growing more rapidly than Marlborough, consequently .there are more chances of bettering a teacher's position. I do not wish to appear to be little Marlborough, however, for here we have positively the best climate in New Zealand. At Renwick we produce the best barley and merino wool the world has ever seen-; we produce the best type of boys and girls also, many of whom have in the past proved themselves capable of taking leading parts in legal; school teaching, musical, and other professions. In general business our boys have proved, and will prove, themselves worthy of prominent positions. Whilst touching on this point I would impress on the boys present- the

necessity of paying strict to their arithmetic, spelling, writing and composition. These subjects are most essential-to. the business man. I regret that more boys do not try to qualify for business. We often have in our midst really bright lads I see many before me to-day. I feel sure that it requires only a light breeze to fan into a flame the hidden business qualifications possessed by these lads. The girls also have a duty to perform. In a, district such as this is there are not the opportunities for girls to follow business pursuits, but I would ask them not to get careless because of that they are required to learn all the complicated routine of housework, including cookery, dressmaking, buying;, ironing, etc. In this connection there is a very wide course. To become a great cook one has to study hard, as also one must to accomplish any other calling. Apart from the ordinary details of managing the house the girls of to-day will in the not very far distant future have a duty to perform that requires -very earnest consideration. The political aspect of the day points to the ladies as being the leading lights in the refinement and reform of mankind. As population increases and the fight for daily bread becomes more acute the necessity for woman's help and influence is felt. It is in this direction that I would impress on the girls present to endeavour to live lives of purity, honesty of purpose and carefulness. Of the assistants Mr Stratford has had whilst in Renwick I cannot speak but eulogistically. The assistant mistress always fills, a very important position in schools, and I am pleased to say we at present and in the past have been as successful in having a good assistant teacher as we have been in having a good headmaster. During Miss Williams's term the relations between headmaster, assistant mistress, and pupil teachers have been most cordial, and consequently the school has reaped a good harvest from the umcy. 1 feel sure I am expressing the feelings of the scholars when I say that though Mr-Stratford has been strict with them they are all really sorry he is leaving here. I know for certain that all the teachers regret his departure, as also do the Committee and parents of the children attending the school. I wish you Mr Stratford, good-bye on behalf of all Present and all connected with the school and school work 1 wish you good fortune in your new home, and I look forward to the time when you will return to Marlborough to execute the higher duties of chief inspector of greater Marlborough schools.

In replying, Mr. Stratford stated that he was indeed surprised and gratified to receive the valuable presents. He did not anticipate this, nor- did he know that he was such a favourite of his colleagues and school. He found it impossible to let words express his feelings at the kind addresses and the presents he had received. During his term as headmaster of the. Renwick School he had always felt delighted with the attention arid diligence displayed by the scholars, and though he would be severed far from them he would always have a warm corner in his heart for the pupils. Mr Stratford spoke at some length in words of encouragement to the boys and girls, and hoped that he would meet them at some future time, when he would be able to compare notes with them. He would keep Renwick School in his mind's eye, and wished success to the remaining teachers, the scholars, and his successor. He advised the boys to work hard to secure the best places in the business world; to cultivate a good character;. and to all the" pupils he gave the good advice to keep the tongue of slander far from them. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the farewell meeting to a close.

4th May 1907 So long as the present system obtains the best of the Marlborough school teachers will only remain here until they can get away. Mr Stratford has gone from Renwick to the North Island, .for no increase of pay, but simply because' the conditions under our Board are almost unendurable. Now we hear of another defection. Mr Irwin, headmaster of the Havelock school, has been appointed to a similar position in the Riwaka (Nelson) school.;

18th May 1907 Mr W. R. Cook, of North-East Valley, Dunedin , has been appointed headmaster of the Renwick School in succession to Mr H. S. Stratford, who recently resigned.

30th May 1907 A rather serious trap accident occurred at Renwick last night. The horse attached to a trap in which Miss Williams, school teacher, and Miss Black, were seated, bolted through the town and capsized the conveyance in front of Mr McBride's house. Both ladies Were thrown out, and considerably hurt. Some members of a concert party who were performing at Renwick witnessed the accident, and rendered first-aid. They -found., on coming up, that the sulky had overturned on the ladies, both being pinned down. Medical assistance was summoned by telephone, and the ladies removed to a place of safety and careful attention

3rd June 1907. Empire Celebrations held at Springlands School A long article included: The programme of events commenced right away with races and such competitive sports for all standards, each division being given into the hand! of a committeeman. The children had come from far and near. The Blenheim schools of all denominations mustered about 400 children the Fairhall School (of which more below) sent about 40; Renwick 80; Wairau Valley (the party arriving by mail coach), about 15; and odd parties from both railway lines swelled the number.

11th June 1907 Renwick.— Several applications for /the teachership were received and forwarded to the .Committee.

29th June 1907 On Friday afternoon, the 21st inst., after school, the children of the standard classes of Northeast Valley School, Dunedin, were assembled in the infant room to bid good-bye to Mr W. R. Cook, second assistant, who has accepted the position of head-master of the Renwick School, Marlborough. Mr Mowat (chairman) and other members of the School Committee spoke very highly of Mr Cook's ability as a teacher, of the excellence of the work done by him **in** school, and of the keen interest taken by him in all the sports and pastimes of the children. Master L. Hubble, on behalf of the boys of the cricket and football teams, thanked Mr Cook for the keen interest- he had taken in their sports, which had enabled them to 'compete successfully with other teams, and expressed their sorrow at the departure of one who had been so good a friend to them in every way. Mr Murray, head-master, expressed the regret of the staff at Mr Cook's departure. Mr Cook had proved himself a capable and efficient teacher, and he felt exceedingly sorry, on the part of the school, that Mr Cook was leaving; but as his leaving meant considerable promotion, he could not but feel glad on that' account. On behalf of the staff and pupils he> presented Mr Cook with a complete shaving outfit, a silver mounted ebony walking-stick, and a silver match-box with monogram.

4th July 1904 Miss Black, the relieving teacher, has returned to Tira-ora, her home, to spend a short holiday before taking-a term at the teachers' training-college in Wellington. At its meeting on Monday evening the School Committee passed a vote of thanks to Misses Black and Williams for the very able way in which they had conducted their duties during the absence of a headmaster.

Mr Cook, the newly-appointed headmaster, commenced his duties on Monday morning. He was introduced to the staff and scholars by a Committeeman, who said he felt sure that the Renwick School would maintain, under Mr Cook's direction, the superior position it had hold ml the past. Mr Cook, in replying, stated that he was proud to be placed in charge of such a fine school. He stated that the children appeared to have plenty of brains, and that ii they would use them in future as they had in the past he could guarantee that the reputation of our school would be upheld

10th September 1907 Renwick. —The Committee asked for £20 for a new picket fence.—It was resolved that the Committee be asked to .supply particulars of the kind of fence and size of the work

15th October 1907 Inspector reported Renwick school was in the second division of schools at Satisfactory to good level

1908

1908	96	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	225.00
1908	96	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D3	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1908	96	Renwick	Fraser	Ernest M		MPT3	£	45.00

11th February 1908 The annual ceremony of presenting the C H Mills MP Medals to the boy and girl gaining the highest number of marks in the December examinations at the Primary schools took place at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday-. The recipients were Master Bary Renwick, and Miss Eileen Lord of Blenheim. The chairman in making the presentation that a very young girl. Lilian Smith of Havelock, was to be awarded a medal by the Board in recognition of the fact that her marks were equal to those of the winning girl though not securing the M P medal- Mr Reader was deputed to present Miss Smith with her trophy at some suitable occasion, and also the Chaytor shooting medals. In his report to the Hon Mr Mills the inspector remarks that Ivor Prichard, Marlboroughtown, did excellent work gaming 635 marks, although only 11 .Years 8 months old. Eileen Lord , Blenheim, and Lilian Smith, Have gained equal marks but the medal was awarded to the former as she did all her standard 6 work in Marlborough whereas Lilian Smith had only a few months in the district.

11th February 1908 The following Junior Scholarships, entitling the winners to free places at the Marlborough High School, have been awarded under the Education Board's regulations Madeline Hilliard, .Blenheim girls', 479 marks, £2 for two years. Hubert J. Avery, Fairhall, 460 marks, £2 for two years. Adelina M. Coward, Ugbrooke, 452 ma efts, £25 for two years. Leonard' J. Bary, Renwick, 446, takes the Junior National Scholarship, the three examinees above him being ineligible, owing to age. He is to receive £10 per year, to be increased to £40 per year if obliged to live away from home. Ethel J. Grace, Blenheim girls', 426, £2 for two years. Herbert S. Stratford, Canvastown, 422, £25 for two years. Inez R. M. Hodgson, Blenheim girls' 421, £2 for two years. Leslie 1 O. Watson, Renwick, 408, £2 and up to £5 expenses for two years. Cecilia M. Gould, Nydia Bay, 396 £25 for one year

11th February 1908 Renwick.—The Chairman of the
School Committee waited on the Board and solicited financial assistance in» order to erect necessary fencing.—An offer to do the work for £12 10s was put in by Mr Storey on behalf of a Renwick tradesman. The offer was accepted. The Committee was also allowed cupboards for the school and the residence.

29th April 1908 Renwick. Messrs R. D. Mills (chairman., A. McIsaac, D. Wemyss, A. Jarman, W. Tapp, Mesdames A. Williams and E. Shaw.

9th June 1908 Tuesday. The hockey season was opened in Renwick last /Wednesday, when the members of the Tui. Hockey Club played their first game. There was a good muster of young ladies and quite a number of visitors, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. Judging by the play on Wednesday, great honours appear to be in store for this club. Alter the game the heated and tired players retired to I the schoolroom, where afternoon tea was partaken of. The school grounds have kindly been put at the disposal of the club by Mr Cook. It is hoped in time that the club will have a ground of its own. The Renwick schoolboys journeyed down to Springlands on Friday afternoon to nave a game of football against that team. It was an equally matched game, and a -most interesting one. It resulted in a' win for

the Renwick boys. Ray Eraser scored a try, but failed to convert it, and shortly afterwards scored another try, Frank Brydon tried this time, but was unsuccessful in notching a goal. After the game the boys were provided with tea and cakes.
12th November 1908 RENWICK SCHOOL. A letter was received from Renwick pointing out in regard to the agricultural vote that the boys would till the ground, and all they would require would be £4 for a fence. Two. coats of paint were needed for the teacher's residence, and the Committee thought it would be better to have a separate building for a shelter shed instead of the lean-to as previously proposed. This would cost an additional £4. They were willing j however, if the Board granted them £15 to pay any additional themselves. —It was agreed to grant the requests in regard to the painting of the residence and the fence, and to grant them the £15 for the erection of a j shelter shed. Private tenders to be called
4th December 1908 The following Renwick School pupils gained Proficiency which allowed winners to a free place at secondary school: Renwick: Frank Brydon, Wilfred Mills, Colin Wemyss, James Williams, Helen Fleming, Annie Haines
In cases where the pupils are under fifteen years of age on the 1st December they are entitled, to two years' free tuition at the High School
9th December 1908 Four candidates presented themselves for the local examination for pupil-teachers, held in accordance with the Board's regulations, and all satisfied the requirements of the examination. The candidates were Miss Josephine Hilliard (Blenheim). Miss Margaret McCallum (Blenheim), Miss Faith Brewer (Blenheim), and Master E. Fraser (Renwick).

1909

1909	92	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	230.00
1909	92	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D3	Assistant Female	£	110.00
1909	92	Renwick	Fraser	Ernest M		MPT4	£	55.00

22nd January 1909 passing the Junior National Scholarship Examination. The Education Board's scholarships are also awarded on the result of this examination. Marlborough is entitled to one Junior National Scholarship, which will probably be awarded to the candidate (from Marlborough) gaining the highest number of marks. The maximum number of marks attainable is 800. Lilian E- Falkner (Blenheim) 581 Lilian A. Smith (Havelock) 518 Ivor G. Prichard (Marlboroughtown) 508 Rosa M. Innes (Blenheim) 484 Leonard J. Bary (Renwick) 475 Emma Kirby (Blenheim) 459…..
26th January 1909 I believe the time has arrived when the secretary should call the annual meeting to arrange for the public picnic that has been held regularly every year for a lengthy period. Last year I remember the school children and parents were conveyed to the Sounds. It remains to be seen whether a similar treat will be given this year. The Renwick school re-opens on Monday, 1st proximo, when "the schoolboy with his satchel and shining morning face will wend his way unwillingly to school."
5th February 1909 Last evening a most enthusiastic meeting was held in the school tor the purpose of arranging for the annual public picnic. A large number of parents and friends were present, and at was decided that the holiday be spent at white's Bay on Wednesday, 17th inst. A strong committee, was formed to make arrangements. Messrs A. G. Mills, Wm. Brydon and J. Bary were appointed chairman, treasurer and secretary respectively. It was decided that drags convey the picnickers from Renwick, leaving at an early hour, and return at a, •reasonable time in the evening. A substantial sum of money was collected in the room, which will be supplemented with subscription lists to defray expenses. Last year the school

children were treated at the Sounds, and by way of a change the above site was selected this year. I might mention that it is sixteen years this month since the annual public picnic was instituted, and the function has been held regularly since with the exception of a short interval. The school was re-opened on Monday morning, when a full attendance was recorded.

9th February 1909 Part of a long Marlborough Education Board report on live fences. Renwick.—The Committee applied for money wherewith to paint the fence in front of the master's residence —Mr White moved that the request be acceded to. Mr Reader said that if they paint this fence they must do the same to -every other school making the same request. Mr Conolly, referring to Springlands, said that they rather prided themselves-that they had never asked the Board to do anything for them in. the way of fences. They had planted a live fence, which was the best and most economical fence of all. It did not matter what kind of a hedge they had, it was cheaper than any fence that had to be painted. They cost very little to plant and very little to keep in order. Mr Smith objected to picket fences round a school, and the painting of them. He quite agreed with Mr Conolly that almost everywhere the live fence was preferable. Mr Penny thought that both Messrs Smith and Conolly were wrong. They had a very cogent example .in their Borough School. The Committee had had no end of trouble with their hedge, and he thought the paling fence was the best. They had only, he thought, once asked the Board to do anything to the paling fence since he had been on the Committee. Mr Parker endorsed Mr Conolly s remarks. He thought that the live fences were the cheapest in the end. The Chairman r greed that there was no doubt that the live hedge was the cheapest and best. When they voted on the question they were voting on the whole question of painting fences. He had told the Renwick people that they had no chance or getting what they wanted in that respect. Then they went to Mr White and got him to com© and represent a -special case, but that was not the way to conduct the business of the Board. It had always been the policy of the Board not to paint fences. it they had any money to throw away in adornment they should do it in the Board's centres—Picton and Blenheim ……

9th June 1909 Mr H. A. Stratford, late headmaster of the Canvastown and Renwick schools, who some two years ago was appointed to a similar position in the Ngaire (Taranaki) School, has now received an appointment as headmaster of the Inglewood School, a big school in a progressive Taranaki dairying centre

28th June 1909 Mr H. A. Stratford, headmaster of the Inglewood School (Taranaki) is spending part of his winter vacation in Blenheim. He leaves again tomorrow

1910

1910	79	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	235.00
1910	79	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D2	Assistant Female	£	115.00
1910	79	Renwick	Fraser	Ernest M		MPT5	£	55.00

17th February 1910 Miss Monica Neumann and Mr Neil Forbes have been appointed probationers under the Marlborough Education. Board. Miss Neumann will be attached to the Havelock School, and Mr Forbes to Renwick.

1st March 1910 It is expected that keen interest will be manifested in the coming School Committee election. Several influential householders express their intention, of standing on a "ticket" for the purpose, if elected, of transacting a very important piece of business in connection with educational matters of local interest.

26th April 1910 Renwick had an attendance record of 92% for 1909 according to the inspector
Drill. Sergeant-Major Colclough spent some time with the Cadets with manifest benefit to them. A detachment has been recognised at Renwick.

1911

1911	72	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	240.00
1911	72	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D2	Assistant Female	£	120.00

26th April 1911 Renwick: The following Committee were elected: —Messrs' James Brydon, D. Wemyss, R. D. McIsaac, T. Gleeson, Alf. J. Mills, C. Jordan, and Mrs D. Wemyss. After the householders' meeting a meeting was held by the newly-elected Committee, and Mr Mills was elected chairman.
3rd May 1911 but the following incomplete list of books in school libraries shows that our schools are fairly well provided already with continuous readers':—Blenheim (494), Grovetown j (400), Linkwater (83), Picton (96), Marlboroughtown (223), Marshlands (103), Spring Creek (150), Waitaria (85), Seddon (50), Richmond Brook (30), Fairhall (323), Renwick (230), Tua Marina (35),
Inspector's notes also included Most improvement in reading method was noticed at Tua Marina, Picton, Renwick, Okaramio, Te Puru; and, in comprehension of read, at Blenheim and Canvastown.
Spelling is a useful discipline in accuracy as well as a common criterion of education. Set tests were for the most part- well done. Eli Bay, Nydia Bay, Onahau, Onapua, Renwick, Springlands, Tennyson Inlet, Waitohi, and St. Joseph's may be mentioned for excellence
4th May 1911 Inspector's notes included: ln 72 schools singing was taught, and in the better schools reached a high degree of excellence; in addition to modulator and other vocal exercises, songs in unison, rounds and part, songs are practised. The best class of work was noted at
St. Joseph's Girls' (special), Waitohi (special), Blenheim, Renwick, Springlands, St. Mary's Boys', Picton, St; Lawrence, and Havelock
Miniature rifle ranges are either formed or under weigh at Havelock, Grovetown, Renwick, and Blenheim. Picton school has the premier place in shooting. In some schools the drill might be. more vigorous. Rai Valley and Renwick exhibited most progress for the year, Under the Defence Act, 1909, the Junior Cadets must give 52 hours to drill
14th November 1911 RENWICK SCHOOL. -The Renwick School Committee asked for a grant of £2 to have the desks repaired.—inspector to report, with power, with Mr White, to act

1912

1912	81	Renwick	Cook	William R	D2	Head Master	£	215.00
1912	81	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D2	Assistant Female	£	125.00

29th January 1912 Quite one of the most interesting features of the Teachers' Summer School is the exhibition of school work in the Technical School. The exhibits are gathered from various schools in the district, and make up a collection which displays well the capabilities of the children. Plasticine models are exhibited by the Marshlands, Renwick, and Separation Inlet schools. A commendable degree .of art and novelty being shown in all the works. The models from the Renwick school' are mainly confined to fruit,

13th February 1912 The following list of candidates for the Marlborough district who were successful in the recent junior national scholarship examinations was received by the Education. Board yesterday from the Inspector-General of Schools:—lrene A. Pike Blenheim. 533 ; Charles B. Burns, St. Mary's, 508; Victor E. Moss, Ocean Bay, 497; 'Muriel Times, Blenheim, 493; Digby Perrett, Renwick, 492…….
23rd April 1912 Inspector Strachan M A reported meritorious essay writing at Renwick (Lower Division)
Renwick made most progress in Part Singing
25th April 1912 School Committee The following have been elected members of the Renwick School Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs James Brydon, C. Jordan, J. McKay, J. Parsons, D. Wemyss, R. McIsaac, and A. G. Mills (chairman).

1913

1913	84	Renwick	Robson M	Harry	B2	Head Master	£	210.00
1913	86	Renwick	Williams	Agnes M T	D2	Assistant Female	£	130.00
1913	86	Renwick	Heffer	Dorothy		Assistant Female	£	90.00
1913	86	Renwick	Watson	Leslie		MPR1	£	20.00

11th February 1913 Miss D Heffer appointed assistant *(Dorothy G)*

16th April 1913 School classes in woodwork, cookery, and advanced plain needlework were continued at the Blenheim Technical School, and were attended by pupils from the following schools:—Blenheim, Picton, Springlands, Grovetown, Renwick, Fairhall, Tua Marina, Koromiko, Marlborough High School, and Convent.
The following schools taught history with most effect: —-Havelock, Benhopai, Eli Bay, Marlboroughtown, Nopera Bay, Opouri Valley, Otonga, Renwick, Robin Hood Bay, Waikawa Pa, Waireka, Waterfalls, and Canvastown
In model drawing, Renwick, Tua Marina, and Blenheim were conspicuous.
30th April 1913 COOK.—On 29th April, 1913, at Nurse Fairhall's Private- Hospital: William Reginald Cook, late headmaster Renwicktown School; aged, 35 years. Deeply regretted. [Dunedin papers please copy.]
30th April 1913 Mr W. R. Cook, late headmaster of Renwicktown School, whose sudden, demise has caused consternation, among Marlborough teachers, was very highly esteemed by the members of the profession. He was. a, Londoner by birth, and came out with his parents when only a child. He was educated in Dunedin was a pupil teacher in the North-East Valley School, and has been headmaster at Renwick for a number of. years.
14th June 1913 There is a good deal to be said in favor of the attitude taken up by a correspondent whose letter is published in another part of this issue, regarding the Blenheim School Committee's recommendation of a Wellington gentleman for the position of headmaster of the Borough Schools. It is certainly not encouraging to the teachers of Marlborough, some of whom have spent many years in the service of the local Education Board, to find themselves put on one side when the more important positions become vacant; and the Blenheim Committee's decision to recommend an outsider, coming on top of a similar decision on the part of the Renwick Committee, may well cause the teachers of this district to wonder how they are I to receive promotion.
14th June 1913 Mr H. Robson, who has been appointed headmaster of the Renwick school, will probably take up his duties on August 1. *Mr Robson in 1912 was teaching at Te Rehunga*

School in the Hawkes Bay Board. Te Rehunga is South of Dannevirke towards the Ruahine Mountains

15th July 1913 Marlborough Education Board Meeting report included A communication was read from Mr N. J. Cox, acting in behalf of the Marlborough branch of the Teachers' Institute, as follows:— "I have been consulted by" the Marlborough District Educational Institute with reference to the procedure adopted by the Board in connection with the appointment of a head teacher for Renwick. I am instructed that the appointment has not been carried out in manner provided by the Education Act, 1908, and the Amendment Act, 1908, inasmuch as the duties imposed by section 55 of the principal Act and section 14 of the amending Act have not been observed by the Board. "The matters of complaint that I am instructed to bring under the notice of the chairman and members of the Board consist of (inter alia) the following (a.) That the; Board has failed to send to the Committee a list containing not more than four names (in order of merit as determined by the Board) of the teachers whom the Board considers best fitted for the Appointment. (b.) That the Committee, in the absence of the list above mentioned, have not complied with the requirements of section 14, paragraph (c) of the Amendment Act, 1908.

"I am therefore instructed to inform you that if the appointment just made is not annulled and a new appointment made in accordance with the statutory requirements, the Institute will bring the matter before the Supreme Court on a motion for an injunction and an order directing the Board to fulfil such requirements. "With regard to the proposed appointment of a head teacher for Blenheim public school, the Institute would again draw the Board's attention to the necessity of acting in accordance with the Act so that there will be no occasion to adopt a similar attitude to the one they have adopted in the case of the Renwick school."

15th July 1913 A request was received from the Renwick Committee to have the teacher's resident renovated inside, re-papering and varnishing being necessary. It was also asked that; two chairs and a carron stove be supplied to the school.—The architect was instructed to have necessary repairs carried out, and the other requests were granted.

9th September 1913 The committee made a. request for the installation of a hot and cold water service at the teacher's residence and the leading of cold Water to the school lavatory. The work would cost slightly over £30.

Mr McCallum considered that this work should be done, but Mr Fulton mentioned that they would be establishing a precedent which they would regret.

Mr, Ferguson was not in favor of granting luxuries until several necessities had been met.

It was decided to apply to the Education Department for a grant for the work.

14th October 1913 RENWICK The Board visited Renwicktown during the day. The secretary was instructed to apply to the Government for the improvement of the water service, the erection of ,a wash-house and the installation of a septic tank

The Committee wrote again urging the Board to establish an improved water-supply at the school. It was resolved to visit the school during the morning of next meeting day.

11th November 1913 The Board visited Renwicktown during the day. I The secretary was instructed to apply to the Government for the improvement of the water service, the erection of ,a wash-house and the installation of a septic tank.

22nd December 1913 The senior selector (Mr W. D. A. Chisholm) has chosen the following team to represent Marlborough:—H. E. Avery, O. B. Hickman, A. Mills, and R, Pearpoint (Wairau); M. Neal, H. Whittle, and H. Robinson (Marshlands); R. Cragg and W. McAlpine (Picton); J. H. Goulding (High School); and **H. Robson (Renwick).** Marlborough Cricket team to play Wellington

1914

1914	86	Renwick	Robson M A	Harry	B1	Head Master	£	210.00
1914	86	Renwick	Nevison	Isabella	D4	Assistant Female	£	120.00
1914	86	Renwick	Heffer	Dorothy		Assistant Female	£	90.00

13th January 1914 RENWICK. The Board accepted {foe offer of Mr A. G. Mills to carry out wash-house improvements for £8, the work to be done to the satisfaction of the Board's architect

10th February 1914 The resignations of the following teachers were received:—Miss E. M. Brydon, Kaituna; Miss A. M. Williams assistant mistress, Renwick;

10th February 1914 The Secretary was instructed to apply to the Minister for house allowances in lieu of the grants that were available for some -time for school residences at Blind River and Renwick, and were not appropriated at the time. *This meant that the house was in poor condition and the Head Teacher would be given an allowance to live elsewhere*

At the instance of Mr McCallum, provision was made for the erection of a windmill for the-,,, water-supply, system of the Renwick school

24th February 1914 Mr H. Robson, headmaster of the Renwick school, has been successful in gaining his M. A. degree.

16th April 1914 Miss I Nevison appointed. *Isabella Nevison taught at Blenheim for 3 years then 5 years at Renwick s and at least 3 years at Springlands*

1977/44243 Nevison Isabella 13/4/1892 85Y

21st April 1914 Renwick children attended Technical Classes in Blenheim. Inspector's report

19th June 1914 The Renwick school hockey team, which inflicted a defeat on the Huia team of ladies by 7 goals to 1 on Wednesday, is composed of girls and boys. This is a new departure in local hockey.

26th June 1914 The following fixtures have been announced for the first round of the Bottrell Cup competition for primary school girls, matches to commence at 1.30 p.m. on Saturdays:
June 27: Renwick v. Blenheim, at Renwick.
July 4th: Convent v. Springlands, Grovetown v. Borough, Renwick a bye.

7th September 1914 RENWICK v. "THE WORLD."

A team has been chosen from the Blenheim Borough, Convent, Grovetown, and Springlands school teams to play the Renwick school team next Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Renwick has played through the two rounds of the Bottrell Cup competition, winning every game, and usually by a substantial margin of goals. The team scored 42 goals during the competition, and had not a single goal scored against it.. Arrangements will be made for a conveyance to leave Market Square at 2 p.m. Those girls desirous of taking advantage of it are requested to notify the headmaster of the Blenheim school not later than Wednesday.

14th September 1914 RENWICK v. "THE WORLD."

PRESENTATION OF THE BOTTRELL CUP.

Friday was a "green-letter day" in the annals of the Renwick. School, and, indeed of the district; for parents and friends turned out from far and near to witness the presentation of the Bottrell Cup and the match in which, the unbeaten Renwick girls played & pitted against the pick of the other schools. The match proved fast and open, and showed that the competition has brought out some really clever young players. Renwick's combination, however, together with their sound fielding and judicious hitting, once more brought them victory, this time by 6 goals to 1. The team have now the wonderfully good record of 13 matches played and won: They have the splendid score of 66 goals to their credit, while only 2 have been scored against them- In the match on Friday their play in the first half was well-nigh perfect, the

combination and passing being such as are rarely seen in first class teams. The five forwards were brilliant, and kept their places splendidly. Phyllis Wemyss and Lizzie Adams, outside halves, fielded and fed the forwards with unerring accuracy, while Grace Finlay- at five-eighths .stopped and hit in a manner that no senior would be ashamed of. The "allied forces" consisted of eleven clever and active girls, but, coming from different schools, they lacked the concerted play so evident in the Renwick, team. Rona Register at centre played well, and vigorously, and was well; supported by Brodie Hoult and Marjory Simpson. The best player on the side was Ivy King, who. hits hard, and with judgment, and follows up well. She scored the goal for her side by good following up. Other sound and active Tracks were- Gladys. Smith and Helen Watson. In the second half the Renwick attack was weaker, and the allied forces appeared to. much greater advantage; but the Renwick. fullbacks showed very sound defence. After the. match the big crowd of spectators; assembled in the schoolroom, which, was filled to overflow-

Included in the visitors were teachers from the other schools, members of the Renwick Committee, .and the chairman and /secretary of the Education Board. First of all the school choir gave a spirited rendering of the British National Anthem and "The Marseillaise;" and then Mr A. J Botterell , donor of the cup, presented it to the Renwick captain, "Miss Phyllis Wemyss. .In doing so Mr. Bottrell congratulated the team on their splendid record, which, he said, was no doubt ,in large measure clue to the coaching of their master, Mr H. Robson.

Mr Robson briefly replied in behalf of the team, and then made a small presentation to Mr W. S. Watson, who very kindly conveyed the girls to Blenheim whenever matches had to be played there. This was followed by yet another presentation, for Mr A. Mills,. chairman of the committee, handed to Mr Robson a very handsome fountain pen in behalf of' the hockey girls in token of their gratitude for the interest and time he had devoted to them. Afternoon tea on a most lavish scale was provided by the ladies of the district, and was much appreciated—especially by the smaller children. Hearty cheers were given for the Renwick team, the visitors, Mr Robson, Mr Bottrell, and for the ladies. In every way the function was most enjoyable, and the utmost I enthusiasm and friendliness were shown.

1st October 1914 It is many years since a school concert was held in Renwick; but this pleasing function is to be revived: on Tuesday and Wednesday next. An excellent programme of music has been prepared and the second half of the entertainment consists of an enlarged edition of the comical and tuneful cantata, "Soot and the Fairies." Those who have seen the j children state that their work is j particularly good, and visitors will s see and hear, something distinctly out of the common run

3rd October 1914 Those who attended the presentation of the Bottrell Cup at Renwick were much impressed by the singing ;of the school choir. ;A further opportunity of hearing these young performers will be given on Tuesday and Wednesday next, when they present the cantata "Soot and the Fairies," together with other tuneful and interesting items.' The children have been carefully, prepared,. and if their concert work is as good as their hockey, they should be well worth seeing and hearing;

7th October 1914 RENWICK SCHOOL CONCERT.

After a lapse of many; years, Renwick people were last night treated once more to & school concert. The result was something of an eye-opener to most, as to the capabilities of children when well trained.

The first part of the programme consisted of orchestral items splendidly rendered by a very efficient orchestra of seven, all of whom were local residents. Here again the district received a surprise as to its own capabilities.

The opening number of tine first part was a spirited rendering by choir and orchestra of the British National Anthem and "The Marseillaise." The part-singing was excellent, and the

sudden display of Union Jacks and tricolors was ingenious and striking. The whole effect of this item was really thrilling. Perhaps the most popular item of the evening was a clever topical song set to a well-known catchy air and sung with great vim and with most amusing accessories. This song, which featured Mr Massey, Mr R. McCallum, "Our Miss Heffer," the head .master,, and the "Bottrell Cup," proved most entertaining, and the audience could not get enough of it. A number of pretty little girls beautifully dressed, gave a very pleasing exhibition of flag drill, and two well-delivered recitations by Druscilla and Allan Vorbach completed this part of the programme. Allan Vorbach, though quite a small boy, gave his recitation with real intelligence, and the audience demanded more.

The main part of the concert was the amusing cantata, "Soot and .the Fairies" in. which "Cleanliness in the persons-of-the Fairies, completely overcomes "Dirt," in. the persons of the Black Brigade. The cantata, which was enlarged for the occasion, abounds in tuneful measures and in opportunities' for fun, and the children gave a really fine rendering of it. Their singing, talking, acting, and drilling were all of an exceptionally high order. Phyllis Wemyss made a charming-Queen Lily., singing her solos arid speaking her parts in a. very praiseworthy manner. The leader of the Black Brigade, Rex Brydon, showed much cleverness and originality, and kept the audience convulsed with laughter. Minor parts were well taken by Doris McIsaac, Stella Capon, Dugald McIsaac, Stuart Catley, Lewis Haines, Paul Newman, and Arnold Newman.

