

1900

1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 266.10
1900	143	Blenheim Girls	Douslin	Eugenie M	D2	Head Female	£ 196.17
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wilmot	David H	D2	Assistant Master	£ 140.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Brown	Mary M	D2	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1900	143	Blenheim Girls	Brewer	Lottie M	D2	Assistant Female	£ 85.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wanden	Elizabeth	E3	Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Harris	Annie Maud		Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Farmer	Clara S		Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Bull	Edith Linda		Female Probationer	£32.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Brennan	Josephine		Female Probationer	£ 32.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Girling	Emily M		Female Probationer	£ 32.00
1900	143	Blenheim Girls	Healy	Annie		Female Probationer	£ 32.00
1900	143	Blenheim Girls	Litchfield	Alice R E	E4	Female Probationer	£ 32.00
1900	143	Blenheim Girls	Macalister	May		Female Probationer	£ 32.00
1900	312	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Nellie		Female Probationer	£ 24.00

David Henry Wilmot was born in Majorca, Victoria, Australia to George Wilmot and Jane nee Buckley, both of whom were teachers at the local school. The family emigrated to NZ in 1881 when his father was appointed to Loburn School (Canterbury).

The following year the family moved to Flaxton where his parents were appointed to teach. His father later moved to Marlborough where he was appointed to Waitohi, and David followed. Here he took his first teaching role at Tua Marina in 1897 as acting Master, after the death of the previous one. He was described as a brilliant young teacher and was seen as one of the most promising in the board. He was, the following year, temporarily in charge of Canvastown before being appointed permanently to Cullensville.

Here he was one of the most successful teachers in the region, his scholars consistently receiving high marks. As a result, in 1900, he was promoted to Second Master of Blenheim School. He was then made Assistant Master after the forming of the High School in 1902.

He resigned from this position in 1905 to take charge of Stoke School in Nelson. He was the first teacher to transfer from the Marlborough Board to the Nelson Board, despite 17 teachers having travelled the opposite way. Later that year he married Mary Helen Ewart, they would have one daughter, Mary Ewart Wilmot, the following year. He remained in charge at Stoke until Nov 1915, whilst at Nelson he was a provincial rep in Bowls and Golf, as well as playing Cricket.

He was promoted to First Assistant Master of Napier West in Nov 1915, leaving Stoke much improved from when he arrived. In 1918 he was appointed head at Patutahi, outside of Gisborne.

He remained in this position until 1924 when he was promoted to Headmaster of Otaki School. In 1929 he left this for the Headmastership of the Westport School before getting his final appointment in 1933 to the Te Aro School, one of the top jobs for a Primary School teacher. He remained here until his retirement in 1940.

He seems to have spent most of his retirement playing bowls, until his death in Paraparaumu in 1957, his wife having died the previous year

8th January 1900 At the Education Board meeting to-day, the Inspector reported the results of the scholarship examination. He asked the Board whether the winners would be sent to the

Nelson College or to the Marlborough High School which, it is expected, will be in existence early this year. It is stated that if the Marlborough High School became the place of tuition, the Board would save the difference between £80 and 1\$ guineas. It was resolved to write to the parents explaining the position with regard to the place of education and asking whether they would prefer to have the children sent to the Nelson College for one year and to the Marlborough High School for the second year, or to wait till the Marlborough High School is in existence and have the children sent there for the whole term

8th January 1900 EXAMINATION REPORTS. | The results of the examination of the Borough Schools last month are as follow; ~ BOYS SCHOOL, Pass Subjects.

Standard X *Old Stand* 7), 5 presented;

Standard VI. 18 presented, 18 present, 18 passed ;

Standard V., 23 presented, 23 present, 19 passed;

Standard IV., 34, 34, 19;

Standard III. 40, 40, 32;

Standard II. 33, 81, 31;

Standard I, 68, 68, 67.

Primers 158.

Total, 379 presented, 214 present, 186 passed,

Inspector Smith inscribes the report "quite satisfactory." Class Subjects, — Grammar 46, history 64, geography (of Standard II.) 80, elementary science, object lessons, etc. 78, mental arithmetic 88.

Additional Subjects —Repetition and recitation 53, Drill and exercises: 100, singing 60 (Infant Department), needlework (girls in Standard I.) 80,' comprehension of language of reading lessons 70.

The scale of marks in class and additional subjects is: — 20 poor, 40 fair, 60 good, 80 very good, 100 excellent.

Instruction of X and P. — Class X good. The class 5 averaged 77 per cent, of the total marks in "passes" subjects, and .62 per cent, in class subjects. Class P very good. Kindergarten work very creditable..

The names of the scholars in the Girls' School .who passed in their respective standards have already been published. Passes, The following scholars passed their respective standards at the recent examination.

Class X — Roy Barnett., Sydney Bull, , Harold Cooke, Norman Green, Robert Park. .

Standard. VI. — David Armstrong, Arthur Batty, George . Birch, Charles Bush, Percy Cooke, John Ewart, James Fryer, Mark Grace, Laurie Grace, Norman Jordan, Albert Lucas, Frank Mogridge, Arthur Marks, William McCallum John O'Rourke, Kenneth Tait-, Louis Wensley. Douglas Reid.,

Standard V. — Bernard . Atwood, Charles Cameron, Leonard Cooke., Harold Dunckley , Norman Dodson, Harold Fowler, James Gallop, Ernest Gillet, Frank Healey, Albert Iremonger, Edward Mahon, .Archie McCallum, David McCallum, Ernest Nicholas, George Sheridan, Leslie Tunnicliffe, Henry Walker, Ralph Wills, Charles Watson.

Standard IV.— William Armstrong, Edward Birch, James Clark. John Crook, George Daikee, Gus Fisher, John Hadfield, Jose Jackson. Charles Martin, John Morgan, Fred Mills. James Marfell, Charles Priddle, Albert Patchett, Ernest Add, Charles Rabbits. Harold White, Joseph Wensley, William Taylor.

Standard III. — Leonard Brayshaw, Anthony Brennan, Charles Bell, Grattan Conolly, Clifford Corbett, Jack Crombie, Robert Foster, Robert Fulton, Oswald Freeth, Jack Fowler, Claude Hall, Victor Logan, Herbert Lucas, Charles Livingstone, Fred Murk, Alfred Marfell, William-McAllister, Alexander McCallum, Walter Maxted, Cecil Mogridge, Sydney Mogridge, Horatio Nelson, David Nelson, Frank Patchett, Norman Parker, James Patchett, James Penny, Albert Simmons, Frank Sheridan, James Taylor, George Turnbull, Austin Wensley.

Standard 11. — Cyril Armstrong, Willie Ballantine, George Brenchley, Boy Bridger, Willie Cowley, Walter Chuck, Jack Fryer, Geoffrey Furness, Reginald Fowler, Joseph Gilmore, Stuart Hendry, Harry May, Bertie Macey, Charles McArtney, Robert Macalister, Cyril Mullen, Louis Mullen, Leonard Porter, Sidney Porter, Harry Priddle, Harold Patched, Reuben Patchett, Carl Riley, Ernest Simpson, Stanley Tunncliffe, Norman Taylor, Rex White, Stanley Wills, Rowland Watson, Andrew Watson, Nigel McFarland.

Standard I.— Maud Atwood, Evelyn Baldick, Mary Booker, Elizabeth Brayshaw, Eliza Boon, Lilla Brenchley, Mary Coward, Evelyn Crook, Olive Ching, Violet Chapman, Ella Dew, Beatrice Earp, Catherine Earp, Lily Eyles, Mary Ferguson, Doris Fisher, Eliza Gallop, Winnie Garnham, Grace Gibbs, May Gillet, Winifred Ham, Lettus Holdaway, Ruby Jordan, Effie Jackson, Ada Lacey, Minnie Martin, Kate McKegney, Grace Nelson, Maud Priddle, Evelyn Patchett, Lily Simpson, Olive Bowman, Eliza Smith, Daisy Wensley, Edwin Brewer, Gerald Birch, Arthur Crombie, Leslie Conolly, Allan Coleman, Leonard Corbett, George Daniels, Leonard Dunckley, Howard Goodman, Herbert Goslin, Roy Hale, Harry Hodson, James Hodson, Stephen Henderson, Wallace Logan, Guy Lucas, Walter Lucas, Claude Melville, Fred Marten, Lawrence McHattie, Clarence McHattie, Mervyn Mills, Louis Nicholas, Ross Riley, Errol Reid, Fred Saunders, Ernest Simmons, Percy Watson, John Witt, Hamish White, Albert Wiblin, Willie Walker, Newey Mitchell.

Girls' School Pass Subjects.— -

Standard X, 16 presented ;

Standard VI, presented 23, present 22, passed 21 ;

Standard V., 21, 19, 13 ;

Standard IV., 34, 31, 24

Standard III., 32, 29, 29 ;

Standard 11., 30, 28, 27.

Total.— 156 presented, 129 present, 114 passed.

Inspector Smith inscribes the report "quite satisfactory." Glass Subjects.— Grammar 29, history 75, geography (of Standard II.) 90, elementary science, object lessons, etc., 62, mental arithmetic 35 Additional Subjects. — Repetition and recitation 68, Drill and exercises 60, singing 40, needlework 80, comprehension of language of reading lessons 68.

Instruction of X.— Very good. The class (14) averaged over 56 per cent of the total marks in "pass" subjects, and 65.5 per cent in class subjects.

9th January 1900 The Marlborough Education Board invite applications for the position of second assistant master at the Blenheim Boys' School

EDUCATION BOARD. WANTED— A second Assistant Master for the Blenheim Boys' School. Salary according to Board's scale— at present £84 a year. Application, stating qualification, to be sent to the Secretary Education Board, Blenheim, not later than MONDAY, 6th February, 1900, JOHN SMITH, Secretary

9th January 1900 BLENHEIM The Committee asked that a male assistant teacher (third master) be appointed in place of Misses Harris and Wanden, whose term of pupil teachership was expiring. The request was acceded to, and it was resolved to call for applications locally. A telegram received by the Chairman from Mr. Sturrock, Head Master, who was attending the Education Council at Timaru, was read. It stated that he had consulted the delegates there, and they all agreed that the matter of the holidays should rest with the Board. The Board discussed the matter in Committee, and no action was taken. The opinion was expressed that the holiday question should be carefully watched by the Board itself next year

9th January 1900 GOOD WORK. Reports were received from the Nelson College as to the year's work of Miss Wene Grace, Masters Rogers, Furness, and Stace. They were very satisfactory. Mr. McCallum said the Board ought to be gratified with the reports, and particularly the Principal's recommendation that Master Furness, whose term had expired, should go back. He especially referred to the good results that had been retained by Miss Douslin, Head Mistress of the Borough Schools, in the recent examinations. The scholarship report showed that out of the first eight places, Miss Douslin secured five, both scholarships going to her school. This was a record for Blenheim, and should be satisfactory to the Board. The only trouble was that Miss Douslin might be inclined to work too hard. But her success more than justified her appointment, about which there was a good deal of discussion. The Chairman concurred. The Inspector added that the result before the Board did not fully convey the success that had been attained by Miss Douslin. Out of the 21 passes in the 6th Standard these were six or seven "credit passes" (which meant 75 per cent, or upwards of the marks). This was quite unusual, there generally being only one or two "credit passes" scattered through the district. The whole of the marks were high, showing good work all through

The Works Committee stated that it would report next month on matters referred to it from the Blenheim School Committee. The Works Committee was authorised to deal with the fence and other property on the Board's section adjoining the Borough School grounds

26th January 1900 School Absences.— A number of summonses have been issued at the instance of the Blenheim School Committee against certain parents who have kept their children away from school last week, presumably as a protest against the action of the Committee in curtailing the holidays. The cases will be heard tomorrow morning at 10 O'clock.