Apart from the singing, which was consistently good, the parts being nicely balanced, the most pleasing feature of the cantata was the series of drills, which were beautifully executed. The tambourine drill was particularly good. A song by the Black Brigade, containing several local hits, was, of course, very popular. The children were specially dressed for the occasion, and their appearance on the stage was a credit to themselves, their parents, and their master.

The whole organisation of the concert arrangement of drills, training of children, etc.,. were carried out by the head master, Mr H. Robson, send he played the accompaniments and incidental music for the cantata. The stage was very prettily decorated, to represent "Lilyvale," and with the pretty, daintily-dressed ,children presented a sight that will live long in the memory of Renwick folks. The concert will be repeated tonight.

9th October 1914 The second' night's performance at the Renwick school concert was even better than the first.. The audience was most appreciative, and everything went with a fine swing. As on the first night, the children's singing; and drill were particularly good and recalls were frequent. The most popular items were the clever "topical, "The Marseillaise," and the "Tambourine Song." Visitors were present from quite distant parts of the district, and the result was a handsome addition to the school funds.

13th October 1914 RENWICK. Mr H. Robson (headmaster) wrote in terms of thanks for the improvements the Board had effected at the school and residence during the last few years, adding that he felt sure that under extended or central control it might have been many years before these improvements would have been effected. Mr Robson also forwarded a cheque for £7 10s, which had been earmarked from the proceeds of the recent school concerts as a contribution towards the cost of the installation of septic tank systems at the school. The architect was instructed to arrange to have a septic tank installed at the teacher's residence at the same time as the work was being carried out at the school. A motion was also passed thanking Mr Robson for his efforts. The Chairman remarked that the letter was unique in his experience, and it was a pleasure, to receive such a communication.,

15th December 1914 RENWICK. An application to have the old desks in the infants' room replaced by dual desks was granted, and the inspector was instructed to report on all unsuitable desks in the Board's schools.

The Committee agreed to contribute annually towards the maintenance of the septic tank system already authorised

1915

1915	74	Renwick	Haughey	James	D1	Head Master	£	220.00
1915	74	Renwick	Nevison	Isabella	D4	Assistant Female	£	130.00
1915	74	Renwick	Jeffries	Alice		Assistant Female	£	110.00

1907/1989 Louisa Josephine Wratten James Haughey

13th April 1915 During the past year, the Marlborough Education Boa r«- has been aiming at the improvement .of sanitary, conditions at its schools, and septic tank systems have been installed at Renwick, Havelock, and Picton, and similar works have been authorised for the Springlands, Rapaura, Grovetown,, and Ward schools. The contractors are at present engaged in bringing the Blenheim school into line, with those already mentioned. The Board's programme for 1915 provides for the installation of septic tank systems at Marlboroughtown and Canvastown. Where septic tanks are provided the School Committees agree to pay the Board an amount equal to what was formerly spent by them on the services of a sanitary contractor.

10th May 1915 . At a meeting of householders at Renwick last week the following school committee was elected for the ensuing term: Messrs A. G. Mills (chairman), J. B. Parsons, D. Wemyss, Rev. A. .H. Coates, and R. H. Cate (secretary).

14th May 1915 H. R Fisher, headmaster at Tua Marina, gave evidence in his capacity as president of the Marlborough, Branch of the Education Institute. He strongly supported the proposal t& amalgamate Marlborough with Wellington as promising an improved outlook for the teachers. He represented the peculiar disabilities under which the profession labored in this district in regard to promotion and general advancement , and pointed out that .whereas 'Marlborough had only four positions worth salaries over £250 a year, Wellington had 64. The encouragement of the teachers would react in the interests of the school children. Practically nothing would be gained from the teachers' point of view by amalgamation to Nelson. Harold' Robson, M.A., headmaster at Renwick, supported the case presented by the previous witness. E. S. Hylton, secretary to the Education Board, gave the information, that in the Marlborough district ..there were 3 certificated; and 42 uncertificated teachers in 'grade 0; 5 and -22 respectively in grade l and 7 certificated, 1 uncertificated, and 1 licensed teacher in grade 2.

13th July 1915 Mr H. Robson, M.A., who has, been appointed to the position of first assistant at the Marlborough High School in succession to the late Captain J. H. Colliding, was educated primarily at the West Christchurch .School and thru at Christ's College. He commenced his degree work at Canterbury College, obtaining his B.A. and M.A. degrees through Victoria College, he is a trained .teacher of nearly twenty years' successful experience of all kinds, gained: in town, and country. For more than two years he was in. charge of the secondary department at the Woodville district high school, and latterly has been headmaster at Renwick. Mr Robson was a representative footballer in Hawkes Bay, and has represented Napier, South Hawke's Bay. and Marlborough on the cricket field. He is a prominent figure in hockey circles, and is a. good swimmer and tennis-player. has a good knowledge of military drill, and the officers' training camp at Hastings in. 1912, and has .been twice through a course of Swedish physical training, -as conducted by the Education

Department. To these qualifications he adds a thorough experience in choral, operatic, and orchestral work,

10th August 1915 RENWICK DONATIONS.

The secretary (Mr H. Robson) has to acknowledge the following donations: -Renwick school girls, 34 "housewives." *This is probably not the mothers of Renwick but some kind of sewing done by the games*

10th August 1915 RENWICK VACANCY. In connection with, the headmastership of Renwick School, rendered vacant by the appointment of Mr Robson to the High School, it was decided to forward three names of qualified applicants, with a. recommendation to the Committee that Mr Haughey. of Koromiko School, be Appointed

19th October 1915 At the Koromiko School on Thursday afternoon Mr Haughey, who is leaving to .assume the headmastership of the Renwick School, was presented with a leather pocket wallet, mounted in silver. Mrs Haughey was the recipient of a silver manicure set. and Miss Gertrude Wratten received an autograph album. In making the presentation to Mr Haughey, Mr D. Paterson expressed the regret which the settlers and children felt at having to part with him. He had proved himself to be a most efficient teacher, and had done fine work in the eight years he had spent in Koromiko. They all wished him every success in his new sphere, and many years of useful work.

1916-1917

1917	75	Renwick	Haughey	James	D-47	Head	£240.00
1917	75	Renwick	Nevison	Isabella	D-96	Assistant	£140.00

Isabella Nevison was born in Blenheim in 1892, to David Russell Nevison, who owned a Grocers in town. He died in 1904 however, leaving the family, presumably, in straightened circumstances. Isabella's first teaching role was at the Blenheim Borough School as pupil teacher in 1911, aged 19, she had passed her civil service exam two years earlier but presumably had failed to get a place. She passed her teaching exam in 1913, but it wasn't until the following year she received her first assistant role, at Renwick. I can't find anything else about her in the papers, when she left etc. is a mystery. Neither her nor any of her 3 siblings ever married, nor left Blenheim. She died in 1977 and is buried with her sister in Blenheim.

15th February 1916 Painting residence at Renwick W J Williams £22 10s

15th June 1916 Inspectors reports a septic tank had been installed at the Renwick Residence in the past year

31st July 1916 SCHOOL FETE AND CONCERT
SUCCESSFUL- AT
RENWICK

The school fete conducted by the Ladies' Patriotic Committee at Renwick on Wednesday, the 19th inst., proved a great .success. Much good work for the various stalls was done by the children and ladies and contributions of goods from outside were sent in liberally. The vice-president (Mrs Richards) and the hon. secretary (Mrs Haughey) were kept busy all day receiving these goods and assigning them to their proper places'

At- 2.30 the president (Mr J. Haughey) opened the proceedings by welcoming the visitor's, explaining the object of the entertainment, and directing attention to the various stalls and their wares and to the livestock outside.

A brisk business at once began,, and the stall-holders were kept busy till the concert began at 8 p.m.

The stall-holders were: —Fancy .goods. Misses Mills and Edmeades (2); dolls, Miss Edmeades; sweets, Miss Williams, assisted by Miss V. Adams; produce, Mr Kennington; cakes, Mrs O'Connor; Christmas tree, Mrs Haughey, .assisted by Miss Mead. The tea room was under the capable, management of Mrs Watson, sen. assisted by the Misses Boyce and E. Watson. Miss Maggie Boyce did good work with her Red Cross doll, collecting 19s 6d in the hall, besides' receiving the following donations: Mrs W Bell 12s, Messrs W. Bell 10s, G. Bartlett 10.s, and J. Kirkpatrick 10s.

The children wore also willing workers, but found the Christmas tree the centre of attraction. Mrs Clouston and Mrs H. Y. Monro kindly acted as judges in the cooking and doll-dressing competitions.

The. following were -the: results' Best dressed doll by girls in Standards, VI. and. V. Mollie; Beirne Gertrude Wratten-- 2 In Standards IV. and III.:',. Nellie Beirne 1; Zita McIsaac :2. Pound cake, -Mrs Haughey. -1, Mrs Haines 2; best plain sponge, Mrs Laidlaw,; best, fancy sponge, Mrs Haughey; shortbread, Mrs Laidlaw; tray, of fancy biscuits, Mrs Haughey –

Great interest was.; taken in the nail-driving competition the two winners; being Miss B; Edmeades .arid Mr H Rowe

'Mr S. Jordan guessed correctly the name of the bride doll ("Bessie").

In the cake weight-guessing three tied and after drawing lots Miss N Forbes was the winner

A fine pet sheep, given -by Mrs Cruickshank's ,.-was.-decorated with the Allies colors and brought forward on, the stage by Mr Watson to, be sold by auction. Mr Gorry and Mr J. Bary led off with £5 each and by continued re-selling the animal realised, £28 16s. It eventually fell to the bid of Mr W Flanders at 45 shillings

The Concert: An excellent programme for. the concert was prepared. It was highly gratifying to the management to see the hall packed to the-doors, there being scarcely standing room, and the performers also appreciated their reception. Mr- Corry was. invited to preside, and in his address congratulated the ladies' committee on their good work, and extended a warm welcome to their patrons After the singing of the National Anthem, the opening number, 'The Marseillaise," was Sung by the school children, -accompanied by Perry's orchestra. Then followed Misses Myra and Lorna Litchfield Mr Plum the: Misses Boyce (horn pipe)., Miss Morrison, Mr Bull; the Misses Davies (3), Mrs:: Jeffries Miss Glennie (Highland dances), and Mr J. Rose, all of whom kindly responded to encores.

During the interval, Mr J. Bary thanked the audience for their attendance and support and the singers and performers, nearly all of whom had journeyed from Blenheim. The second part opened with a fine selection from Perry's orchestra. Miss Lorna Litchfield's song Little Gray Bonnet," brought in £5. Misses Morrison, Glennie, Davies (3), Messrs Plum, Bull, Litchfield, and J. Rose had all to respond a second time to recoils. "Mr Baillie kindly gave his services as piper, and the Misses Langley and Elbeck were accompanists. The' unanimous opinion is that the concert was one of the best heard tin Ren wick.

Alter the concert, on the suggestion of Mr Corry and several of the visitors, the hall was cleared, and dancing was engaged in for an hour or so, the orchestra supplying the music. The Ladies' Committee wish to thank all who helped the effort in every way, by contributions of all kinds and otherwise; the performers, who so willingly gave their services in the concert; Mrs Chappie, for the loan of her piano; Messrs Wintringham and Mitchell for kindly placing one of their cars at the disposal of a concert party; and Messrs O'Connor and Bary, whose cars were also requisitioned. It is expected, when alt accounts are settled, that the Fete will have produced about £80. This will make the total sum collected by the ladies of Omaka and Renwick in the last three months amount to over £300.

1st August 1916 The following donations have been received at tile Education Board's office in connection 'with the School Children's Appeal for the relief of: Belgian children:—, Included Endeavour Inlet 3s 5d; Manaroa £1, Resolution Bay 7s . Marshlands £26 8s-4d,:

Blenheim 10 s, Grassmere £15 14s, Waterfalls, £1 12s, Omaka £2, Fabian's Valley £1,145, Renwick £3 10s

1918-1919

1919	64	Renwick	Haughey	James	C-42	Head	£325.00
1919	64	Renwick	Nevison	Isabella	C-90	Assistant	£205.00

24th January 1918 Wellington Education Board First mention in newspapers of Renwick School under Education Board which swapped in 1916: Fencing repairs at Renwick

22nd June 1918 The application from residents of the Renwick Old Road was considered, and it was decided that the establishment of a side school in that district was at present not necessary

23rd December 1919 SCHOOL CONCERT

ENTERTAINMENT AT RENWICK

On Friday, night the children of the Renwick School entertained their parents and friends with a concert. The first part of the programme consisted of school songs and choruses, which were well sung; two piano duets by Misses W. Fraser and Z. McIsaac were well played An Irish jig by. Master E. Evans was danced in capital style. The same young scholar contributed two violin solos with piano accompaniment, and was warmly applauded.

During the interval, the chairman (Mr J. A. McKay) presented the medal which is given 'annually by Mr Haughey to the pupil standing highest in the Sixth Proficiency examination, the recipient this year boing Miss M. Fraser.

The second part of the programme consisted of the cantata, 'The White Garland." The part of the was taken by Miss L. Wemyss, who scored a distinct success, and in her vocal efforts acquitted herself with credit.

The other characters—Punctuality (Miss, Z. McIsaac) Perseverance (Miss S. Parsons), Generosity (Miss O. Barnett), the Tardy Scholar (E. Evans), the Quarrelsome Scholar ,(M. Newman), and the Selfish Scholar (F. Phillips) were all good, and showed careful training. Two little dot's, Phyllis Bishell and Tui Evans, were much admired in their song, "Naughty Boy." The accompanist was Miss M. Fraser who discharged her duties very creditably After, the- concert the hall was cleared and a Cinderella dance took place

1977/44243	Nevison	Isabella	13/4/1892 85Y

Isabella Nevison went to Springlands school

1920-1921

1921	84	Renwick	Bannerman	Herbert D	B	Head	£360.00
1921	84	Renwick	McIntyre	Isabella	D	Assistant	£250.00
1921	84	Renwick	Campbell	Jessie	D	Reliever	£170.00

Herbert Douglas Bannerman was born in Methlick, Aberdeenshire to William Bannerman, at the time headmaster of Cairnorrie School, and his wife, Margaret nee Nicol. Both parents were educated and qualified teachers, and his brother and sister would also go into teaching. The whole family emigrated to Dunedin in 1894, where William would continue teaching. His first teaching role was as 4th assistant at Arthur Street School in 1904, he combined this with study at Otago University (although despite studying for about a decade he seems to have never graduated). He would next teach at Albany Street School, before being appointed head teacher of Bannockburn in 1907. He resigned from here in 1909 and was appointed to Gleniti *(South Canterbury)* that same year, he would remain here until 1917 when he

resigned and was appointed to Fairton School. In 1918 he transferred to Rarotonga where he was appointed master at Aorangi School, assisted by his wife. He returned to NZ in 1921 when he was appointed to Renwick, leaving in 1923. He was then appointed to Nelson Technical College where he taught English, alongside his wife who taught arithmetic. He taught at Clevedon from 1930 till 1936 when he was appointed head teacher of Hukeranui South. Around 1938 he returned south to become head at St Andrews (St Andrews Primary, south of Timaru). He retired to Timaru sometime during the war, passing away here in 1968, aged 85. He married in 1910, Islay McLean, also a teacher, with whom he would have a son.

9th July 1920 During yesterday's meeting of. The Omaka Road Board, Mr Bary asked that about 12 chains of road be put in order in the vicinity of the school and the school residence at Renwicktown. He said that there was only one entrance to the school residence, and that was a back entrance, the road in the front being unformed. The recognised entrance to the school was a trespass track across a Government reserve, and lie asked that the roads be made lit for use. This request was granted, the inspector being authorised to see to the work.

17th July 1920 Mr James Haughey, headmaster at Renwicktown, has been appointed by the Auckland Education Board to the headmastership of the Taotaotoroa school, near Cambridge, and will leave for his new position at the end of this month. The departure of Mr and Mrs Haughey from this district will, be widely regretted, and they will be followed by the good wishes of many friends. Mr Haughey has been a teacher in different parts of Marlborough for some 22 years, being eight years at Robin Hood Bay, about eight and a half years at Koromiko, in charge at Onamalutu for a time, and nearly five years at Renwicktown. He is an ex-president of-the, Marlborough branch of the New Zealand Education Institute, and at the time holds the position or. vice-president. If© and his wife were valued leaders of the patriotic activities of Renwick during the war period, Mr Haughey being president of the local committee of the Marlborough Patriotic Association for four years and Mrs. Haughey being secretary to the women's branch of the Association and the Red Cross organisation. In football and cricket circles Mr Haughey has been a prominent figure;, and the Koromiko district especially owes a good deal to his enthusiasm in this direction. Mrs Haughey, who was a. rider of note, in the Wairarapa and Waikato districts in earlier years, leaves a unique mark on the records of the-A and P Association as a horsewomen. She has scored no less than 35 firsts and two seconds in the riding competitions of the Blenheim and Nelson Shows,--and 20 or more firsts in the driving competitions

23rd July Mr Haughey resigns from Wellington Education Board

James Haughey was born in 1867 in Victoria he travelled to NZ as a child and settled in Gisborne. He began his teaching career as a pupil teacher at Gisborne school before being elevated to full time, being in charge of Standard 3 in 1886. He travelled down to Dunedin where he taught at the Dunedin Normal School in 1887, combining this with study at Otago University. He seems to have dropped out, and returned to Gisborne in 1888, where he was appointed temporary master off Gisborne High in 1888. He was afterwards appointed permanent Third Master here in 1889. He remained in this role, in charge of Standard 4, until 1893. During the year he was relieving master at Te Arai. He next appears as an Assistant Master at Thorndon School in 1895. He applies for an Assistant Master job at 1897 at Inglewood but seems to be unsuccessful. He is appointed to Robin Hood Bay in 1898, he remained here until 1906. He applied for a job in the Waikato, in 1906, but doesn't seem to have taken up the job, instead spending a year at Onamalutu. He next spends 5 years at Waitohi and then three at Koromiko. His final appointment in Marlborough was at Renwick,

where he would remain from 1915 until 1920. He then was appointed to Taotaotoroa, near Cambridge. Here his assistant teacher was Jean Reaks, who had previously taught at several school in Marlborough. He may have remained here until 1923 as the Takanini School was founded here and it appears he was the foundation Master. He remained in charge until about 1933 when he retired. He died in Hamilton in 1944. Research by Grandson Sam

1922-1923

1923	77	Renwick	Green	Arthur W V	D-132	Head	£335.00
1923	77	Renwick	Askew	Bertha K	C-222	Assistant	£213.00

1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Askew	Bertha	Probationer 1	£65.00

1926/5820 Bertha Kezia Askew Oliver Leslie Watson

Riverlands (1906-1923)

Just south of Blenheim on State Highway 1

1906	18	Riverlands	Dixon	Annie M		Female	£ 110.00	
1907	19	Riverlands	Dixon	Annie M	Licensed	Female	£ 110.00	£10.00
1908	15	Riverlands	Black	Margaret E		Female	£ 99.00	£10.00
1909	20	Riverlands	Black	Margaret E		Female	£ 103.10	£10.00
1910	16	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C4	Female	£ 120.00	£15.00
1911	23	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C4	Female	£ 125.00	£15.00
1912	26	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C3	Female	£ 130.00	£15.00
1913	30	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C3	Female	£ 150.00	£20.00
1914	29	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C3	Female	£ 160.00	£20.00
1915	38	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C2	Female	£ 170.00	£20.00
1917	33	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C-63	Sole	£210.00	
1919	28	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C-58	Sole	£300.00	
1921	31	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C	Sole	£330.00	
1923	33	Riverlands	Chapman	Florence M	C-122	Sole	£313.00	
1903	6	Whareama	Chapman	F M		Female		
1904	10	Whareama	Chapman	F M		Female		
1905	11	Whareama	Chapman	F M	Licensed	Female		
1908	11	Mangahao	Chapman	Florence M		Female		
1909	16	Mangahao	Chapman	Florence M	C4	Female		

Whareama is in the Wairarapa out on the Riversdale Road. Mangahao school was just West of Pahiatua

9th October 1905 SCHOOL WANTED AT RIVERLANDS.

PETITION TO EDUCATION BOARD

A petition was received by the Education Board to-day from twelve parents residing in the Riverlands district asking the Board to erect a school in the locality, it stated that with a suitable building there would be an attendance of at least 25 children. The numbers set

opposite the names of the parents on the list accompanying the petition gave a total number of 32 children.
Mr R. J. Bell waited on the Board in support of the application. The greater number of parents wanted to have the school erected near the municipal abattoir (about two miles from town). Personally, it would suit him to have the school at Riverlands (three miles from town), and, if it were established there, he would grant the free use of a room. But if that site were chosen, the attendance would probably not exceed 15. It was remarked that the petition did not contain any names of residents on the other side of the river. Perhaps their children could be brought across in a boat. Doubt was expressed as to whether the Board's regulations would permit of the establishment of a school. Clause 32 was read, as follows:— The Board will not undertake to establish a school in any district unless within three miles of the intended site of the school house there are at least 30 children of school age. No Board's school will be established within five miles of any existing school, measured by the nearest road." A side-school was suggested. The Chairman hoped that the Board would be able to make some adequate arrangement. The education of 30 children was a matter of importance. Eventually it was resolved that the Inspector and Secretary investigate the position and report. The Board also adopted Mr Chaytor's suggestion that an estimate of cost of the conveyance of the children to the Borough School be obtained. Mr Ferguson advocated that the Board should go into the whole question of conveyance to central positions.
13th November 1905
NEW SCHOOL AT RIVERLANDS.
ACTION BY EDUCATION BOARD. In accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Education Board, Inspector Strachan reported to-day on the question of establishing a school at Riverlands, or providing for the conveyance of the children to Blenheim, as requested by a deputation of settlers. The Department's new regulations as to conveyance to central schools allowed 6d per day for children between 7 and 10 years living three miles away by the nearest road, and children over 10 years living four miles away. An arrangement under those conditions would hardly be practicable. He thought the abattoir site rather close to Blenheim. He recommended the Board to accept Mr R. J. Bell's offer of a cottage further along the road. He thought this would meet the case at the present time; the arrangement would include all the small children in the neighbourhood, and one or two children might come across the river. The only alternative was the erection of a side-school at the abattoir, and that would only go up to the fourth standard. A school at Mr Bell's would be an aided school. All the families in question would be more than three miles away from the Blenheim main school.
It was remarked that the Redwood town side-school was not a very successful experiment.
The Inspector's recommendation was adopted, and steps were authorised to carry it into effect.
14th November 1906 The Inspector reported that the Truant Officer was willing to visit Seddon and Riverlands once a month for £5 extra, or £2 10s if not required to leave town It was also decided to instruct the teachers at Seddon and Riverlands that offences against the School Attendance Act are to be reported to the Truant Officer.
30th April 1907 Riverlands, Fairhall and Ugbrooke were one School Committee
11th February 1908 Riverlands. —Miss Dickson was granted six months leave of absence
19th October 1908 A TEACHER is required for the Riverlands School. Salary and house allowance, £120. Appointment on the Board's usual terms. Applications for the position will be received up to WEDNESDAY, 11th November. E. S. HYLTON, Secretary.
12th November 1908 The selection of a teacher for the Riverlands school, which came before the Education. Board, yesterday was left in the hands of, the town Committee with power to act.

27th November 1908 The Education Board has appointed Miss Margaret Black to the teacher of the Riverlands school,, on the recommendation of the. Riverlands Committee. Miss Black has been relieving at Riverlands since Miss Dickson left

19th December 1908 The Education Board has appointed Miss Margaret Black to be teacher of the Riverlands school,, on the recommendation of the. Riverlands Committee. Miss Black has been relieving at Riverlands since Miss Dickson left-

26th February 1910 The secretary of the Marlborough Education Board yesterday received advice from the Education Department to the effect that Cabinet bad authorised the Board to proceed with the erection of a "new school at Riverlands.

9th March 1910 APPLICATIONS are invited up to SATURDAY, 26th March, for the position of Sole Teacher, of the Riverlands School (2 ½ miles from Blenheim). Salary, £120, -rising to £150, and £15 house allowance. E. S. HYLTON, Secretary

9th March 1910 TENDERS are invited up to 4 p.m. on MONDAY, 14th March, for the Erection of a New School at Riverlands. Full particulars from— H. B. HUDDLESTON, C.E., Architect to Board.

15th March 1910 Miss Black forwarded her resignation from the position of teacher of" the Riverlands School, which was accepted

15th March 1910 The Education Board yesterday accepted

10th May 1910 The Riverlands School Committee wrote recommending Miss F. M. Chapman ,for the position of teacher at their school.—Approved.

10th August 1910 The Riverlands School Committee wrote requesting the. Board to apply to the Education Department for a for subsidy on £10 13s, donations received towards defraying the cost of a parcel of. land and conveyance of same to the Department for the purpose of a new school site. The cost of the land was £15, and of-conveyance £5 18s 6d, making a total - of'£2o 18s 6d. The same Committee applied for a number of requisites for the new school, totalling in value £32. 'Mr Strachan, the Inspector, said he did not know that the Department would give a subsidy on what was intended to be a gift. The Chairman moved that the Board apply to the Government for a grant towards completing the requisites at this school site, but that it could not entertain the application for subsidy

3rd May 1911 New school had been built The internal condition have become much brighter and more attractive since the Board adopted the policy of painting the interior. The neatest and best adorned were those at Riverlands, Blind River etc.

22nd April 1912 Flood's also seriously affected the schools of the Lower Wairau region, Blenheim and Riverlands being affected from this cause for weeks. She result was that although the standard of duty was 420 half-days for the year, only 10 schools reached the standard

1st February 1913 Riverlands, Sole Teacher, for seven months from 1st April. Salary, £14 3s 4d per month. E. S. HYLTON

11th February 1913 Fourteen applications were received for the position of temporary sole teacher at Riverlands, and the names of five qualified teachers were referred to the committee.

11th November 1913 RIVERLANDS,

The Committee wrote asking the Board to consider the question of enlarging the school. The roll number was 40, and the average attendance was 30. The floor space accommodated only 32 children. The secretary was instructed' to apply to the Government for a grant for an addition to the building.

13th November 1913 pointed out to the reporter the popularity of the. Redwoodtown (Weld Street) and Riverlands side-schools, .which now had large roll numbers and.-in respect to both of which the Board is. applying to the Department for7grants for additions. He is convinced- that the regular school attendance of the district would be increased -largely if the side-schools were encouraged. There must be at least 100 children between the ages of 5 and 7 years who are not now at school because of the unwillingness of their parents to send them long distances along main thoroughfares, but who become pupils of preparatory schools conveniently situated

13th January 1914 Miss F. M. Chapman,, teacher of the Riverlands school, who has returned to New Zealand after visiting leading schools in London and New York to study scholastic methods, was granted one month's salary

11th February 1914 Speaking at the meeting of the Education Board this week Mr E. H. Penny remarked that both the Redwoodtown and Riverlands schools were overcrowded while the main school in the borough was largely attended and giving some concern as to the inadequacy of its staffing. He again advocated the principle of encouraging side schools in the suburbs for young children below the third standard, and mentioned the Beaver Road district was a. locality in which such a school might well be establish

14th July 1914 RIVERLANDS It was resolved that tenders be invited for an addition to the school

15th February 1916 The inspector reported that he could not recommend the request being granted or account of the proximity to Riverlands school. Mr Smith, of Vernon, wrote suggesting a new school on a site situated about one mile below the branching of the roads at Armstrong's corner. A report from the Lands Office stated that the site was apparently under four miles from the Riverlands school. The Budge-Budge site was under three miles. Mr Mackay said he would strongly support the establishing a school site there if the circumstances were as represented. There were 15 children who required education facilities, and it was their duty to provide those facilities.

Mr Ferguson moved that the matter be deferred pending a report as to the position. The conveyance idea was ,not applicable to Marlborough. The theory was all right, but it was not practicable in Marlborough. There was not always the means of obtaining conveyances.

14th March 1916 request was received from the Riverlands School be removed two miles further from its present, position, towards Seddon.—The chairman said that Mr A. Bell would give £10 toward a site on Mr Armstrong's property at the junction of the roads. There were no obstacles to removing the school. The secretary said that if the present site were sold the proceeds would pay for the removal. It was decided that the Department be approached with the object of having the school removed.

9th May 1916 RIVERLANDS SCHOOL. A petition was received from residents of the Riverlands school district asking that no action be taken to remove the school from its present .site. An accompanying letter stated 1 that at the annual meeting of householders a committee had been elected which by four to one was in favour of the present site. Mr A. Bell renewed his offer of an acre of land for a school site, and detailed the conditions of his offer in a letter to the Board. At last meeting of the Board the matter of. transferring the school was hung up at the present meeting, in order to discuss offers of new sites. Mr Ferguson, said that, the.. Board was practically two meetings off its demise, and he thought that the better plan would be to leave things as they were and hand over the whole of the correspondence. in the matter to the new Board. He would move in that direction. Mr Mackay said that members of the Board and the Riverlands chairman had visited the site offered by Mr Bell. The question was

whether the Board should accept Mr Bell's de. finite offer. He thought they should, and ask the Department to build the school upon that site. The Wellington Board could then deal with the matter in any way it thought fit. A motion already on the. minutes, authorising the secretary to take certain action in regard to approaching the Department in reference to the transfer of .the school, was rescinded, on the motion of Mr Fergusson.
20th August 1936 amounts towards the cost of the installation of electric light at the Ohariu School, and Riverlands School
1st April 1937 Miss D. F. Edwards (relieving staff), additional assistant, Riverlands.
Miss G Lewin Gladstone to assistant Riverlands
22nd May 1941 Miss B Gunn assistant Riverlands from Auckland
National Archives: Yes

Springlands (1886-1923)

Suburb of Blenheim on State Highway 6
29th November 1876 STRATFORD V. STRATFORD. Edmund Stratford was charged by his wife, Mary Stratford, with having assaulted her. The evidence of the complainant was to the effect that on Saturday last defendant struck her and ill-treated her in various other ways. Defendant admitted that he had struck complainant but pleaded great provocation. He said his wife threw a bottle at him, upon which he gave her a blow with his fist. His Worship fined defendant 5s, and bound him over to keep the peace for six months in his own recognizance of £30, and two sureties of £15 each.
9th February 1881 Edith Stratford passed Vogel prose examination 2nd to Mary Bary
22nd March 1881 The case of Stratford v. Stratford for maintenance, was resumed this morning. Edmond Stratford, cross-examined by Mr Sinclair I never struck my child Herbert when he was three years old. I may have struck my son Edmond. I have never said in my life that Mrs Stratford was a bad, woman, nor mean to attribute improper motives to her in connection with Mr Macklin or Mr Eyles.
Mr McNab here said that if that was the case his instructions were of a most definite character, and he would retire from the case.
Cross-examination continued The boy who lives with me has not been many days at school this quarter. During the three years he has been alone with me he has been only about six months. I am satisfied Mr Eyles has not acted well to me. I never told Mr Eyles that Mrs **Stratford** was expecting money from England, nor that she had shares in the Building Society. I did not owe Mr Eyles any rent when he turned me out. This case it merely a scheme on Mrs **Stratford's** part to get hold of some property. I have given them several £5 notes during the past few years.
At the conclusion of Mr Stratford's cross examination, Edmond Stratford, his son, Edith Stratford, and Mrs Stratford gave evidence as to acts of cruelty on the part of the defendant. The R.M. reserved his decision
5th July 1881 The School Committee recommended the appointment of Charles Bary and Mary Bary, of Renwick, and Edith A. Stratford, of Blenheim.
4th May 1883 **Edith -Stratford,** Blenheim, ,aged 16 years 2 months. Arithmetic 85, geography 84, grammar and composition 110, reading 90, dictation 90, history 70, music 70, writing 70, total for general examination 669, art of teaching 120, total 789
5th January 1906 Stratford —On the 3rd instant, at the Wairau Hospital: Edith Stratford, aged 26 years *As published*

1903/56 Stratford Edythe Adeline 36Y

13th October 1903 Obituary.—lt. is with regret that we record the death of Miss **Edith Stratford,** for many year 3 a prominent teacher in the Marlborough Schools. The deceased was a victim of that dread disease epilepsy, and although all available remedies were tried and operations performed, no improvement was noticeable. About four months ago Miss **Stratford** went to Wellington for medical treatment, and a very serious operation on the brain was per* formed. The operation was apparently successful, but the epileptic fits re turned, and the patient gradually sank under their continuance, and passed away at 2.20 a.m. on Monday morning at the age of 35 years. Miss **Stratford** commenced her teaching career under the late Mr J. P. Lucas, and was for about eleven or twelve years the successful Head Mistress of the Spring lands School, resigning her position about six years ago on account of ill health. On her resignation the Education Board forwarded her a very fine testimonial, and intimated that should her health be restored they would gladly avail themselves of her services again. Miss **Stratford** was a scholar of a high order, and lived for the attainment of high ideals and noble principles. The announcement of her untimely demise will be received with regret by a large circle of friends, and the family will have much sympathy in their bereavement.

1881	140	Blenheim	Infants	Stratford	Edith	Female Probationer	£	18.00
1882	142	Blenheim	Infants	Stratford	Edith	Female Probationer	£	18.00
1883	154	Blenheim	Infants	Stratford	Edith	Female Probationer	£	32.00
1884	166	Blenheim	Infants	Stratford	Edythe	Female Probationer	£	40.00
1885	174	Blenheim	Infants	Stratford	Edythe	Female Probationer	£	40.00

1886

1886	27	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Female	£	80.00

2nd April 1886 A deputation of householders living on the other side of the Omaka River, consisting of Messrs Alfred Litchfield, G Mason, J. Bartlett, T. Batty, Barnes, and Donelly, waited upon the Committee, asking the Committee to recommend to the Board that a school be established in or near Springlands Mr Litchfield stated that a school had been opened by Mr Donellv in Mr Bartlett's house, at which 32 children attended, and it was expected that if a school were erected at least 40 children would attend. After discussing the matter, the Committee passed a resolution as follows That the Education Board be recommended to establish a school at Springlands, and to make that locality a separate school district. Blenheim School Committee meeting

6th April 1886 PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL. Letter from the Blenheim School Committee, forwarding copy of resolution requesting the Board to erect a new school at Springlands and form that locality into a new school district. A deputation consisting of Messrs A. J. Litchfield and Batty, representing the householders of the district, waited on the Board to urge that the resolution should 1)» given effect to. Mr Litchfield submitted a memorial from the parents at Springlands, stating that Mr Thomas Donnelly had been conducting a private school for the last fortnight; that there were 62 children of school age in the district that notwithstanding Mr Donnelly charged ls (1 Shillings) per week 30 children already attended, without appreciably affecting the Borough School attendance and that the parents undertook to send the 62 children specified in the memorial to a Board school if one were established. Mr Donnelly appended a note stating that of the children attending his school

only five had passed the 2nd Standard and two the 3rd Standard. The memorial also appended a statement of Mr Donnelly's qualifications. Mr Litchfield went on to say that the parents were not anxious that Springlands should be formed into a separate school district, but considering that the locality was growing, and that many children in it were debarred from educational advantages, it was absolutely necessary that a separate school should be established. In reply to questions, Mr Litchfield said that very few of the 62 children had ever attended the Borough Schools. Mr Donnelly's school was held in Mr Bartlett's private house, a mile and a half from the Borough Schools. Convenient sites at reasonable prices could be obtained at Springlands. Several of the parents lived considerably over two miles away. Mr Donnelly was certificated from the New Zealand Government, and had last been teaching at Timaru. He was a married man with a family near Mr Bartlett's house would be a central position. If the Board wished to rent a house,. Mr Batty has one at the corner of the cross road which he was now getting 9s a week for, but would let for school purposes at 5s, and would permit to be altered in any way the Board proposed. Not only Mr Donnelly's 32, but at least 10 more would be immediately available for a Board School. The deputation withdrew and the Board discussed the matter.
The Chairman thought for the present .that it -would be well to make Mr Donnelly's into an aided school, and give the settlers their capitation. Mr Henderson suggested that, as it was proposed to alter the status of an existing school, it would be well to postpone the matter for a month. Major Baillie and Mr Parker urged that a proper report should be laid before the Board as to which was the best central site. Mr Parker thought that nearer the Old Road would be more-central. Resolved, on the motion of Major Baillie seconded by Mr Lambert; that the School Committee be requested to report upon the best site for a suburban school, having special regard to the increase of settlement. in the western and northern parts of the district. Mr Lambert suggested that in the meantime the settlers ought to pay their capitation. The Board took a different view, and postponed the whole matter till the next. Meeting
21st April 1886 Springlands School.— The Blenheim School Committee meets tonight to adopt the report to be submitted to the meeting of householders on Tuesday next. It is to be hoped the Committee will recommend the successors to take steps to have a separate school established at Springlands, and to induce the Education Board to temporarily lease premises in the Middle Road or some other central position. No part of Marlborough has such a claim to a school as Springlands, and if the educational authorities do not establish one at once they will be doing the residents a great injustice. Those residents have started a school of their own. at their own expense, and it was nothing but mere red tape that induced certain members of the Board to refuse to give the settlers capitation as an aided school,
30th April 1886 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. SPRINGLANDS, The Committee considered the letter from the Education Board asking what would be the best site for a school at Springlands and what would be the cost of the land and the probable attendance. Mr Healy moved that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Messrs Nosworthy and Falconer be appointed to gather the required information, to submit it to another Committee .meeting on Monday evening next. Mr Jellyman seconded the motion pro forma, though he thought it was a matter that should not be left to a small Subcommittee. Mr Healy pointed out the advantages of small Committees in acquiring information and reporting afterwards. At the request of Mr Falconer, who thought that the older members knew more about the matter, Mr Birch's

name was substituted for his own in the proposed Sub-Committee. The Chairman urged the importance of dealing with the subject before the Board meeting on Tuesday next. Mr Falconer hoped the question would not be settled with undue haste. Mr Healy said the Springlands people would only be too happy to afford all information. Mr Nosworthy was not surprised at the Springlands people wishing to bare a school, for they were at present paying the cost of one for their own children. Besides tint', it would relieve the present overcrowded lower standards of the Borough schools. After some further discussion, in the course of which it was generally admitted that the Springlands settlers ought to form a Committee

4th May 1886 School Committee.— At a meeting of the Blenheim School Committee las) night, all the members being present, the Sub-Committee brought up a report recommending the Board to obtain, as a site "for the new Springlands School, two acres on the east side of Murphy's Cross Road, belonging to Mr W. Sinclair which can be bought for £125, or £62 10s for half. The Subcommittee also reported that the number of children attending the temporary school at Springlands is 33. And the number would be sure to increase,

1st June 1886 SPRINGLANDS. Letter from the Blenheim School Committee, asking- the Board to confirm the appointment of Miss Stratford as teacher of the Springlands School, and to supply it with maps, desks, table, and chair. On the motion of Mr Paul, the appointment of Miss "Stratford was confirmed, and it was resolved to supply the necessary furniture.

4th June 1886 Letter from Mr Lucas stating that, Miss Stratford having taken charge of the Springlands School, he recommended Miss Roberta to be appointed pupil teacher in her place as that young lady gave promise of being a very successful teacher. Mr Lucas also bore testimony to Miss Stratford's efficiency during the past four years. Resolved, That the Board be recommended to appoint Miss Roberta.

2nd July 1886 Letter from Mr A. J. Litchfield, on behalf of the householders, stating that certain maps and furniture were requisite for the Springlands School, at which the average for the four weeks ending 30th June was 30, with an occasional actual attendance of 34. The accommodation was inadequate, the room being too small, and the applicants hoped that the Committee would support the prayer of the householder's petition for a separate school district and the speedy erection of a suitable school building. Letter from Mr Bartlett, stating that the children had had to be dismissed (the school being held in his house) in consequence of serious illness in his family, and asking that the Committee should fix the holidays. Resolved— That a fortnight's holiday be granted, the school to reopen on Monday fortnight. Resolved, That the Board be requested' to supply the school requisites asked for' by Mr Litchfield, and that the prayer of the householders for a separate district be recommended to the Board.

5Th July 1886 THE Marlborough Express Published Every Evening. MONDAY, JULY 5, 1886. SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.

The Education Board to-morrow will have before it a petition from the householders of Springlands, praying to be constituted a separate school district, and asking the Board to erect o suitable school. The temporary school opened in Mr Bartlett's House has proved successful, and an energetic and efficient certificated and trained teacher has been secured in the person of Misa Stratford. The average attendance has been 30, and there have been as many as .°is present. This number is larger than the attendance at half the State schools in the provincial district, and it would be considerably increased if suitable premises were provided. At present the school is held in a room 17 by 30, and the overcrowding and want

of facilities for classifying the children must hamper oven the best of teachers. It is estimated that in a suitable building the average attendance would be at least 40, without weakening the Borough Schools to any appreciable extent. The proposal that the Springlands school should be a side-school to the Borough, and (we presume) under the control of the Head Master, has been seriously propounded in the Board; but the idea is scouted by the Springlands householders as utterly unworkable, and the Blenheim School Committee take the same view. Consequently the householders have determined to proceed under the 60th and 61st sections of the Education Act, and ask the Board to call a public meeting for the purpose of electing a Committee and considering the boundaries of the proposed school district. We trust that the Board will see its way to meet the wishes or the householders, both by forming a new district and by erecting a suitable school in a central position in Murphy's Cross Road, or elsewhere. The Board has always shown a disposition to help the country settlers in a matter of this sort, and the present instance is not likely to be an exception to the rule. The question was mooted at a former Board meeting whether a new district could be formed before the month of January next. The Springlands people not unnaturally regard that. as an unreasonable delay, and, on looking at the Act, nothing will be found to support the idea that a new district could not be formed at any time.

6th July 1886 Mr A. J. Litchfield handed in a memorial signed by 21 Springlands householders, asking to have their district made a separate school district. In supporting the prayer of the petition, Mr Litchfield mentioned that the temporary school was at present being held in a room only 17 x 13, which was too small for an average of 30 children. He asked the Board to take steps to erect a school without any' great delay. Mr Henderson thought. that, as everybody seemed to want it, the first step to take was to make Springlands a separate district. On the motion of Mr Lambert, seconded by Mr Hutcheson , the prayer of the petition was granted.. Resolved, That the public meeting for the election of a Committee and for fixing the boundaries ,he held at. Mr Batty's cottage, corner of Middle Road and Cross Road, on Tuesday evening next, at 7.30 o'clock. The Chairman said the first question for the newly elected Committee to consider, was the question of site.

14th July 1886 At 'the meeting of householders, held last night at Springlands, 15 were present. Mr A. J. Litchfield was voted to the chair, and the advertisement calling the meeting having been read, the following were nominated for the School Committee Messrs B. Barnes, A. J. Litchfield W. Tindill, J. Batty, T. Davies, G. Mason. J. Bartlett, J. Thompson, W. Connell, Jas. Sinclair, und E. Rowe. On a ballot being taken, -the first seven were duly elected. The meeting then proceeded to consider the boundaries of the district, which were pointed out on a map lent by the Omaka Road Board. Resolved, on the motion of Mr James Sinclair, seconded by Mr Geo Mason- That the boundaries set forth in the petition presented to the Education Board be the boundaries of the Springlands School District. At a Committee meeting held immediately afterwards, Mr Litchfield was elected Chairman, and the Committee then adjourned till Tuesday, July 20, at /-30 p.m.

4th August 1886 The Secretary reported the balance to credit of the Building fund to be £707, but if all the engagements and promises made by the Board were carried out (including the new Springlands School) there would be a deficit of about £250 on that fund.

The Chairman said there was no prospect of any supplementary vote. Whatever was passed this Session would be payable to the Board after next March, and it was already talked about as likely to be the last. The local bodies would be invited (laughter) after that to find the buildings themselves. But-,, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," and the Board

must be careful with the money they had. Such additions as those at Grovetown and Havelock ought to stand over, the Board keeping them steadily in view.
Resolved That those two matters be postponed for the present, inconsequence of want of funds.
The tenders received were ordered to be destroyed.
SPRINGLANDS
Letter from the Springlands Committee, submitting an offer of a Bite from Mr W. Sinclair recommending the appointment of Miss Stratford as teacher at £80 a year and asking for the creation of a school to accommodate 100 children.
Mr Parker drew attention to the fact that the new school district must take effect, pursuant to the Act, from the 1st of January, the beginning of the school year. Mr Henderson said the Board can't take the school over as an aided school until then, and go on building in the meantime.
Mr Paul pointed out that the new school would hardly be ready before the 1st of January. Mr Lynbert hoped the objection could be got over. The Blenheim School Committee favoured the establishment of a new district, and a Springlands Committee had actually been elected
Mr Parker would be glad to get near, the difficulty, but they could not go outside of the Act.
The Chairman thought that the Springlands school must go on under the Blenheim Committee until the 1st of January. The Springlands Committee had no legal position until then. Mr Lambert suggested that the Springlands Committee should be appointed deputies to the Blenheim Committee until the beginning of the year. The Chairman ruled that that could not be done.
Mr Parker said that the Board, having created the Springlands district, was in the position of Parliament which had passed an Act, not to come into force until the 1st of January.
Mr McNab said that all the Board had done at present was perfectly legal, though it could not yet be given effect to.
Resolved, That the boundaries of the Springlands district, as contained in the petition of householders, be approved of, to take effect from the 1st January, and that the boundaries be duly advertised. Resolved, That the new Committee he informed their duties will commence from that date.
Resolved, That the Blenheim School Committee be informed that the Springlands district and school remained under their jurisdiction till the 1st of January. The Chairman said that Miss Stratford's appointment at £80 a year was the only question remaining. Mr Henderson questioned whether it could be done, the Springlands being an aided school.
The Secretary pointed out that the Blenheim Committee had already approved of Miss Stratford. Ultimately, after further discussion, Miss Stratford was appointed.
The Board then considered Mr Sinclair's offer of a site of nearly two acres, opposite Mr Bartlett's house in the Cross Road, Mr Parker stating that the £125 Mr Sinclair was asking was less than he gave for it, and that it was fenced.
Resolved, on the motion of Mr Henderson -That the site be purchased from Mr Sinclair at the price named.
The Board next considered the proposed school building at Springlands, the Chairman hoping they would appeal to the Architect to make the building perfectly plain, and with smaller windows than usual.
Resolved— That plans and specifications be prepared for a building 20ft *(6.09 metres)* x 33ft *(10.06 metres)*., and that the Chairman interview the Architect as to its being perfectly plain.

The arrangement made by the Springlands Committee with Mr Bartlett for rant and cleaning of the temporary schoolroom was sanctioned.
7th September 1886 SPRINGLANDS. Mr Douslin's plans and estimates for a new school at Springlands were submitted. Resolved That tenders be called by the next meeting
5th October 1886 SPRINGLANDS. The following tenders were received for erecting a new school at Springlands Peter Connell £139 7s, Harding and Brent £126, M. Hegglen £147, F. Watson £149, John Brooks £124 10s 6d, A. Toop £116 10s, Jackson and Wilkins £130, Aston & Co. £137, Jas. Woodham £131 93 6d, Jas. Howard £130, B. Dixon £135, J. Storey £143, C. Nicholl £120, A. Peddie £171 14s, Fulton and Matthews £131 10s, Hughes and Paul £134, Jas. Simpson £175 10s, R. Brewer £139 10s. Mr Toop's tender was accepted.
8th October 1886 Last night a meeting of the Springlands householders took place in Mr Bartlett's house. There were present: Messrs At J. Litchfield, Bartlett-. Batty, Schwass, T O'Sullivan, O'Donoghue, Welch, O'Brien, and O'Leary. Mr James T. Robinson, Chairman of the Blenheim School Committee, was also present. On the motion of Mr O'Sullivan, seconded by Mr Litchfield, Mr Robinson was voted to the chair. Mr Bartlett baying explained the object of the meeting, Mr Litchfield moved, and Mr O'Sullivan seconded the following resolution:— "That a petition of householders be sent to the Education Board, to make Springlands into a separate school district with the following boundaries East by .the Borough of Blenheim, South by the Omaka Road District boundary as far as Mr Jackson's Cross Road, West by that road, and North by the Opawa River." Carried unanimously. Resolved, on the motion of. Mr Litchfield, seconded by Mr Connell, "That the Blenheim School Committee be requested to send a female teacher, as the late master has left, and as the householders do not wish the school to be closed and also that the Chairman request the Education Board to furnish a few desks and a small table." On the motion of the Chairman, Sub-Committee, consisting of 1 Messrs Litchfield, Bartlett, and Batty, was appointed, and the Blenheim School Committee were recommended to appoint them ..to look after the Springlands School and report to the Committee, On the 1 motion of Mr Batty, seconded by Mr Gale, a vote of thanks was given to Mr Bartlett for the use of his room. On the motion of Mr Batty, seconded by Mr O'Sullivan, a vote of thanks was awarded to the Chairman for the trouble he had taken in the matter, and for attending the meeting. The proceedings then terminated

1887

1887	48	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	100.00
1887	48	Springlands	Huddlestone	Edith	Female Probationer	£	16.00

11th January 1887 SPRINGLANDS. Application from the Borough School Committee for certain fencing, closets and other requisites at the new Springlands School. The Board considered that these things should have been included in the original contract. Resolved that the application be granted.
15th January 1887 Springlands. The reopening of the Springlands School will not take place until Monday the 24th inst.
28th January 1887 The draft report to the Board was read and approved. The balance sheet showed: a credit balance of £33 2s to date. Resolved, that any balance due to the Springlands Committee be handed over
1st March 1887 The Board then conferred with Mr Douslin as to whether an extension could not be made to the School, similar to the Springlands School. Resolved, That the architect

design a building to accommodate a similar number of children, at a cost not exceeding £150 and that tenders be called by the next meeting. SPRINGLANDS . Resolved, That certain desks, etc. be supplied to the Springlands School, and that the boys' and girls' closets *(toilets)* be fenced off from each other

15th March 1887 The scholars Attending the Springlands School, with parents and friends, in number about 100, held a very pleasant picnic last Friday in the school grounds. Everybody enjoyed themselves to their heart's content The school, which is becoming one of the most important in the district, was recently inspected by Mr Hodgson, and it is believed that the results will be found satisfactory. A good deal of credit is due to the teacher. Miss Stratford, who has done sound work under considerable difficulties in the earlier part of her engagement. From fourteen, the number attending when she took the school, the attendance has increased to between forty and fifty, and with the exception of the sixth, Miss Stratford has to teach children in all the Standards

30th March 1887 The Education Board invites tenders up to Monday next for the following works Addition to infant school, Blenheim. Fencing and desks, Springlands and a porch at Fairhall. Plans and specifications are to be seen at the office of Mr Douslin

6th April 1887 The tenders of Mr Logan for work at Springlands, and Mr F. Newman for work at the Fairhall were accepted.

26th April 1887 The Chairman of the retiring Committee read the following report for the past year "Your Committee, in presenting their Annual Report, have to congratulate the householders on the satisfactory condition of the Blenheim Borough Schools. In the early part of the year a deputation from Springlands waited on the Committee, asking them to recommend to the Education Board the erection of a school in or near the Springlands district, stating that a private school had been opened, and was attended by 32 children and that the numbers who would [attend a public school, if opened in the district, would be, much larger. .The. Committee fully approves of the advisability of opening a school in that district, and a sub-committee was appointed to visit Springlands and report on a suitable Bite, the probable cost of same, and the number of children who would attend a school if established. The result of their report was that the Committee recommended to the Education Board the advisability of opening a school in that district and the Committee are happy to state that a school has been erected, and Springlands made a separate school district. The school is well attended, and good work being done by the mistress, Miss Stratford Blenheim School Committee Annual Meeting

113th June 1887 Miss Stratford was elected onto the newly formed NZEI Committee

7th December 1887 SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL. Mr A. J. Litchfield, Chairman of the Springlands School Committee, waited upon the Board, and stated that, owing to the rapid growth of the school, certain alterations should be made which would provide room for four seats asked for by Miss Stratford, the teacher. The Committee suggested that a partition should be removed and a porch erected at the south-east corner of the building. In answer to Mr Ward, the Chairman of the School Committee stated that the average attendance last month was 55. The dimensions of the room were 30 foot x 18 foot. It was decided that tenders should be called for the necessary alterations tenders to be opened by Messrs Hutcheson, Henderson, and Parker. Mr Litchfield then thanked the Board, and withdrew

1888

1888	44	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	100.00
1888	44	Springlands	Huddlestone	Edith	Female Probationer	£	24.00

8th February 1888 The Board's Architect (Mr Douslin) wrote, stating that the contract for the porch at Springlands School had been completed, but the contractor had built the porch at the north end of the school, whereas it was designed for the south end. The contractor, after working a day or two, discovered his mistake, and Mr Douslin had advised him to see Mr A. J. Litchfield, the Chairman of the Committee, to ascertain if he was satisfied to have it erected on the north end, as he (Mr Douslin) was of opinion that was the proper position for the porch , and had he acted on his own opinion, he should have designed it for the north end, aa previous to the alterations being made the porch was at the north end. He understood from the contractor that. Mr Litchfield had no objection to the porch going up at the north end.

6th March 1888 Springlands.— Miss Stratford, and a pupil teacher. On roll 63 present 60. A perpetual influx of new scholars, which has nearly doubled the roll daring the past We've mouths, has naturally much increased the difficulty of learning and Caching here. Notwithstanding this drawback the children gave s good account of themselves, four only of the 32 candidates for standards failing to secure a pass. On the whole this, one of the youngest of the Marlborough schools, promises well

19th March 1888 School Picnic— Notwithstanding the very stormy weather on Friday last, the children of the Springlands school assembled for their annual picnic. The rain being too heavy to ad -nit of outside games, many indoor amusements were indulged in, such as blind man's bluff, forfeits, puss in the corner, etc. Between four and five o'clock the children, about seventy in number, sat down to an excellent! tea provided by the teachers and parents, after which they returned home, having thoroughly enjoyed their novel picnic

24th April 1888 SPRINGLANDS. At the annual meeting held at the Springlands School last night, Mr D. Dobson was voted to the chair. Mr A. J, Litchfield read the report of the outgoing Committee, which was approved of unanimously, as follows "In reporting on the above school, your Committee have pleasure in being able to announce a steady increase in the number of children attending the school, so that it baa been necessary to provide additional accommodation during the period. This has been done by erecting a porch and removing the partition from the inside of the school building. Additional desks, seats, maps, and school furniture have also been provided as required. The Committee would also report that a very satisfactory examination has been held by the Inspector, the results having been published in a Report and the newspapers of the district and, further, the Committee have pleasure in stating that the balance in Bank of New Zealand to credit of School account of £14 11s 7d, the only

liability to come against this being a small amount for cleaning from March 29. During the year it has also been necessary to appoint a pupil teacher, and Misa Stratford has likewise received an increase of salary from the Board. A division fence has been erected, and some gravelling and draining that was necessary has been done." Messrs Litchfield, Batty, Hey worth, Dobson, Barnes, Tindall, and Wylie were elected as a Committee for the ensuing year. At a meeting of the Committee, held immediately afterwards, Mr Dobson was unanimously elected Chairman

1st May 1888 Part of a long piece about payment to Female Teachers Mr Henderson thought it unwise to allow £100 for a female teacher, seeing that they were giving most of the others only £80. If they were to give £100, he thought they should leave it open to male or female teachers to apply. The Secretary stated that. the female teacher at Marlboroughtown got £80,

the female teacher at Wairau Valley £63. and the female teacher at Springlands £100. Mr Lambert thought they could get a better female teacher at £100 than they were likely to get a male teacher for the same amount. Mr Conolly pointed out that the matter had been; Settled at last meeting

1889

1889	48	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	100.00
1889	48	Springlands	Hewitt	Elsie	Female Probationer	£	16.00

5th February 1889. SPRINGLANDS. Mr Douglas Dobson wrote enclosing an abstract of the audited school accounts audited by Mr Budge. It appeared that Mr Budge had not been appointed for the present year, as required by the regulation under the Act.

20th February 1889 rush into matrimony on small salaries (laughter). Consideration deferred. SPRINGLANDS. Mr Douglas Dobson wrote enclosing an abstract of the audited school accounts audited by Mr Budge. It appeared that Mr Budge had not been appointed for the present year, as required by the regulation under the Act.

2nd March 1889 Festival. The children attending the Springlands School were entertained by the parents and friends last evening. Tea with far more than the usual concomitants," in fact with every imaginable delicacy in the cake and tart and fruit line, was provided and some thirty ladies, and gentlemen were present to wait upon the youngsters who mustered to the number of seventy and did justice to the spread. Tea was served at four o'clock and afterwards all sorts of games were indulged, the youngsters dispersing about eight o'clock. This is the third annual gathering of the kind, and its success reflects very great credit upon the parents and friends who so heartily strengthen the able hands of Miss Stratford, the esteemed Mistress of the School.

14th March 1889 Springlands. Miss Stratford, and a pupil teacher. On roll 57, present 51. With the exception of the candidates for the sixth standard most of who were unequal to the demands of the arithmetic but who did well in every other respect, the children here acquitted themselves very satisfactorily. Nearly half of those on the roll are too young for standard work. Two boys passed the sixth standard creditably. The discipline is very good.

5th June 1889 SPRINGLANDS. The question of appointing a Pupil teacher to Springlands came up. It appeared that the average attendance there was 45 and increasing, and it was thought well to have a male Pupil Teacher, as there were a great number of boys. No action was taken..

15th June 1889 School Closed. It is announced that the Springlands school will be closed until further notice

2nd July 1889 From the Springlands Committee, recommending the adoption of Dr Richardson's temperance book.

From E. J. Coleman, asking pupil teachership at Springlands. Approved, subject to his passing examination

2nd August 1889 Death. A good deal of sympathy was felt in town this morning when it was known that Mr and Mrs James Coleman, of Springlands, had lost their eldest son, Edmund, aged 15 years, who had been ailing for the past month. The boy was a bright intelligent lad, and had just been appointed pupil teacher of the Springlands School. The funeral takes place on Sunday next.

5th August 1889 A very large number of people followed to the grave yesterday the remains of the late Edmund J. Coleman, son of Mr James Coleman, of Springlands. Nearly forty

vehicles and an equal number of horsemen formed the procession. On the Wesleyan Church being reached at 3 o'clock, the children and teachers, who were in the Church grounds, sang Safe in the Arms of Jesus, in touching reference to the final resting place of their beloved companion

6th August 1889 The Chairman officially reported the untimely death of the lad Coleman who had died since his appointment as pupil teacher at Springlands' School

It was decided to write the Springlands Committee asking them to make a suggestion as to filling "(a) temporarily and (b) permanently the vacancy in their school, caused by the death of the late J. H. Coleman

3rd September 1889 The matter of filling the vacant pupil teachership at Springlands came up and Miss^ Hewitt the sole applicant, was appointed

5th October 1889 Springlands School.— The Committee of the Springlands Schools announce their intention of putting the compulsory clause in force in their district. We understand; that fully one-third of the children are 'habitually absent from school.

3rd December 1889 From the Springlands Committee asking the Board to erect a school teacher's as they had now 75 children on the roll, and asking for three new desks. The Committee were of opinion that the teacher should now live in the district. Consideration deferred

1890

1890	53	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	100.00
1890	53	Springlands	Hewitt	Elsie	Female Probationer	£	24.00

4th February 1890. From the Springlands Committee, asking (1) for a school bell, and that the old Blenheim bell might be supplied; (2) that a teacher's residence might be erected; (3) that the Board would pay the advertising account enclosed. The Board granted the first and third request, but owing to want of funds again refused the second

1st April 1890 Springlands.— Miss Stratford and a pupil teacher. On the roll 74, present 63. As (for some unexplained reason) the head teacher was not relieved until near the close of the year, of the sole charge of more than 70 children, divided into eight classes, it is highly creditable to her that she has contrived to stave off a total collapse. As.it is, with the slender help given latterly with a quite untried pupil teacher, the scholars have acquitted themselves at least as well as those in several schools, of similar standing; where a full staff has been employed throughout the year. The scholars naturally did worst in what may be termed- the less essential subjects, such as geography and history. Reading, writing, spelling-and arithmetic are thoroughly well taught. Organisation and discipline both good.

28th May 1890 Springlands.— The meeting of householders to elect a school committee (which had lapsed on the statutory date) was held last evening present Messrs J. Coleman (in the chair), Tindill, Watson, Thompson and Sinclair. The Committee's credit balance in the bank was £8 7a 3d. The following were elected a new Committee: Messrs Tindill, Raven, Hal!, Davis, Batty, Coleman, Thompson. Mr Davis was subsequently elected chairman

6th August 1890 Mr Horace Douslin, acting architect, reported that the following works were needed: Blenheim, a ram, £20; Marlboroughtown, fencing, painting, etc.; Fairhall, two additional rooms Springlands, shed and partition. The Acting-Secretary, Mr Haslett reported that the Board's credit balance at date was £832 7s 4d. CORRESPONDENCE. From the. Springlands Committee, re repairs. Provided for by the Architect's report as above

With regard to the partition at Springlands, it was agreed to provide it the question of the shed being postponed, together with a request from Waitohi for extra accommodation
2nd September 1890 Springlands, F. Dunkley, £7 17s 6d (accepted) R. Dickson, £7 17s Peddie and Bott, £8 8s W. Sutton, £8 11s. As Mr Dickson's tender for Marshlands had been accepted, and Mr Dunkley's for Springlands was only 6d more than Mr Dickson's it was decided to accept Mr Dunkley's tender for Springlands.

1891

1891 66 Springlands Stratford Edythe Female £ 120.00
13th January 1891 SPRINGLANDS. An application for a residence at Springlands was acceded to, and it was resolved to have plans prepared for a four roomed residence, to.be submitted at next meeting.
3rd February 1891 Misses Millington and Williams were appointed to the Blenheim Schools temporarily as assistants the erection of a school at Springlands was postponed for the present
21st April 1891 The following are the names of those who were nominated for the Springlands School Committee:— Wm. Tindill, James Coleman, John Hale, James Thomson, and Chas. Raven. There being two more required, an election will have to be held for the other couple on the 27th
3rd June 1891 An application was made for an increase in the staff at Springlands school, and also for an addition to the salary of the head teacher. Mr Mills considered that as the numbers had increased and there was no residence, the salary should be increased. He gave notice to move at next meeting that both requests be acceded to
9th September 1891 The Standard examinations in this part of the district begin with the Springlands School in about a fortnight, a date which we believe has come as rather a surprise on the teachers, who thought the examinations would take place somewhere about Christmas time
6th October 1891 The Education Department wired asking how much of their building grant asked for was necessitated by the extension of new settlements. .The "Chairman suggested Kaituna Valley, Cullensville, Marshlands, Springlands, and other portions of the district, but said he thought that the allocation of £10,000 of the Education vote was to meet the special settlements, springing up in the North Island. The places mentioned were placed on the l
10th October 1891 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.
TO THE EDITOR. Sir, — In reading your report of the Education Board held on the 6th inst., when J believe all the members were present, should have thought that they were- able to discuss any question that came before them To ray surprise, however, when a letter appeared from the Springlands School Committee, the Secretary began to tell the Board the proper course to take. I take it the business of the Secretary is to take minutes, etc., and to give any answers that he is called upon to give but no, he goes right into debate at once, especially if.it is any communication from Springlands, This is, the second time that he has put in his spoke for the above thriving township, Hoping for the future that the members oi the Board will take every question up and discuss them on their respective merits, and not let the Secretary have to tell them the proper course to take, I am, etc., SPRINGLANDS. [The Secretary only gave back information as he •was asked for with respect to the 'status of Miss Rose.— Ed. M.E.]

11th November 1891 It was resolved that" the question of enlarging the Springlands School be held over till the building grant was received. Miss Nicholl's claim for payment at this school was recognised

1892

1892	66	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	120.00
1892	66	Springlands	Millington	E H	Assistant Female	£	75.00

18th January 1892 The Springlands School reopened to-day . The Blenheim Borough Schools do not resume work till next Monday

30th January 1892 The Blenheim Borough Schools do not resume work till next Mon

10th February 1892 Inspector Smith's report included: In his report Mr Smith specially mentions two schools in which he would suggest a change. The first of these is that at Springlands, for which he suggests the appointment of a master, on the ground that the school has got too large for any mistress to control. The other case is that of the Blenheim School, where he would amalgamate the higher classes, if not the whole. By this means he points out they would do away with the absurdity of having two teachers engaged at the same time, in adjacent rooms, one teaching 50 boys and the other teaching 50 girls, when one could teach the lot. There is one peculiarity about this report, and that is that while it has to be submitted to the Board and be printed by them, the Board is not bound to a single suggestion contained in it, and no matter how much its members may disagree with the opinions expressed the Inspector is absolutely independent of them, and can refuse to alter a single line or word to suit their views.