27th January 1908 Borough Schools.— Our paragraph- yesterday with reference to the Borough Schools was somewhat misleading. The Chairman of the Committee informs us that as soon as possible after he received intimation from the doctor that it was advisable to close the schools owing to the prevailing epidemic of whooping cough, he took steps to consult such members of the Committee as were available. They decided to close the schools for a fortnight. School Attendance Cases. —At the Magistrate's Court this morning a number of parents appeared at the instance of the Blenheim School Committee, to answer charges of failing to send their children to school for the week ending January 19th the required number of times as laid down in the School Attendance Act. Mr. J Allen, S.M., was on the Bench. The hearing of these cases had been looked forward to with much interest, but contrary to general expectation the whole proceedings ended in a fiasco. The first case called was that against John Reid. Defendant, for whom Mr. D. P. Sinclair appeared, pleaded not guilty. No one was present to produce the school registers, and Mr. Sinclair applied to have the case struck out. The truant officer, E. Thomas, was present, but it seems had not the registers with

him and was unable to produce them. The case was struck out. The same course was pursued with regard to the cases against S. J. Furness, Mrs. Macalister (two charges), G. H. Mogridge, and H. L. Jackson, and who all pleaded not guilty, and were represented by Mr. D. P. Sinclair. Thomas Fowler was charged on the same grounds with failing to send two of his children to school. There was no appearance of either party to the summons, and this case was also struck out

31st January 1900 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Committee was held last night. Present Messrs. Macey (Chairman), James, Nicholas, Scott, Norgrove.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASE. Before the ordinary business was taken the Chairman said he wished to make an explanation. Members would remember the letter written to the press by Archdeacon Grace in which he objected to the length of the holidays and said that he intended to allow his children six weeks irrespective of anything the Truant Officer might do, No doubt he " winked the other eye " in doing this, for his children were not liable to prosecution, being over age, and having passed the necessary standard. Doubtless, too, the letter influenced some parents. The school had been opened a week when the Truant Officer came to him (the Chairman) with a long list of absentees given him by the Head Master (Mr. Sturrock) and asked what he had better do ; also remarking that many parents declined to send their children, He advised him to wait on the parents and explain that they were liable to prosecution for non-attendance, A couple of days afterwards the Truant Officer told him that he had seen the parents, and asked for further instruction. He then told the Officer that, if the children were not at school the following week, it was the Officer's duty, he considered, to prosecute the parents who had not send a sufficient excuse to the Head Master. He knew nothing further of the matter until one of the parents came to him and said that his two children were at the Wairau Valley. He told this parent that he thought that was a sufficient excuse, and he should see the Head Master. He knew nothing about these summonses ; and had nothing to do with the lists of absentees and summonses. It had been the rule for the Head Master to attend Court, produce the register, and prove the case ; it had never been the practice for the Chairman to take up such a duty The cases came up on Saturday at 10 O'clock. At five minutes to ten a boy came to him with a note from Mr. Sturrock, the register, and a message that, if necessary, the register should be taken to Court. He took it in Court, but it was not his duty to appear in Court. He looked, for Mr. Sturrock, but could not find him, the register was not produced and the cases were dismissed. The point he particularly wished to refer to was that several parents had declared he had picked out certain people for prosecution. As a matter of fact he never saw the list. Evidently Mr. Sturrock gave a list to the Officer, and the latter issued the summonses. The present position was that if Mr. Sturrock declined to appear in Court to prove the register there would be no prosecutions. As far as he himself was concerned, he did not intend to appear in Court. ~ In his opinion it was necessary for the Head Master to appear in Court to certify to the correctness of the register. In any case, the Chairman could not so certify. Mr. Lucas had always appeared in Court, and up to the present Mr. Sturrock had done so. He thought it was only right he should make this explanation. He had nothing whatever to do with the selection of any parent for prosecution. Mr. Nicholas said he supposed there was no law or rule compelling the teacher to appear in Court. The Secretary said it was ruled by a Magistrate that no prosecution could succeed unless the head teacher certified to the register It was suggested that the head teacher might be subpoenaed. Mr. Scott thought that the Chairman had been very unfairly treated in the matter. Members said they had nothing to do with the summonses. The first they heard was that the Chairman had picked out a few parents on whom he had an "edge." The Chairman.— That is what I object to. Mr. Nicholas thought they could not ask the teacher to appear in Court if he did not feel inclined to do so. In that case they should have a Truant Officer capable of conducting the cases.

Mr. Norgrove said that in that case the Truant Officer would have to be at the school every morning, and would have to be paid a big salary. It was remarked that the teacher was personally interested, his salary being affected by the attendance. In the correspondence was a letter from the Head Master in which he said he wished the Committee to understand that in future he would not appear in any Court case, nor allow any member of his staff to do so. The last fiasco, the prosecutions in which were in direct opposition to his wishes, made him take this stand. He wished the Committee to know that the Truant Officer did only what he was instructed by the Chairman to do. He did not intend to be made a scapegoat, neither should the Truant Officer.

The Chairman said he thought he had already made his position quite clear. He did not see Mr. Sturrock with reference to any prosecutions. Mr. Norgrove suggested that Mr. Sturrock's letter should be sent on to the Board. If the Board decided that the Head Master should 'appear' in Court, he would be obliged to do so. In discussion, the Chairman agreed that the Head Master evidently picked a few names, and now wished to put the blame on the Chairman.

Mr. Scott said he picked them well —no doubt those who would be likely to kick up the most row.

The Chairman said that the Head Master was in sympathy with the parents who wanted an extra fortnight for the holidays.

A member—That is the key to the whole matter. It was resolved that the Head Master's letter be referred to the Board, with an intimation that the Committee thought it was necessary the Head Master should appear in court to certify to the correctness of the register.

Mr. Norgrove thought that- the Head Master's letter cast a reflection on the Chairman, and wanted some explanation. He moved " That the Head Master be requested to inform the Committee why he did not give the names of the whole of the parents whose children failed to make the necessary attendance to the Truant Officer, to issue summonses against them, and what he means by the words— I don't intend to be made an "escape goat." — The motion was carried.

GENERAL. In reply to the Committee, the Headmaster wrote stating that he was unable to explain the reason why so many pupils had failed to pass the 4th Standard. The teacher had worked quite as hard this year as in previous years. Geography seemed to be the paper in which the children did not do well. In the course of discussion, members expressed the opinion that the Headmaster should be answerable for all departments of the school. No action was taken. A communication was received from the Education Board, asking the Committee to promote the " New Zealand Children's Patriotic Fund." —It was resolved to forward the accompanying circular to the teacher.

The Bathing Club, through Mr. Rogers, offered the Committee the bathing buildings, which a change in the course of the Opawa had rendered useless for the Club's purposes.— It was resolved to thank the Club, and defer the question of utilising the buildings,

The Headmistress Miss Douslin acknowledged the Committee's the Committee's congratulations on her examination results.

A letter was received from the Picton Committee expressing the opinion that united action should be taken by the School Committees of the district in the election of members of the Board.-It was resolved to reply that this Committee was entirely in sympathy with the object, and ask the Picton Committee to suggest a line of action.

The Picton Committee also asked this Committee to support the candidature of Mr. A. G. Fell. Miss Linton, teacher, wrote asking for a testimonial in connection with an application for the teachership of a Hawke's Bay school. *Mary Linton actually went to Tane school East of Pahiatua in the Bush Area of Wellington Education Board* — The Secretary had given the required testimonial.

A notice was received from the Inspector of Nuisances with respect to an offensive smell arising from the privy accommodation. It was stated that the matter had been referred to the Board time after time.— Resolved to ask the Board to take immediate action

Mr. C. Simson, second master forwarded an application for leave of absence, and asked the Committee to recommend it to the Board. He has volunteered his service as a lieutenant to the Third Contingent. — Resolved to recommend that the leave of absence be granted if necessary. Messrs. J. Duncan and A. J. Litchfield wrote offering themselves for election to the Board.— The Committee nominated Mr. A. J. Litchfield.

Other formal business. was transacted.

THE EPIDEMIC. The Chairman explained that Dr... Anderson came to him last Friday and recommended that the schools be closed for a fortnight on account of the prevalence of whooping cough and scarlet fever. After communicating with the members, he saw Mr. Sturrock and Miss Douslin in the Afternoon, and the schools were at once closed. Mr. Sturrock had a list of 80 families affected by the sickness, and members of which were attending school. Mr. Scott thought it a pity that all the children in the district should be debarred from school on account of some cases, which might be isolated.

Mr. Norgrove asked if the Borough Council was not a Board of Health. He mentioned that a member of an affected family was carrying round bread and another boy with sickness in his house was carrying newspapers. The Chairman said that some years ago the matter was thrashed out in Council, and it was found that a medical officer failing to give notice of an infectious disease within 24 hours was liable to a penalty. It was then arranged that the Town Clerk should report cases to the teachers, the proposal being that children from affected families should be 'told to stop away from school.

Mr. Norgrove thought the attention of the Council should be called to the matter. The probabilities were that cases could be isolated in this way, and an epidemic prevented. The Chairman and other Committeemen who are members of the Council undertook to bring up the matter at the next meeting of that body.

1st February 1900 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Parents and citizens who are desirous of seeing the public schools conducted with propriety and decorum will not have viewed with satisfaction the unedifying circumstances that have cropped up lately in connection with the Borough Schools. As a result of the fiasco that occurred in Court when a number of parents were, contrary to his wishes, prosecuted for not sending their children to school, the Headmaster has informed the School Committee that he will not appear in Court in future, nor allow any of his staff to do so. The Chairman also declines to go into Court for school attendance cases; and the Committee has referred the whole matter to the Board. It is to be hoped that the Board will find a satisfactory solution of the problem. There has been a good deal of feeling with respect to the selection of parents for prosecution. According to the report of the Committee's meeting, the Chairman has been accused of picking the names, and the Headmaster states that the Truant Officer only did what he was instructed to do by the Chairman; but the latter explains that he had nothing to do with the list of summonses. On the other hand, the Committee assumes that the Headmaster picked the names, and passed a rather combative resolution asking him why he did not hand the names of all absentees to the Truant Officer for prosecution is responsible, the issuing of summonses against a few parents instead of all these on the absentee list is to be reprehended; but it is a pity the unedifying recrimination we have described was not avoided. The cause of the whole trouble, we consider, was the action of the Committee in curtailing the holidays, contrary to the recommendation of the teachers and Board, and the wishes of many parents. As we pointed out the other day, it was quite unnecessary to interfere with the recognised custom. The arbitrary action of the Committee raised up opposition; when the schools reopened there were many absentees and dissatisfied attendants; the

teachers and Committee were out of sympathy; the Truant Officer was quite incapable of conducting the oases in Court; and a bungle ensued. It is our opinion that the Act was strained, and the summonses should not have been issued. The penalty is for "inconstant attendance."

It is a fact, too, that some of the parents summoned were not served with the preliminary notice provided by the Act. Is the Truant Officer the scapegoat? The teacher, and rightly we consider declines to act as a public prosecutor. He is not bound to do so; the Act says that any Truant Officer, member or clerk of the Committee, may lay informations, make complaints, conduct prosecutions, and take all other proceedings under the Act," etc.

Evidently, if the Truant Officer is incapable, the Committee is responsible. It is stated that the Headmaster must attend Court to certify to the correctness of the register; and it may be suggested that he could be subpoenaed as a witness in the usual way. At all events, the Committee should not impose its own duties on the teachers. The best thing the Committee has done all through the affair is to refer the matter to the Board who, we hope, will "manage things better."

1st February 1900 At the last meeting the Borough School Committee decided to fumigate , the schools during the holidays that have been appointed on account of the epidemic; and the Secretary was instructed to supply the janitress with the necessary Sulphur

1st February 1900 proclaim it from the housetops! The Blenheim School Committee is a fearful and wonderful institution!

The members thereof not only know how to "run" a school better than the teachers or the Education Board, but they can also give the medical men points in stopping an epidemic.

Jeru! How true it is that fools step in where angels fear to— plant their trilbys!

12th February 1900 Borough School. — The Boys' School opened this morning after a fortnight's vacation owing to the prevalence of fever, etc. The number present was 216, out of a roll number of 371

19th February 1900 The Board of Governors of the High School met on Saturday to select a principal for the High School, but adjourned the meeting for further consideration until this morning, when it was unanimously decided to appoint Dr... John Innes, M.A., L.L.D., of Wellington, to the position. There were thirty-eight applications sent in to their Board for their consideration

7th March 1900 It was stated at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night that the Education Board was spending about £80 on an improved water supply and Drainage system in connection with the Blenheim School.