4th March 1892 I was somewhat surprised when I became familiar with the topography of the district, to find how thickly schools had been planted in certain localities. If, for instance, a circle with a four mile radius be drawn from the Blenheim School as a centre, it would include Springlands, Grovetown, Fairhall, Marlboroughtown, and Spring Creek. The disadvantage arising from a too close proximity of schools are many. Among them are (1) additional cost; (2) diminished efficiency (3) (perhaps the most mischievous of all) the facility with which children can be moved from one school to another as often as the caprice of parents may desire. Inspector Smith's report

11th March 1892 Teachers' Examinations. By an oversight we neglected to mention that Miss Millington, who is now engaged temporarily as assistant at the Springlands School, secured a partial "D" certificate at the late examinations.

16th March 1892 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.

TO THE EDITOR. Bib,— In your sub-leader on March 12th, you were referring to a letter signed "Fairhall." I will only refer to the latter part of your remarks on the question. You say that you were credibly informed only the other day that the Fairhall school has been interfered with by the Springlands school ever since it was established, inferring that some of the Fairhall children attended the last mentioned school. Now by your kind permission I will try to put matters as they have been ever since the Springlands school district was defined. From the very first of the school being opened at Springlands there have been four children attending the Fairhall school that really belong to Springlands, and at the present times there are seven going there now. At one time these children came to the Springlands school for a short period but there are none now. So Mr Editor you will see that the boat is on the other leg. Springlands had a population at the last census of 518 souls and is rapidly increasing and if it is not entitled to a school I don't know what township is. And best of all the school has always paid its way that is there have always been sufficient children

attending to do so. I don't know whether your informant can say the same, I hope he can.—-I am, etc., SPRINGLANDS

5th April 1892 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee approved the permanent appointment of Miss Millington as assistant. They also asked that the Board in place of adding to the school should build a new school, and use the present school as a teacher's residence. The Inspector said he had visited the school, and he agreed if the Board intended to put up a residence at Springlands the idea was a good one. The Chairman said this was one of the earliest works they would have to undertake, j as the school was getting too large for a female teacher. He moved that as soon as the Board was in a position the recommendation should be carefully considered.

26th April 1898 SPRINGLANDS.

At Springlands last night the annual meeting of householders was held, Mr W. Tindill in the chair, when the following were elected Messrs Goleman, J. Verooe, Chas Raven, Chas Coward, Hale, Rowe, and Tindill. Mr Tindill was re-elected Chairman. The balance sheet showed a credit of £10 in the bank, and £4 in books.

3rd September 1892 Springlands School. —Mr Inspector Smith is about to commence his travels again, and starts with Springlands School on Monday week. The wet weather has interfered with the attendance at school, as it has done with the occupations of older folks, but the head mistress trusts that for the next week weather or no weather, parents will send their children regularly. It is discouraging to a teacher to be without a fair complement of scholars.

1893

1893	66	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	120.00
1893	66	Springlands	Millington	E H	Assistant Female	£	75.00

8th February 1893 The fact of having so unusually low a percentage of passes will be a sufficient motive for a vigorous effort to replace these schools on their accustomed footing. As regards the Blenheim Girls', Springlands, Canvastown, Birchwood, and Waikakaho Schools, something more is evidently required.

6th April 1893 Tenders as follows were opened for the additions to the Springlands School D. Wemyss £194 14s, Brewer and Hay £169, J. Fawcett £165, and Watson and Co. £175 9s. Mr J. Fawcett's tender was accepted.

25th April 1893 SPRINGLANDS.

At the meeting last night the following were elected as members of the School Committee Messrs W. Tindill, J. Hale, C. H. Raven, J. Vercoe, E. Rowe, and J. Fuller. Mr Tindill was elected Chairman at the after meeting.

3rd May 1893 After reading the minutes of last meeting, deputations were received from Springlands and Blenheim Committees. The first mentioned wanted a paling fence in front of the school, but the architect reported against it.

6th June 1893 The Department asked for particulars of the Building Fund, and the Board's requirements. The Inspector read a list as follows —Infants' School, Blenheim, £600; side school, Redwoodtown, £150; teacher's Springlands, £200

SPRINGLANDS. Mr Tindill asked if the Board could place a verandah round portion of the school, aa there was no shelter from rain. It would cost about £14 or £15. The chimney needed raising, as with the wind in a certain direction no fire could be lit. The architect was instructed to attend to the matter at once. Mr Smith thought that the verandah would

darken the room. It was resolved to leave it to the Architect and Committee, Messrs Parker, Garter, and Hutcheson to open tenders

4th July 1893 would bestir themselves to bring the attendance up to the required average. SPRINGLANDS. The Committee asked for ten loads of gravel round the building, and pointed out that the closet pans needed attention, as their bottoms were worn out. Mr Lambert said that as the Springlands Committee had a new building and new fence, and did not have to spend much on repairs, and as they got nearly £6 a quarter capitation, they could easily do this for themselves. The Chairman proposed that £1 be granted to gravel the parts disturbed by patting in posts for the new fence, but the rest came within the duties of the Committee, and their capitation should be sufficient So meet their requirements. Seconded by Mr Carter, and carried.

6th September 1893 Springlands School. Inspector Smith completed his examination of this school on the 28th ult. Ninety-seven scholars were presented, and forty-two passed the percentage being, of passes 43, and of failures 12.5.

29th September 1893 The usual monthly meeting of the Springlands School Committee was held last night at the schoolroom present— Messrs Tindill (in the chair), Fuller, Hale. Rowe and Vercoe The teachers report showed that there were now on the roll 101, and the average attendance was only 61, which was accounted for by the prevalence of measles in this district. For the position of janitor seven applications were received, and that of Mr Watson, of Springlands, was accepted. The Inspector's report on the recent examinations was also received, and as the attendance was low, owing to the prevailing epidemic, the number presented in the standards and passed was considered very satisfactory, as the following will show Standard VII, presented I, passed 1, Standard VI, presented 1, passed 1 Standard V, presented 5, passed 4, failed 1; Standard IV, presented 8, passed 6, failed 2 Standard 111, presented 11, passed 8. failed 3 5 Standard II, presented 12, passed 12 Standard I. presented 11, passed 11

7th November 1893 SPRINGLANDS. Mr Fawcett, contractor for the Springlands School, wrote with reference to a claim for alterations in the original plan in the matter of seating. Considerable discussion arose on the item claimed, £2, as there appeared to be conflict of statement between the architect and contractor. It was resolved to appoint Messrs Carter Parker, and Hutcheson a committee to deal with the matter. The Committee wrote with reference to the drainage. Resolved to request the architect to report upon the matter at next meeting

1894

1894	75	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	120.00
1894	75	Springlands	Millington	E H	Assistant Female	£	75.00

9th January 1894 EXTENSION Of HOLIDAYS. Mr Lucas *(Head Master of Blenheim School)* wrote asking that, as Messrs Simson and Robinson were at present engaged in their D examinations, and Miss Stratford in the E, and as there were other unfavourable circumstances, that the schools be not reopened until the 22nd of January, instead of the 15th, as previously decided upon. Request granted.

28th January 1894 Educational. The State schools in Blenheim and Springlands re-open on Monday next.

24th April 1894 SPRINGLANDS.

The householders' meeting at Springlands last sight was well attended, Mr W. Tindill the late Chairman of Committee , presiding. The following gentlemen were nominated as members of the Springlands School Committee:—Messrs Coleman, Hale, Tindill, Fuller, Rows, Tapp, and Pettman. Only the required number being nominated, the Chairman declared thorn duly elected. A meeting of the new Committee was held directly after the householders meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairman for the ensuing year. Messrs Fuller and Tindill were nominated for the position, and on the ballot being taken the former was declared elected.

9th May 1894 School Committee.— The householders of Cullensville, Endeavour Inlet, Okaramio, Picton, Springlands, Waitohi, and Port Underwood, having failed to elect committees on the statutory day, the Education Board has decided that an election shall be held on Wednesday, the 30th instant.

One of the statements above is correct, Copied as written

3rd November 1894 The examination of the Springlands school is now definitely fixed to take place on Thursday next the 8th instant. Miss Stratford and her assistant have been moat assiduous in their efforts during the year, and it is hoped that parents will note that a regular attendance of pupils next week is absolutely necessary

1895

1895	92	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	Head Female	£	120.00
1895	92	Springlands	Millington	E H	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1895	92	Springlands	Nicoll	Mabel	Female Probationer	£	16.00

9th April 1895 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee asked that the large gates be repaired, and a wicket gate built The Inspector was instructed to have the work done. The average attendance of the school having attained the required proportions, the Committee asked that a pupil teacher be appointed, and recommended Miss Bertha Tindill. The teacher, Miss Stratford recommended Miss Mabel Nicholls (Sic), who had attended the school for eight years, and acted as probationer for some time. The Board appointed Miss Nicholls.

23rd April 1895 good number of householders attended the election of a School Committee for Springlands last evening, the meeting being hold in the schoolroom. Mr J. A. Fuller, Chairman of the retiring Committee, occupied the Chair. Eight nominations were received, necessitating an election, seven members being required. This is the first time since Springlands was made a school district that it has been found necessary to have a ballot. Voting was as follows J. A. Puller 12, J. Hale 11, C. Raven 11, E. J. Pettman 10, J. H. Clayton 10, J. Coleman 7, J. Batty 7, W. Tindill 4. The first seven were declared duly elected. The new Committee held a meeting immediately afterwards, and re-elected Mr Fuller Chairman.

31st August Me Fuller leaves Springlands to move to Patea

15th October 1895 SPRINGLANDS. The request of the Committee for a new pump was agreed to

29th November 1895 The following are the names of those who passed in their respective standards at the recent examination of the Springlands School

Standard I. Eva Clayton, Ada Coleman, Thomas Daniels, George Funnell, Emma Guest, Freeman Hale, Jessie Hamilton, Kate Higgins, Arthur Henderson, Julia Henderson, William Kirkpatrick, Jane Miles, Robert Laidlaw, Edith McFarland, Harold Nicoll, Nora O'Donoghue,

Reginald Pettman, George Register, Albert Reader, Arthur Rose, George Sheridan, Emily Stevens, Frank Singleton.
Standard II. John Costello, William Daniels, Arthur Edwards, William Guest, Harry Gridley, George Raven, Ivy Rowe, Sydney Schwass, Audrey Saul, Daisy Tapp, Mary Thomson.
Standard III. Bernard Cawte, Mary Fuller, Lily Gridley, Elsie Hale, Henry Henderson, Ernest Laking, Bingley Laking, James Laidlaw, Charles Raven, Oswald Rowe, John Reader, Frances Rowe, Venie Saul, Ida Saul, Lily Tapp, Kathleen Williams, Daisy Mears.
Standard IV. Ellie Coleman, Michael Costello, Ethel Henderson, Elizabeth Laking, Eva Nicoll, Fanny Pettman, Rosina Tapp, Harry Williams, Matilda Schwass.
Standard V. Nora Cawte, Henry Curnow, Isabel Laidlaw, Percy Nicoll, William Patchett, Olive Rose.
Standard VI. Nora Batty, Kate O'Donoghue.
Class VII. Etta Boyce, Grace Huddleston, Bertha Tindill.
It may be mentioned that out of 77 presented, there were only three failures. This satisfactory result is highly creditable to the Head Mistress (Miss Stratford), and her assistants
11th December 1895 In connection with the subject introduced by Mr Lambert, of concession by Government to those Education Boards burdened with more than a proportionate number of aided schools, the Inspector supplied a return of the number of pupils in Class X (seventh) in the schools of the district. The total number was 48. In the Blenheim school there were 7 boys and 4 girls who had been two years in that class, and 5 boys and 5 girls one year. The whole number in the Picton School was 8, and at Springlands 3. At the aided schools there were 10 such pupils. Discussion on the subject was further deferred till next meeting.

1896

1896	86	Springlands	Stratford	Edythe	D2	Head Female	£	130.00
1896	86	Springlands	Millington	E H	D3	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1896	86	Springlands	Nicoll	Mabel		Female Probationer	£	24.00

14th April 1896 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee wrote saying that the Head Mistress, Miss Stratford, had been seriously ill lately, and asking that she be granted three months leave of absence. They recommended that Miss Millington, assistant mistress, be given charge of the school in Miss Stratford's absence, and that Mr F. Stratford be temporarily engaged as assistant teacher. On the motion of the Chairman it was resolved to grant Miss Stratford three months leave of absence on full pay, and that the recommendation of the Committee as to teachers arrangement be adopted.
9th June 1896 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee applied for a grant for a teacher's residence. It was resolved to inform the Committee that the Board would erect the residence when satisfied that it was necessary.
14th July 1896 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee asked for an extension of the .leave of absence of Miss Stratford, Head Mistress. Granted. The matter of repairing the bell tower was left in hands of Committee.
6th August 1896 Personal.— We are pleased to learn that Miss Stratford, the able mistress of the Springlands school, is now sufficiently convalescent to resume her duties

1897

1897	87	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D2	Head Master	£	173.14
1897	107	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D3	Assistant Female	£	80.00

1897 107 Springlands Nicoll Mabel G Female Probationer £ 32.00

10th February 1897 Inspector's report included The larger schools show an apparent falling-off in the results of standards 111., IV., V., and VI., which varies from 4 to as much as 43 per cent. The maximum was reached at the Springlands School, but the protracted illness of the head teacher, who was unable to attend to her duties for six months, may be taken as a sufficient explanation of the falling off in this case. Fairhall, which, next to Springlands, show the greatest proportion of failures, also, no doubt, lost ground through the severe bereavement suffered by the teacher in the death of his wife alter a long- illness.

`14th July 1897 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee wrote asking that a male teacher be appointed to the Springlands school in place of the mistress. They had come to the conclusion that such a step would be advantageous to the school. The present school attendance was 120, A short time ago it was 134. On the motion of Mr McCallum it was resolved that the recommendation of the Committee be effected. Messrs Thompson, McCallum and the Secretary were appointed a committee to interview the Springlands Committee about, the matter and report at next meeting.

10th August 1897 The Springlands School,— At the meeting of the Education Beard to-day a letter was received from the Committee enclosing the resignation of Miss Stratford, mistress of the Springlands school. The resignation, which was tendered on account of ill health, was received by the Board with regret. The Board discussed the matter of appointing a male teacher, in deference to the expressed wishes of the Committee. Mr Duncan contended that, in making the appointment the Board should give the preference to the local talent, it was not necessary to go outside the district to get good talent. It was resolved to appoint a male teacher, and to advertise in the local papers for applications for the position,

11th August 1897 Educational.— A certificated teacher is required for the Springlands school . Particulars appear in our advertising columns

12th August MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD. A CERTIFICATED Head Teacher (male) wanted for the Springlands School. Salary, according to the Board's scale, at present about £160 With rent allowance until a residence provided. Applications addressed to the Secretary Education Board, Blenheim , will be received up to TUESDAY, 7th September next. Duties to commence on November 1st, 1897. JOHN SMITH, Secretary

14th September 1897 . SPRINGLANDS. The Committee wrote recommending that Mr Howard, 'teacher of the Tua Marina school, be appointed master at the Springlands school. Seven applications had been received by the Committee. After some discussion the Board decided to appoint Mr Howard. Mr Conolly wrote stating that Mr Cawte would sell a house and -land opposite the Springlands school for £550 or would lease it at a rental of £32 10s, and he forwarded the offer in view of the fact that the Board would have to consider the matter of providing accommodation for the new teacher. The matter of providing accommodation was referred to the Works Committee

It was resolved to call for applications locally for the teachership of the Tua Marina School, which is to be resigned by Mr Howard, in consequence of his appointment to the Springlands School.

15th September 1897 Reporting yesterday on the result of the present Truant Officer's appointment, the Secretary of the Education Board stated that, taking the period of six months that have elapsed since the appointment. The Blenheim Boys' School showed an increase of 49 in the attendance, the Girls' School a decrease of 15, Grovetown a decrease of 42, and Springlands a decrease of 46, making a total decrease of 54 but it should be taken into

account that the roll number had diminished in some cases. The Board recognised that the experiment was not progressing very satisfactorily however, it was said, a fairer test could be made at the end of the twelve months. The Secretary was instructed to call the attention of the Truant Inspector to the decreased attendance

15th September 189 Mr Harry Howard, of the Tua Marina school , who has just been promoted to Springlands, is the eldest son of Mr C. C. Howard, Head Master, of the Picton Borough Schools. Mr H. Howard possesses exceptional abilities, and has been very successful in gaining passes for the pupils under his charge, As a teacher his career has been a most successful one, and no doubt a few years will see him at the top of the tree. Mr H. Howard has many friends in Picton who are pleased to hear of his promotion, and offer their heartiest congratulations.

5th September 1897 THE APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Whims the Education Board wore considering the matter of disposing of the teachership of the Springlands school yesterday morning, several members expressed their views on the subject of appointing teachers, and, as this is a question of great interest in connection with the relations of Boards and Committees, it will not be out of place to quote some of the remarks that were made. A letter had been received from the Springlands Committee stating that they considered the seven applications forwarded to them, and recommending one of the applicants. A motion having been made that the Committee's recommendation be adopted, Mr Duncan said that the Committee's nominee was comparatively young in the service of the Board, and he suggested that, as some of the applicants had been in the service for a long time, it would he well to carefully consider the advisability of agreeing to the Committee's nomination. The Board's desire should he to give promotion if there was promotion where it was most due, and the claims of candidates should be carefully weighed. Mr McCallum said there was no doubt that in agreeing^ to the Committee's recommendation they would be placing the gentleman in question over very much older teachers but at the same time, he thought, unless the Committee suggested an outrageously bad appointment, and betrayed the interests of the householder, the Board should confirm the nomination. In this case the successful candidate was arising teacher, "though a young man f and the Board would be perfectly justified in accepting him. He did not think it would be right to oppose the action of the Committee in this case. Mr 0. Mills thought that the remarks of Mr Duncan would be quite appropriate if there was any appearance of overlooking considerable merit; but in this instance he did not think* knowing the successful candidate as they did, that they should go against the wishes of the Committee. His opinion was that -unless the Board had very good reason to assert its authority it should give the Committee every privilege, in the appointment of teachers, Mr Seymour said he would like to say a few words on this very important point. His views were these That, while the Board was bound by the Act to consult the Committee, that consultation should not be made a mere matter of form, but should be carried out in the spirit intended by the Act. (Hear hear). His opinion was that, in dealing with the appointment of a teacher, the Board should forward to the Committee the applications of all applicants entitled to the appointment. That was to say, all the applications should be forwarded except those received from applicants whom the Board knew were ineligible. The Board, being the ruling body, and having the regulations continually under its eyes, had better opportunities of information and observation, and if it knew there were any undesirable applications, it would be quite justified in withholding them. The rest should be sent on, and if the Committee made a good choice, and one to which there was no

reasonable objection, the Board should confirm it, On one or two occasions the Board had suggested the names of teachers, and the Committees had fallen in with those suggestions. In this instance no suggestion was made, and what seemed to him a very good choice was made. He did not go so far as to say that it was the bounden duty of the Board to agree to the selection of the Committee; but he thought that in a, case like this they would err very considerably if they did not accept the Committee's recommendation. Mr Duncan said that his object in raising the discussion had been quite attained. He only wanted to bring the matter prominently before the Board and establish the fact that the appointment was a just one. He quite agreed with the Chairman that the Committee was quite capable of judging and from a personal point of view he was pleased to see the successful candidate get the teacher-, ship. Mr Carter said that it was all very well for Committees to have a voice in the appointment of teachers, but the Board should [never lose sight of the fact that Committees were likely to be dominated by particular influences. It was often the case that one Committeeman influenced the rest and that the matter was settled outside the meeting room. He did not say that that was what had been done in this case, and he had nothing to say against the successful applicant; but, still, on principle, the Board should always act with vigilance in appointing teachers. He thought that it was a pity there was not some regulation as to priority for length of service. He would feel sorry to think that the claims of an old servant of the Board should be ignored. The discussion then closed, the motion for the acceptance of the Committee's recommendation being carried without dissent.

15th December 1897 The master of the Springlands School wrote as to house accommodation. It was resolved to advise Mr Howard to rent a house pending the acquirement of a residence by the Board.

1898

1898	107	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D2	Head Master	£	174.18
1898	107	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D3	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1898	107	Springlands	Nicoll	Mabel G		Female Probationer	£	40.00

12th January 1898 A residence bas not yet been acquired by the Education Board for the Springlands teacher

16th February 1886 Inspector's report included: The Inspector points out that factors bearing importantly on the apparent results of the examinations are The varying length, in the absence of regulations as to holidays, of the school year in different schools; the temporary closing of several schools (including Blenheim, Grovetown, Springlands, and Marshlands), on account of sickness and, more especially, the irregularity of attendance, which is a deeply rooted evil

16th March 1898 Two good properties have been acquired by the Education Board, the Works Committee having successfully completed negotiations that have been proceeding for a considerable time. About three and a half acres and a house opposite the Springlands school have been purchased for the purpose of a teacher's residence, for £325, and the Board has re-sold a portion of the land, two acres, for £63. *The other was a Blenheim transaction*

13th April 1898 Mr J. Conolly reported completion of the conveyance of land at Springlands to the Board, and asking for payment of purchase money. The Secretary stated that the account had been paid.— Approved.

11th May 1898 The Secretary reported on the results of the recent meetings of householders for the election of School Committees that no reports had been received respecting the elections at Blenheim and Springlands,

A tender for repairs to the teacher's house at Springlands had been let to Mr B. Brewer for the sum of £58 15s, and it was expected that the building would be ready for occupation by the end of the present month.

14th June 1898 school library fund. It was resolved to grant the subsidy on all the money in hand. The Committee recommended that Mr E. Thomas be appointed Truant Officer and notified that they were willing to contribute £5 a year towards the salary of such an officer. It was resolved that the Board contribute £10 a year towards the salary, together with a bonus of 20 per cent, on capitation (£8 15s a head) received for increased attendance, this arrangement to apply to the Blenheim and Springlands schools, and to last for one year. The

15th June 1898 SPRINGLANDS. The Works Committee, through Mr Carter, reported that the house at Springlands bought for the residence of the teacher had been put in excellent order, and they could congratulate the Board on having made a good purchase. The place was ready for occupation

12th July 1898 SPRINGLANDS. The Works Committee, through Mr Carter, reported that the house at Springlands bought for the residence of the teacher had been put in excellent order, and they could congratulate the Board on having made a good purchase. The place was ready for occupation

20th December 1898 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee intimated that the average attendance had increased to such an extent as to entitle the school to an assistant teacher. The Secretary stated that the regulations required the increase to extend over two consecutive quarters. The matter was deferred till next meeting, a joint recommendation to be obtained in the meantime from the Committee and master as to appointments. A request from the Committee for some more desks was also postponed

1899

1899	123	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D2	Head Master	£	193.00
1899	123	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	85.00
1899	123	Springlands	Nicoll	Mabel G		Female Probationer	£	40.00
1899	123	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		Female Probationer	£	16.00

14th February 1899 SPRINGLANDS. Correspondence was received from the Committee and master as to the appointment of Miss Tindill on the teaching staff and the retention of Miss Nicholls. It was resolved that the Committee and master be informed that if the attendance warrants Miss Nicholls would be appointed pupil teacher, and that in the meantime her services would be retained.

27th February 1899 A Creditable Result. Miss Nicolls of the staff of the Springlands School, achieved a creditable success are the recent teachers'' examinations in gaining an E certificate straight out. Mr Howard, the able teacher of the Springlands School, under whose tuition Miss Nicolls has studied for the purpose of the examination, is also to be congratulated on this result

10th March 1899 Blenheim School Committee In accordance with the request of the Chairman, the Head Master and Head Mistress forwarded the names

of children who bad left the school since September last with their destinations as far as could be ascertained. The Chairman remarked that there had been a big increase in the attendance at the Springlands school. It was remarked that less than half a-dozen children were set down on the lists as having changed to the Springlands school. It was pointed out that a number of children were shown. to have left school out of low standards

11th March 1899 SPRINGLANDS. According to the Board's regulations, Mr_ Howard, teacher, was granted a bonus of £10 in consideration of Miss Nicoll, fourth year pupil teacher, having obtained an E certificate in the recent examinations

14th April 1899 Yesterday the children attending the Springlands School enjoyed an excursion by train to Picton. The weather in Picton was fine, and when the young people returned by the usual evening train they seemed to have appreciated the outing

25th April 1899 Of the schools in the district, as far as average attendance is concerned, the Springlands school now ranks third, coming next after Blenheim and Picton with an average attendance of 150 The Grovetown school is next on the list with an average of 135.

25th April 1899 SPRINGLANDS.

The old Committee, consisting of Messrs J. Conolly, A. Mowat, J, Hale, S. Tapp, E. Rowe, O. Raven, and D. Thomas, were re-elected without opposition, Mr Conolly was re-elected Chairman of the Committee.

3rd May 1899 SCHOOL MATTERS.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir,— Having heard it frequently stated that the attendance at the Springlands School was being increased at the expense of the Blenheim, I made inquiries, and I find that such is not the case, three children only having left the Blenheim School. If the parents were to send their children regularly to school they could hardly fail to get on and to blame a teacher for what is the fault of the parents— namely, bad attendance—is the height of injustice I am, etc., Parent.

16th December 1899 School Attendance.— Before Mr J. Allen, S.M., this morning, William Martin was charged with failing to send his child to the Springlands School. Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 2s.

Mabel Grace Nicoll was born in 1877 in Wellington to Charles Nicoll, a Carpenter. She first appears applying for a pupil teachership at Springlands in 1892, she was only 14 though and is turned down. She finally gets a role there in 1895 as a probationer, and remained in this role until 1899 when she is promoted to be Assistant at Okaramio. In 1901 she takes over as head here, her first head teacher role. Leaving here part way through 1902 she is next appointed head of Cullensville in 1903. She didn't last long here before leaving to Waitohi where she worked as "Mistress". In 1904 she was appointed as a female teacher at Marlboroughtown. She would remain here until 1913, rising to be head female teacher at the school. She would resign in order to travel to England in 1913 where it is possible she met her future husband, Robert Donn, a Scottish art professor. Robert came to NZ in 1920, and it is probable Mabel was already with him as there is no NZ marriage for the two. Robert was employed by the teachers training college, first at Dunedin and later at Auckland to instruct future teachers in art. They retired to Blenheim where Mabel died in 1958. Research by Grandson Sam

1900

1900	137	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	212.90
1900	137	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Assistant Female	£	85.00
1900	137	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		Female Probationer	£	16.00
1900	137	Springlands	Rowe	Frances		Female Probationer	£	16.00

14th March 1900 lv connection with the application for an addition to the Springlands School, the Board discussed the fact that many town children attended the schools in the suburbs instead of going to the schools in their own district. This shifting from one school to

another was always an uncertain factor, and was a difficulty hard to deal with. The absence of the children *from the town schools lessened the capitation receipts therefrom but did not proportionately lessen the expense of maintenance, and their attendance at the suburb schools raised the necessity of additional accommodation at places where such might be of no use at all in the near future

10th April 1900 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee forwarded the names of children residing in the Borough and attending the Springlands school. The number was 82 viz., 19 boys and 13 girls. The Secretary explained that the return was asked for after receiving an application from the Springlands Committee for additional accommodation and more desks. The Board's attention was drawn to the recent decision of the Chief Justice on the question of children attending schools outside their own districts, which was published in the morning paper. This report was read and the subject was discussed at some length. It was resolved that the attention of the Springlands Committee be called to the decision of the Chief Justice, and informed the Board is of opinion that the accommodation of its school is sufficient for the children residing in the Springlands district.

11th April 1900 The Springlands School closes to-day for Easter holidays and reopens next, Wednesday.

4th July 1900 The Springlands Committee in reply to this Committee's request for a contribution to the Truant Officer's salary, asked for information as to the average attendances at the Borough and Grovetown Schools, with a view to a pro rata arrangement.-~The Secretary was instructed to supply the information. Blenheim School Committee

21st August 1901 OKARAMIO. The action of the Secretary in sending Miss Y. Price to act temporarily as assistant teacher was approved. Cn the recommendation of the Committee, Miss Mabel Nicholl (Springlands), was appointed to the position, which was rendered vacant by the appointment of Miss Croucher to Marlboroughtown

24th October 1900 Mr H J Howard Secretary of NZEI

11th December 1900 —At the recent examinations at the Springlands School out of 116 presented in Standards, 105 passed, which gives an average of 90 per cent. This reflects great credit on the headmaster, Mr H. J. Howard,

1901

1901	139	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	191.16
1901	139	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Assistant Female	£	85.00
1901	139	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		Female Probationer	£	24.00
1901	139	Springlands	Rowe	Frances		Female Probationer	£	12.00

20th March 1901 SPRINGLANDS

The Committee forwarded a list of the names of children attending the Spring-lands School from, outside the district, and another of the names of children belonging to Spring-lands who are attending some other school, the numbers being nearly equal. The Committee asked the Board to consider the necessity for increased accommodation —Resolved to reply that the Board has no funds at the present time for a new building, but when the next building grant is received the necessities of the Springlands Committee would be carefully considered

17th April 1901 Springlands put in Very Good *(Top)* class by inspector Smith One of Twelve.

23rd April 1901 SPRINGLANDS

At the meeting of householders at Springlands, Messrs J. Conolly, J. Hale, A. Mowat, D. Thomas, S. Tapp, E. Rowe and W. Litchfield were elected as the School Committee for the ensuing year, Mr Conolly being subsequently appointed Chairman. The report of the outgoing Committee, all of .whom, excepting Mr Raven, who has left the district and is replaced by Mr Litchfield, have been re-elected, showed the school to be steadily progressing, it being classed as "very good" in the Inspector's report; and expressed the thanks of the Committee to the teachers who have so ably and faithfully discharged their duties. The roll number has on occasions lately exceeded 180, while the average attendance for some months was over 150. A resolution was passed by the householders recommending the Committee to continue to urge the Board to provide further accommodation, as both the building and furniture are quite inadequate for the number of scholars at present attending the school.

29th April 1901 Salaries Commission report included Do you think that the teachers are deserving of such adequate provision —Yes. We have very good teachers. They do good work. Some do brilliant work.

With regard to the distance between schools, the Board had a five mile limit. The Springlands and other schools were erected before that regulation was brought into force. He did not think that the American principle, under which money was spent on means of conveyance to a common centre rather than on the multiplication of schools, would work satisfactorily in such a district. He did not believe in the present division of the Borough School. The experience of the Marlborough Board was that the present system of management of educational affairs by Committees under Boards worked very satisfactorily. His opinion •was that there should be a colonial scale of staff and salaries, with a supplementary scheme to deal with the special circumstances in connection with aided schools.

2nd May 1901 Yesterday two teams from the Picton Borough School journeyed to Springlands to try conclusions with the local rounder and football 1 clubs respectively. The matches were held simultaneously, the girls, using the boys' playground for rounders, the boys, by the kindness of Mr Alex. Mowat, being accommodated with a paddock adjoining for their football match. Play commenced soon after midday, Mr Howard, senior., acting as referee for the girls, and Mr Howard, junr., for the boys. The local teams were successful in both matches* the scores being: Rounders, Springlands 30, Picton 6; Football, Springlands 17, Picton nil. In the latter game the visitors were altogether; over weighted, Springlands scoring as they liked. After play the teams adjourned to the school, where Mrs Rose, assisted by Miss Olive Rose, had with her usual kindness and warm. heartedness, provided tea and all sorts of good things for the players and their friends. In a few well-chosen words Mr Howard, on behalf of the visitors, thanked the Springlands children and teachers and Mrs Rose for their kind reception, and stated that the tremendous beating Picton had received would .'only stimulate them to further W-. efforts, and that when Springlands visited Picton he hoped the latter. would turn the tables and beat them, not only at the games, but outdo them also in. generosity, which he thought it would be the hardest task of all. After three hearty cheers had been exchanged, the visitors left for Blenheim to catch the 3.30 p.m. train for Picton

8th May 1901 Blenheim School Committee Amalgamation did not mean the mixing of the sexes indiscriminately, and fat himself he thought that with a good and efficient Head Master it would he. in the interests of the school nod the children.; Another member remarked that they had. to go only as far as Springlands and they arrived at an amalgamated school, in

which an excellent state of affairs existed. This fact showed the inconsistency of making such a fuss about the question of bringing the boys' and girls' departments together in Blenheim.
14th May 1901 Mr Nicholl asked the Board to bear half the cost of a fence that he intended to erect at Springlands on the boundary of the Board's property. The matter was left in the hands of Mr Litchfield with power to make an arrangement.
11th June 1901 The Springlands Committee asked again for a number of additional desks for the school.—The Secretary was instructed to supply them at once if procurable.
9th July 1901 A communication from the Springlands Committee asking that permission be given for the erection of a cottage on the school property for the caretaker was deferred till next meeting. It was decided that the Springlands Committee be requested' to erect a wire fence round the teacher's residence, and that it be offered for the planting of a live fence.
18th July 1901 A rather painful accident occurred to Miss Tindill, pupil teacher at the Springlands school, yesterday. She was passing through the boys' playground when a football, the boys were playing with, struck her in the face. She was rendered unconscious and was carried into the school, where, after a short time, she recovered enough to be able, with assistance, to proceed to her home
14th October 1901 The_ Springlands Committee asked that its request that a cottage be erected on the school ground for a caretaker be dealt with in one way or another.—The Secretary was instructed to explain that the Works Committee had reported unfavorably on the request.
11th December 1901 Examinations.—The many Picton friends of Mr Harry Howard, master of the Springlands School, will be glad to hear that he continues to maintain the high reputation he earned as a teacher here and at Tua Marina. He had only 7 failures out of 115 presented at Springlands, and none of these were in his own part of the school
12th December 1901 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.
TO THE EDITOR. Sir,-—The information you obtained from the Picton Press re the examination at the Springlands School was incorrect. The number of failures was 8, not 7, as stated, and the majority of them occurred in my part of the school. I ask you to make this correction in justice to my assistants.—I am, etc., H. J. Howard, Head Teacher. Springlands School, Dec. 12, 1901.
18th December 1901 Absent School Children.—Another batch of cases for breaches of the School Attendance Act, 1901, was heard this morning at the Magistrate's Court. W. J. Imrie, who did not appear, was fined 2s, the breach being for the week ended 6th December. The Headmaster of the Springlands School proved the child's absence. He said he received a note yesterday from the parents, but that was after the summons was issued

1902

1902	137	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	229.14
1902	137	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1902	137	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		Female Probationer	£	40.00
1902	137	Springlands	Rowe	Frances		Female Probationer	£	20.00

30th January 1902 At a householders meeting in Blenheim to discuss having mixed sex classrooms the following was presented; If any distinction should be made at all, their boys required a better education than their girls to properly equip them for the battle of life. Answering the question put by Mr Rabbits, he produced official papers showing the examination results of various schools. At the Blenheim Girls' School there were 20 in the

Sixth Standard and all but 4 passed Renwicktown had 8 and 8 passed, 5 with credit; Grovetown 9 and 9 passed Springlands 13 and 13 passed, 5 with credit Canvastown 11 and 11, and so on with Tua Marina and other schools……

15th April 1902 The Springlands Committee's request for the appointment of Misses Daisy Tapp and O. Saul as unpaid probationers was acceded to. The Springlands Committee^ wrote again urging the need of enlarged school accommodation.—The Chairman said this was a case in which increased accommodation was urgently needed.— The Secretary was instructed to reply in recognition of this urgency

The urgent requirements for the present year were set down as follows Enlargement of Springlands School, say, £150

29th April 1902 SPRINGLANDS.

At the meeting of householders held last evening at Springlands, the report for the year was very satisfactory, but those present expressed regret that the increased accommodation promised more than a year ago had not yet, owing to the Education Board's want pf funds, been supplied, The school is

really fitted to accommodate about 80 children, while the roll number is considerably more than double that, and Thomas W. Litchfield, J. Conolly, A. W Jackson, H. Pond, and J. L. Harris being elected. Mr J. Conolly was re-elected chairman.

14th July 1902 The Springlands Committee were authorised to erect two new closets *(Toilets)*

4th August 1902. Mr H Howard was elected President of Marlborough NZEI

11th August 1902 As part of the Coronation celebrations in Blenheim Springlands brought in a very pretty train, which had been dressed up by Mr Howard and staff, and was drawn by Mr A. J. Litchfield's new engine, in charge of Mr W. Litchfield

18th Au 1902 SPRINGLANDS. The Springlands Committee again urged the necessity of increasing the school accommodation. Mr Litchfield said the school was crowded to excess. He asked if it were not possible to take steps to prevent the attendance of children from other school districts. After discussion it was resolved that the Committee be informed that the overcrowding of the school must be stopped, and should be prevented by the exclusion of children from outside districts. The sum of £5 was granted to the Committee for the improvement of the privy accommodation

20th September 1902 Springlands £1.1.0 For soldiers memorial of South African war

13th November 1902 Referring at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday to the steady growth of Springlands, a resident of that locality said that the suburb was now more thickly populated than some parts of the Borough. A member suggested that it would soon be time to attach Springlands to the Borough. The resident smilingly replied that a Borough of their own was more to the purpose

8th December 1902 SPRINGLANDS . Prior to the meeting the Board visited and inspected the Springlands Schools in accordance with the resolution of last meeting, when a deputation from the Committee waited on the Board and represented the inadequateness of the building.

It was resolved that the architect prepare plans and specifications for an addition similar to that erected a few years ago. This, it was pointed out, would provide accommodation for a possible 80 children. It was decided that the work be carried out during the holidays

10th December 1902 The recognition of the Springlands school cadet detachment by the Education Department is gazetted

1903

1903	132	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	229.20
1903	132	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Mistress	£	105.00
1903	132	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		FPT4	£	40.00
1903	132	Springlands	Tapp	Daisy		FPT1	£	20.00

12th January 1903 Marlborough Education Board report included: He (The Secretary) pointed out that as the result of steadfastly avoiding all but absolutely necessary works the Board had reduced the indebtedness of the building grant to £148; but that considerable new building work was urgently required, and, not taking into account repairs, some £1500 was necessary for this purpose. It was resolved that an application be made on behalf of the Springlands School for an allocation out of the new funds provided for additional accommodation required as the result of increase of population.

SPRINGLANDS. Plans and specifications for the additions, to the Springlands School were received from the architect. A communication from Dr Frengeley, Health Officer, as to the sanitary features of the new accommodation was read, and it was resolved to inform I him that due provision had been made for such ventilation as he advised. It was resolved, to call for tenders for the work.

The headmaster's request for an extension of Miss B. Tindill's term of' pupil-teachership at the Springlands School was referred to the Committee

26th January 1903 Six tenders were received for the additions to the Springlands School. Mr Macey reported that he had been requested by the Health Officer for the district to photograph both the inside and outside of the Infant School, as being similar to the proposed addition to the Springlands School, and to forward the pictures to the Department. In consequence of this report it was resolved that the tenders be not opened until next meeting, pending the receipt of a communication from the Department on the subject.

7th February 1903 The results of the Marlborough Pupil Teachers' examination, held here in December last by the Education Department, have just been received. Master Edward Bary, of Renwick School, was the most successful candidate securing 76.3 per cent of the maximum marks, or 687 out of 900. Miss Bertha Tindill, of Springlands School, came second in order of merit, gaining 62.6. per cent, or 501 out of her maximum 800 marks.

9th February 1903 A lengthy communication was received from Dr. Frengeley, District Health Officer, with regard to the construction of the Springlands school. He condemned the style of building that had been adopted, as not being in accordance with true hygienic conditions. He gave detailed instructions aa to the manner in which the windows should be constructed to provide for the proper diffusion of light, and as to other points. x The matter was referred back to the architect with instructions to draw up amended plans, in accordance with the requirements of the Health Officer. The tenders received at last meeting and held over wore ordered to be returned to the tenderers.

10th February 1903 In reply to Mr Fell, the Chairman said that the need of renewing the building of the Grovetown school was being kept in view, the case being attendant on the question of the cost of additions to the Springlands school.

The Inspector reported the result of the recent pupil teachers' examinations, the first held by the Department itself. The most successful of the seven candidates were Ed, Barry (Renwick), who gained 687 marks, and Bertha Tindall (Springlands), 501 marks. With regard to the other five candidates, the results wets not good, but there were the considerations that

the examination, the first of its kind, was of a more difficult nature that a considerable portion of the year had elapsed when the subjects for examination were announced

11th February 1903 Inspector's report included: School cadet corps have been established at Picton, Springlands, and Blenheim, and appear so far to have given satisfaction to the military authorities.

12th February 1903 How closely the Wealth Department have entered into the practical, everyday management of public affairs may be illustrated by the responsibilities which are being imposed on the Marlborough Education Board in connection with the construction of the addition to the Springlands School. The original plan has to be amended and brought into line with up-to-date hygienic principles. The alteration of the plan means fresh expense, but the health authorities have supreme power, and their directions cannot be ignored, even if the Board wished to burke *(burke is not in the Oxford dictionary but is in the urban dictionary of rude words)* them. The introduction of this new ruling hand, which is to leave its mark on (he architectural, style of future school buildings, may be expected to have far-reaching effects. The most approved methods of ventilation and the proper diffusion of light are being aimed at, and if the citizen of the future is not an improvement on the present pattern then he certainly ought to be. He should be better equipped mentally, more vigorous physically, and have stronger eyesight than his predecessor.

10th March 1903 SPRINGLANDS. The architect; was instructed to arrange for the removal of a gallery in the Springlands school, and the substitution of desks.

An amended plan of the addition to this school, according to the requirements of the Health Department, was received from the architect.

On the motion of Mr Litchfield, it was resolved that tenders be called.

The appointment of Miss Tapp as probationer was made.

12th March 1903 Train.—The morning train on Friday next will leave Blenheim at 10 o'clock, instead of 10.30 as usual. The alteration is made to accommodate the Springlands school children, who picnic at Picton on that day.

4th April 1903 Double Presentation.—A pleasing little function took place at the Springlands School on Friday afternoon, when Mrs Watson, who for many years was caretaker of the school building and a great favorite with the children, was presented by them and the staff with a comfortable armchair and rug for same. The scholars, aided by their teachers, had prepared a monster afternoon tea," which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After this refreshment, Mr Howard, on behalf of the school teaching staff, presented Miss Frances Rowe, who for some years acted as pupil teacher at the school, with a handsome greenstone brooch as a mark of the high esteem in which she had always been held by her late fellow teachers. Cheers for Mrs Watson, Miss Rowe, and the teachers brought a pleasant re-union to a close.

21st April 1903 SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL. A communication was received from Dr Frengeley, District Health Officer, representing that the architect, in amending the plans for additions to the Springlands School, had declined to comply with his suggestions. He could not, therefore, see his way to continue communication with the officials of the Board, but would reserve his right to condemn any building which in his opinion was not constructed in accordance with the requirements of sanitary science.

Mr Huddleston wrote at length on the subject, and, at the request of the Board, appeared at the meeting and made a statement. He said that Dr Frengley's suggestions, which referred chiefly to the windows, had not been adopted because they were quite impracticable from an architectural point of view.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved to forward the correspondence to the Department. It was pointed out that it was highly desirable to ascertain what the position of the architect really was. It was suggested that a scheme of standard plans for the whole of the Colony would prevent any disagreement of this kind.

28th April 1903 SPRINGLANDS.

At the annual meeting of householders a fair number were present. The report and balance-sheet were read and adopted, and showed the affairs of the school to be in a very satisfactory condition. The addition to the school building has not yet been commenced, but it is hoped it will be completed within the next few months.

Messrs S. Tapp, A. W. Jackson, D. Thomas, 11. Pond, J. L. Harris, P. G. Sau! and J. Conolly wore elected as the now Committee, and at a subsequent meeting Mr Conolly was elected chairman, a position he has held continuously since September, 1895,

5th May 1903 Teacher's court of Appeal. Blenheim Head Master. Mr H Howard gave evidence

H. J. Howard, headmaster of the Springlands School, said he had held that position for five years. His school was one and a half miles from the Borough Schools. He had only five Blenheim children.

Are there any from your district going to the Borough Schools Yes. More than are coining to me from the borough.

Some of the children attending: his school now never went to the Borough School at all, and some continued at his school after a change of residence on the part of their parents.

Mr Ferguson—What is the increase in numbers in your school From 111 to 158 in the five years.

How many in the last four years From 25 to 30.

How many have you not proper space in the school for —About sixty of them.

How is it the demand for increased school accommodation has only been made within the last year or two?— The Committee have been asking the Board for increased accommodation for years.

Re-examined: The increase in the number of his scholars was accounted for by the large increase of residents at Springlands.

12th May 1903 Dr. Anderson, representative of the Public Health Department, attended the meeting and laid before it the plan of a school building in the Wellington district which had been forwarded by Dr. Frengley for the Board's guidance in the construction of the addition to the Springlands School. It was explained that the architect had represented to the I:oird that it was structurally impossible to carry out the requirements of the Health Department in regard to the windows, and that correspondence that had passed between Dr. Frengley and the architect had been forwarded to the headquarters of the Department, with two plans which had been condemned by Dr. Frengley. Dr. Anderson said that it was a hygienic principle and not a structural impossibility that the District Health Officer was contending for, and he pointed out the Department's requirements were based on expert and modern methods.

The Board expressed its recognition of Dr. Frengley's authority in the matter.

Subsequently Mr Huddleston, architect, waited on the Board by request. The plan forwarded by Dr. Frengley was shown to him, and he condemned the proposed construction of the windows on the ground of ventilation as well as lighting. The same thing had to be altered at Renwicktown, when the draught blew the papers off the desks, Besides, with the length of stud available the head light insisted upon would be unworkable. The Wellington

plan provided for a larger stud. |He would make amended plans if instructed to do so, but they would entail a good deal more expense. Mr Duncan said that the architect had entered his protest, but the Board were bound to follow the directions of the Health Officer, On his motion, it was resolved that the architect be instructed to comply with Dr Frengley's requirements, and tenders be called.

9th June 1903 At its May meeting the Education Board decided to forward to the Department the correspondence between its architect and Dr Frengley, District Health Officer, with regard to the construction of the proposed additions to the Springlands School. Yesterday a reply was received conveying the Minister's opinion that in hygienic and sanitary matters the Board should follow the guidance of the Public Health Department. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Board had always endeavored to follow that course. While the requirements of the Public Health Department have considerably increased the cost, the Department informs the Board that no grant can be made oat of the fund for school buildings necessitated by a marked increase of population. The Board's finances being depleted, the work has therefore been further delayed; and Mr Fell has been deputed to wait on the Minister at Wellington. It was remarked at yesterday's meeting that if the Government insisted on certain requirements as to the construction of buildings it should provide the means to carry them out.

9th June 1903 SPRINGLANDS, The Department wrote that in the Minister's opinion it did not appear that the insufficiency of school accommodation had arisen through any marked increase in the population of the district, and therefore the expenditure on additions would have to be made up out of the ordinary building account, and would not be provided for by special grant. The letter was referred to the Springlands Committee for their observation. Members of the Board remarked that it was wholly to the increase of population that the overcrowding was due.

The undertaking of the work was further held over, and Mr Fell was deputed to wait on the Minister at Wellington and explain the circumstance, including the fact that the Public Health Department's requirements had considerably increased the cost of the proposed additions to the school, and that the Board's funds were not equal to tbc strain.

13th July 1903 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL. Mr Fell reported an interview he had had at Wellington with Sir Ed. Gibbes (of the Education Department) on behalf of the Board. He was unable to see Mr Hogben, who was away. He explained to Sir E. Gibbes the necessity of enlarging the Springlands School and was told that a special grant for this purpose could not be made, as the increased attendance was not due to a sudden access of population. The period taken for this calculation was the last three years; and Sir E. Gibbes produced the census returns to show that the population of Springlands had not increased during that time. This was contrary to local knowledge, and on examination Mr Fell found that the census boundaries did not correspond with those of the school district. Then the Department took up the position that the additions were really not necessary, the school not being overcrowded, and the children not being worse off than in schools of similar size in other parts of the colony. What Mr Fell gathered was the Department were besieged with applications for money from all parts of the colony, and their instructions were to resist all demands but what could not possibly be refused In a lengthy discussion the Board agreed on the urgent necessity of relieving the overcrowding at Springlands, and ways and means were discussed. The balance in hand was £667, and, said Mr Fell, the main requirements were the works at Springlands and Grovetown, estimated to cost £255 and £250 respectively, and the rebuilding of the teacher's residence at Tua Marina, which would absorb another £200. The Chairman

suggested that the Board should draw up a scheme of works on the assumption that the building grant (making up the funds to £1600) for 1903-4 would come to hand as usual in December

12th October 1903 It was resolved that the Springlands Committee be granted provision for a culvert in front of the school and for drainage, but the work of repairing a damaged gate be left to the Committee.

16th November 1903 The architect reported that Messrs May and McKinley had completed their contract for the addition to the Springlands School. The timber for the Grovetown School had arrived on the ground and been stacked.

The architect also submitted a memorandum containing suggestions with regard to the construction of shelter sheds, which he said were a wide-felt want in connection with colonial schools, as in very few cases had children a place in which to rest and play during wet or hot weather.

The Board regarded the scheme of providing shelter sheds as beyond its financial moans.

17th November 1903 The Springlands School Committee does not approve of the proposal of the Blenheim School Committee suggesting to the Education Board the advisability of making all future appointment of teachers for twelve months only, to be renewed for a further term of twelve months conditionally upon the results obtained during the past year being satisfactory. In a communication to the Education Board, the Springlands Committee offered its' observations after consideration of the Blenheim circular. What might be done of the School Committees'. Association the Springlands Committee cannot know or say; but the members of the latter body wish to place on record their entire disapproval of both the grammar and the sentiment of the revolution. They feel sure that if applications for teachers are made under such conditions no teacher holding a situation worth holding elsewhere will apply, and that the consequences will be that the teachers in the Marlborough schools will, from time to time as renewed, be less proficient than those now employed. This is not likely to enhance educational matters in the district; and the members of this Committee sincerely hope that the suggestion will not be adopted by the Board." The Board laid the letter on the table.

17th November 1903 THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.

The following communication from Dr Frengley, Health Officer for the Nelson- Marlborough-Westland district, was read at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday On a late visit to Blenheim, I learnt casually that the schoolroom at Springlands was in a state nearing completion. I now desire to put it on record before your Board that in my opinion only by widely stretching the imagination can the new building be said to be in accordance with the Health Officer's suggestions. I am quite aware of your Board having the power inherently to put up whatever style of building they choose, yet, in advising them, I have striven to improve the hygienic condition of the school, not that a monument might be erected to my “ipsissima verba" but purely in the interests of teachers and scholars. Obviously the only sufferers by the perpetuation of improper school buildings are the children and the teachers who frequent them. It is especially to be regretted that your Board did not make one aware of their final intentions. Firstly, because the long windows have been placed facing the glaring north, an aspect 1 should never have recommended. Secondly, the very best light for the building as at present erected, viz., that from the east is blocked by the use of smaller windows and a verandah serving no useful purpose in this position. The long windows should have been placed on the eastern aspect in such a building. These main alterations

would have added nothing to the cost, and would have given the building some right to be called a schoolroom. The Minister of Education is reported to have lately said that plans of model schools should be provided so that in future all schools might be built on proper modern lines. No more striking object-lesson showing the absolute necessity of such an innovation could be found than the lengthy and fruitless correspondence between myself as sanitary expert and your Board. The matter is one of such importance that your Board, I am sure, will no judge it discourteous of me to say that I shall continue to strive and hope for some success in my efforts to improve the hygienic surroundings of the school children in my health district—for the children's sake."

The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt of the letter, and, while expressing the Board's regret at the difference of expert opinion that it had experienced in regard to the construction of the school, point out that it had not been able to follow out the Health Officer's design as the Government declined to provide the funds.

15th December 1903 The Springlands Committee asked -that Miss Tindill's appointment be extended for twelve months.—This was agreed to, the appointment and pay, under the terms of the Act, to be on the basis of a third year's pupil teachership.

1904

1904	188	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	227.12
1904	188	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Mistress	£	105.00
1904	188	Springlands	Tindill	Bertha M		FPT5	£	40.00
1904	188	Springlands	Tapp	Daisy		FPT1	£	20.00

13th January 1904 The first candidates in the scholarship examinations list as from Springlands were Charles Thompson and James Alderton who finished near the bottom of the list

8th February 1904 Letters from the masters at Grovetown and Springlands giving Reasons why the pupil teachers' examinations should be relaxed was referred to the Inspector.

Articles of furniture were granted to the Springlands School.

15th March 1904 Mr Fell gave notice to move at next meeting resolutions with regard to the lack of scholarship candidates from the Blenheim Boys', Picton, and Springlands schools, and with regard to the examination results of the Picton School.

7th April 1904 Lieut. Colonel Loveday was in Blenheim yesterday and inspected the Borough School Cadets. He also inspects the Springlands School Cadets

8th April 1904 At present there are two companies at the Blenheim school, one company at Picton,. and a half company at Springlands so that another half company is necessary to bring the corps up to battalion strength

26th April 1904 SPRINGLANDS.

At the meeting of householders held last evening the following were elected members of the committee:—Messrs S. Tapp, J L. Harris, A. W. Jackson, P. G. Saul, E. J. Pettman, J. Conolly (chairman).

8th June 1904 School Attendance. —At the Magistrate's Court this morning Mrs Pattie was fined 2s for a breach of the School Attendance Act, with regard to a child attending the Springlands school.

8th August 1904 Cottage Gardening.—It was stated at the meeting of the Education Board to-day that a beginning has been made at the Springlands School with the practical subject of cottage gardening.

9th September 1904 Cottage Gardening.—It was stated at the meeting of the Education Board to-day that a beginning has been made at the Springlands School with the practical subject of cottage gardening.

The preparations for the Marl borough Exhibition, to be opened on the 17th inst., were advanced a stage last night, when the General Executive transacted a large quantity of business. The Premier replied that a Government holiday would be observed as far as possible in Blenheim on the opening day. The Postal Department intimated that it was forwarding from Wellington four framed sets of New Zealand stamps, which it asked to be insured for £40. The Borough School Committee notified that the schools would be closed for two days during Exhibition time. The Springlands Committee notified that its school would be closed on Wednesday, 21st. Arrangements for the inclusion of a demonstration of Marconi's wireless telegraphy among the attractions were completed, the proceeds to be divided with the electrician (Mr E, J. Walsh),

23rd September `904 Yesterday afternoon the physical drill competitions provided interest for a large number of people. Five teams of boys and one team of girls competed, each, excepting the Picton teams, executing eight exercises. The Picton entrants performed five exercises. On the whole the drill was well done. Some of the movements lacked smartness, and in a few cases the words of command were somewhat erratic, bat the competitors as a body did credit able work. The girls earned no small amount of kudos. Sergt.-Major Healy was the judge. Following are the results, the maximum number of points being 80 Marlborough High School, 69 points, first.

Blenheim Borough Schools, 65 points, second, Springlands School, 64 points, third. Picton No. 1 squad made 36 points, and No. 2 squad 31 points. The girls scored 67 points.

26th September 1904 Mr O. W. Palmer, the hon. secretary of the Wellington branch of the Navy League, addressed the scholars of the Springlands school last week, and met with an enthusiastic reception. He impressed on the minds of the young people the advantages and privileges they possessed as members of the British Empire, and referred to the restrictive conditions of life ruling under other nationalities. He pointed out that the main object of the League is to improve public opinion in regard to the paramount importance of a strong and efficient navy ……..

27th September 1904 Public interest is being maintained in a remarkable manner, and the attendance at the Exhibition yesterday afternoon and evening was very satisfactory. In the afternoon physical drill by the massed schools was watched by many people. About 40 children from the Blenheim and Springlands Schools performed, Major Sturrock being in command

29th September 1904 Yesterday morning, on the assembling of the children of the Springlands school, news was received by Mr Howard of the success of James Alderton, a pupil of the school, in the spelling bee competition the previous afternoon. His playmates immediately lined up and gave three hearty cheers for the champion speller. Three other Springlands pupils also gained good places in the competition, namely, Clarence McHattie, William Walker and Alice Jones. The school and its schoolmaster are to be congratulated on its general success.

1905

1905	139	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	227.18
1905	139	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D2	Mistress	£	105.00

1905	139	Springlands	Crombie	Agnes M	FPT4	£	50.00
1905	139	Springlands	Tapp	Daisy	FPT2	£	45.00

20th February 1905 Inspector Strachan commented on the Part Singing at Springlands

21st February 1905 Inspector Strachan again Sometimes the agriculture is combined, with practical work either in flower or in vegetable gardens." The schools so practising are Springlands, Fairhall, Grove, Waitaria, Marlborough, and Omaka.

28th February 1904 Inspector included Handwork of some description was practised in 18 schools,. Grovetown excelled in plasticine, Springlands and Blenheim Infants in colour work. The gardening at Springlands deserves commendation. Horticulture is attempted in several other schools, but not on such a scale as at the one mentioned

Military drill is taught in the larger schools, an excellent appearance being made by Blenheim Boys, Springlands and Tua Marina.

7th March 1905 At a meeting of the Marlborough Educational Institute at Picton on Saturday, Mr H, J. Howard, of Springlands, was elected Secretary in place of Mr D. H Wilmot, resigned, on account of. promotion. Mr Wilmot's resignation was accepted with regret. Reference was made to the unfriendly attitude towards Mr Wilmot taken up by some Nelson teachers in the public press, and the President was asked to write to the President of the Nelson Educational Institute on the matter, to express regret at the narrowness of spirit manifested by Mr Wilmot's opponents, and to point out that a great many Nelson teachers had obtained employment at various times in this district, as against the one solitary transfer from Marlborough to Nelson in the same period.

11th April 1905 Springlands asked to be supplied with a barometer and other similar apparatus required under the new Syllabus.—lb was resolved to reply that the Board was communicating with the Department. It was stated that several schools had made such application.

26th April 1905 At the annual meeting of householders general satisfaction was expressed with regard to the progress made in the school during the past year, the roll number having increased from 156 to 175, and the Inspector's report being satisfactory. The following were elected members of the new Committee; Messrs J. L. Harris, D. Thomas, H Jellyman, J. Conolly, P. G. Saul, and A. W. Jackson; and at a subsequent meeting of the new Committee Mr Conolly was elected Chairman. As the number of Committeemen required is seven, and only six were elected, it was resolved to recommend the Education Board to appoint Mr S. Tapp to fill the vacancy. Mr Tapp has been a member of the Committee for several years, but was unavoidably absent from the meeting and had not sent in the necessary nomination paper. The balance to credit carried forward from last year is £9 15s sd.

6th June 1905 The holiday yesterday, kept in lieu of the Prince of Wales' birthday, was very successful one. Football match and hockey kept things going merrily all day. The Springlands School beat the Borough School easily, but both sides were playing as if they "didn't want ter" Tea was provided for the visitors by the Borough team.

24th October 1905 OBSERVANCES AT SPRINGLANDS.

The Centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar was duly commemorated at the Springlands School. The weather, though showery, kept fine during the proceedings. The school cadets and the girls formed in procession, and were drawn up in front oi: the flagpole. Mr Howard addressed the children, explaining the reason of saluting the flag and honoring the memory of the great Admiral Nelson, but was careful to impress on the minds of the young people that, though in Nelson's time the, French were our greatest enemies, at the present no two

nations could be friendlier. Color-Sergt. McIsaac then hoisted the New Zealand ensign, the cadets presented arms, and the spectators and children sang Rule Britannia, that being the air played by the band of the Victory when going into action at the famous battle. The Headmaster then presented the Navy League diplomas to some 23 new members, and announced the prize winners in the recent Navy League examination. The first prise was secured by Norman Nairn; special prize, Maud The New Zealand National Anthem, God defend New Zealand," was then sung by the children, followed by "God save the King." This brought the proceedings to a close, and the children were then given a holiday for the rest of the day.

14th November 1905

CADET BATTALION PARADE.

INTERESTING GATHERING AT

TUA MARINA

The Public School Cadet regulations make it necessary for each cadet to attend two battalion parades each year in order to earn capitation; and the first parade of the Marlborough Battalion under this order was held at Tua Marina yesterday, in a paddock kindly lent by Mr D. Campbell. Major Sturrock was the officer in Command, and Captain Robinson was Adjutant. The following companies were present: Blenheim No, 1 and No. 2 Companies, 52, Captain Nicoll Springlands, 34, Captain H. Howard; Picton 40, Captain Howard and Lieut. Swanwick; Grovetown and Tua Marina, 48, Captain Ladley. The Cadets were conveyed to Tua Marina by train, and upon arrival there were assembled and marched to the parade ground under charge of Adjutant Robinson. The march past was practised, and the battalion was put through the manual exercise by Captain Nicoll. Major Sturrock then exercised the battalion in the following field movements:—Marching in line, column, quarter column, and echelon, formation of line iron* column and quarter column, column from line, and various other battalion movements.

The officer in charge expressed himself as well satisfied with the work done, and the boys seemed to thoroughly enjoy their day's outing.

15th December 1905 BATTALION PARADE

One hundred and fifty-seven.-cadets of the Marlborough public schools paraded at the Wairau Cricket Club's ground this morning The, schools represented. were as follows, with the officers in command of corps:—Blenheim Borough, two companies, under Capt. Nicol; Picton Boys', one company,, Capt. C. C. Howard; Springlands ,one company, Capt. H. J. Howard; Grovetown and Tua Marina, one company, Capt. Ladley and Adjutant H. Robinson.

Upon the arrival of the train at 9.30 the Picton, Tua Marina, and Grovetown boys were met at the station by the Blenheim and (Springlands. section, and the whole, under the command of Major Sturrock, marched to the place of manoeuvre. The evolutions wore continued until twelve o'clock. These included the march past, under the command of Adjutant Robinson; firing exercise, under Capt. Nicol; and the manual exercise, by Capt. H. J. Howard. The Major inspected, and expressed pleasu.ro at the advance shown.

After lunch the Picton and Blenheim boys played a cricket match, and at 3.30 all corps were to assemble at the Blenheim schools, when the boys from down the line would be despatched by the 4 p.m. train. It is understood the Grovetown and Tua Marina cadets are to meet shortly on the Tua Marina rifle range to indulge_ in practice with ball cartridge

1906

1906	122	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	235.00

1906	122	Springlands	Hilliard	Evelyn E	Assistant Female	£	99.00
1906	122	Springlands	Tapp	Daisy	FPT3	£	45.00
1906	122	Springlands	Fraser	Christina	FPT2	£	35.00

12th February 1906 Granted. Springlands^-Miss E. Millington. teacher, applied for eight months heave of absence, on full pay, for a trip to England, on account of her health, -her throat being bad. The Committee supported her application, on full pay.—The Secretary said there was a special fund to provide for such cases, in which there was a balance of £140.—Mr Macey .opposed the request, as being too extravagant.—Mr Mc- Callum thought Miss Millington was deserving of the consideration.—On the motion of Mr White, Miss Millington was granted the leave asked for, on half pay. A question of leakage in the root or the Springlands School was referred back to the Committee.

13th March 1906 Part of article about amalgamation of Blenheim Boys and Girls Schools. Mr Parker remarked that the number of boys might be brought up to the required standard if all those living in the Borough but at present attending the Grovetown and Springlands schools could be got to attend the Blenheim School.

The Chairman said the whole thing was antagonistic to the wishes and feelings of the Board; but amalgamation was apparently forced upon them. Mr White pointed out that the householders were very much opposed to amalgamation. On the motion of Mr Chaytor, it was resolved to defer the matter to a special meeting to be held on Monday next.

21st March 1906 Inspector's report included: Teachers' Instruction Classes in Drawing—Miss Brown continued with success the Saturday class in brush drawing that had been instituted in 1904. Miss Ellerbrook was afterwards specially .retained and taught Saturday classes, in brush, blackboard, nature-study, and model drawing. She was also employed in showing the teachers of Springlands, Blenheim Boys' and Girls', Grovetown, Spring Creek, Tua Marina; and Waitohi in their own schools how to practically adapt the subjects to the children.