7th March 1900 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting, which was held last night, was attended by Messrs. Macey (Chairman), Norgrove, Scott, Ching, Birch, and Nicholas.

The copy of Inspector Smith's annual report on the schools of the district was received. Mr. D. Sinclair was nominated auditor of the Committee's accounts. Accounts were passed for payment.

The Head Master reported that the average attendance at the boys' school last month was 260.4, the roll number being 356.

Replying to the Committee's question why he did not send forward all the names of children whose parents should be summoned for nonattendance, the Head Master explained that when the Truant Officer calls at the school he (Mr. Sturrock) goes to all the teachers who keep registers and asks if they have any names for the Officer. The teacher then goes through the register and reports all who have failed to comply with the Act, giving, in addition, the names and address of the parents or guardian. There was no picking of these who would make the biggest row, and there was never any favoritism in the selection of names for the Truant

Officer. With reference to the second question, why he said that he would not be made the scapegoat, he was accosted by several of the parents and they told him that the Chairman placed all the blame on the Head Master. Seeing that he had nothing to do with ordering the Truant Officer to summon, he failed to see why the onus should be placed on him. He was antagonistic to summoning throughout, knowing that it was impossible to win any of the cases. This he told the Truant Officer, and his reply was that Mr. Macey told him he must summons. It was then that the names and addresses were given to the Officer.

The Chairman said that the reply was reasonable and satisfactory. All that he was surprised at was that if the only absentees were these whose names had been supplied to the Truant Officer the attendance was remarkably good. Replying to the communication from the Committee, the Board wrote stating that it had decided to instruct the Head Master to attend Court in connection with school attendance cases, to prove the register. 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.

The Head Mistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls School during the month was 142.76, the roll number being 188. She asked for some forms, and that the extension of the playground be attended to as soon as possible. — It was resolved to forward the application for forms to the Board; and it was stated that the matter of the playground was in the hands of the Board.

The Premier forwarded a copy of the telegram received from Lord Roberts in reply to the congratulatory message sent on behalf of the school children of New Zealand. The reply was: "Please convey to school children of New Zealand my best thanks for their congratulations and good wishes." The Premier asked that the message be read to the children of the school.

The Board notified that no applications were received for the position of third male assistant in the Boys' School, and asked the Committee to agree to the re-appointment of Misses Wanden and Harris

It was resolved that "The Committee, while adopting the suggestion of the Board would point out that Miss Wanden, who was appointed in place of Miss Barnett, is not fulfilling that appointment, but is teaching in the Infant school, and that an uncertificated teacher is teaching the Third Standard boys, thereby being deprived of her proper hours for tuition."

Messrs. Birch and Ching were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month, 8th March 1900 LARRIKINISM IN BLENHEIM.

TO IBS EDITOR. Sir, — I consider that the thanks of the community are due to our worthy Magistrate, and also to Sergeant-Major Mason, for dealing summarily with the youth who was charged yesterday morning with assaulting one John James Laing. As Sergeant Mason explained, the case was brought to put a stop to the annoyance caused complainant by a number of lads who continually made a butt of him. This sort of conduct, I gather from my own experience and from that of other residents in the place, is characteristic of a certain section of boys in Blenheim ; especially is this so when any new boy comes to the town. They gather in knots at the corners of the streets, and, as he passes to and from school, make his life miserable by "barracking," bullying, and ill-treating him. No matter how brave the newcomer may be, he has no chance when there are such odds against him. It is hardly to be expected that our school teachers can cope with this matter, for they have quite enough to do, and the trouble generally occurs when the children are away from the school ground. It is the police to whom we have to look to put a stop to the bullying tactics of these hoodlums, and personally I thank Sergeant Major Mason most heartily for his prompt action, and trust that he will keep a strict eye on the offenders, so that any boy can walk the town in peace in future. It is time that this larrikin element was rigorously suppressed, — I am, etc., Pater Families. Blenheim, 6th March

10th March 1900 The winners of the 1899 M.H.R. Medals, which are presented by the member for the district for the best work in Standard VI. throughout the Marlborough Education District, are Miss Nina Griffiths, of the Borough School, and, among the boys, a pupil of the Marshlands School

13th March 1900 BLENHEIM. The Committee wrote Drawing attention to the fact that a certificated teacher was teaching in the Infant School, while an uncertificated teacher was in the Boys' School. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries and report to the Board. Forms for the Girls' School were granted. Replying to a question, the Secretary stated that the new Drainage and water-supply work in connection with the Borough Schools was being carried out.

14th March 1900 Inspector Smith's report included Very creditable and highly beneficial Kindergarten work has been done in the Blenheim Infant School and several country schools. The Inspector proposes to renew the kindergarten stock during the year, and hopes the completion of the unfinished building and fitting up the new wing of the Blenheim School expressly for this work will soon be accomplished.

17th March 1900 The position of second master at the Borough school has been rendered vacant by the appointment of Lieut. Simson to the Fifth Contingent, and applications are invited by the Education Board

20th March 1900

MARLBORO' HIGH SCHOOL. FOB GIRLS' AND BOYS.

Principal : John Innes, Esq., M.A., L D L.L.D.

The first quarter will commence on MONDAY, 26th March {temporarily), at the Church of England Sunday School,

Fees, two guineas per quarter. and 8s per quarter for stationery— payable in advance. Fees paid before 16th Apr 1 will be reduced to £2 a quarter.

The school hours will be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p m., and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday. except Saturday.

In addition to the ordinary English subjects the course of study will include French, Latin, Algebra, Euclid and Science '

Before admittance pupils must have passed the fourth standard of the public primary schools, or satisfy the Secretary of their ability to do co.

Dr... Innes will attend at the Education Board office from 2 pm. to 5 p.m. on Thursday 22nd. Friday 23rd, and Saturday, 24th March, to receive parents and to enrol the names of intending pupils. JOHN SMITH, Secretary

27th March 1900 OPENING CEREMONY. An important function and one highly interesting in the annals of education in Marlborough, took place yesterday morning in the Church of the Nativity schoolroom with the opening ceremony of the High School. There were present Messrs. A. P. Seymour (Chairman) and Messrs. C. H. Mills, M.H.R., R. McCallum, W. D. Baillie M.L.O. and W. B. Parker, of the Board of Governors. Mr. Smith, Secretary to the Board, and Dr... Innes, Head Master of the school, and the following Chairmen of School Committees :J. Conolly (Springlands), W. H. Macey (Blenheim), A.G. Mills (Renwick), N T. Prichard (Grovetown), H.. Lankow (Tua Marina) and H. Hammond (Fairhall). There were also present Mrs. Draper, Messrs. T. Horton. W. Armstrong, A. W, Barnett, and —Buckhurst, parents of pupils, and Misses Smith and Mabin and Mr. F. Smith.

Apologies for unavoidable, absence were received from Messrs. J. Duncan and J. H. Redwood, of the Board of Governors, and it was explained that through an oversight His Worship the Mayor had unfortunately not been asked to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Seymour said the members of the Education Board who constituted the Board of Governors were well pleased with the results of their labours. To-day was a red letter day in

the educational history of Marlborough. He then traced the history of their labors that had been consummated to-day. They commenced as long ago as 1893, when the Lands Department were approached and asked to give land endowments for a High School. A half promise to that effect was given, but when the time came for the leases to fall in they were told the Government would give no land endowment. For year after year they steadily pegged away, and the first real progress was made on the occasion of the Premier's visit to Blenheim, when he was interviewed and promised to help them, and the result now was the ample fulfilment of his promise and the establishment of the High School. They had a splendid Bite for their school and funds in hand to commence building, but not to lose time, by the kindness of the Church of England authorities they were enabled to open the school at once. He referred in kindly terms to Dr... Innes, the Head Master of the school. He had made a reputation for himself already, and he felt sure that under him the success of the school was guaranteed and that it would make its mark amongst our educational institutions. Speaking to the pupils, he exhorted them to attend to their duties well and strive to do their best to get to the top of their class. For himself he was always learning something new and he impressed on them the necessity if they would succeed of doing likewise. He could promise them every assistance from their board of Governors and concluded by declaring the school open.

Dr... Innes said he would do his best for the welfare of the school. He had always endeavoured to put his whole heart into anything he took up and he would do so in this instance. He hoped for the cooperation of the parents and the pupils. He trusted the parents would not consider they had done their duty when, they merely sent their children to the school. It was riot desirable that parents should have to assist their children with their homework and he would avoid that at all times, but there were other ways in which he looked for their co-operation. Speaking of the school he said it would be of immense benefit to the pupils from both utilitarian and higher motives. Utilitarian if they wished to enter any of the professions and higher as regards the life of the community. He hoped to have them leave the school good citizens, good women and good men. He should endeavor that they would leave taking an intelligent interest in political and local affairs, which he considered were of the utmost importance Our common life demanded that every man and woman should do their best for the good of the community. Re trusted to be able to give his pupils facilities for their moral and intellectual development as well as their more utilitarian facilities.

Capt., Baillie said a few words. He mentioned the Chairman had omitted to speak of the advantages offered by the founding of the "Victoria College in Wellington, and exhorted the pupils not to let themselves be deterred, bat to always strive to reach the top and do their work thoroughly, and to always remember that knowledge was not wisdom, but that there was a higher power which they should all seek. He hoped on some future occasion, if spared, to have the pleasure of being present at one of their prize giving's.

Mr. C. H. Mills, M.H.R., said the present gathering was a memorable one to Marlborough. They were making a good start, and the attendance would no doubt soon increase. He contrasted the educational advantages of his early days with these enjoyed by the present generation, and impressed on these present the necessity of perseverance as their main object, and hoped they would always remember that there was always room for one more at the top.

Mr. Horton, on behalf of the parents of the pupils of the school, expressed the thanks of the parents as due to the members of the Education Board for their efforts in establishing the school. They could gratefully tender them thanks for their services to education and their hearty appreciation of the efforts the Board hail made. They were all interested in education, and he know they but looked on the school as part of their object. They were now provided with another branch of New Zealand's grand system of education with which she had been endowed, and he felt sure parents would rise to the occasion and show the Governors their appreciation. Messrs. W. Armstrong, R. W. Jenkins, and A. W. Barnett also briefly addressed

the pupils. Mr. Jenkins made mention of the services rendered to education by the late Thos. Carter.

Mr. McCallum said the details had not yet been arranged, but the Board of Governors privately were going to institute a scholarship to be given probably to the scholar most proficient in English

This closed the proceedings, and these present, after shaking hands with Dr... Innes and wishing him and the school success, took their departure. The school starts on its career with about twenty pupils on its roll, six girls and eleven boys being in attendance yesterday morning.

2nd April 1900 Lieutenant Simson was on Saturday presented with a handsome pair of field glasses from the staff and boys attending the Blenheim Boys' School. The glasses were suitably inscribed and bore the motto, "Ko Kiri Kia Mate." Mr. Simson also received a silver-mounted pipe from the members of the Wairau Cricket Club

6th April 1900 The monthly meeting was held last night, there being present Messrs. Macey (Chairman), Norgrove, Birch, Nicholas, Ching, The Head Mistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month was 152 4, the roll number being 181. The Head Master reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School was 247.7; the roll number being 345, The Chairman stated that he accepted the invitation of the Education Board to attend the function of opening the High School, being present with other Chairmen of Committees. On his motion a resolution was passed thanking the Board for the invitation, and congratulating it on the opening of the institution. The Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Brennan) wrote objecting to the action of Mr. Laing in approaching him about the cleaning of the school water-closets. — Mr. Laing, who was present, explained his motives.

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.

Mr. Birch, on behalf of the Visiting Committee, reported everything in good order in the schools. They would have liked to see a better attendance in the Boys' School.

The loss of Mr. Simson, second master, who had gone away to South Africa, was much felt. It was a pleasure to visit the Girls' School, the methods of which were excellent. They paid a tribute to the teacher in charge of the third standard. They could safely say that better work had never been done in the Girls' School.