22nd March 1906 There is room for a more extended course of deep-breathing exercises as part of the drill and of singing. It is said that the Japanese, in their athletic training, make much of deep-breathing. St. Joseph's (upper division), Waitohi, Blenheim Boys' (upper division), Blenheim Girls', and Springlands showed the best signs of training

10th April 1906 Springlands.— Miss Millington, mistress, asked the Board to make her leave of absence date from May 31st to December 31st, instead of from "April 30th to December 31st. She would not be able to leave till a month later.—Application approved, subject to the consent of the Springlands Committee.

21st April 1906 In response to a request, the chairman of the Springlands School Committee has written to the headmaster (Mr Howard) asking him to close the school on Wednesday next, the day on which the St. George's sports are to be held. It is to be hoped that other school committees will see their way to follow the example of Springlands, in order that the day of St. George of Merrie England may not go unrecognised.

24th April 1906 Looking around the district, they would see .all the schools mixed, such as Renwick, Springlands, etc. The boys and girls would be taught under the block system.; and riot intermixed; also, there, would be different exits and different playgrounds. ...Where the harm was to comes from he :;did not see. The Inspectors only reason for recommending it was procuring. of a more adequate staff, and he defied anyone to say they would not get. Part of a Marlborough Education Board report on Blenheim schools

24th April 1906 SPRINGLANDS. The old Committee was re-elected, as follows:—Messrs' Jno. Conolly (chairman), J L.. Harris, H. Jellyman, G. Saul, J. Thomas, A. W. Jackson, and S Tapp.

25th April 1906 Physical Drill Competition (open to cadet corps only):— l; Marlborough High School 71 2. Blenheim Rifle Cadets 69 3. Tua Marina. Springlands also competed. Sergt.-Major Healy was judge, and made the following comments:—"High School: The whole of the practices were done in clean, smart manner, the mistakes were very slight. Blenheim Rifle Cadets. All the practices, with the exception of one, were well carried out. Some .slight mistake was made in the manner of holding the carbine. Tua Marina This was a good performance, but the smallness of the boys was a drawback. They deserve great credit for the work done." The Springlands lads were entirely trained by their drill-sergeant

19th May 1906 twice-adjourned school attendance case, in which the Truant Officer (Mr Thomas) proceeded against Stephen Tapp on two charges of failing to send his son Roy to the Springlands School the statutory number of times, came up at the Magistrate's Court again yesterday. Defendant was represented by Mr McNab, who argued that the Truant Officer had not acted with much discretion in bringing such charges against a man who had already put eight children through the school. The trouble had been that the boy had evidently been registered at the school as Roy Tapp, and defendant had no son of that name, the child of his corresponding to the age having been christened James. The teacher had evidently taken the child's own version, and the child had supplied what was really a nickname. Mr Thomas gave evidence which proved that the Roy Tapp of the school register was the James Tapp of the family Bible, and the Magistrate convicted and fined defendant 2s on each charge, and allowed the Truant Officer costs. —Mr Tapp said he had thought he could surely keep his boy away from school for a day or two when he was training for a boys' race. The Magistrate said defendant must know a parent had no such right, except by permission of the School Committee; and he was the more surprised at Mr Tapp's employing, at different times, two solicitors to defend such an action, especially seeing that he was himself a member of the Springlands School Committee, and should rather .assist than hinder the working of the school. Mr Tapp, having paid the fines, said he was placed in rather an awkward position: he did not know whether his boy's name was Roy or James. Mr McNab "relieved the awkwardness" by remarking that it was himself who was in the worst position. Mr Tapp could afford to pay the fines and all that, but he* had ruined his (Mr McNab's) reputation as a lawyer. Despite the constable, the auditors laughed.

1st June 1906 pleasant gathering of past and present pupils of the Springlands School took place, yesterday afternoon to bid bon voyage and au revoir to Miss E. H. Millington who is leaving for a trip to the Old Country. Mr Howard tendered Miss Millington, on behalf of the' pupils and,; staff, their wishes for a pleasant voyage and safe return, and expressed the hope that Miss Millington might return with renewed health and vigour to resting her duties at the end of the year. He then called on Mr J. Conolly, Chairman of the School Committee, to present Miss Millington with a slight token of affection from the pupils. Mr Conolly reminded the pupils, both past and present, how greatly they were indebted to Miss Millington for their early training, and said they might consider themselves very fortunate in having had; such training., under a teacher second to none in the district. He also expressed' a, wish that they would•: assist Miss Millington's successor in maintaining the excellent standard of work they had already attained to. Mr Conolly then handed to Miss Millington a handsome silver belt arid cut glass toilet box, and on behalf of the School Committee wished Miss Millington a very pleasant holiday, and that she might return in the best of health to continue the good work she had always -carried out in the school.

Miss Millington, in a feeling little speech, thanked the children for their pleasant surprise, and the Chairman and Headmaster for their kind wishes. She did not require these gifts to

remind her of the pupils she was temporarily leaving, but at the-same time she felt much their kind thoughtfulness.
Three cheers were then given for Miss Millington, one for the Chairman, and one for the ladies present and the pupils then sat down to afternoon tea handed round in the new wing. After satisfying their appetites the children dispersed, and a pleasant re-union was brought to a close.
12th June 1906 With regard to the Technical School, the Inspector recommended that Miss Tindall, trained teacher of cookery, now on the West Coast, be appointed at a salary for the first year of £100. Mr Isaac, the Government expert, had given Miss Tindall excellent testimonials. It was expected, that two; classes of girls would be offering from the Blenheim School, one from the High School, one or two from Springlands, and two from Grovetown'; and the capitation of 10s per pupil would probably bring in £80.—Miss Tindall was appointed
21st June 1906 The way in which every individual of the community has been personally touched by the death of the late Premier (the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon) was exemplified this afternoon, when one of the largest gatherings seen in Market Place for a long time offered reverent tribute to the memory of the illustrious deceased……The corps taking part wore as follows:—Garrison Band, 20; Bandmaster Rose. Blenheim Rifles, 40; Captain Parker. Marlborough Mounted Rifles, 25; Capt. Canavan. High School Cadets, 40; Capt. White, Borough School Cadets, two companies; Capt. Gifford. Springlands School Cadets, 30, Capt. Howard; Tua Marina and Grovetown company of School Cadets, 50, Adjutant Robinson and Capt. Ladley. Colonel Chaytor was in command of battalion, and disposed his companies near the rotunda…….
9th July 1906 Springlands Applications tor the assistant teachership were forwarded to the Committee
18th September 1906 The Renwick school girls visited Springlands on Friday afternoon to try conclusions with the Springlands school in a rounder match. The game was well contested, and ended in a draw, both sides scoring 26 rounders. Alter the match the visiting team was entertained at afternoon tea in the schoolroom, and, Mr Howard, in a short speech^' welcomed the girls and their teacher-hi-charge, and hoped that the visits might be more frequent next year. Miss Williams suitably replied, and hearty cheers given by both teams ended a pleasant afternoon.
26th September 1906 THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SYLLABUS. A GOOD START AT SPRINGLANDS. A' representative of The Express visited the Springlands School ground this morning, for. the_ purpose of looking over the flower and vegetable gar-' dens established and maintained by the pupils. Mr H. J. Howard the headmaster, conducted the reporter over the ground, and explained the system, and gave an interesting sketch of the movement. Springlands School claims the honour of being the pioneer of school gardening in Marlborough. The girls had very creditable plots of flowers blooming before the new syllabus was issued. About four years ago, Mr Howard, noticing that on hot days the girls were inclined to sit about in wasteful idleness, called for volunteers amongst the boys to dig a strip of the ample play-ground in which the girls might make flower plots. The response was instant and hearty, and fifteen young gallants spent one Arbor Day turning over the soil. There are now to be seen, in luxuriant and varied bloom, no fewer than twenty .plots, measuring about 7 feet by 9 feet, intersected by neatly kept paths. There is not a weed to be seen anywhere; and the range and quality of the flowers indicate the cultured tastes of the pupils. With one exception, the girls' row-of plots are all devoted to flowers. On the

other side of the grounds is to be seen a strip of plots farmed by the boys. Vegetable seedlings are coming through promisingly Mr each bed, and peas and cabbages are making an especially good show. Different fertilisers are employed, and educative experiments are being carried out. For instance, one boy is testing his theory that potatoes cut longitudinally give the best result; a second has planted whole seed; while a third merely relies upon the eye without the flesh. The first uses guano as a manure, the others something else perhaps. This emulation is largely encouraged by the prizes given annually by members of the Education Board for the heaviest crop. The boys, who pay for their own seed, sell the produce of their plots; and thus a touch of commerce is given to the pursuit. The girls are also encouraged by the members of the Board, and by the promise of choice bulbs and plants from various gardens. This year the school has received £7 10s as capitation for "agricultural instruction." This has been expended in the purchase of gardening tools. Mr Howard states that it is allowable to take the scholars out into the gardens during school hours, but that he has not found this necessary. The children spend much of their spare time at the plots, and are often to be found gardening away early in the morning. The parents, too, are in the habit of strolling into the grounds on Sunday afternoons to look over the gardens so proudly pointed out by their children. There have so far been no complaints of vandalism.

By a visit to the grounds, one is readily convinced that an excellent work is being done by the thoughtful schoolmaster, whose conception of the meaning of education is admirable.

28th September 1906 Inspector Strachan was engaged yesterday and to-day examining the Springlands school. The Sounds, Pelorus, and Awatere schools have been inspected, leaving only the larger and more central ones to be done.

15th October 1906 The Springlands school cadets, under the supervision of the headmaster (Mr 11. J. Howard) did their class firing at the Vernon Butts on Saturday morning

14th November 1906 Spring Creek.—The Committee recommended the appointment of Miss Hilliard, now at Springlands School. Agreed to

1907

1907	114	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	235.00
1907	114	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	110.00
1907	114	Springlands	Tapp	Daisy		FPT4	£	55.00
1907	114	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	D4	FPT2	£	45.00

12th February 1907 The Committee forwarded a strong resolution that Miss Hilliard should be appointed an assistant teacher in the Blenheim school, instead of the Springlands school, as recommended by the Inspector.—Miss Hilliard was appointed

14th March 1907 Singing.—ln 52 schools out of -59 this subject was taught. During 1905" the number 'was 41 out of 60—a distinct advance. The Maoris at Okoha display great fondness for singing. This is the doh-ray-me-day in their way of putting it. One girl learnt singing from a phonograph. Blenheim girls made most progress for the year, especially in voice^ production. Tira Ora and Havelock. Suburban best correlated the-subject with drill. Waitohi, St. Joseph's, Fairhall, and Springlands also Excelled.

Needlework continues steadily to improve. Some; splendid exhibits were sent to the New Zealand Exhibition. The Fairhall pupils gained eight silver medals in needlework. Springlands, too, although it had a change of teachers, gained a silver medal and certificate.

Needlework continues steadily to improve. Some; splendid exhibits were sent to the New Zealand Exhibition. The Fairhall pupils gained eight silver medals in needlework. Springlands, too, although it had a change of teachers, gained a silver medal and certificate.

16th March 1907 It has been practically settled that a detachment of Marlborough public school cadets shall leave this district for a week's training at the Exhibition on Friday, April 5th. Mr D. A. Sturrock, Major commanding the Marlborough battalion, will be in command, and several other teachers from the. various schools will accompany him. As far as is known at present, over 100 boys will make the trip, from the following schools:—Blenheim, Grovetown, Tua .-Marina, Picton, Springlands, Okaramio, Havelock, and Canvastown. The boys will remain in camp on the Exhibition grounds for a week, and every opportunity will be taken to allow them to see the wonders of and derive the greatest intellectual benefit from the Great Show. *Held in Christchurch*

5th April 1907 MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL CADETS.

VISIT TO THE EXHIBITION.

The cadets who are visiting the International Exhibition at Christchurch, to go under canvas in the grounds there for ten days' military training and sight-seeing, left Blenheim, Picton and way stations this morning, embarking by the Wainui soon after noon. The journey from Wellington to Lyttelton will be made in the Te Anau.

Major Sturrock is in command of the battalion, and with him are Captains Howard Springlands), H. Hill (Canvastown), and Gifford (Blenheim). The parade status is as follows:—Blenheim; 56; -Springlands 17; Tua Marina, 17; Grovetown, 23; Havelock, Canvastown, and Okaramio, about 20; total in ranks, about 133; officers, 4. There are scarcely any Picton cadets amongst the number, the reason being the want of a teacher to accompany them. At the Blenheim station the Blenheim and Springlands boys were- given a hearty send-off. A large number of parents and other relatives of the boys are making the trip at the present time.

10th April 1907 Springlands.—The Board's workman provided an estimate for the painting And repairs at Springlands school, at a cost of £31.—Authority for the expenditure was granted

23rd April 1907 SPRINGLANDS.

Messrs J. Conolly, F. W. Smith, D. Thomas. and A. W. Jackson, and Mesdames E. S, Moore and F. M. Livingstone, were elected. Mr Conolly was re-elected as Chairman. As only six members were elected, it will be necessary for the Education Board to appoint one more

14th May 1907 It is proposed that Empire Day (May 24th) shall this year be celebrated by the. school children throughout the district with a sports gathering at Springlands. The Education Board considered the matter last evening, and Mr Conolly, who is-Chairman of the Springlands Committee, said the children of the various schools would be welcome to spend the day at £Springlands, where due provision for their enjoyment would be made. It was decided to recommend Committees of schools within the radius defined by Havelock, Picton, and Seddon to assemble at Springlands for the celebration.

14th May 1907 The Chairman of the Springlands (Committee) wrote recommending Mr S. Tapp, jun., for the vacancy in that Committee

21st May 1907 The meeting called by Mr J.. Conolly, Chairman of the Springlands School Committee, to consider the proposal to celebrate Empire-Day with a provincial gathering of school children at Springlands was well attended last night. The twenty-five people present, however, were mostly residents of Springlands. There was no representative of the Blenheim School Committee in attendance, notwithstanding that over 400 children from town we

expected to participate. Mr Sturrock the headmaster of the school, however, was present. Fairhall, Renwick, &v Spring Creek were also represented. The meeting, after mature.: consideration, decided that, as from 800 to 1000 children would probably take part, requiring to be catered for, and as nearly £50 would require to be collected, it was impossible to hold the celebration on Friday next, 24th May. It. was therefore resolved that the gathering be held on Monday, 3rd June, the Prince of Wales' Birthday Subscriptions were raised in the room and the fund given a good start. One gentlemen Mr F W Smith, a resident of Springlands donated £5 to be spent on toys for the children. It was decided to send subscription lists to all School Committees for-immediate circulation. The Committee will meet again next Monday. In the meantime Mr Strachan is to endeavour to secure from the Railway Department a concession similar to that granted tin case of school picnics. The hope was expressed that subscriptions would come in freely during the week- the Springlands School grounds .are adequate and very suitable for the proposed fete, and it is hoped the afternoon trains may be delayed till 5 o'clock, giving the country children a longer stay.

18th May 1907 A Springlands resident naively inquired from a back seat at- the public meeting last night if the children would need to bring their own mugs to the fete on Monday next. The chairman was so overcome by something in the innocent query that he failed to answer for suppressed laughter. Another Committeeman, following up the point, put the query in a different way by asking whether the catering scheme provided: for mugs for 1000 children. By this time sufficiently recovered, the Chairman said he certainly thought it would be. necessary for each child to bring a mug—he had been going to say, two mugs,. one for the cakes and the other for the tea. And so the proceedings of the meeting went on, with a heartiness bonhomie possible only amongst such prosperous suburban community

4th June 1907 THE CHILDREN'S FETE.

SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

SPLENDID MANAGEMENT

Yesterday's gathering at Springlands is generally regarded as the first annual celebration of Empire Day as it should be celebrated. Next year the example of Fairhall in sending down a decorated engine and waggons will probably be widely followed, and we snail have a procession that will attract the adult population with even greater magnetic force. As it was, there must have been on the grounds in the afternoon considerably more than two thousand people, fully 1200 of whom were children. To the really live Committee, with Mr Conolly as Chairman, and Mr H. J. Howard as Secretary, is attributable much of the success of the whole affair. Of course, the weather—always an uncertain factor —turned out to be fine; but even the most perfect of days would not have helped in the feeding of twelve hundred children and several hundred adults if every detail had not been thought out beforehand. The Springlands people having set their hearts upon a first- class gathering, funds were soon in hand, and presently a choice band of workers, every one animated with love for everyone's children, was hard at work. Swings were erected—permanent and substantial ones, too— skipping ropes purchased, hundreds of sacks brought from the Bohally wool works for the children to sit upon during meal times; twenty pounds' worth of trophies bought—the cream of all the shops, and a work in itself; the toys all classified and allotted to standards prize tickets printed; and a special committee set up to serve out the prizes to the winners as they came pouring in, like a quick-flowing stream. The first ticket-holder to demand his prize was a lad named Ernest Basset. Each winner's name was scribbled on the ticket as he got his prize, so that a record was kept; and everything was done decently and in order, a tally being kept of everything. What wrecked it if the

Distribution Committee, like the stokers on the battleship, saw nothing of-the moving mass outside the school walls They are quite satisfied. The catering arrangements were equally well laid, and worked out with perfect precision. Instead of trays of cakes and sandwiches—what matters precedence?—being handed round, a la Sunday school picnic, a thousand paper bags were filled, each with seven "courses." Copper boilers were set going, and willing hands mixed tea, milk and sugar. The dinner call once sounded on the bugle, there was no loss of time, and very soon a thousand little big appetites had been temporarily satisfied. So much for the thousand, but there were still many unfed, and surprised but willing hands set to work afresh to fill more paper bags, until, first and last, lunches must have been distributed to fifteen hundred people. Shortly after lunch the Garrison Band took up a central position and played the choicest music, which must have added immensely to the general enjoyment, especially for the many country people present. The races for the children of all ages occupied most of the day, and that very few had been unsuccessful was clear from the great number who carried prizes home with them. Throughout the day scrambles of lollies and nuts, tugs-of-war—in fact, anything and everything that occurred to the pleasure-makers—gave diversity to the lively proceedings. In Mrs Draper's paddock a football tournament took place amongst the older boys, the prize being a football. This was won by the Catholic School, Springlands being second. Three other teams competed. A word of praise is due to the teachers of the district. They gave up the day to the service of the children in a most unselfish way, and in great measure assisted the Committee in the general arrangements. Towards sundown the children having once more been handsomely fed —Mr Frank Paine mounted a table and called for three cheers for Mr and Mrs John Conolly, who had been the life and soul of the gathering. These, were heartily given, and Mr. Conolly in acknowledging the tribute thanked all who had so willingly assisted and the general public for attending in such numbers. He especially mentioned Mrs Draper, who had worked so very hard, along with her daughters. Three cheers were given for Mrs Draper, and the gathering broke up, the little ones, tired but cheerful, trudging away homewards with the glow of pleasure in their cheeks.

5th June 1907 THE CHILDREN'S FETE.

WINNERS AT THE SPORTS

The following are the names of the prize-winners at the children's fete at Springlands on Monday (infants excepted

Boys Standard 6 and 7- C O'Connor, C Gleeson, P Lankow, W McHale, Bugler Prebble, A Thomas, firsts. D Houldsworth, W Paul, R Pike, G Saul, W Hall, E Worger, J Prichard, seconds, Specials John Lane special run; J Farquhar Long Jump; Wheelbarrow race; Stanley Smith. Long Jump

Boys Standard 5.-W. Penny K. Robertson, G. Sheridan, F. Faulding, Rayner, J. Scott, G. Saul, N. Patchett, firsts; W. Crafar, H. Saunders, F. Tetley, Rabone, A. Earp, S. Verry, F. O'Neil, Jack McFarlane, seconds.

Boys, Standard 4.—L. Gosling, H. Harrison, Paynter, Boyle, B. Morley, G. Sheridan, E. Worger, J.. Miller, W. Bassett, Armstrong, L. Gosling, firsts; W. Harrison, Thomas, W. Morley, C, Young, E. Marple, seconds.

Boys, Standard 3.— J. Broughan, A. Mogridge, C. O'Connor, A. Monro, F. Bremner, J. Terry, A. Muir, firsts; A. Blears, H. Ferguson, W. Lane, I. O'Connor, Stanley Smith, D. Boyce, W. O'Meagher, J. Terry, L. Scadden, seconds.

Boys, Standard 2.—0. Boyce, E. Bassett, J. White, N. Reeves, Draper, J. Melville, George Vercoe, Tom Murphy, Roy Ewart, H. Hodson, N. Reeves, W. Wanden, W. Thomson, firsts: W.

O'Meagher, Nimmo Scott, J. Healy, C McAlister, Percy Tierney, Roy Ewart, Crook, M. Patchett, W. Scott, R. Newberry, J. Ridgway, J. Howell, C- Gibson, Leslie Amos, J. Wheetman, seconds. Boys, Standard I.—C. Gamble, K. Clifford, J. McKinley, Hoult, H. Simmonds, H. Costello, G. Hodson, C. Ridgway,. J. Hickey, C. Haines, firsts W. Knight, L. Gosling, H. Mills, G. Gamble, H. Rowe, B. Bothwell, J. Hickey, L. Watson, T. Hardwick, C. Saul, seconds.
Girls, Standards 6 and 7.—Freda Hall, A. Watson, Ruby Rowe, N. Norgrove, Ida Croudis, Harris, L. Foley, Eyles, Pattie. Doris Prichard, Jenny Brown, firsts'; D. Rabone, E. Satherley, Flo. Bentley, Beatrice Sowman, Marjory Clarke, Dora Morris, Maggie Healy, Morrison, Jenkins, Bessie Hayward, Winnie Smith, Rogers, Marple, B. Wakelin, seconds.
Special Wheelbarrow race, Evelyn Lucas; skipping, Marion Elliott; special run, Pearl Wiseman.
Girls, Standard 5.—D. Mathieson, Croudis, F. O'Connor, Watson, N. Day, A. Hammerick T. Rabone, Congdon. M. Murphy, firsts; R. Haywood, J. Williams, P. Wiseman Ruby Saul, D. Smith, F. Bentley, R. Mason, E. Watson, D. Boyce, seconds.
Girls, Standard 4.-€. O'Donoghue, Hennessy, F. Campbell, M. Register, E. Haywood, M. Mears, G. Hams, D. Morris, P. James, W. Martin, firsts E. Haywood, M Broughan, D. Williams, D. Jordan Fitzgerald, W. Smith, Holdaway, M. Hale, seconds. Special—Hopping; Vera. Jordan.
Girls, Standard 3.-N. Curry M. Maher, Alice Gibson, V: Walker, Fitzgerald Sarah McIsaac , C. Trischler, O. Amos, firsts; M. Maher, Curry J. Hilliard, C. Newman, P. Bell, E. Watson, F. Broughan, F. Broughan, E. Henrickson, D. Murray, seconds.
Girls, Standard 2.—Hazel Simson, Agnes Dalziel, Edith McCrae, Marion O'Neill, Marion Elliott, A. Hall, G. Neary, Avis Hill, M. Elliott, O. Gibson, D. Tovey, L. Coleman, Bessie Hayward, M. Elliott, S. Maher firsts; M. Johnstone, B. Hayward, E. Mc- Rae, M. Johnstone, A. Dalziel, M. Johnstone, L. Trischler, Ruby Beal, M. Cottrell, Mary Paton, G. Mealy, Avis Hill, seconds. Special—Sack race, Agnes Dalziel.
Girls, Standard I-R. Hale, A. Crafar, A. Hoult, K. Pierard, O. Saunders, Hogan, Neal, Constance Weatman, I. Hodson, D. Crook, M. Smith, E. Mead, W. Barlow, firsts; G. Williams, C. Young, Casey, Grace Daniells, M. Vercoe, P. Barlow, far. Cooke, M. O'Meagher, O. Weatman, Williams, Dora Harris, M. Plimmer, D Crook, D. Williams, seconds. The football match .was won by Springlands—not the Catholic school, as stated yesterday. The latter team was second.
11th June 1907 THE EMPIRE CELEBRATIONS. Mr Conolly-reported upon the school children's fete held on the Prince of Wales'? Birthday, under the auspices of the. School Committee and the Board. It was a wonderful success, and children came from all parts of the district. The expenses would amount to £80, and £70 of that sum was in hand. He did not think there would be a deficit. He heartily thanked all who had assisted to make the thing such a splendid success. Mr Penny said he thought Mr Conolly, Mrs Draper, and the Springlands Committee and the people generally deserved a hearty vote of thanks. He had gasped at the temerity of Mr Conolly in taking up such a task; but the result had justified Mr Conolly's enthusiasm. A hearty vote of thanks to the persons mentioned, along with Mrs Conolly. and the Springlands people generally, was passed by the Board
9th July 1909 After a long discussion in Committee, it was decided to in future have all painting and repair work done by contract. o It was decided to have the Springlands School painted inside by contract, tenders to be invited. Blinds were also granted to the Committee.
7th August 1907 In the Magistrate's Court this morning two Springlands parents, Mrs Newberry and Mr E. Vercoe, were fined 4s and 2s respectively for failing to send their children to the school, in accordance with the School Attendance Act.

7th December 1907 RIFLE SHOOTING.
MARLBOROUGH CADET BATTALION.
PICTON WINS THE NOSWORTHY
BELT
The first competition for the Chaytor prizes and the Nosworthy Belt took place at the Vernon Range yesterday. The Blenheim, Tua Marina, Picton, Grovetown ,and Springlands Schools' were represented by their best shots, The weather was fairly favourable for shooting, although the heat on the range was somewhat oppressive. Picton was successful in securing the Belt; although there was a tie, the shooting at the longer range decided the winner. The boys were in charge I of their teachers, and the shooting was under the supervision of Major; Sturrock. Following are the scores of the best from each school:
Picton.—Newtown 62, Olsson 61, Godfrey 52, Freeth 50, Wearne 49. Springlands.—Prebble 61, McIsaac 60, Nairn 60, McFarlane 50, A. Thomas 50.
Grovetown. —Cheesman 57, Tetley 5, Fryer 55, Ross 55, Mears 53. Tua Marina.—McNabb 62, Ryout 51, Morley 50, Lankow 49, Law 48, O'Sullivan 48.
Blenheim. —Brown 60, Reid 59, Lucas 52, Elliott 52, Holdaway 45.
19th December 1907 Miss Daisy Tapp, who is resigning her position on the teaching staff on the Springlands School, was yesterday entertained at an afternoon tea given by her old pupils and fellow teachers. The occasion was also made an opportunity of presenting Miss Tapp with a handsome escritoire in oak, suitably inscribed. Mr J Conolly, Chairman of the School Committee, being unavoidably detainee), in town, the presentation was made by Mr Howard, head master, who eulogised the great services rendered to the school by Miss Tapp, and pointed out that her pupils owed her -a great debt of gratitude for her untiring devotion to their welfare during her years of service. Miss Tapp, in a feeling little speech, thanked the donors for their valuable present, and said that she would always carry with her the kindliest memories of the happy days she had spent at the school, both as pupil and teacher. She also gave the children some sterling advice, and trusted that they would always bear her words in mind. Three hearty cheers were then given by the assembled pupils, and all then sat down to afternoon tea. Appetites having been satisfied, Mr Conolly, who had arrived in the meantime, briefly addressed the school, and called on the boys and girls again to give three cheers for Miss Tapp, which were again lustily given. The Chairman was then likewise honoured, as were also the head master and- other teachers and helpers. A pleasing feature of the function was the presence of a number of Old Boys and Old Girls, who came to do honour to their one time fellow pupil, and to wish her Godspeed.
1914/8268 Daisy Tapp Silvanus Laudon Lane

1908

1908	118	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	235.00
1908	118	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	110.00
1908	118	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	D4	FPT3	£	45.00

28th February 1908 The excursion train yesterday was, as usual, well patronised. Some 400 excursionists came through, among them being the pupils of the Springlands and Tua Marina schools. One section was soon on board the S.S. Rob Roy bound for Double Bay, while the other visited Victoria Domain and "boiled the billy" on the beach

30th March 1908 The Springlands School Committee have decided to close the school all day on Wednesday, on the occasion of the St. George's Society's sports. The High School will close at noon.

28th April 1908 There is an epidemic of chickenpox at Springlands, and yesterday thirty children were absent from school. Blenheim does not seem to have been reached yet

28th April 1908 SPRINGLANDS. Mrs Moore, Messrs S. Tapp, jun., J. Conolly p. Thomas, J. W. Smith A. W. Jackson, and L. Horne. Mr Conolly was re-elected chairman and s Mr Horne secretary.

26th May 1908 SALUTING THE FLAG AT SPRINGLANDS.

The usual Empire Day ceremony of saluting the Flag was duly performed at the Springlands School yesterday morning. The scholars were first assembled by their respective teachers and marched into the school, where they were addressed by the Headmaster (Mr H. J. Howard) on the reasons for commemorating Empire Day. He pointed out why the British had been enabled to form so great an Empire, and how it was that they had kept it. Reference was_ made to the great pioneers of Empire, from the time of Raleigh to Cecil Rhodes. The great sea captains were next touched on, and the Empire-building statesmen. At the conclusion of. the address "Honour to thee, Dear Old England," was tunefully sung by the scholars. From the schoolroom the pupils marched into the playground, where they were joined by the school cadets, under Lieut. Pattie, and formed three sides of a square round the flag-staff, where the ceremony of saluting the Flag was performed, the cadets presenting arms while* the bugler blew the salute. The singing of the National Anthem brought the ceremony to a close. The children, having been dismissed for the day, amused themselves with hockey, football, rounders and other games in the playground, several of the old boys and girls also joining in the sports, and all spent a very enjoyable time.

30th May 1908 CONCERT AT SPRINGLANDS.

A concert was given in the Springlands schoolroom last evening, in- aid of the funds of the proposed hockey club, to be formed in connection with the school. The room was crowded, and Mr J. Conolly, Chairman of the School Committee, presided. At the outset Mr Conolly said that that night marked an epoch in the history of the Springlands School, inasmuch as they would now be enabled to start their hockey club. Last year they celebrated Empire Day by holding sports and inviting the children of the whole of the schools of Marlborough. He was sorry that had not been continued this year, as last year's sports had been thoroughly enjoyable, but it was considered that Springlands had done its duty and share in having the sports last year. The entertainment which they were about to enjoy was held solely for the purpose of supplying 'funds for a hockey club, and he was glad to see so many present. He was sure they would all be satisfied with the programme. It was the committee's intention to hold periodical concerts, when he hoped that they would have at them as good, an attendance" as greeted them that night.—(Applause.) The programme was then gone on with. Miss C. Jackson played a. pianoforte overture, and Mr W. Jellyman sang "My Californian Home." Then followed a dialogue by two little girls (Misses Hale and Mears) which was heartily applauded. Miss Rose sang "Sunshine and Rain" in a manner which earned her an encore, and Miss I. Thomas followed with a recitation ("The Fireman's Wedding.") Mr Sawtell was provocative of great amusement in a series of imitations, the best of which was probably the ventriloquial telephone. Mrs Allen was down for a pianoforte solo, and this was perhaps the feature, of the entertainment^ the audience at the conclusion of the solo giving marked evidence of their appreciation. Mr P Cooke sang "When the Harvest Moon is Shining," and Miss Earp recited "The Drunkard's Child." Miss B.

Draper's song was enthusiastically applauded, and she had to give a repeat number. Mr Bowman scored a great hit with his Scotch humorous songs, a la Harry Lauder, and had to appear again and again. Mr Corbett sang "List to the Convent 'Bells," himself playing as his accompaniment the violin obligate-: Mr P. Jellyman sang "When the Sunset turns the Ocean Green to Gold;" and Miss Herford gave a praiseworthy rendering of the recitation "The Fiddler and the Wolves." The accompaniments were played by Mrs W. Allen, Miss C. Jackson, and Miss L. Jellyman. At the conclusion of the entertainment Mr Conolly said that as a vote of thanks to the performers he would ask the children to give them three hearty cheers, which were given with a right good will. The pinging of "God Save the King" concluded a very enjoyable entertainment.

9th June 1908 The Renwick schoolboys journeyed down to Springlands on Friday afternoon to nave a game of football against that team. It was an equally matched game, and a -most interesting one. It resulted in a' win for the Renwick boys. Ray Eraser scored a try, but failed to convert it, and shortly afterwards scored another try, Frank Brydon tried this time, but was unsuccessful in notching a goal. After the game the boys were provided with tea and cakes.

5th August 1908 It is proposed to hold a popular social at the Springlands school on Friday, the-14th instant, the proceeds to be devoted partly to assist in beautifying, the grounds, and to augment the funds of the school.

31st August 1908 SCHOOLS COMPETITION.