Mr. Norgrove moved that a vote of thanks be accorded to Miss Browne for the good work she had done in the Infant School. He referred particularly to the kindergarten training, and said he thought the Committee should recognise such efforts. — Mr. Birch seconded the motion, which was carried.

Arrangements were made for the election of Committee to take place at the end of the month, the Chairman and Messrs. Norgrove and Birch being appointed to draw up the report for the householders' meeting. A financial statement showed that the receipts for the year amounted to £ 1 17 6s 5d, and the Committee would go out of office with a credit balance of £10 6s 5d. The amount of capitation received was £6 10s less than that of the previous year, showing a decreased attendance.

The Education Board forwarded the seven applications received for the position of second master of the Boys' School, and asked the Committee to make a recommendation. The applicants were :— David Robertson, Dunedin, certificate D 4 ;C. J. Dickson, D1 ; B. T. Brown ; Hollis Ball; J. W. Humphreys, Seddon, E2 ; W. J. Crawford, Wellington, 0 ; D. H.

Willmott, Cullensville, D3. It was resolved that the names of Messrs. Willmott and D. Robertson be recommended to the Board, in that order.

10th April 1890 MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

MEETING OF GOVERNORS. The Governors of the High School, being the members of the Education Board, held the monthly meeting yesterday. The financial statement showed that £800 had been placed at fixed deposit. The Treasurer explained that the money earned the usual bank interest, and an arrangement had been made by which the bank gave separate receipts for various amounts, so that the account could be drawn on.

THE MASTER'S REPORT. The following report was received from Dr. Innes : — "I have pleasure in reporting that the number of pupils on the roll of the High School is now 26. There are 9 girls and 17 boys. I do not expect much increase in the number of girls until better accommodation is provided and a lady assistant is appointed. Of the 26 pupils, eight are between 12 and 14 years old, eight between 14 and 16, and 10 over 16.

Most of the Secondary schools contain a fair number of pupils under 12, though the number is not now so large as it used to be. Sometimes these pupils are able to begin the study of secondary school Subjects, especially French but also Latin, before reaching the age of 12 ; but the advantage of admitting them is that the younger members of a family are able to come along with elder brothers or Sisters, and some parents will send young children to a secondary school who hesitate to send them to a primary school. They thus serve to feed the upper forms.'

The number could hardly be so small that the fees would not exceed the salary of a junior teacher to take charge of them, while such a teacher would also be useful for the less advanced pupils in the upper school . It would, therefore, be well for the Board to consider whether next year children of a lower age should not be admitted. Already some parents have expressed to me their regret that their children were too young to attend.

In reference to the sub-division of the year, I recommend that the current quarter consist of 12 full weeks, ending on Friday, June 15th, and be followed by two weeks' vacation ; that the next quarter, beginning Monday, July 2nd, comprise 11 weeks, and be followed by two weeks' vacation ; and that the last quarter comprise not less than 11 weeks and close not earlier than Friday, December 14th.

I recommend that next year the system, of terms be adopted. I do not know of any other High School in which the 'quarter' system is in use. Unless the Board expresses any desire to the contrary, it is my intention to close the school at Easter only for Friday and Monday.

In conclusion I beg to express my appreciation of the courtesy and kindness of the secretary, Mr. Smith, in connection with the arrangements for beginning and carrying on the work of the school."

The Secretary remarked that new desks would have to be supplied. (The Board examined a specimen of the desks to be put in the school. it was built of kauri, on a London system, each desk for one scholar. Suggestions made in Dr. Innes report were noted for future consideration.

THE PERMANENT BUILDING. Plans and a report submitted by the architect were considered. The Governors selected plan No. 2, representing a wooden building on concrete foundations ; and directed that specifications be prepared and tenders called.

GENERAL: The Blenheim and other School Committees acknowledged the invitation to the recent opening of the High School. The Lands and Survey Department wrote with regard to its gratuitous survey of the High School grounds, The Board discussed the advisableness of adhering strictly to a rule with regard to. the payment of tuition fees. Thousands of pounds, it was said, were owing to secondary schools throughout the colony.

On the motion of Mr. McCallum, a resolution was passed to the effect that a discount of five per cent, would be allowed on fees paid before the fifteenth day from the commencement of

the term, and fees must be paid by the end of the first month or the pupil would not be allowed to attend.

10th April 1900 BLENHEIM. The Committee forwarded the names of D. H. Wilmot and D. Robertson, selected from the list of applicants for the position of second master of the Borough School, vacated by Lieut. Simson, of the Fifth Contingent.

The Board appointed Mr. D. H. Wilmot (master of the Cullensville School) for one year, or during Mr. Simeon's further absence. The matter of appointing a successor to Mr. Wilmot at Cullensville was left to Mr. Duncan and the Secretary

17th April 1900 School Attendance. — The Blenheim Boys' School opened this morning with an attendance of 129 out of a roll number of 346. This afternoon the attendance was even worse, only 83 boys putting in an appearance. In the Girls' School the attendance was but 48, with a roll number of 183

20th April 1900 WANTED— An Assistant Mistress for the Blenheim Girls' School, Salary, according to Beard's regulations— at present £65 per annum. Applications for this appointment, accompanied by testimonials and certificates, to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than MONDAY 7th May. JOHN SMITH, Secretary. Education Board Office, 20th April, 1900

24th April 1900 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS'. The annual meeting of householders for the purpose of electing a Committee for the management of the Borough Schools during the ensuing year was held at the schools last night. About forty householders were present. On the motion of Mr. Macey (Chairman of the old Committee), Mr. J. T. Robinson was elected to the Chair.

The minutes of last meeting of householders were read by Mr. J. Gillespie (Secretary of Committee) and confirmed.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. The following report for the year ending March 31st was presented by the outgoing Committee : — Your Committee beg to report that during the year 13 meetings were held, all of which were well attended, the attendance of members being as follows : Macey 13, Norgrove 12, Scott 11, Ching 10, Birch 9, James 9, I Browne 7, Shaw 5, Nicholas 5, Purser 4.

School attendance.— It is with much regret that we are again compelled to report that the attendance of pupils has not been so good as we should desire, especially in the boys' department ; and it is a matter of grave concern for your Committee . to report that over fifty of the children ,residing in the Borough are at present attending the Grovetown and . Springlands Schools. In the near future it will be a question for the Education Board to consider whether such a state of affairs will be allowed to go on, as it will be quite impossible for the chief school of the province to maintain its standing, the reduction of capitation which necessarily follows greatly hampering the finances of this Committee.

During the past year the foundation of a District High School was accomplished, The institution is now in full working order, and it is hoped that parents will avail themselves of this opportunity of securing to their children the benefits of the higher branches of education, The district is greatly indebted to Mr. C. H. Mills, M.H.R., to Mr. A. P. Seymour, and the other members of the Education Board for the persistent manner in which they advocated the claims of the district to the Government. " Your Committee beg to congratulate Miss M. Douslin, headmistress of the schools, on her success at the recent annual examinations (two of her pupils having carried off the two scholarships at the disposal of the Board), and on the large number of passes secured by these under her tuition; also Mr. Sturrock, headmaster, for his success at the recent Drawing examinations held under the authority of the School of Arts, the number of passes secured by these presented being second to none in the colony. "We

would also tender our thanks to the whole of the staff for their exertions in imparting to the best of their ability the rudiments of a sound education to these placed under their charge.

As you are well aware, during the past year Mr. Simson, second master, obtained from the Board twelve months' leave of absence, for the purpose of proceeding to South Africa as lieutenant in one of the contingents. Out of a large number of applications to fill the vacant position, your Committee recommended to the Board the appointment of Mr. Wilmot, teacher of the Cullensville School, a gentleman renowned for his ability in imparting education, his examination results showing a very high percentage of passes,

During the year two members of the Committee elected at the last householders' meeting resigned their positions viz., Messrs. Browne and Purser, to whom the householders are indebted for using their best endeavors to place the schools on a sound educational basis. Mr. James Nicholas was asked by your Committee to take the place of one of these who resigned, the other vacancy being left in abeyance till the present meeting.

The number of times during the financial year that the schools were opened is 414. The schools were closed for a fortnight during that period on the recommendation of the medical authorities. The balance sheet, duly audited, will be laid before you, by which you will see that there has been a diminution of capitation to the extent of £6 13s, as compared with the previous year. We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing our thanks to the Blenheim Swimming Club for donating to the Committee the buildings belonging to the Club and now standing on the banks of the Opawa River. Should swimming baths be erected nearer to the schools the buildings can be utilised for the purpose for which they "were donated." The financial statement was as follows : — Receipts — Balance on March 31st, 1899, £15 15s 5d; capitation, £99 78; fines, £1 14s ; total, £117 69 5d,

Expenditure—Cleaning buildings, £60 14s ; fuel, £16 9s 4d ; repairs, £5 4s 9d ; advertising, £1 11s; cleaning and trimming hedges, £3 11; Secretary's salary (including last year's bonus) £10; Truant Officer, £5 ; and other small items; credit balance, £10 6s 5d.

The Chairman, in moving that the report and balance sheet be adopted, said they disclosed a creditable year's work. It was very much to be regretted that children in the Borough were attending outside schools. It seemed to him that the Borough Committee had no power to stop such a thing ; but Committees could refuse admission to children coming from other districts. However, the outside Committees were not likely to do this, as they received the capitation which would otherwise go to the Borough Committee. He thought the best way out of the difficulty was for the Education Board to do what they did in the case of the Springlands School— decline to erect additional accommodation when existing accommodation was sufficient for the children in the district. He could hardly understand why there should be this travelling of children from the Borough. They had some of the best teachers in the colony ; yet there had always been a certain amount of dissatisfaction. There was no further discussion, and the report and balance sheet were adopted.

ELECTION. The election of a Committee for the ensuing year then took place, The following gentlemen were candidates, The first six having been nominated beforehand, the others being nominated in the room : — J. H. Scott, 8. Norgrove, W. Ching, F. Birch, J. Nicholas, C. Patchett, E. H. Penny, B. Brewster, B. Brewer. There being no further nominations, and the number of members required being nine, a ballot was not necessary ; and the above gentlemen were duly declared elected. On the motion of the Chairman a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the outgoing Committee.

The meeting, which opened at 7.30, concluded at 8 o'clock.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, At a meeting of the new Committee, held subsequently, Mr. F. Birch, who has occupied the position in previous years, was elected Chairman. Mr. Gillespie re-appointed Secretary at a salary of £7 10s for the year. Mr. Penny was appointed Treasurer. The date of the monthly meetings was fixed as the Thursday before the Education

Board's meeting, as heretofore. The Chairman and Mr. Penny were appointed Visiting Committee to report to the next meeting. On the motion of Mr. Norgrove, seconded by the Chairman, a vote of thanks, to be duly recorded on the minutes, was accorded to Mr. Macey, the outgoing Chairman, for the excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of the position during the past year. The members of the old Committee expressed hearty appreciation of the active interest that Mr. Macey had taken in the welfare of the schools.

9th May 1900 The monthly meeting was held last night, Present : Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Ching, Scott, Brewer, Penny, Norgrove, Brewster. Mr. Nicholas was granted leave of absence. The Head Master reported that the average attendance at the boys' school during April was 259.2, The roll number being 362. The attendance was rather poor, owing to the epidemic of Scarlatina. The average attendance at the corresponding date last year was 297, the roll number being 367.

Mr. Wilmot, recently appointed second master, was doing satisfactory work. The Head Mistress reported that the average attendance at the girls' school was 137, the roll number being 181.

A notice was received from Mr. C. Pritchard, Special Inspector of Nuisances, requesting that the closets be cleaned out within three days. — The Chairman said that the receipt of such a notice by a body like the School Committee demanded an enquiry into the manner in which the contractor was carrying out his work.— Mr. Patchett (a member of Committee) spoke of the nuisance.— The Secretary stated that after receipt of the notice he interviewed the contractor, who subsequently informed him that the nuisance had been remedied. He had also made arrangements for other improvements.

The Secretary was instructed to interview the contractor and arrange for better methods. The regular Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Brennan) wrote with reference to the newly erected urinals, and asked that improvements be made to ensure greater privacy. In another communication he said that he had constantly met with interference from Mr. in the matter of the cleaning of the closets. He was quite capable of performing his duties, and, if Mr. — — did not cease interfering, he would be reluctantly compelled to give him in charge to the police.

The Chairman said that a fence was to be raised, and this would ensure privacy.

The Visiting Committee reported very favorably on the appointment of Mr. Wilmot, second master. The low attendance at the boys' school was due to the epidemic, which meant that not only the patient but also children of the same family had to be kept from school.

The Secretary was instructed to effect the repairing of windows, locks, etc., On the motion of Mr. Norgrove, it was decided that the Chairman wait on the Board and explain the necessity of making better provision for the heating of the boys' school in winter time.

Messrs. Brewster and Norgrove were appointed Visiting Committee for the month.

9th May 1900 letter was received by the School Committee last night from the Education Board asking the probable number of pupils who would attend a cookery class if such were established. It was decided to refer the question to Miss Douslin, the Headmistress, and ask her to communicate directly with the Board.

14th May 1900 architect reported that the work of improving the water supply at Blenheim schools had been completed. The total cost was £65 10s. New urinals had been erected, and Drainage improved. The architect's recommendations of a number of further small improvements were adopted. Miss M. Linton wrote resigning her position as assistant teacher in the Girls' School. She had obtained an appointment under the Wellington Education Board. The Executive' Committee explained that they had already provided for the filling of the vacancy. The recommendation of the Blenheim School Committee that Miss Lottie Brewer be appointed in place of Miss Linton was adopted. Arrangements were made to allow of the departure of Miss Linton this [week. The Board passed a resolution appreciative of the

services rendered for some years past by Miss Linton, and wishing her future success. The matter of appointing a successor to Miss Brewer in the Onamalutu school was left to the Board's Executive Committee.

The requests of the Blenheim Committee for water-taps and some gravelling work were referred to the architect.

The Committee also asked that provision be made for the better heating of the boys' big room in winter time. — The matter was referred to the Executive Committee for a report.

It was resolved that tenders be called for the filling up of low ground in the vicinity of the teacher's residence, and the Executive Committee deal with the tenders

15th May 1900 A pleasing function took place yesterday afternoon at the Girls' School, | Miss Linton, who has resigned her position 88 assistant mistress, being made the recipient of a handsome pair of greenstone sleeve links set in gold. The presentation was made on behalf of the teachers and senior scholars by Mr. F. Birch, Chairman of the School Committee, who expressed to Miss Linton the esteem and appreciation in which she was held by the rest of the staff and the scholars. Miss Linton suitably responded and thanked them for their handsome gift.

22nd May 1900 At noon yesterday the children assembled at the Borough School, and marched to the Town Hall where they were regaled with many good things. The Rev. R. J. Allsworth made a short speech. *Relief of Mafeking in the Boer War*

6th June 1900 The monthly meeting was hold last evening. Present, Messrs. Birch (chairman), Norgrove, Brewer, Brewster, Patchett, and Ching. The Headmistress reported that the average attendance during last month was 133, the roll number being 179. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the boys' school was 259.6, the roll number being 357. The attendance was still considerably affected by the epidemic of sickness.

Three telegrams from the Hon J. G. Ward (acting. Premier) to the Chairman, with regard to "war holidays, were read. The first had reference to the relief of Mafeking; and the Chairman said that the request for a holiday was duly complied with. The second referred to the report of the Boers' abandonment of Pretoria, the correctness of which report, said Mr. Ward, he had no reason to doubt In that case also, the Chairman reported, a holiday was granted. The third telegram was of the nature of the telegram received by Mr. C. H. Mills, M.H.R., the Mayor, and other representative citizens, pointing out the desirability of a general celebration, on combined lines', a few days after the declaration of peace. The acting Premier said he would duly advise the Committee of the data. The Committee expressed their approval of the suggestion. Members assured the Chairman that in the case of war holidays, he could use his own discretion without taking the trouble of consulting them, as in the past.

The Chairman pointed out that there would be plenty of notice for the peace celebration, which, no doubt, would be greater even than any previous demonstration. He agreed that the arrangements should be carried out by a central body.

Replying to a question whether the children had the real moaning of past demonstrations explained to them, the Chairman said that he asked the Headmaster to have the children assembled and be instructed.

The letter from the Head Master referred to broken windows. The Committee discussed the damage that was done to the school property in this way, the practice of boys playing football in the grounds on Saturday being mentioned.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Sergeant of Police and ask him to keep the grounds clear of trespassers.

The Truant Officer wrote Drawing attention to the number of children attending the Grovetown School from the Borough, and suggesting that his jurisdiction be extended, to

include Grovetown. — The Committee agreed that such an extension was necessary for the complete control of Borough children, and resolved to forward the letter to the Education Board,

The Secretary was instructed to ask the Springlands Committee for an annual contribution to the salary of the Truant Officer, who works over its district.

The last annual report of the School Inspectors throughout the Colony were received from the Education Department; also a number of leaflets from the Agricultural Department. Messrs. Brower and Patchett were appointed visiting Committee for the ensuing month,

Some small school requirements were granted, and routine business was transacted.

12th June 1900 REDWOODTOWN. The petition received at last meeting from residents of Southside asking for the creation of a new school district was considered. It was suggested that such a district would be bounded on the north by the Wither Hills, on the south by Hawkshaw Street, on the east by, the Taylor River, and on the west by Riverlands. The Secretary said he had made up a list showing that there were about 70 children of school age in the locality in question, and 30 under school age. The Chairman remarked that from a financial point of view the proposal was not at present very acceptable. After discussion, it was resolved that the Borough School Committee be asked to express an opinion on the proposal.

COOKERY CLASSES. Replying to a communication from the Secretary, the Education Department wrote stating that the Board would have no difficulty in obtaining a capitation grant for cookery classes provided that such were subject to the usual Government inspection. Information with respect to cookery classes was received from the Secretary of the Christchurch School of Domestic Instruction and Miss K. Murphy, teacher of the cookery classes held under the auspices of the Wanganui Education Board. The Secretary submitted a rough estimate of receipts and expenditure which went to show that by making a small charge, on the lines followed in other districts, the Board would be able to run cookery classes without financial loss. Mr. Duncan, who initiated the movement, was in favour of setting up such classes at once and engaging, say, Miss Murphy (Wanganui), who said in her letter that she was willing to come here for £100 a year and travelling expenses. Mr. Mills suggested that the Board should first ask the Wanganui Board for the benefit of its experience.

That Board had 300 pupils in its classes, but the classes were a financial failure, and it was proposed to discontinue them.

Capt. Baillie, in supporting Mr. Duncan's proposal, remarked that long life depended on good digestion.

Mr. McCallum said he believed there was a very general feeling that these classes were pretty much of a farce. He protested against experiments in fancy cookery with the finances in their present condition.

Mr. Fell suggested that the School Committees be again asked to supply information as to the probable number of pupils. The fees put down on the Secretary's financial estimate could be quoted, and the Committees could then give an idea. But he was afraid that there would not be many pupils if fees, however small, were to be charged. Finally the Executive Committee were asked to report again at next meeting.

The Blenheim Committee were granted hat-pegs for the Infant school. The same Committee recommended that the midwinter holidays extend from June 22nd to July 9th. — Received

TRUANCY. The Committee forwarded the Truant Officer's letter suggesting the extension of his jurisdiction over the Grovetown school so that his supervision of the Blenheim school might be complete. The Board agreed to the suggestion, appointing Mr. Thomas Truant Officer for Grovetown, with an addition of £3 a year to his salary. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Mills, that the Truant Officer be requested to send in a monthly report to the Board

4th July 1900 The Borough School Committee resolved last night to purchase for the school library a copy of Mr. T. L. Buick's book, "Old Marlborough."

4th July 1900 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last night, there being present: Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Ching, Brewer, Nicholas, Patchett, Norgrove, and Penny,

DEPUTATION. Messrs. Mapp and Ham interviewed the Committee with regard to the proposal to establish a school in the Redwoodtown district. They suggested that an infant school be erected. The Borough School was inconveniently far away for children under 8 or 9 years of age, who, generally speaking, stopped at home if they could not be taken to Blenheim in traps. The establishment of an infant School at Redwoodtown would be advantageous rather than detrimental to the principal school, as under present circumstances the Redwoodtown children, as they grew big enough to walk to town found themselves to be backward in the classes. For that reason they were disinclined to go to school. There were about 70 children of school age in the locality in question, and of this number about 40 would attend an infant school, It was explained that a Redwoodtown petition to the Board asking for the establishment of a separate school was considered at the last meeting of the Education board, -which decided to ask for the opinion of the Borough School Committee. A communication to this effect had been received from the Board.

In reply to a question, the deputation stated that the above figures did not include Catholic children. They also stated that they could guarantee an average attendance of 25 at an infant school. For the site of each a school they suggested, in the first place, the corner of Weld Street and Alabama Road, and secondly the corner of Alabama Road and Redwood Street.

The Chairman thought that, since there was a question of as many as 40 children coming under over school roof (Sic), the Committee should recommend to the Board to grant the prayer of the petition,

It was resolved to ask the Board to take the request of the residents of the Redwoodtown MISCELLANEOUS Replying to the request from the Committee, the Executive Committee of the Board agreed to recommend a grant of £5 for the cleaning of the school desks', which had suffered from an invasion of rats.— The offer was accepted.

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.

A circular re the planting of trees on Arbor Day (July 13th) was received from the Government Agricultural Department. — No action was taken. The Secretary of the Board wrote asking for an estimate of attendance in connection with the proposal to establish cookery classes, the fees of which would be, say, 10s for ten lessons distributed over three months. —The Secretary was instructed to interview the Head Mistress.

Inspection reports, dated June 4th, were received from Mr. J. Smith, Inspector. The remarks with respect to the Boys' School were :— Organisation, satisfactory: time-tables, suitable; methods and quality of the instruction, good ; order and discipline (with respect to diligence, honor, alacrity, and obedience), good ; supervision in recess, attended to ; manners and general behavior of the pupils, good ; buildings, ground, and fences, in fair order ; school accommodation, ample for present requirements; cleanliness and tidiness of rooms and

premises (ventilation, warming, etc.)) Satisfactory; other topics, sickness prevalent. '• The remarks on the girls' school were: Timetables suitable; methods and quality of instruction, satisfactory order and discipline etc., admirable; supervision in recess, provided for: manners and general behaviour of pupils, very good; buildings, grounds etc., in fair order; accommodation, ample: cleanliness, tidiness etc., satisfactory. A copy of the proposed holiday regulations was received from the Education Board, with an invitation to forward any comments the Committee wished to make. These regulations provided that the holidays in one year should not be less than eight weeks, (six weeks in summer and two in winter) in addition to the Easter Monday and Tuesday and the Government holidays; and that a Committee wishing to make alterations in the regulation dates to suit local circumstances should apply to the Board, who would give the necessary authority if it considered the reasons advanced of sufficient weight. A discussion ensued in which the opinion was generally expressed that the framing of the regulations was in favor of the teachers rather than the progress of the schools. It was resolved to communicate to the Board the Committee's opinion that the maximum length of the holidays in one year should not exceed seven weeks. The capitation grant, £23 19s 6d, on the average attendance of last quarter was received from the Board. Accounts amounting to £17 were passed for payment. It was resolved to call the attention of the Board to the fact that, though the school re-opens on the 9th, no provision had yet been made for the heating of the class-room. Messrs. Birch and Nicholas were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. The fact was mentioned that, despite the appointment of a Truant Officer, the attendance at the School had been steadily decreasing, and a suggestion was made that the Board should be addressed on the subject. It was remarked that better results might be expected if the Truant Officer, instead of confining his attention to the children whose names were on the school register, were to "hunt up" those children of school age who did not attend at all. Under the present system, it was pointed out, many children who were amenable to the compulsory clauses of the School Attendance Act might escape notice altogether, simply because their names did not happen to be on the registers,

After some discussion, it was decided to defer the question till next meeting, so that the Act might be consulted for information as to the powers of the Truant Officer

9th July 1900 REDWOODTOWN. A communication from the Blenheim School Committee stated that deputation of residents of the Redwoodtown district had urged the desirableness of erecting an Infant school in that locality, and the Committee recommended that the request be granted. After discussion it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. McCallum, that the Blenheim Committee be asked to suggest a suitable building at Redwoodtown for the purpose of an Infant school.