RENWICK (16) v. SPRING- LANDS (0)

The future representatives tried conclusions previous to the Town v. Country match, when Renwick easily beat Springlands. The boys showed that they possessed more than a passing knowledge of the game, and at times the play reached a high order. For the winners Eraser scored four tries, one of which he converted; F. Brydon added the major points' in another instance. Fraser, Brydon and Hounsell were the best of the Renwick backs, and Haines, Williams, Bary and Mills of the forwards; while of the Springlands boys Pattie, .Prebble .and Walker .(back's) and Thompson and Thomas, (forwards) were the pick. Mr Hylton "was referee.

4th December 1908 Proficiency examinations Springlands: Wilfred Jackson, Ida Livingstone, Percy Prebble, Leonard Thompson, Norman Nairn

In cases where the pupils are under fifteen years of age on the 1st December they are entitled, to two years' free tuition at the High School.

10th December 1908 Yesterday the Blenheim, Springlands, Grovetown and Tua Marina school cadets met at Tua Marina for a battalion parade. The boys were taken out by the morning train, and assembled in Campbell's paddock. Major Sturrock was in command, and the following officers were also present: Captains Howard (Springlands), Gifford (Blenheim), Ladley and Fisher (Tua Marina). Lieut. Wanden had charge of the recruit squad. There were altogether 169 boys on parade. Two parades were held—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The battalion was exercised in various movements, including the march-past and the evolutions incidental thereto; physical drill, manual and firing exercises/echelon, etc. In all of these the cadets acquitted themselves very creditably, and Major Sturrock was very well satisfied with the efficiency of the battalion. The buglers sounded the salute as the companies presented arms at the saluting-base, and also played a bugle-march as the battalion proceeded from the parade-ground to the station. The boys returned by the afternoon train.

17th December 1908 The Springlands school also broke up yesterday, and the boys celebrated the occasion by holding a paper-chase —without paper, the hares being supplied with

whistles instead^ by means of which they' indicated their whereabouts. The prize-money won at the recent Horticultural Show was, also distributed among the successful competitors, eight of whom had gained prizes.

1909

1909	129	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	240.00
1909	129	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	115.00
1909	129	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	D4	Assistant Female	£	90.00

22nd January 1909 Leonard Thompson of Springlands school was successful in the Junior National Scholarship examinations. 1 of 13 Marlborough children to do so

9th February 1909 Part of a long report on Marlborough Education Board school fences included Mr Reader said that if they paint this fence they must do the same to -every other school making the same request. Mr Conolly, referring to Springlands, said that they rather prided themselves-that they had never asked the Board to do anything for them in. the way of fences. They had planted a live fence, which was the best and most economical fence of all r It did not matter what kind of a hedge they had, it was cheaper than any fence that had to be painted. They cost very little to plant and very little to keep in order. I Mr Smith objected to picket fences round a school, and the painting of them. He quite agreed with Mr Conolly that almost everywhere the live fence was preferable.

11th May 1909 The Springlands School Committee applied for an assistant teacher and four dual desks.—The Board decided that the request could not be granted until the average attendance was 126 for the month of June. The desks would be supplied

14th May 1909 The Secretary of the Education Board, Mr E. S. Hylton, informed a representative of The Express this morning that sufficient money had been subscribed to enable the proposed shooting competition among school cadets to take place on Empire Day, and that first and second medals would be provided for each ward. It. is proposed to donate gold medals as first prizes and gold and silver medals for second prizes. The following schools will compete:—East Ward, Picton and Tua Marina.; Central Ward, Blenheim, Springlands and Grovetown; Western Ward, Havelock, Canvastown and Okaramio.

25th May 1909 The Grovetown, Blenheim and Springlands cadets fired at- Vernon the highest scores being' as follows:

*K. Pattie (Springlands) 62

*W. Thomas (Grovetown) 60

N.. Holdaway (Blenheim) 59

*-Medals

19th June 1909 A football match was played yesterday afternoon on the Springlands school ground between the Catholic School and the Springlands School. The game was played in the best of spirit, and ended in a win for Springlands by 12 points to nil. Tries were gained by Pattie (2), and Thomas, and F, Hale kicked a penalty goal. Mr J. Poppleton controlled the game.

2nd July 1909 The chairman of the Springlands School Committee (Mr Smith) this .afternoon presented Lieut. Pattie, of the school cadets, with the gold medal won by him at ..the cadets' .shooting competition .oh Empire Day at the "butts. Major Sturrock was present, addressed the cadets. A full report will appear to-morrow

5th July 1909 THE SPRINGLANDS CADETS

On Friday afternoon last, previously, ;o the breaking, up of the Springlands' school for the winter vacation, the chairman of the Springlands School Committee and. Major. Sturrock visited the institution with the object of presenting to Lieut. Pattie. of the cadets, the gold medal he won at the Empire Day shooting. The cadets ,were. in uniform, and paraded round ;he grounds before the presentation .was made. Mr Smith addressed the boys, intimating that the reason of his being present was in consequence of a letter ne had received from the secretary of the Education Board, requesting him be present to Lieut. Pattie the Board's medal which he won on May 24th at the school cadets shooting competition. He was very pleased to have that honor, not only because it was to a member of the Springlands cadets, but because he wanted to entourage the boys to persevere in their shooting, so that when they grew up to be men they would be able to shoot for their country if called upon to do 30. They knew that on the British Bag the sun never set, and that it stood for freedom and happiness, and it was for the maintenance of that freedom and happiness that they might be required to shoot. He hoped Lieut. Pattie would accept the medal not for its intrinsic value, but for the value arid honor attached to the winning of it. He expressed the wish that the recipient would win many more medals. Mr Smith then impressed upon the boys the necessity for leading clean lives, so that they, would grow up able defenders of the Empire of which they formed a part. -Referring.to the business side of life, Mr Smith pointed out to the cadets that it was equally essential that -they should become good business men, so that they would be able to protect the commercial and financial portion of the Empire. They could only do that by attending regularly to their studies, so that they might be fitted for any station in life. He was pleased to say that a great number of the pupils succeeded in passing when the last examination was held, but he would like to. see every child in the school pass next time, and it would please him to see the attendance kept up, as it was only by regular attendance at school that they could be successful. Mr Howard, headmaster at Springlands, then photographed the corps, and Lieut. 'Pattie, as the chairman of the School Committee was in the act of decorating him with the medal. Major Sturrock, in a brief speech, said he was pleased to be present and be see Lieut. Pattie decorated with the gold medal he had won on May 24th, and also to see the interest the chairman of the School Committee book in the school and the children. Lieut. Pattie had perhaps certain qualities sortie of them did not have, and he had proved himself to be the best shot in the school on Empire Day Referring to the British Empire, Major Sturrock reminded the boys of the fable of the "Hare and the tortoise.'' England had been like the hare for a long time, and had been asleep, but he was pleased to say that she had awakened, and he trusted she would not be last in the race between the- nations. Their master did not take them to the rifle range for nothing, but to teach them Low to shoot, so that if at any time the Germans were to attempt to invade the Dominion they would get a very warm reception. It was with that object that they should learn to shoot straight. At Major Sturrock's request, the boys gave hearty sheers for Mr Howard, the chairman of the School Committee, and Lieut. Pattie. Mr Smith called for three loud sheers- for the Education Board for presenting the medals for them to shoot for. The response was most hearty. The children were all dismissed, after the cadets had been given a run round the play-ground.

13th July 1909 The Springlands School Committee wrote asking the Board to appoint Miss Fraser as assistant teacher at their school., Mr Conolly moved, and Mr White seconded, that Miss Fraser be appointed assistant mistress at the Springlands School.

11th November 1909 The chairman of the Springlands School Committee applied for a grant #f 10s for repairs to the playgrounds, and also some requirements at the school. Inspector

said that fie had called the Committee's attention to the ground repairs when he last visited the school

It was decided that the amount be granted

14th December 1909 The trustees of Wesley Church wrote asking the Board to treat with them for the purchase of a piece of land—about one-sixth of an acre of the land now occupied by the schoolmaster at Springlands. The matter was referred to the Springlands School Committee to be dealt with.

18th December 1909 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

The presentation of the prizes won during the past year by the pupils attending the .Springlands school was made yesterday afternoon by Mr H. J. Howard, headmaster, in the absence of the Chairman of the School, Committee. Previously to distributing the prizes, Mr Howard welcomed the many parents who had assembled at the school, and also the children upon the auspicious occasion, which marked the first time upon which there had been a distribution of prizes at the Springlands school. It was. he said, a red-letter day with them. Mr Howard explained that the prizes varied, and were an excellent lot of books, and were for attendance and marks in the different standards. Then there were in addition, special prizes for girls and boys for special subjects. He impressed upon the parents the necessity for sending their children to school as often as possible, and pointed out that if they did not see that their boys and girls attended regularly they were depriving the School Committee of so much capitation money, which was always needed for different things at the school. Mr Howard reminded the children that by not missing a. day from school they would be sure to secure one prize, and their prospects of gaining additional honours would be considerably greater. He then proceeded with the presentation of prizes, a feature of which was the presenting of a fine large framed painting to Gladys Higgs, who had distinguished herself during the year by passing two standards and' also by being dux of the school At the conclusion of the prize distribution the ladies and school-girls provided afternoon tea, which was greatly appreciated by all. The pupils presented their respective teachers with Christmas boxes as a mark of their appreciation of the kindness shown them during the year. The gifts were suitably acknowledged by the recipients:

Following is the prize list:

MARKS.

Dux: Gladys Higgs, picture.

Standard VI: Frederick Thomas 1 and Gladys Higgs 1, Jack McFarlane and Elsie Mathieson 2.

Standard V: Charles Vercoe and Kathleen Higgs 1, Robert Nevison and Eileen Hale 2.

Standard IV: Athol Moore and Winnie Edinger 1, Leonie Davies and Cyril Nicoll 2.

Standard III: Seymour Palmer and Marjorie Paine 1, Russell Jackson and Kathleen Edinger 2.

Standard. II: Baden Ewart and Rita Hale. 1, Bertha Askew and Mervyn Saul 2.

Standard I: Tom Davies and Olive Higgs 1, Frederick Newberry and Mary Bothwell 2.

P3: Maggie McFarlane 1, Esma Healy 2, Ella Rae 2, Harold Jackson.

P2: Freda Hale 1, Winnie Broughan 2.

PI: Reginald Wareham, Roy Eyles; Grace Smith, Etta Nicoll.-.

ABC: Jack Barlow and Beatrice Smith.

ATTENDANCE

Standard VI: Frederick Thomas (full) and Dorothy Smith.

Standard V: Arthur Thomas (full), Frederick Holdaway (full), and Robert Nevison (full).

Standard IV: Irvine Holdaway (full) and Jean Livingstone (full).

Standard III:. Charlie Saul, Phyllis Barlow, and Wilhelmina Barlow.
Standard II: Olive Thomas (full) and Willie Kilgour (full).
Standard I: Isabella Livingstone (full) and Mary Bothwell (full).
Class P: Harry Hale and Flora Jelly man.
GARDENS.
Best boy's garden 1908, Fred Hale; best girl's garden 1908, Flora Pattie; best boy's garden 1909, Harold Falkner, Willie Corbett, Harold Sowman; best girl's garden 1909, Gladys Higgs and Phyllis Newberry.
SEWING.
Standard III: Ethel Morris and Phyllis Barlow,
Standard II: Olive Higgs and Gladys Smith.
Standard I: Isabella Livingston and Joyce Weir.
Special prize: Best exercise Standard IV, Mary Hammerich; William Robb, Standard IV.

1910

1910	129	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	245.00
1910	129	Springlands	Millington	Emily	D2	Assistant Female	£	120.00
1910	129	Springlands	Fraser	Christina	D4	Assistant Female	£	95.00

10th March 1910 The scholars attending the Springlands School, to the number of 120, went to Picton yesterday for their annual excursion. They spent the day on the Domain, and had a very pleasant time bathing, boating, etc. The weather, though threatening, was fine
15th March 1910 Miss C. A. Fraser, Springlands, applied for four week's leave of absence on full pay, which was granted. PAINTING. The Springlands School Committee applied to have the school and outbuildings painted at a cost of £26 8s 6d. It" was decided that tenders be called for the work, and that the building be painted with oils and lead, no dryers to be used.
17th March 1910 Mr Strachan's report on the pupil teachers in Marlborough says:—"The pupil teachers were tested at the end |of June. In no case had criticism lessons as provided for in the Board's regulations been regularly given. I understand that during the latter half of the year there was amendment in this respect. Miss Fraser gained her D certificate with three subjects of the C certificate (January, 1910), and was appointed assistant at Springlands. Mr Mortimore was temporarily appointed as assistant at Blenheim. Miss Duggan gained partial D (January, 1910), and Miss Josephine Hilliard completed her D certificate."
12th April 1910 Five tenders were received for the painting of the Springlands school and that of Mr F. Eraser, to do the work for £23 10s, was accepted.
26th April 1910 SPRINGLANDS. The householders at Springlands held their annual meeting last night in the school, when there was a representative attendance. Mr F. W. Smith presided. The following report, submitted by the chairman, was adopted. Eight meetings have been held, the attendance being as follows: Mrs Moore 6, Mrs Livingstone 8, Mrs Tapp 3, Mr Jno. Conolly 2, Mr Jno. Smith 8, Mr Coward 7 Mr Thomas 7. At the annual examination, held in December, nine proficiency certificates were obtained,, and six competency. The Inspector paid his annual surprise visit on March 3rd and 4th, and reported as follows: Percentage of attendance very good order and discipline and tone of school with respect to alacrity, obedience and honor very good. The gardens continue to show much enthusiasm. The pupils drill well under the sergeants chosen from the senior boys and girls. Sergeant- Major Colclough visits the school twice per month to give extra drill instruction. I have great pleasure in reporting that the gold medal subscribed for by individual members of the

Education Board, for encouraging .rifle shooting, was won by Cadet Lieut Pattie of this school. At the breaking-up of the school for the Christmas holidays 'some 70 prizes were distributed, including a picture kindly donated by Mr Tilly and subscriptions donated by the teaching staff and members of the Committee. Sanitation: We hay& to report that all hollows in the vicinity of the school have been filled in. A pipe drain and gully trap leading from the pump to the main drain have been laid. As a precautionary measure the school was disinfected last Saturday week. Two hyloplates *(Blackboards)* have been obtained and placed in the infants' room. Two new outbuildings have been erected, one for the boys, and one for the girls. A new gate-post was put in at the front gate to replace one which had rotted off close to the ground. Tenders have been called and accepted for painting the school and outbuildings. Financially this Committee is sound, there being a balance at the bank of £24 18s 7d and sufficient firewood to carry the school through the winter. During the year Miss Fraser was appointed second assistant, and on her obtaining leave of absence Miss Jeffries was appointed to take her place. Most harmonious relations have existed between the teaching staff and the Committee during the year, both bodies having worked together in the best interests of the school. In conclusion, I personally thank the members or the out-going Committee for the cordial manner in which they have co-operated with me in carrying out the duties of a school committee, and trust the incoming committee will have equally as pleasant a period during its term of office. The present roll number is 146, being an increase of two on last year. Mesdames Moore, Livingstone, and Messrs F. Broughan, S. Tapp, jun., D. Thomas and F. "W. were nominated as the new Committee, and as there were not more than the number required they were declared duly elected. At the-' conclusion of the householders' meeting the new Committee met, and Mr Smith was elected to the position of chairman, secretary and treasurer for the ensuing year.

Accounts amounting to six shillings were passed for payment. It was resolved that Messrs Broughan, Thomas and the Chairman be appointed a recreation ground committee, and be authorised to spend £5 in preparing a cricket pitch and tennis court for the children.

It was proposed by Mrs Moore and seconded by Mrs Livingstone, that the Education Board be written to and asked to erect shelter sheds at the school. This was carried unanimously. The meeting then terminated.

14th June 1910 The Springlands School Committee wrote asking the Board to erect one or two shelter sheds at the school. A grant of £15 was made for this work.

16th Nov 1910 At a meeting of the Springlands School Committee, held on Monday evening, the sum of £3 10s was voted for prizes to be presented to the scholars on breaking-up day. It is expected that this amount will be increased by donations which the committee expects to receive towards the prize fund.

23rd December 1910 SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.

The distribution, of prizes at the Springlands School took place on Wednesday last. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr F. W. Smith, officiated^ and in a neat little speech welcomed the children and their parents to the annual gathering. He congratulated the prize winners, but trusted that the non-winners would not take their want of success to heart, as some of the greatest men in English history had never been of much account at school.

After the school prizes had been distributed the Chaytor prizes were given out, three boys out of a team of four being successful in carrying off a sovereign each. Christmas boxes were then given to every child below Standard I.

A little surprise to the head teacher was then announced, when the Chairman, on behalf of the scholars of the upper standards, about to leave school for the High School or to experience the stern realities of life, presented Mr Howard with a handsome silver shaving mug and brush. Mr Howard acknowledged the gift in a v few suitable words, and cheers for .the School Committee and an extra 'one for the Chairman brought a 'pleasant ceremony to a close. The children then adjourned to the playground (the adults being accommodated in the school room) while a willing band of helpers dispensed afternoon tea. The following is the PRIZE LIST. ATTENDANCE PRIZES. Infant/Classes: Elizabeth Cummings, Thomas Bright, Vondar Benseman Freda Hale, Charles Hammerich
Standard I (boys did not qualify): Maggie McFarlane 1, Gladys Saul 2.
Standard II (boys did not qualify): Gladys Sowman 1, Isabel; Livingston
Standard III: Mervyn Saul 1, Olive Thomas 1 Gladys Smith 2..
Standard IV (girls did not qualify): Thomas Smith 1, Hugh McFarlane 2.
Standard V: Harold Sowman 1, Jean Livingston 1, Mary Hammerich 1.
Standard VI: Arthur Thomas 1, Monica Black 1.
PRIZES FOB SUCCESS AT EXAMINATION
Standard I: Arthur Patchett I, Esma Healy 1, Harold Jackson 2, Jeanne Litchfield 2.
Standard II: Tom Davies 1, Mary Bothwell 1, Frederick Newberry 2, Gladys Sowman 2, Joyce Weir 3, Elsie Waterhouse 4.
Standard III: Baden Ewart 1, Olive Higgs 1, Bertie Bothwell 2, Dorothy Garnham 2 Bertha Askew 3. Rita Hale 4.
Standard IV.: Claude Rogers 1, Hugh McFarlane 2, Seymour Palmer 3, Russell Jackson 4; Jane Vercoe 1, Dorothy Mears 2.
Standard V.: Harold Sowman 1, William Robb 2, Athol Moore 3, Roland Newberry 4; Leonie Davies 1, Marjorie Davies 2.
Standard VI.: Robert Nevison: Leonard Smith 2; Nica Black, dux, 1, Kathleen Higgs and Dorothy Murray 2.
PRIZES FOR NEEDLEWORK. Standard 1.: Esma Healy 1, Elma Watson 2.
Standard II.: Gladys Sowman 1, Mary Bothwell 2.
Standard III.: Rita Hale 1, Gladys Smith 2.
Best needlework 'in school, Ethel Garnham; second best needlework, Dorothy Murray. PRIZES FOR BEST ARITHMETIC.
Standard I. Victor Beale, Arthur Patchett, and Joanne Litchfield, full marks.
Standard II.: Tom Davies.
Standard III.: Bertha Askew, full marks.
Standard IV.: Seymour Palmer, full marks.
Standard V.: Athol Moore and Leonie Davies full marks.
Standard VI.: Dorothy Murray, full marks.
SPECIAL PRIZES. Best exercise in Standard IV.: Violet Faulkner 1.
Best vegetable garden: Harold Sowman 1, Bertie Bothwell and W. Kilgour 2 (2s 6d each, Mr Bacon's I prize).
Best flower garden: Jean Livingston 1; Leonie Davies and Kate Hale 2
The Chaytor prizes for cadet shooting (£1 each for the three highest scores) were won as follows:—William Priddle 1, Frederick Halls 2, Arthur Thomas 3.

1911

1911	134	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	250.00

1911	134	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	125.00
1911	134	Springlands	Fraser	Christina	C4	Assistant Female	£	100.00

11th January 1911 The results of the cadet shooting competition for the Chaytor prize and the Nosworthy Belt for 1910 are as follows:—Cadet C. Olsson (Picton), 78 points, first (also winner 1908); Chaytor prize, Cadet W. Priddle, Springlands, 61 points, second; Cadet F. Hale, Springlands, 59 points, third; Cadet A. Thomas, Springlands, 57 points, fourth; Cadet F. Alquist, Canvastown, 54 points, fifth.

14th March 1911 The Springlands School Committee wrote asking for a grant of £6 to cover the cost -of erecting a new fence and gravelling a portion of the school ground. The Inspector thought £6 twice as much as was needed. Mr Reader moved, and. the Chairman seconded, that tenders be called for the erection of a new fence, and he placing of a new sky-light in the middle room of the school.—Carried. In regard to the application for a grant for gravel, it was decided that the Committee pay for this out of its ordinary revenue.

14th March 1911 The Springlands School Committee is evidently a money-making body, judging from Mr Hylton's report to the Education Board yesterday. When some grants applied for by this Committee were under consideration the secretary was asked what the committee's financial position was at the end of last year. He referred to the balance-sheet, and found that the Springlands School Committee had a credit balance of £20 4s Id.

30th March 1911 Springlands school made their first appearance in the "soccer" world yesterday in a match, against the Scouts, and for a first attempt did remarkably well, holding their own against a team containing three of last year's "reps," and every one an experienced player. A strong wind I was blowing down the field, and Springlands, playing with it in the first spell kept the Scouts on the defensive. Two shots sent in by Springlands were very near, one striking the crossbar and the other just missing the upright. After half-time Scouts pressed most of the time, and Hyndman landed one between the posts, Scouts thus winning by one goal to nil. Mr Ferry acted as referee.

25th April 1912 At the meeting of householders held at Springlands last evening Mr F. W. Smith presided. The following report, submitted to the chairman, was adopted:—During the past., year several improvements have been, made in the school and grounds, viz., new shelter shed, fencing and gravelling. All the windows of the school were frosted to curtail constant expense in blinds, and the teaching -staff thoroughly approve of it. Also, new hyloplates were obtained, for the .middle room. The school has been painted- inside and out. The ground intended for the, tennis court has been thoroughly worked and levelled, arid a sufficient space has been allotted for school gardens around the courts, which will leave more space in the playground for children's games. The present roll number is 153, and the attendance for the past quarter was 95 per cent, of this total. At the annual examination of Standard, 6 on December 9th, eight proficiencies and three competencies were obtained. Inspector Strachan paid his surprise visit, .on February 8th being only seven days after the school reopened after the Christmas vacation. I have great pleasure in stating that in December last three cadets from the Springlands School won the three Chaytor shooting prizes of £3. awarded to the schools of the district. At the distribution of prizes some 152 books and other awards were presented by the chairman. Financially the Committee is sound, there being a balance in the Bank of £10 7s 2d. Very [.harmonious relations have existed between the teaching staff and the Committee during the year, both .bodies having worked together in the best interests of the school. In conclusion, I personally thank the members of the .'Committee for the cordial manner in which they have .co-operated with me in carrying

out the duties of a School ..Committee, and trust that .the incoming Committee will have as pleasant a period' during, its .term of office. The following persons were elected for the new Committee: Mr F. W. Smith, Mesdames Livingston and Moore, and Messrs-S. Tapp junr., F. Broughan, and W. H. Gee. At the meeting of new Committee held after the householders' meeting, Mr F. W. Smith was~-elected chairman. It was 1 decided to canvass for subscriptions to complete the tennis court. The ;sum of £4 was subscribed in the room.

3rd May 1911 The supply of "continuous" readers is doubtless well intentioned, but the following incomplete list of books in school libraries shows that our schools are fairly well provided already with continuous readers':—Blenheim (494), Grovetown (400), Linkwater (83), Picton (96), Marlboroughtown (223), Marshlands (103), Spring Creek (150), Waitaria (85), Seddon (50), Richmond Brook (30), Fairhall (323), Renwick (230), Tua Marina (35), Springlands (70), Canvastown (40).

Spelling is a useful discipline in accuracy as well as a common criterion of education. Set tests were for the most part- well done. Eli Bay, Nydia Bay f Onahau, Onapua, Renwick, Springlands, Tennyson Inlet, Waitohi, and St. Joseph's may be mentioned for excellence

4th July 1911 Mr F. W. Smith, chairman of the Springlands School Committee, informed an Express reporter this morning that owing to the great amount of sickness among the children he had closed the school for three weeks.

15th August 1911 A SKYLIGHT. The Springlands Committee- submitted a tender from. Messrs Ward and Sons for the insertion of a wide skylight at their school. The tender was £7 17s 6d and was accepted.

16th December 1911 Mr H. J. Howard, headmaster of the Springlands school, and Mr B. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, left Blenheim on Thursday for Sydney. They intend to "do" tine Islands of the Pacific before they return home

1912

1912	136	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	255.00
1912	136	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	130.00
1912	136	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C4	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1912	136	Springlands	Foley	Agatha		FPT2	£	35.00

2nd February 1912 Mr H. Howard, headmaster of the Springlands School, who, with. Mr D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, paid a holiday visit to Australia and the South Sea Islands, has returned to Blenheim. Mr Sturrock broke the journey home, at Wellington,,. but will return to Blenheim in time for opening of the school on Monday.

13th February 1912 It was resolved to ask the Returning Officer to have the gate of the Springlands School, damaged by a vehicle on election day, repaired

16th April 1912 The name of Miss Agatha Foley, applicant for a pupil teachership, was ordered to be forwarded to the Springlands Committee. Miss Dorothy Cheek, probationer teacher, was granted three months' leave of absence on account of ill health

23rd April 1912 Springlands mentioned in Inspector's report One of best in spelling, brush drawing, best geometric design, one of best in needlework, and one of best in gardening

23rd April 1912 At the meeting of householders at Springlands last- night, Mr F. W. Smith reported that subscriptions amounting to £17 14s 6d had been collected during the year .towards making a tennis court, and a further £2 had been promised. The sum of £3 19s 7d was obtained by the sale of potatoes grown while preparing the ground for the tennis court.

Of this money, £9 2s lOd had been spent in. ploughing, harrowing, levelling, and grassing the courts, and £4 7s 6d in the purchase of a roller, leaving a balance to the credit of the fund of £8 3s 9d. All this money was subscribed voluntarily ,by those who had the welfare of the school and the children, at heart; The tennis
court committee recommended that the courts be top-dressed and sown down, in order that they might be ready for playing on next season. At the meeting of the, new Committee the chairman was authorised to get the necessary work done to have the courts ready for play next season.

23rd April 1912 SPRINGLANDS.

The following Committee was elected of Mesdames Moore and Livingstone, Messrs G Shipley; W H Heard, and F. W. Smith.(chairman). The report. presented by the chairman of the outgoing committee (Mr Smith) was! as follows:— The average, attendance of children at the school for the year was 134, or 98 per cent of the roll number, which increases our capitation by £2 per year. The number of children on the roll at present is 162 (81 boys and. 5:1 girls) and as the attendance for the past quarter was 144, the Education Board has decided to appoint a pupil teacher to the staff. This is now the third largest school in Marlborough. At the-annual examination in December last 6 Proficiency and 3 Competency certificates were gained in Standard VI.. the-dux of the school being Athol Moore, who gained 71 per cent of the possible marks. The inspector paid in a surprise visit in March 25, when he found 146 pupils present out of a. total of 161. He reports favorably on the work of the school, also on the tone and: discipline, and on the clean and tidy appearance of the children.

During the year no improvements to any great extent have been needed, through the buildings being in a, good state of repair when the Committee, took office.

At the suggestion of the Inspector, two skylights were placed in the roof of the middle room to improve the lighting, and they. have proved very beneficial to both teacher and children. The Inspector also recommends that the headmaster's room be fully equipped with dual desks, and that an extra cupboard for storing models, etc., should be obtained. The Education Board have been approached on this subject. Financially the Committee is sound, there being a balance of £8 19s, 1d to the credit of the capitation fund The incoming Committee will be put to no expense for firewood for the coming winter, there being sufficient on hand to last the season. Very- harmonious relations have existed bet ween the teaching staff and the Committee during the year, both parties having worked together in the best interests, of the school. In conclusion, the chairman thanked both the teaching staff and the members of the Committee for the cordial manner in which they had »o-operated with him, in carrying out their respective duties.

15th October 1912 SPRINGLANDS. The committee forwarded copy of a resolution to the effect that, owing to the disrespect displayed by the Senior Cadets in regard to the school property, Captain Avery be written |to and informed that the use of the school would not be available for use by the Territorials in the future. It was resolved that Captain Avery be requested to forward his observations to the Board. The committee asked that the school buildings and master's residence
be painted, and the gate's be replaced.—It was resolved that the residence be painted and new gates erected, the question of painting the school to be deferred.

7th November 1912 The opening of the Springlands tennis courts was performed yesterday afternoon in gloomy weather. Mr F. W. Smith, chairman of the School Committee, handed over the courts to the club, and Mr J. Conolly (president) declared the season open. Afternoon

tea was dispensed by the ladies. The inauguration of the club promises to be a boon to Springlands enthusiasts and school-children.
12th November 1912 The Springlands Committee was granted £2 for the gravelling of the grounds. DAMAGED PROPERTY. Captain Avery wrote in reply to the complaint that certain school property had been damaged by Territorials He had made inquiries, but had not succeeded in sheeting home the responsibility. The damage could" have been done during parade. If an. account for the restoration of the damaged property were forwarded it would be paid, The Secretary reported that the account had been forwarded, and a cheque for £l 5s received from the Defence Department

1913

1913	146	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	260.00
1913	146	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D2	Assistant Female	£	135.00
1913	146	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C3	Assistant Female	£	105.00
1913	146	Springlands	Foley	Agatha		FPT3	£	45.00

11th February 1913 SPRINGLANDS. A grant of: 35 shillings was made for the purpose of forming the footpath at this school Marlborough Education Board meeting
15th April 1913 Hyloplates were granted for the Springlands school, and the secretary Was instructed to have a back placed in a chimney, the woodshed strengthened, gates repaired, and other small j works previously authorised, carried out
18th April 1913 During the past year in some cases the rifles on issue were called in, and in others there wore new conditions, so the Chaytor prize contest has been suspended till new regulations are drafted. For general excellence in drill the following schools may be mentioned:— Nopera Bay, Picton, Springlands,
Pencil drawing at Springlands School
Needlework: Sixty-four schools were classed as efficient. Marshlands, Grassmere, Canvastown, Okaramio, Grovetown, Seaview, and Springlands taught with most, effect
Swimming, and Life-saving (seven schools): Ocean Bay, Blenheim, Picton, Robin Hood Bay, Springlands. Tua Marina, Waikawa Pah.
29th April 1913 boy named Mears had the misfortune to break his leg whilst playing football at the Springlands School this morning
29th April 1913 SPRINGLANDS. Mrs Livingstone, and Messrs F. Nosworthy, J. Herd, and F. W. Smith (chairman). Three more vacancies have yet to be filled.
13th May 1913 SPRINGLANDS. The Springlands Committee reported that the repairing of the fuel shed would cost £3 10s, and the structure would then last only about a year. A new shed constructed of second-hand iron would cost about £7 18s 6d.—The means to erect a new shed was voted.
13th May 1913 Empire Day will not be ceremonially observed by the school children of Marlborough this year. The Education Board made this decision yesterday in view of the visit of H.M.S. New Zealand to Picton. Mr E. H. Penny, who introduced the subject, said that, in any case. He would prefer to see Empire Day passed by altogether rather than that it should be observed in the apathetic and pale- manner in which it was recognised by the Borough School last year. He believed in the due cultivation of the Imperial spirit among the rising generation, but did not believe in making a mockery of the sentiment. Mr J. Conolly regretted that the excellent lead given by the Springlands School when Empire Day was first celebrated had never been followed. Mr J. Fulton drew attention to the fact that, while the school

children of Blenheim and adjoining districts were well entered for in the way of railway arrangements for the occasion of the New Zealand ships visit, no provision was made for the conveyance of the Sounds children. The chairman undertook to make .representations to the Government authorities on this point

16th June 1913 SCHOOL RUGBY.

On Friday afternoon High School A. beat Springlands by 12 to nil, and High School B. drew with. Borough, each side scoring 6 points.