14th July 1900 Meeting of the Peace Demonstration Committee was held last evening in the Council Chambers, His "Worship the Mayor presiding. The first question to be considered was that of providing a medal for the children on Peace Day. A communication was received from the Blenheim School Committee forwarding a telegram from the Colonial Secretary, offering to provide a bronze medal at a cost of 9d a dozen, and asking how many the Committee would require if they decided to obtain them, for presentation to their school-children. The Committee stated they could not afford to provide a medal for each child attending their schools, but asked if the Demonstration Committee could undertake to provide the medals, promising a donation of £2 2s towards the cost.

It was stated by Mr. Wanden that, from enquiries he had made, about 2000 medals would be required. On the motion of Mr. Penney it was resolved that sufficient medals to provide one for each school-child be obtained, and that each School Committee be asked what assistance they would give towards the cost.

8th August 1900 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last evening, there being present Messrs. Birch (chairman), Norgrove, Ching, Penny, Patchett, Brewer, Nicholas and Brewster.

TRUANCY AND VANDALISM The teachers' attendance reports for the month showed the following figures: — Boys' School, average attendance 275.7, roll number 375. Girls' School, average attendance 140, roll number 178. With reference to the boys' attendance, the Headmaster wrote that there had been a great amount of sickness in the past, and there were in many cases of infectious diseases at the present time. There had been several cases of truancy, boys actually defying their parents as well as the Truant Officer, and he hoped that some step 3 would be taken in the matter. He had no fault to find with the boys when they were in school; the trouble was to get them to attend regularly. A large number of school windows had been broken, but as the matter would be settled in Court, he would say nothing further on this point. He also complained that some boys were in the habit of turning on the water taps. This happened after eight o'clock at night. Some remedy should be applied, for by this action the water supply was rendered useless

The opinion was expressed that the school property would not suffer so much at the hands of boys if the master resided on the grounds. With regard to the window breakages, it was stated that an estimate of the damage done had been placed in the hands of the police. After considerable discussion of the unsatisfactory attendance at the Boys' School, the Chairman and Messrs. Nicholas, Penny and Patchett were appointed a sub-Committee to make a thorough investigation of the whole question, the suggestion being approved that the parents of the boys not attending the School or attending irregularly should, be approached and asked for explanations. With regard to the destruction of School property, the Chairman was authorised to engage someone to watch the grounds after hours,

REDWOODTOWN. The Secretary of the Education Board wrote with reference to the deputation from Redwood town residents which asked that an infant school be established in their district, The Board wished the Committee to suggest some building which could be rented. The Chairman reported that he visited the locality in company with the Executive Committee of the Board, and found that a very suitable building could be obtained. This was Mr. Dundon's house in Redwood Street, near the corner of Alabama Road. There was half an acre or more of ground, which could be used as a playground. The Board members were satisfied, and he believed that on the receipt of information showing that a certain number of children would attend, applications would be called for the position of teacher. It was resolved to recommend the Board to obtain the use of Mr. Dundon's house.

GENERAL. The Headmistress wrote asking that the school ground be cleared of rubbish and trees. — Resolved to ask the Board to do the work, and adjust the fencing. The Chairman, Messrs. Nicholas, Patchett and Penny, were appointed to wait on the Board with reference to school ground matters generally. The Chairman was authorised to procure a letter-box and hat pegs, in accordance with the Headmistress's request. Accounts amounting to £9 10s were passed for payment ; and an account of £5 for cleaning desks was ordered to be sent on to the Board. Messrs. Brewster and Penny were appointed Visiting Committee for the month

8th August 1900 The Chairman of the Borough School Committee reported last night that on Arbor Day a number of trees were planted on the school grounds by the children

8th August 1900 School Attendance.— Rather a serious state of affairs in connection with the boys' school was discussed by the Borough School Committee last night, The communication from the Headmaster, published in our main report, made reference to truancy and vandalism ; and the Chairman added something verbally. He said that when he visited the school as a member of the Visiting Committee he found the attendance to be very bad indeed. The Headmaster complained in very emphatic terms about the conduct of a number of boys who

were staying away from school. Some of them openly defied their parents, the Truant Officer, and the teachers, The conduit of these delinquents had a very bad effect on the schools as a whole, for other boys were influenced. The matter was a serious one, said the Chairman. There seemed to be a want of parental control. With the school teachers at one end and the parents at the other something could be done, but without these conditions there would be serious results. Mr. Ching said there was something radically wrong somewhere. Large numbers of children were going out of the Borough to the Springlands and Grovetown Schools, while, apparently, many were not going to any school and he thought the Committee should carefully investigate the matter, approach the parents, and find out the cause. In further discussion, the system under which the Truant Officer served was condemned, and finally the committee appointed a sub-committee to enquire into the whole question of school attendance, on the lines suggested by Mr. Ching

14th August 1900 A JUVENILE LARRIKINISM.

Monday, August 13th. (Before Mr. Allen, S.M.) CATAPULTS, At the S.M. Court two boys, Arthur Marks and George Ingmire, were charged with discharging missiles to the damage or danger of persons and property on August 5th, contrary to the Police Offences Act, 1887. Mr. Sturrock, Head Master, examined by Sergt.- Major Mason, deposed to the damage done to the Borough Schools on August 5th, eleven panes of glass being broken by shanghais; the breaks in this glass showed what had done it. The damage was £3 10s. Marks had passed Standard VI., and was exempt from school attendance. The damage was done before half past four p.m. J. J. Lang deposed that he could see into the school grounds from his residence. Saw the two boys accused on Sunday, August 6th, in the school grounds, One of them— Marks— was pulling out a shanghai from his pocket; he was firing at the roof of witness's place. Did not see any stone fired, Ingmire was telling Marks where to fire. They went away when he asked them ; threw a piece of brick over the fence, which might have hit Ingmire. Constable Price deposed that he saw Marks on the day following, the 6th, and asked him for his shanghai, but he said he had not got one. Searched the boy and found the article (produced) called a shanghai, Accused admitted shooting at a bird in the school grounds on the day previous. Ingmire, upon being asked the same night, gave up his catapult; denied shooting himself, but said Marks had shot.

Frederick Williams was called for the defence, and deposed that the windows at the school were not broken on Sunday, August 5th, at between 2 and 2.30 p.m. on that day. His Worship remarked that there was no evidence to show the boys had broken the windows.

The Sergt.-Major said that was so. The Police knew the difficulty and alleged the minor offence. There was little doubt about the guilt, but the prosecution had only alleged what they had proved, viz., the using of the shanghai,

His Honor then sternly addressed the only parent present, as to Whether he could keep his boy in order, but the Sergt. Major intervened, explaining certain extenuating circumstances in favour of the father, which were accepted by the Magistrate.

His Worship then said that this sort of thing — this larrikinism— must fall back on the parents. It served parents right if they did not keep their children out of mischief. Many Magistrates thought that the Bench should have the power of inflicting a flogging. He, himself, was not in favour of flogging, but it might act as a deterrent. In the present case there was no actual proof of damages, and that might be satisfactory to the parent?, but he, as Magistrate, had determined to put a stop to these doings. Both the accused would be convicted, and if ever they came before him again, they could understand there might ever be the Reformatory School before them (a position he did not like to take up), or even worse the gaol, which would be a disgrace forever. Each parent would have to pay 9s costs. He (Mr. Allen) would see Mr. Ingmire on his return from the Top Valley and explain the trouble his

son had involved himself in. HOCKEY". George Ingmire— the previous defendant—and Frank Marks, another boy, were charged with playing hockey on Wednesday last, about half-past eight p.m., contrary to the same Statute. Both defendants pleaded guilty. Sergt.-Major Mason conducted the prosecution. Constable Jackson deposed as to the offence being committed near the Criterion Hotel, when he cautioned both the accused. He had not left them twenty yards when they started again. Sergt.-Major Mason stated that he did not wish to press the case as it was a first offence. A caution might be sufficient. His Worship gave the accused a most strongly worded caution, stating that they, and all other boys, must know, once and for all that they must not play these games in the streets. As the prosecution had asked for it, and it was a first offence, the case would be dismissed.,

GAS LIGHTS. George Register, John Morgan, and Albert Patchett were charged with disturbing the congregation, assembled for public worship in the Church of the Nativity on Sunday, 5th August, by turning out the gas contrary to the same Act. Sergt. Major Mason conducted the prosecution and called :•— Henry Bruce Dobson, Vestryman of the Church of England, who deposed as to the gas going out with the exception of two or three jets. There was a good deal of disturbance in re-lighting the gas, which was turned off at the meter. In answer to His Worship witness stated that he did not think it prudent to leave the meter open for mischief such as in the present case. Constable Jackson expressed that Morgan and Register admitted turning the tap at the meter. They said another lad had offered them a shilling to commit the offence. Patchett denied the offence, but admitted being present. John Morgan was called by Sergt. Major Mason and deposed that Patchett and a boy named Lange were with him, and Register joined them afterwards. Patchett told them which main to turn. He didn't touch it until he was told, Patchett didn't touch it. Albert Patchett, called by his father, made a statement that Morgan asked him to show him the tap as he was going to light up next week. Morgan (re-called) deposed that Patchett told him about the shilling offered. His Worship : Mr. Register, can you keep your boy in order and out of mischief, and have you punished him? Mr. Register : I will do so."

His Worship in delivering judgment said he hoped it would be a warning to the Church authorities to keep the meter in a proper place and remove temptation from boys. He could only repeat what he had said in the former case. Each defendant would have to pay 8s 3d costs,

21st August 1900 BLENHEIM. A deputation from the Blenheim Committee waited on the Board to express their desire for the clearing of the addition to the girls' playground, to urge the removal of the old building thereon, to represent the expediency of causing the Head Teacher to occupy the School residence, and to speak on the question of truancy. The deputation addressed the Board in the terms of the discussions which have been held at the Committee's meetings. It was resolved that the Executive Committee be authorised to call for tenders for the sale and removal of the old cottage on the Borough School grounds, that the grounds be cleared and put in order as suggested by the deputation, and that the fence round the grounds be completed and gates erected so that the same might be locked and trespassers kept out. The Architect was authorised to procure "college bars" for the senior girls' room at the Blenheim School, as suggested in his report. With reference to the deputation's suggestion as to the expediency of causing the master to live in the school residence, the Beard decided to take no action.

REDWOODTOWN, The Executive Committee recommended that the proposed school at Redwoodtown be established as a branch of the Blenheim Borough School; also, that Mr. Dundon's residence be leased for the purpose as suggested by the Blenheim Committee, and that the matter of fixing up the building be left in the hands of the Executive Committee, to give the School Committee whatever authority was required. It was stated that the

establishment of the school as a branch of the Blenheim School would mean that the teacher would be supplied from the staff of the Blenheim School. About 20 children would attend at first, and an ultimate attendance of between 30 and 40 was expected. Another pupil teacher would be added to the staff of the Blenheim School, if the necessity arose. The Executive Committee's report was adopted

4th September 1900 MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION DISTRICT. A SIDE SCHOOL in connection with the Blenheim Borough School (Infant department) will be opened at the upper end of Redwood Street on MONDAY, September 17th, for Infants and Children who have not passed Standard I, No others will be admitted. The School hours will be from 9.30 am. to 12 noon, and from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. FREDK. BIRCH, Chairman of School Committee

5th September 1900 The monthly meeting held last night, was attended by Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Penny, Ching, Patchett, Brewster, Nicholas, Norgrove. The attendance reports for the month were received from the teachers as follow: — Boys' school, roll number 352, average attendance 276.4; Girls' School, roll 177, overage 140.1. The Visiting Committee reported favorably on the attendance.

The Head Master pointed out to them that his total average was never a true indication of the attendance at the Boys' School, as the figures included the Infant School at which the attendance was always low in bad weather. The letter showed that the average attendance last month at the Boys' School alone was good,

The deputation which waited on the Board reported that that body agreed to improve and further protect the school grounds, and to instruct the Truant Officer with a view to widening his duties. A communication from the Board authorised the Committee to lease Mr. Dundon's building at Redwoodtown and convert it into an Infant School.

The Chairman reported that the necessary building adjustments were put in hand, and he understood that the school would shortly be under way.

Messrs. Ching and Scott were appointed the Visiting Committee for next month, on the understanding that they also visit the new school at Redwoodtown, which has been placed under the control of the Borough Committee.

The Secretary of the Picton Committee wrote urging the formation of a School Committees' Association in Marlborough, and suggesting that a conference of delegates from the Committees be held to consider the proposal. — The object was approved, and Messrs. Birch and Brewster were appointed as delegates, the former to reply to Picton with reference to a suitable date and place of meeting.

5th September 1900 The annual Drawing examination took place to-day at the Borough Schools. Last night the Chairman of the School Committee and Mr. Penny undertook to arrange for the supervision, in accordance with a request from the Education Department. Regret was expressed that the Department had limited the scope of this useful subject.

The "hideous screeching" of the windmill on the Borough School grounds was the subject of a letter received by the School Committee last night from a resident in the vicinity, who asked that the nuisance be abated. It was stated that the offending machinery had been oiled

10th September 1900 BLENHEIM. The Executive Committee of the Board reported that a tender of £7 15s from Mr. T. Smale had been accepted for the removal of the old cottage on the Borough School grounds. During the month, tenders would be called for the erection of fencing and gates. A contract was let for the necessary alteration of Mr. Dundon's building for the establishment of an Infant School at Redwoodtown, and the school would be opened on Monday next. The report was adopted

24th October 1900 Mr. D. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Borough Schools, is recovering from his illness, and it is expected that he will be able to resume his school duties in a few days.

7th November 1900 Mr. D. Sturrock, Head Master of the Borough Schools, who has been recruiting; his health at the Wangamoa, and now in Nelson, is expected to return on the 12th instant. Whether he will be able to resume his duties immediately on his return will be a question for his medical adviser to settle. A medical certificate as to Mr. Sturrock's illness was received last night by the School Committee, who granted the necessary leave of absence. A letter received by the Borough School Committee last night from the A. and P. Association asked that the school children be granted a half-holiday for the Show. In accordance with the recommendation of the Visiting Committee, it was resolved that the teachers dismiss the children at an early hour in the afternoon, this course being adopted so that the enforcement of the Truant Act for that week might not be interfered with. A minority were in favor of a full half-holiday, one Committeeman strongly protesting, on principle, against the curtailment of the dinner hour.

There were present at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last evening Messrs. Ching (in the chair), Patchett, Penny, Bro water, Brewer, Nicholas and Norgrove. The head teachers reported the following attendance for the month: — Boys' School, average 255.6, roll number 339; Girls' School, average 128.13, roll number 172. The low average of the Boys' School was accounted for by the wet weather and flood; the attendance had been satisfactory lately.

With regard to the complaint made by a parent that her child's exercise book was destroyed by one of the teachers, the Head Mistress reported the explanation of the teacher to be that the book was unfit for use.

Mr. Mapp wrote explaining, in response to the Committee's letter, that the attendance at the new Infant School at Redwood town had not been up to the mark on account of sickness in a number of families, but it was expected that there would be an increase after Christmas. The cleaning of the school would be done by a resident free of charge.

A parent's complaint of that he had been unable to obtain the admission of his boy to the Infant School was referred to the Chairman. The Secretary was instructed to have a school window repaired. The Visiting Committee reported that they found a satisfactory state of affairs at the schools. The roll number at the Red wood town Infant School was 19 An account of £8 10s for the gravelling of the School ground, also one of £2 for the cleaning of the grounds after the flood were ordered to be sent on to the Board. Messrs. Ching and Patchett were appointed Visiting Committee for the month.

7th December 1900 The adjourned monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee, held last evening, was attended by Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Patchett, Brewster, Brewer, and Penny. The Head Master reported the average attendance of last month as 296.6, the roll number being 360. The figures forwarded by the Head Mistress were respectively 141.55 and 170. It was resolved that the Christmas holidays commence on the Monday following the examination and continue in accordance with the Board's regulations. The Visiting Committee reported that matters at the schools were in every way satisfactory. Messrs. Birch and Brewer were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts amounting to £5 5s were passed for payment, Mr. Brewster gave notice of intention to move that arrangement be made with a view to resuscitating Drill among the boys.

11th December 1900 MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

Some important business was transacted at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Marlborough High School, held yesterday. The members present were the gentlemen who

attended the meeting of the Education Board; and by appointment, Dr. Innes, master of the School, met the Governors to advise on several matters introduced at the previous meeting. Dr. Innes recommended with regard to the qualifications for admission to the school that the existing requirement, which provide for a minimum age limit of 12 years and fourth standard attainments, be abolished, and that no restrictions be laid down further than that pupils should possess a fair knowledge of elementary arithmetic, English grammar, and composition. This recommendation was adopted, and it was remarked that the new arrangements would bring about a large increase in the number of pupils, who now number 31.

It was decided that these provisions should come into operation with the opening of the new building, which it was stated, would probably be completed on February 1st.

The Town Committee reported that the building was progressing in a very satisfactory manner. The architect wrote to the same effect, the roof being in the course of construction. The timber had proved as good as could be desired.

It was resolved that an assistant lady teacher be advertised for, the salary to be £100 a year, and the applications to be in by January 10th.

With reference to the Governors' Scholarship established at the previous meeting, it was resolved that the age, of candidates be not less than 18 years, and that the honor be awarded on the aggregate of marks gained for all subjects, and that it be not given to the holder of any other scholarship.

It was stated that Inspector Smith was giving prizes for English, to be awarded by the master. It was resolved to reply to the Registrar of the Victoria College that the Board would provide a room for the proposed University extension lectures, and would assist the movement in every possible way. Dr. Innes said that he himself could not see his way just then to join in the scheme as a lecturer.

In discussion on the question of the institution of manual and technical instruction, it was remarked that it was questionable whether the grant made under the Act was large enough to enable the Board to take advantage of the legislation. Dr. Innes suggested that a good arrangement for a commencement would be the establishment of carpentry classes for boys and cookery classes for the girls.

The Town Committee was instructed to look into the Act with a view of instituting manual and technical instruction. . Mr. McCallum said that the Board had not succeeded in the endeavor to obtain an additional vote from the Government for the erection of the school, but probably Mr. Mills would be able to obtain a grant under this Act. The Secretary was instructed to write on the subject to the member for the district;

1901

1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 234.18
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Douslin	Eugenie M	D2	Head Female	£ 176.17
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wilmot	David H	D2	Assistant Master	£ 140.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Mary	Farmer	D3	Temporary	£ 110.00
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Brewer	Lottie M	D2	Relieving for 9 MThs	£ 105.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E3	Assistant Female	£ 70.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Harris	Annie Maud		Assistant Female	£ 54.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Bull	Edith Linda		Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Healy	Annie		Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Litchfield	Alice R E	E4	Female Probationer	£ 40.00
1901	146	Blenheim Girls	Macalister	May	E4	Female Probationer	£ 40.00

1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Nellie		Female Probationer	£	32.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Girling	Emily M	E4	Female Probationer	£	20.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	Crombie	Daisy		Female Probationer	£	16.00
1901	290	Blenheim Boys /Side	O'Brian	Maud		Female Probationer	£	16.00

9th January 1901 The Borough Schools will reopen on Monday, January 28th, the School Committee passing a resolution to that effect last night.

local Truant Officer claims that there are not half-a-dozen children in his district of school age whose names are not on the roll of some school or other

9th February 1901 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, there being present: Messrs. Birch (chairman), Penny, Norgrove, Brewster, Brewer, Patchett. Reports were received from Inspector Smith showing the results of the school examinations, which took place during December. The leading details are: —'

(Presume Boys) Remarks.—On the whole satisfactory. Geography, fair; drawing, good; grammar, moderate; history, fair ; elementary Science, moderate recitation, fair; singing (infants), good; needlework, good; drill and exercises, good.

Instruction of Standards VII and P.—Standard VII, more advanced in primary subjects than Standard VI.; Class P, satisfactory.

PRESUME Girls) Remarks.—Fully justified under new regulations. Geography, satisfactory; drawing, excellent; grammar, moderate; history, satisfactory; elementary science, etc., satisfactory; recitation good; singing, satisfactory; needlework, excellent; drill and exercise good; instruction of Standard VII, satisfactory

Messrs. Brewster, Norgrove, Penny and the Chairman were appointed a sub-committee to analyse the results and report to the Committee.

The Head Master wrote saying that the attendance warranted the appointment of an assistant master. He preferred, however, that two lady teachers be appointed, and also suggested the appointment of an additional pupil teacher.—The Chairman and Messrs. Penny and Norgrove were appointed a subcommittee to make enquiries with a view to the adoption of the most suitable course, and as to the appointment of a pupil teacher for the girls' school.

Mr. Brewster's motion proposing the resuscitation of drill in connection with the boys' school was held over, the above subcommittee being instructed to obtain information on the subject.

The Chairman and Mr. Brewer were re-appointed Visiting Committee

Boys' School

Standard	Presented	Present	Passed
VII	8		
VI	14	14	7
V	17	17	14
IV	42	42	36
III	38	38	35
II	31	31	31
I	60	60	57
Primers	148		
Total	358	202	180

Girls' School

Standard	Presented	Present	Passed
VII	20		
VI	8	8	6
V	30	30	26

IV	40	35	30
III	31	31	28
II	38	36	35
Total	267	140	125

15th January 1901 MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

THE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION.

The results of the first scholarship examination were placed before the Governors of the High School yesterday morning. Inspector J. Smith's report is as follows:— The examination of candidates for the Board's scholarships took place on Friday, 28th December, when 20 candidates presented themselves from nine schools, namely — Blenheim Boys', 2 ; Blenheim Girls', 8 ; Canvastown, Grovetown and Havelock, one each; Picton, 4 ; Robin Hood Bay, Tua Marina and Waitohi, one each.

The subjects of the examination were those prescribed by the scholarship regulations recently sanctioned by the Minister for Education, namely, the "pass" subjects of Standard V, together with the history and geography of the same. By the express sanction of the Department, the new age limit '(13 years) was not enforced, and all who were eligible under the old regulations were permitted to compete. This, though only an act of justice towards those who had been kept at school for a year or more, in the hope of gaining a scholarship, naturally proved fatal to the hopes of the younger scholars, who, with one exception, are all above 13 years .of age, and will therefore be too old to compete at the next annual examination of candidates. The tabulated statement attached shows the names of the candidates, arranged in order of merit, with the marks gained in the several subjects. Eleven of the .twenty examined failed to gain sufficient marks to qualify for a scholarship. Of the nine who did so qualify, seven were from the Blenheim Girls' School, one from Canvastown, and one from Tua Marina; the tenth, who wanted only 12 marks to qualify, came from the Blenheim Girls' School.

There are three "town," and two "country" scholarships to be awarded this year. The lad at the head of the list, whose parents reside at Onamalutu, and John C. Young are therefore entitled to the " country" scholarships; and Edith Foster, Eileen Elbeck, and Deanie Clouston to the " town" scholarships. It may be noticed that the five scholars who head the list were competitors last year, and occupied almost precisely the same relative positions on the result list, the exception being that Edith Foster and Eileen Elbeck have changed places.

The fact that 11 out of 20 candidates failed to obtain 60 per cent, of the total possible marks seems at first sight rather unsatisfactory, but this is, to some extent, due to the nature of the examination. Having regard to the age of the scholars, many of whom had been as long as two years in the 7th Standard, and to the restriction of the examination to the work of the sixth, it was necessary to pitch the examination as high as that standard permits in order to bring out clearly the relative proficiency of the candidates. Next year, when the age limit will be 13 years, it will be safe to have an easier examination, without danger of having many of the candidates appearing to be practically equal. The general character of the work done by the candidates this year was on the whole fairly good, but not so good relatively as it was last year, when 11 candidates out of 17 obtained an average of 71 per cent, of marks on a 6th Standard examination, while this year 9 out of 20 gain an average of 74 per cent, on a 5th Standard examination.