21st July 1913 GROVETOWN v. SPRINGLANDS.

Grovetown won on their own ground by 2 goals to 0. Springlands pat a good fight, and were playing well, but luck was against them. Mr Ellis refereed.

11th November 1913 SPRINGLANDS. The Committee asked that an out office and a wood and coal shed be erected, and that the windows of the school be wire-netted. The matters were referred to the architect, with power to act

1914

1914	147	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	270.00
1914	147	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D1	Assistant Female	£	145.00
1914	147	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C3	Assistant Female	£	115.00
1914	147	Springlands	Foley	Agatha		FPT4	£	55.00
1914	153	Springlands	Hilliard	Aileen		FPR1	£	25.00

14th January 1914 The following school buildings in the Marlborough district have, as a whole or in part, been in existence for over thirty years:—Tua Marina, Havelock Suburban, Picton, Havelock, Springlands, Blenheim, Marshlands, Wairau Valley, Fairhall, and Fabian's Valley. The list was mentioned in connection with the Education Board's scheme for the establishment of a reserve fund to provide for rebuilding as the occasion arises in each case.

17th March 1914 SPRINGLANDS. v The offer of the Springlands committee to contribute half the cost of having heaters fitted in the school was accepted. The estimate of cost was £24

16th April 1914 ASSOCIATION. Following is the team to represent the Springlands school in the "Soccer" competitions: M. Strange (goal), B Ewart, G. Herd, W. Osgood, L. Goslin, O. Schwass, M. Saul (capt.), W. Mears, H. Jackson, H. Hale, and W. Nairn.

21st April 1914 Manual and Technical.—School classes in woodwork, cookery, and advanced plain needlework were again held' at the Blenheim. Technical School, being attended by pupils from the following schools: Picton, Springlands, Grovetown, Renwick, Fairhall. Marlborough High School, and Convent.

28th April 1914 SPRINGLANDS.

There was a small gathering of householders. The following were nominated and declared duly elected: Mesdames Jackson and Saul; Messrs Kirby, Herd, Coad, McLennan, and Nosworthy. Mr Coad was elected chairman and secretary. School Committee

26th June 1914 SPRINGLANDS.

There was a small gathering of householders. The following were nominated and declared duly elected: Mesdames Jackson and Saul; Messrs Kirby, Herd, Coad, McLennan, and Nosworthy. Mr Coad was elected chairman and secretary.

11th August 1914 The question of installing a septic- tank system at Springlands was deferred

112th August 1914 Hockey BOTTRELL CUP

Renwick defeated Springlands on Saturday by 4 goals to nil. Bad shooting on both sides prevented more goals from being registered. Springlands showed better combination than in previous gam as, and their backs stopped and nit well, the most prominent being Rita Hale and Mary Both well. If these girls would place their shots more carefully, they would gain much ground for their side. Rena Register at centre played an excellent game, but was not supported by the other forwards. The Renwick backs, with the exception of Grace Finlay and Lizzie Adams, were not as sound as usual; a reverse would stiffen them up a bit. The forwards played with excellent combination, particularly Maggie Beirne and .Priscilla Vorbach, whose passing was really good.

15th December 1914 SPRINGLANDS. The Board's attention was drawn by the Committee to the unsatisfactory state of the ditch on the school property.—The matter was referred to [the ward members for consideration. The Committee notified its willingness to contribute £5 annually towards the cost of a septic tank system It was decided to inform the Committee that the establishment of septic tank at the school would be kept Steadily in view

1915

1915	153	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D1	Head Master	£	280.00
1915	153	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D1	Assistant Female	£	155.00
1915	153	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C3	Assistant Female	£	125.00
1915	153	Springlands	Foley	Agatha		FPT5	£	55.00
1915	153	Springlands	Hilliard	Aileen		FPR2	£	35.00

9th March 1915 It was decided to advertise for tenders for the installation of a septic tank system at the Springlands school

4th May 1915 Springlands: Fourteen were present at the annual householders' meeting last night, and the following members were elected as a School Committee for the ensuing year:—Mrs Saul, Messrs Coad (chairman), Herd, Hammond, Kirby, Nosworthy, and. Ward. Mrs Jackson and Mr Hopkins were also nominated. The election was rather interesting, as no less than four came equal for the seventh place, and a second ballot was necessary! On the motion of Mr Mead!, a, vote of thanks was passed to the outgoing committee for their services during the past year. Special reference was also made to the fact that the Board had promised to install a septic tank system at an early date.

2nd July 1915 Yesterday afternoon a very successful sale of produce, vegetables, fruit, and lollies was held at in Springlands school. There were numerous stalls presided over by the elder girls and the lady teachers, and there was a large attendance of the public. The most interesting show was the exhibit of knitted and crocheted work done by the girls or the school for the clothing of the distressed Belgians in England. Over £11 was taken at the various stalls. The whole proceedings reflected great credit, on the teachers and girls of the. School. A half-holiday was granted by the chairman of the Committee for the occasion.

14th September 1915 Gifts for soldiers; Springlands: Laces, stationery, soap, pencils

14th September 1915 The architect reported on the middle classroom at Springlands. He said that nothing short of remodelling would meet the case, and he made certain suggestions for improvement. Mr Conolly supported the recommendations of the architect. A new school at .present was out of the question. It was decided that the committee be informed that the architects recommendation would be acted upon.

12th October 1915 skylights and ventilator at Springlands, Leslie and Costello, £10 9s.

9th November 1915 outbuildings and septic tank at Springlands Leslie and Costello, £131

1916-1917

1917	143	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D-41	Head	£300.00
1917	143	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D-64	Assistant	£175.00
1917	143	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C-87	Assistant	£140.00
1917	143	Springlands	Reid	Gwynneth M M		PT4	£55.00

1st August 1916 Last meeting of Marlborough Education Board The action of the Executive in accepting A. Wanden's price for the improvements to the teacher's residence, at Springlands was confirmed

14th October 1916 The proceeds of the sale at the Red Cross shop this week amounted to £24 17s 10d. The secretary desires to express the committee's special thanks to the Springlands school for contributions of sweets, etc., and to acknowledge the; support given by the general public.

31st March 1917 Springlands school has undertaken to supply the shop next week. *Red Cross shop*

10th April 1917 a splendid contribution of .fruit., vegetables, sweets, cakes, and Gowers was sent last week by the boys and girls of the Springlands and Redwoodtown schools. The committee wishes to thank most heartily the above contributors,

20th December 1917 After the last Government wool appraisement in Blenheim the boys of the 5th and 6th standards of the Springlands school, under their headmaster, Mr H. Howard, paid a visit to the wool stores of Messrs Dalgety and Coy., Ltd., where they were shown over by the manager, Mr Sharp, who explained the methods of dealing with the wool and the various qualities, values, etc. The boys took a keen interest in the object lesson, and as the result of an essay competition on the subject, a prize donated by Mr James Coull, of Springlands, was won by Master H. Hale.

1918-1919

1919	153	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D-41	Head	£370.00
1919	153	Springlands	Millington	Emily E	D-63	Assistant	£240.00
1919	153	Springlands	Fraser	Christina A	C-84	Assistant	£195.00
1919	153	Springlands	Coull	Jessie A		PT2	£85.00
1919	153	Springlands	Forbes	Norma J		Probationer 2	£75.00

8th January 1918 Proficiency Certificates awarded (This allowed winners to have a free place at secondary schools) Springlands: Fergus Adams, Harry Hale, Myra Holdaway, Nancy Litchfield, Ruby Scott, Thomas Bright, Arnold Neal.

6th February 1918 Mr H. J. Howard, headmaster of the Springlands school, has received news that his brother, Gunner E. C Howard, has been wounded at the front in France. Gunner Howard was born in Picton. He enlisted from Auckland with the 9th .Reinforcements.

21st March 1918 The following tenders were accepted Springlands School: Repairs, painting, etc., Wm. Carr, £59 18s 9d;

9th July 1918 The Springlands school has been closed owing .to 'the prevalence of diphtheria in the district.

Two children belonging to a Springlands family, are at present in the hospital suffering from diphtheria. It is reported that the parents, accompanied by the other three children, were at the

pictures last night. There does .not seem much use in closing the school if people are going to expo.se others to the risk of infection in this way.
20th June 1919 Wellington Education Board Mr McCallum called attention to the increase in numbers in the attendance at the Springlands school, the Committee requesting an additional teacher and room. It was decided to ask the Inspector to report on the question at the next meeting.
21st July 1919 It was decided to make application for a grant to provide for the enlargement of a. room at Springlands' school, in order to relieve the overcrowding in the infant department

1920-1921

1921	168	Springlands	Howard	Harry J	D	Head Infant	£400.00
1921	168	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D	Mistress	£280.00
1921	168	Springlands	Woulfe	Kathleen	D	Assistant	£270.00
1921	168	Springlands	Nevison	Isabella	C	Assistant	£230.00
1921	168	Springlands	Fissenden	Evelyn A		PT1	£125.00

20th April 1920 During the past month there have been a great number of mild influenza cases in Blenheim and surrounding districts. The schools at Blenheim Borough, Renwick, Springlands, Grovetown;, and Rapaura being at present closed. The closures of these schools have been brought about on the initiative of the local school committees. From the fact that so few cases are being officially notified by the- total medical practitioner» we must assume that the great majority of the cases axe of a mild nature
24th April 1920 The Springlands School will re-open on Monday 26th instant
5th July 1920 SPRINGLANDS V. RENWICK;
Springlands travelled to Renwick on Friday and defeated the local school by 3 tries (9 points) to nil. Thomas, at full back, and Beirne, in the' forwards, .played really good football for the winners, while Parsons and Newman were the most prominent in a weak Renwick team.
10th July 1920 THE SPRINGLANDS SCHOOL.
The spirit of progress which has been manifesting itself in this district during the past few months has taken hold of at least one School Committee. When the last householders' meetings were held the attendance at the Springlands gathering was six. Another gentleman was brought along, and the seven elected themselves the Committee. Appalled by the apathy displayed by the residents as a whole, the Committee decided to endeavor to instils some life into matters pertaining to the school, and the first result is the issuing of a circular letter to the parents of the scholars. The letter begins by mentioning the fact that the. attendance to-day is higher than at any time in the history of the school—we understand that there are now 288 names on the roll—and the headmaster and his assistants "are greatly taxed in their efforts to give to each individual child the attention that we, as parents, have the right to expect." In an endeavor to assist the teachers in their work the Committee has decided to offer a number of prizes to the children gaining the highest number of marks in each class. The prizes will be presented at a social function which it is proposed to hold after the annual. examination has concluded. In order that parents may know what progress their children are making, a report is to be furnished at the end of every term by the headmaster. A piano is to be purchased for use in the school, the money to be raised by subscriptions—which, by the way, are reported to be coming in readily. In. conclusion the letter says:—"We trust at the next householders' animal meeting to see you

present, that we may render to you a complete account of our stewardship as your representatives, to watch over the welfare of your child, and its school environments. We look forward with the utmost confidence to jour hearty co-operation and assistance in our efforts to make the conditions under which your child is being educated better than they have ever been in the past, and we feel .sure that the only ultimate result can be that we will be proud of our children and the Springlands School."

The Committee certainly deserves all the support that the parents can give it in its endeavor to improve the existing' conditions. The first thing that requires to be done, apparently, is to have the building brought up to date. The Minister for Education' and the chairman of the Education Board are to visit Marlborough .shortly, and we: would surest that they be waited on by a large

deputation of Springlands residents and a request made for a, modern school. The Minister, we notice,, stated :in a speech the ether day, when opening a new school in the North Island, that £700.000 worth of School buildings were either in course of erection or authorised, and the claims of Springlands are surely as strong as others; that have been granted. It is impossible for the teachers, laboring under the existing handicap, to do justice either, to the children- or to themselves, and one result is that some scholars who. should be attending this school are being -sent into town to swell the already overcrowded classes at the Borough Schools. It is regrettable that the people of Springlands, by their apathy, have allowed matters to go from bad to worse. but now that a strong lead is being given them by the Committee we hope that they will respond, and demand that as good .facilities be afforded for the education of .their children as are available in other! parts of the Dominion.

23rd July 1920 Works in process and authorised in the Marlborough ward include, land for general renewals at Springlands and other places

4th August 1920 Springlands School Committee held its regular mooting on Thursday last. The Headmaster's report showed another increase over the previous month. The lowest attendance during July was 173, while the average during July of 1919, was 157. Owing to the bad arrangements of the classrooms the teaching staff is being heavily taxed, and the Committee expressed its intention of leaving no stone unturned to obtain more accommodation. The Ground Committee reported that the horizontal bars and ladder steps had been completed and brought into use for the children; and that arrangements had been made to have a hedge planted along Murphy's Cross Road frontage. 'Members having reported a good response to the Piano Fund, the chairman (Mr McCallum) was given authority to purchase a suitable instrument. It was decided to obtain six forms, for the use of the children for outside work

20th August 1920 BASKET BALL

MATCHES AT BLENHEIM

Basketball has long been known as a first-class game for girls, but, it is comparatively recently that it has been played to any extent in New Zealand. It is now played in most parts of the Dominion.

Quito recently it was taken up most enthusiastically by many of the schools in Marlborough. Last Saturday a tournament was held in the grounds of the Blenheim Borough School. Teams representing Marlborough College, Blenheim Borough School, Picton, Spring Greek, Grovetown, and Springlands schools took part. In the first round Marlborough College defeated Borough B., Spring Creek defeated Borough C, Borough A. defeated Picton, and

Grovetown defeated Springlands. In the second round College defeated Spring Creek and Borough A. defeated Grovetown. The final was won by Borough by 6 points to nil.
This is the forerunner of Netball. Often called outdoor basketball. Played 9 aside with everybody staying in their own third of the court.
4th December 1920 SPRINGLANDS AWAKE.
Some months ago reference was made in these columns, to the fact that-the present School Committee at Springlands .was proving itself a particularly live body. The committee -was .congratulated on its endeavors to instil, into the parents increased interest in the welfare of their children so far as education was concerned. That it has been successful in its object has been proved by the fact that when a meeting was called for on Thursday night in the schoolroom there was a gathering of parents such as Springlands had never before witnessed. This meeting was held to receive an interim account of the stewardship of the committee, and to arrange for a prize giving and sports function for the children at the end of the school year. This function is to take place on the 16th inst. in the school grounds. Considerable enthusiasm was displayed, and the ladies present, numbering about 40, formed themselves into a committee in the room, and are now fully organised to make the occasion a memorable one in the annals of the Springlands School. The committee deserves the thanks of the community for having aroused the interest of the parents to such an extent. Valuable results may be expected from that policy of vitalising the school system It will not be the fault of the committee if Springlands does not take first rank among the schools of Marlborough, and become a model establishment, and we take this opportunity of wishing the committee the best of success in its efforts.
9th December 1920 It was announced that a property adjoining- the Springlands school had been acquired, and it was anticipated that a further acre would be secured. Renovations to residence and shelter sheds at Renwick were authorised
15th December 1920 Parents of the. Springlands schoolchildren are requested., to be present at the school grounds to-morrow afternoon.
17th December 1920. If a Charles Dickens had been present when Father Christmas was distributing the presents,, declared Mr E. H. Penny at the Springlands School prize-giving gathering yesterday afternoon some new Christmas books would have, been written. The speaker was referring to the apparent pleasure and happiness of the room full of children on that occasion.
Almost a. record for brevity was a speech made by a boy pupil at the Springlands School function yesterday afternoon. He had been particularly successful, obtaining two fine prize .volumes, and, receiving applause on his appearance on the platform, his response was: "Ladies and gentlemen, thanks very much, indeed."
17th December 1920 A Revival.
THE SPRINGLANDS. SCHOOL. AN ACTIVE COMMITTEE. Ever since the present "live wire" school committee came into existence at Springlands it has been working strenuously towards the revival of interest among the parents of the children attending that school. Evidently for some years past a growing apathy has possessed those who should have taken the greatest interest in the school life of the children. Following on representations made to the educational authorities as to the need for building improvements, the committee, with the intent to wake up the parents, held a gathering of children and parents in the school grounds yesterday afternoon. During the afternoon the children rail races for monetary prizes, and were also supplied with an abundance of edibles. Then, shortly after five o'clock, came the most pleasant feature, of the gathering, at least for the infants. This was in the

form of a Christmas Tree, which was erected in the big central room, cleared for the occasion. Here the decorations were profuse, with Chinese lanterns strung 'across the room; but what especially attracted the admiration of the children was a big Christmas Tree on one side, decked out with presents and hung with beads.. The room was crowded, a fair proportion of the occupants being adults. Before the ceremony of giving out the presents took place Mr Barton, with untiring energy and personal supervision of many details were largely responsible, for the success of the occasion, took the opportunity of welcoming home the chairman of the school committee. Mr McCallum, he said, had. been to Australia owing to health reasons., but was now back again in his former good health to continue his work for the school. Three cheers. were given by the gathering for Mr McCallum, who appropriately responded. A fantastic Father Christmas was then introduced, and he quickly distributed to each child a present from 'the tree, with the joyful plaudits of the children ringing out again and again. A feature in this ceremony was a presentation from the children to Miss Millington, in recognition of "her long; services on the teaching staff. The general acclamation on this occasion proved the recipient to be a popular favorite, among the pupils.

10th August 1921 Springlands Remodelling to be done

12th November 1921 Miss I Nevison appointed 3rd Assistant

Harry Jerome Howard was born in Oxford, England in 1870, only surviving son of Charles Caleb Howard and his first wife, Sarah Ann Tomlin. He came from a school teaching family, his paternal grandparents were the national school teachers at Mickleham in Surrey and his father would take several high profile teaching jobs in NZ. Several other members of the wider Howard family also became teachers. After attending Wanganui College amongst others, he began his teaching career in 1890 at Picton, under his father. He remained here until 1893 when he went to Rangitikei, probably Bulls, and also there is a mention below of him at Terrace-end in Palmerston North. He returned to Marlborough in 1894 where he married Ada (Sybil) Nina Greensill. She came from a notable family, her grandfather's first cousin was the legendary Earl Roberts V.C and her uncle was W.D.H Baillie, former Superintendent of Marlborough. Her father John Abraham Roberts Greensill was several times mayor of Picton as well as holding several other public offices. Finally her sister Nina became one of NZ's most notable educationalists http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4b6/barrer-nina-agatha-rosamond . They would have no children. He was on the shortlist for headmaster of Spring Grove but missed out, a couple of months later he instead was appointed headmaster of Tua Marina. He remained here until October 1897, during his time there, amongst other things, he founded the Tua Marina Football Club (Rugby). He transferred to Springlands after this, remaining here for the rest of his (successful) teaching career. In 1916 however he divorced his wife, Sybil. It emerged that she had deserted him 8 years earlier.

From the Marlborough Express:

DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS.

HOWARD v. HOWARD. In the case of Howard v. Howard the petitioner asked for a dissolution of marriage on the grounds of desertion. Mr C. H. Mills appeared for the petitioner. No defence was filed, but counsel attended in behalf of the respondent. Harry Jerome Howard, the petitioner, said that he was a school-master, residing at Springlands. He married Ada Sybil Greensill in June, 1894 They lived at Bulls for eighteen months, subsequently at Tua Marina for eighteen months, then at Springlands for about 11 years.

In April, 1908, his wife left him. There was no reason he knew of why she should leave him. She went for a holiday to Wellington and did not return. She had just been away to Wellington about a month, and about a week after returning she wanted to go back, and, notwithstanding his objection, she went away. She frequently went away for a holiday. He afterwards received a letter (produced) in which she said she did not intend to come back. They had been getting on well together. He did not write and ask her to come back. He had not seen her since. He had inquired as to her whereabouts, and obtained her address. On that occasion he had some trouble in finding her address. She was a teacher of music: she wrote that she did not require any support from him. He had kept his house going and open for her to come back to.
Frederick W. Smith, draper, carrying on business in Blenheim, said he resided in Springlands for seven years. He was a neighbour of Mr Howard while Mrs Howard was there. He was chairman for five or six years of the School Committee, managing the school of which Mr Howard was headmaster. He was aware that Mrs Howard went away about eight years ago and stayed away. He had not seen her since.
The petitioner, recalled by the Judge, said that the respondent simply wanted to live in Wellington, Blenheim was "too slow" for her.
His Honor granted a decree- nisi, to be made absolute in three months.
He remarried to Margaret Boulcott, a 53 year old spinster (daughter of Almon Boulcott for whom the street and suburb are named) later that year, presumably this was the reason for him finally divorcing his first wife. He died in Wellington in 1926, aged only 55. It appears he may have had to stop teaching due to illness, as after leaving Springlands in 1921 he doesn't appear to have taught again.

His sister Kathleen Lucy, his only full sibling, also taught, (definitely in the Nelson region, maybe in Marlborough?). It appears she taught at Maori schools and was a very strong Anglican, somewhat of a Missionary she died in Tonga in 1917, where I presume she had been teaching. Of his three younger half brothers none of them went into teaching nor did any of them take educated work (with any success) which I found interesting.
"*Mr. HARRY JEROME HOWARD*
, Headmaster of the Springlands Public School, is the eldest son of Mr. C. C. Howard, headmaster of the Picton public school. He was born at Oxford. England, in the year 1870, came to New Zealand with his parents in 1876, and was educated chiefly at the Wellington College, and at the Collegiate School, Wanganui, under the late Dr. Harvey. In 1886, Mr. Howard went to the Old Country to complete his education, returned to New Zealand three years later, and entered the Picton public school as a pupil teacher. A little later, he held a temporary appointment at the Terrace-end school, Palmerston North, and then took charge of a school in the Rangitikei district. In 1895, Mr. Howard returned to Marlborough as master of the Tua Marina public school, and later on received his present appointment. He is a member of several social bodies. Mr. Howard married Miss Sybil Greensill, a daughter of Mr. J. A. R. Greensill, and niece of the Hon. Captain Baillie, in the year 1894."
Research by Grandson Sam
1906 K L Howard Teaching at Whangarae in Nelson Education Board *(In Croiselle's Harbour near French Pass)*
HOWARD—On February 2nd, 1917, :it Nukualofa, Tonga: Kathleen Lucy, only daughter of Charles C Howard, late of' Picton, and sister of If. .T. Howard-, Springlands, Blenheim aged 44 years.
Research by grandson Sam

1922-1923

1923	187	Springlands	Kirk	George W	C-81	Head	£383.00
1923	187	Springlands	Millington	Emily H	D-143	Infant Mistress	£263.00
1923	187	Springlands	Woulfe	Kathleen	D-155	Assistant	£253.00
1923	187	Springlands	Nevison	Isabella	C-181	Assistant	£215.00
1923	187	Springlands	Haswell	Nessie		PT1	£83.00
1923	187	Springlands	Ward	Olive N		Probationer 2	£78.00

George William Kirk started teaching at Pitione (Renamed Petone in 1895) in 1891 1891 as a pupil teacher then went to Terrace school in Wellington and in 1899 to Rintoul Street in Newtown Wellington . In 1904 George was at Te Horo School south of Otaki until appointed to Springlands School in 1923

29th March 1923 Miss Black has been appointed head teacher at the Te Horo School in place of- Mr. G. Kirk (transferred)

Post 1923

30th August 1924 Mr. Kirk, ,late. headmaster at the Te Horo State School, and now; of Springlands, Blenheim,, has been spending a holiday in this district.

16th July 1925 Grants were approved by the Department for additions and remodelling to Springlands

8th February 1928 A Trevella Appointed Head Master

25th September 1930 Mr W M Burrows Head teacher Springlands

2nd May 1933 Miss 'W. E. Wharton. infant mistress, Springlands;

27th June 1934 MR. DONALD MCCALLUM

(By Telegraph—Press Association.) BLENHEIM, This Day. The death occurred this afternoon, following an operation, of Mr. Donald McCallum,; a representative for many years of the Marlborough ward on the Wellington Education Board, also chairman of the Springlands School Committee", the Marlborough Hospital Board, and other local bodies. For some time he was chairman of the Marlborough .County Council

8th April 1935 SCHOOL DESTROYED

FIRE AT SPRINGLANDS

(By Telegraph—Press Association.)

BLENHEIM, This Day.

No fire-fighting appliances being available, the public school at Springlands, a suburb of Blenheim, was completely destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. Spectators succeeded in salvaging a piano, a sewing machine, and a few desks, but otherwise everything was lost, including -the library, on which over £200 had been spent, and the school records, which date back for forty-nine years. The golden jubilee of the school was to be celebrated next year. The infant school, a detached building erected a few years ago, was saved, together with other out-buildings.

20th June 1935 OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS FAVOURED. The rebuilding of the school at Springlands, Marlborough, which was recently destroyed by fire, gave members the opportunity to express their Views on the type of school which should be aimed at. In this particular Stance the board will make, representations that the school shall be reset on the old site, where much valuable concrete work has already been done. The alternative site

suggested by the Department was stated to b« very bleak and windy. In this case, as in others, the board favours the erection of the open-air type of school, and Mr. L. J. McDonald strongly championed the cause of this type of building. In this connection the following motion was .earned "That, when consideration is been given to the erection of new schools, the claims of open-air types of building be carefully considered by the board before the plans are Prepared and that, if necessary, plans in connection with projected buildings be adjusted to. an open-air basis

6th April 1936 The first open-air type of school in the Wellington Education Board's district was opened at Springlands yesterday: by Mr. W. V. Dyer, chairman, of the board, who commented that the building represented a progressive step in school-building policy.

The new school replaces the building destroyed by fire. The pupils will occupy it on Monday, the exact anniversary of the fire. The school consists of three separate buildings fitted with folding doors, facing north to catch the full benefit of the sunshine. Windows occupy most of the remaining wall space.

9th April 1936 CHILDREN AND THE ROAD

A novel idea in school trophies and one that is likely to command a good deal of public approval, was outlined to the gathering at- the opening of the new Springlands School on Saturday by the deputy- Mayor of Blenheim (Mr. C. T. Smith). During his speech he remarked that one of the greatest problems today was the loss of life, being caused through, motor accidents, largely among children. In the borough it was pleasing to see more attention being paid to the rules of the road, and Mr. Smith offered four prizes to the senior and junior boy and girl at Springlands School who best observed these rules during the next term. Mr. Smith was thanked, on behalf 'of the school, by Mr. A. M. Gascoigne, chairman of the committee, and was given three cheers by the children.

19th November 1936 MARRIED WOMEN

TEACHING STAFFS

APPOINTMENTS CRITICISED

When the time came at the meeting of the Wellington Education Board yesterday afternoon to confirm the work done in committee Mr. C. H. Nicholls took advantage of the opportunity of criticising the action of the board in appointing what he described as a "terrific number" of married women teachers. "The board has been twitted for withholding information," said M/. Nicholls. "I don't admit that altogether, but certain things happened last night which think the public should be made aware of." Mr. Nicholls added that the board had appointed twenty nine people to relieving positions, fourteen of whom were married women. Four substitute assistants were appointed, and two were married women. He wanted to draw the attention of the public to the fact that the board appeared to be appointing a terrific number of married women teachers at each of its meetings. The chairman (Mr. W. V. Dyer) said that the question before the board was whether the business done in committee should be confirmed. Mr. Nicholls must keep within bounds and not introduce any new matter. Mr. Nicholls replied that the appointments were made in committee. There was also another matter—the appointment of a teacher to the Springlands School. The board had overlooked a teacher with an A certificate and had appointed a teacher with a C certificate. The reasons advanced by the senior inspector leading to this appointment had not convinced him. He understood and it had been indicated that the Springlands School wanted a male teacher. "We all want male teachers and can never get them," continued Mr. Nicholls. "As chairman of a school committee I have made repeated requests to this board for male teachers and no one has ever been guilty of

stretching a point on my behalf. There is an important article herein 'National Education' CHAIRMAN INTERVENES. Mr. Dyer: I am afraid you cannot introduce that. Mr. Nicholls: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It bears on this. Mr. Dyer said that Mr. Nicholls was only entitled to deal with a matter that had been, definitely before the board in committee. "I shall accept your ruling and have no more to say, but it is important," said Mr. Nicholls, resuming his seat. Mr. Dyer inquired if Mr. Nicholls wanted to move any resolution. Mr. Nicholls replied that he had been checked and that he had finished. The chairman said that all he wanted to do was to observe the rules of the board. Colonel T. W. McDonald said he had raised the question of the appointment to the Springlands School himself and he desired first of all to absolve the senior inspector from any stigma attaching to it, because he understood that the teacher who was placed at the top of-the list had no particular primary school experience. However, he thought that far too many teachers were being appointed who were a long way below, the highest on the list. That was riot the responsibility of the-senior inspector but of the board, which had failed to do the right thing. He thought, that, the fact that attention-had been drawn to the matter was a good thing because it would emphasise again the necessity of the board doing more of its, ..business-,in open meeting. The work. "done in committee was then' confirmed, Mr.' Nicholls dissenting.

10th December 1936 TEACHING POSTS

MARRIED WOMEN

REPLY TO CRITICISM

A reply to the criticism made at the November meeting in regard to the appointment of married women teachers was made by the chairman (Mr. W. V. Dyer;, at the meeting of, the Wellington Education Board yesterday afternoon. Mr. Dyer submitted a comprehensive report in which he dealt with the circumstances attaching to the appointments referred to by Mr. Nicholls and drew attention to the acute shortage of teachers with which the board had been faced.

In particular, said Mr. Dyer, Mr. Nicholls had criticised the list of relieving teachers, substitute assistants, and additional relieving assistants appointed during the period October 1 to November 12. This list comprised some 34 appointments,, and in 10 cases married women were concerned. It was a well-known fact that towards the end of the school year there was usually a shortage of teachers. This year the position had been accentuated on account of the readmission of the five-year-olds. Single teachers had not been available and in common with other districts, the board had been glad to accept the services of married women teachers. The list specifically mentioned by Mr. Nicholls dealt with relieving appointments only. These appointments were made to meet a special emergency and to obviate the dislocation of the work of the schools concerned at an important period when a full complement of staff was essential. These appointments had not been made to the detriment of single teachers. An examination of the cases referred to was then made by Mr. Dyer. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. There were special circumstances connected with each of the appointments of married women, said Mr. Dyer, and their services were required for very; short periods only. "Dealing with the permanent appointments-made at the last meeting," he continued,- "I have had the figures taken out, and find that the number of female teachers appointed was 20. Of this total only four were married women and one of these was a widow. Two of .the four. cases were appointments by transfer and the remaining two were the highest-graded applicants for the position. "I think this goes to show that what is described by Mr. Nicholls as a 'terrific number' of married women teachers being appointed is not the case. In respect of the **Springlands**

vacancy, a single woman was appointed in preference to a married women solely because the experience of the latter had been confined to work in secondary schools." Mr. Dyer said that this year,, when the shortage of teachers was acute, married women teachers had come to the aid of the board" and he did not know what the board would have done without them. Mr. Nicholls congratulated the chairman on placing the matter before the board in the way he. had. The information Mr. Dyer had, given had not been in his possession at the last meeting of the board. He had no intention of attempting to do an injustice to any married woman, particularly a married woman deserving of the board's consideration. There had been a large number of appointments of married women and he was pleased the chairman had gone to the trouble he had to place the matter fully before the board. As far as he was concerned the matter was at an end.

HELP APPRECIATED. Mr. J. J. Clark said he was sorry to see the reference to the matter in the Press. He thought Mr. Nicholls had spoken rather hastily. He should be very sorry if the opinion got out. that the board was unsympathetic to married women teachers. As a member of the committee that had been appointed to go into the economic position of married women teachers, he could say that all cases had been treated on their merits and with sympathy. The board had been very glad to have the services of the married women teachers and he wanted to express his gratitude to them for the help they had given. In the course of a year or two years, at the outside, he thought there would be no necessity to appoint married women teachers, as by then single men and women teachers from the training colleges should be available. Colonel T. W. McDonald said he thought the board was under a deep debt of gratitude to the married women teachers for having come so readily to the assistance of the board. He had yet to learn why their economic circumstances should have been subjected to a scrutiny before the appointments were made. He hoped the day would never come when the board felt, there was no necessity to appoint married women teachers. If the board did decide not to appoint women, teachers, what would it do if a similar shortage of teachers occurred again? On the motion of Mr. W. H. Jackson, the chairman's report was received and the chairman was thanked for his clear and satisfactory explanation.

29th May 1939 Head Teacher Mrs.. J. W. Graham, Springlands.