Grammar was, as usual, the weakest subject, not more than 12 obtaining half marks. The composition, which consisted of a paraphrase on "The Nightingale and the Glowworm," by Cowper, was remarkably good in one half of the papers, and very fair in nearly all the others. The following are the tabulated results, candidates being arranged in the order of merit:—

Name of Scholar	School	Age December	Mental Arith/60	Writing/100	Spelling Dict/100	Arithmetic/100	Geography/110	History/100	Grammar/100	Composition/100	Total/770
Charles B White	Tua Marina	15 6	54	78	86	90	93	96	96	95	688
Edith Foster	Blenheim G	15 4	30	94	85	90	101	75	85	95	655
Eileen Elbeck	Blenheim G	15 8	51	100	49	85	85	78	80	92	620
Deanie Clouston	Blenheim G	15 7	42	67	42	75	90	84	95	88	583
John C Young	Canvastown	15 11	54	62	63	90	67	61	90	70	554
Agnes Grace	Blenheim G	13 6	45	48	71	45	79	78	93	82	540
Ada Watterson	Blenheim G	14 6	36	77	70	90	56	38	65	90	522
Evelyn Hilliard	Blenheim G	14 5	33	46	79	55	82	50	56	90	491
Rea Macalister	Blenheim G	14 4	45	71	47	50	76	56	64	80	489
Ella Fisher	Blenheim G	14 8									
David Mackenzie	Blenheim B	13 5									
Thomas Payne	Grovetown	13 4									
Mary Jackson	Picton	14.6									
Robert Park	Blenheim B										
Willhel. Griffiths	Picton	15 5									
Mary Philpotts	Picton	14.7									
Eliza. Williams	Waitohi	13 10									
Catherine Baxter	Picton	13 3									
John Duncan	Havelock	14 6									
W Armstrong	Blenheim B										

15th January 1901 BLENHEIM. The Committee recommended that Misses Wanden and Harris be appointed assistant teachers in the Boy's School with an increase of salary, the attendance of the school warranting an addition to the staff. The regulations provided for the appointment of an assistant master, but the Committee preferred the employment of two lady teachers. — The Board made the appointments asked

24th January 1901 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS. THE above Schools, and also the Redwoodtown Side School, will BE OPEN on MONDAY NEXT, the 28th instant, at 9.30 a.m., when a full attendance is requested. Wm. GILLESPIE, Secretary

18th February 1901 Education Board —The monthly meeting held today was attended by Messrs. Seymour (Chairman), Redwood, McCullum, and Litchfield.

Miss Douslin, Headmistress of the Borough School, was granted leave of absence for nine months, and the Board approved of the recommendation that Miss Brewer, assistant-mistress, be charge of the School during Miss Douslin's absence. It was decided that the Committee be asked to approve of the suggestion that Miss M. Farmer be offered the temporary position of assistant-mistress.

19th February 1901 agreeing to the application of Miss M. Douslin, Headmistress of the Borough School, for leave of absence for nine months, the members of the Education Board spoke in very complimentary terms of the manner in which that lady had carried out her duties We understand that it is Miss Douslin's intention to visit her relatives In South Africa.

8th March 1901 School Committee.—The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night, being attended by Messrs. Birch (chair), Brewer, Nicholas, Patchett and Ching. Correspondence was received from the Education Board stating that, in accordance with the Committee's recommendations,

Miss Crombie had been appointed a fourth-class pupil teacher, and Miss Healy re-appointed a first class pupil teacher for one year; -and Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, had been granted leave of absence for nine months. Miss Brewer would take Miss Douslin's place, and the Board suggested that Miss M. Farmar be engaged temporarily as assistant-mistress. The Committee endorsed the arrangements suggested by the Board. The teachers' report showed that the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month was 145.175, the roll number being 181; and the average attendance at the Boys' School 285.05, as compared with a roll number of 352. The roll number of the Redwoodtown side school was 23, and the attendance 16.85. The Head Master reported that Misses Girling, Bull and Brennan, although only in their third year, sat at the December examination for the E. certificate, and were successful. Miss Girling gained the full E. with special mention in two subjects. Misses Brennan and Bull gained special mention in two subjects. In the art examination, held in connection with the Technical School, Wellington, all had success. The following were the certificates held by the pupil teachers:—Miss Brennan, freehand, geometry and model; Miss Girling, freehand and geometry; Miss Bull, freehand and geometry; Miss Macey, freehand. Mr. D. P.' Sinclair was appointed auditor of the Committee's accounts. The Chairman and Mr. Penny were appointed to draft a letter congratulating Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, on the success of her pupil teachers

11th March 1901 The Board resolved to ask the Department to apply the excess in the Havelock case to the salaries of the Headmaster of the Borough School and the Mistress of the Infant School: the former to obtain an addition of £13, the latter £9.

12th March 1901 Now that the Education Board have purchased from the Lodge of Odd-fellows the property abutting on Alfred Street and York Terrace, that body owns the whole of the block on which the Borough Schools stand, excepting one small section-facing York Terrace

12th March 1901 Teachers' Salaries.—Our report of the Education Board's meeting stated that the Board is asking the Department to apply part of the excess in the case of the Havelock teacher to the salary of the Borough Headmaster. The word "Headmaster" should have been "Headmistress

20th March 1901 Blenheim

The Committee wrote agreeing to proposed re-adjustment of the staff during Miss Douslin's absence.

It was resolved to inform Miss M. Farmar that she has been appointed temporary assistant teacher.

Miss Douslin asked to be allowed to receive now the bonuses due to her at the end of the year for the instruction of pupil teachers who have gained certificates a year earlier than was required.—Request granted.

3rd April 1901 All the members attended the meeting of the Borough School- Committee last night, excepting Mr. Scott, who was granted leave of absence. The teachers' reports showed that the average attendance during the month--' was as follows:—Boys' School 283.2, roll number 356 ; Girls' School 145.6, roll number 177.

A sub-committee was appointed to draw up the report for the meeting of householders, and it was decided to meet on the 18th to receive the report. The Chairman was authorised to have some ground improvements carried out.

The Visiting Committee having reported, it was decided to draw the attention of the Board to the requirements of the Redwoodtown side school.

Accounts were passed for payment.

Mr. T. L. Buick's book "Old Marlborough" was received, and the Chairman was directed to hand it over to the school library as a donation from the Committee.

4th April 1901 The wife and daughter of the late J P Lucas advertised:

MRS LUCAS. HAS resumed teaching, and is prepared to take pupils for both Trinity College and the Royal Academy Musical Examinations.

MISS M. LUCAS (who holds an intermediate Trinity College certificate and higher division local school certificate for the Royal Academy of Music is also prepared to take pupils. For further particulars apply YORK TERRACE

15th April 1901 Applications made by Messrs. Sturrock (Blenheim) and Howard (Picton) for the immediate payment of the allowance for pupil teacher's passes, in view of the fact that the certificates were obtained one year in advance, were granted

17th April 1901. Inspector Smith Places both Blenheim Schools (Girls and Boys) in the Good Grade with 9 others. 12 schools were graded Very Good above these two.

17th April 1901 Miss M, Farmar wrote accepting the temporary appointment- of assistant mistress at the Blenheim Girls' School The sum of £2 was voted towards the cost of a moveable cupboard for the Redwoodtown side school, The Secretary reported that a blackboard had been supplied.

18th April 1901 On the roll of the Marlborough High School are fifty-two scholars, of whom twenty are girls

A Letter has been sent through Captain Wolfe to the Minister of Defence, asking him to accept the services of a cadet corps in connection with the school. The application is strongly approved by Dr. Innes, the head master A difficulty in the way of the acceptance of the application, says the New Zealand Times is the proposed corps would not reach the strength required by the regulations. Further consideration will, however, be given to the matter

That three small boys attending the Borough Schools were poisoned yesterday through eating cordite. The boys became very ill, and but for the prompt action taken by the Headmaster serious consequences would probably have ensued, As it is, two of the youngsters are still in bed, and one had a very bad night. It is to be hoped the incident will act as a warning to other lads not to touch or taste what they know nothing about.

22nd April 1901 In a long analysis of the Inspector's Report by the Express, the following was included: We regret to notice that the two Blenheim schools are in the second, instead of being, as we should like to see, in the first list. There should be a greater regularity of attendance and more careful attention to home lessons expected and exacted from children attending schools in a large centre of population than in the country schools, and the local teaching staff owe it to their own and the honour of their schools to make a specially strenuous effort during the current school year to bring their work up to " Very good."

23rd April 1901 Annual meeting' of householders for the purpose of electing-the Borough School Committee was held last evening in the school. There was an attendance of about twenty householders; and Mr. Birch, Chairman of the outgoing Committee, was voted to the chair.

The report and balance sheet were read, the former being as follows: —

“Your Committee beg to report that during the past year fourteen meetings of the Committee have been held, all of which have been well attended, the individual attendance being as follows: Messrs. Patchett 14, Birch 13, Brewer, Brewster and Penny 12, Norgrove 11, Clung and Nicholas 9, and Scott 5.

It is a matter for regret that the attendance at the school still shows indications of elimination. There is certainly a slight increase both on the roll numbers and average attendance in the girls' department, but this increase totally disappears when we take the roll numbers; and average attendance of the whole school. In computing the average, it is only fair to say that the infant department is connected with the boys' department, and very materially affects such average during inclement weather and times of sickness.

Presumably, too, the extended operations of the High School have taken some of the elder scholars, but it is nevertheless exceedingly regrettable that the natural order of things is inverted, and what should be a normal increase yearly is now a constantly recurring decrease. This has been a matter of serious concern to your Committee, especially when we consider that a considerable number of children resident in the borough are attending outside schools. This matter of school attendance, we note, is receiving the attention of School Committees and Education Boards throughout the Colony, so we are not by any means singular in the falling out in attendance. The difference in the average attendance in 1893 when Mr. Sturrock first took charge and this year, is that in 1893 there were 335 and in 1900 only 279, with the percentage of passes at the examination about equal, notwithstanding the peculiar leniency of the regulations (which permit a scholar to be promoted, if he fails altogether in any two (2) out of five (5) subjects, provided that reading is not one of them).

Last year's passes, especially those of the sixth standard, do not show as good results as heretofore, when the regulations were more stringent. During the year Miss Linton left the school and her place, as assistant mistress, was given to Miss Brewer, an old pupil of the school, who is giving complete satisfaction. The pupil teachers, under Miss Douslin's charge, all passed their examinations twelve months ahead of their time, and of the scholars sent up by her for the scholarship examinations, seven succeeded in securing the required number of marks, and six of them are now enjoying the advantages offered by the District High School, under the tuition of Dr. Innes. The Committee desire to express their appreciation of the able manner in which she has carried on the work, establishing a record which had never before been attained. When at the end of March, Miss Douslin applied for extended leave of absence, your Committee, recognising the excellent work done by her, unanimously agreed to suggest to the Education Board that leave be granted. During her absence Miss Brewer is acting-mistress, Miss M. Farmer, assistant, she having taken up Miss Brewer's duties.

A petition was presented by the residents of Redwoodtown, and was recommended by the Committee to the Board, the result of which is a side school was opened in that district, which has been fairly well attended, but has not yet attained a payable average. During the year a Committee's Amalgamated Association was formed, delegates from each Committee in the district attending. This was the object of bringing Committees into touch with each other, to consider all matters of benefit, and to bring concerted action of the Committees for the purpose of electing acceptable members to the Education Board.

The balance sheet duly audited will be laid before you, by which you will see expenses have exceeded the capitation by £6 9s 6d. The Committee desire to acknowledge the consistent courtesy of the press in reporting the meetings and giving publicity to all matters concerning the welfare of the school.

The school buildings have been well maintained, grounds improved by removing old buildings, putting up new fencing, and laying down fine gravel, and so with locks and keys; trespassing on the premises is mitigated."

On the motion of Mr. D. P. Sinclair the report and balance sheet were adopted, with an addition, suggested by Mr. E. H. Penny, acknowledging the generosity of Mr. C. White in taking a town scholarship in place of the country scholarship won by his boy, and thus enabling a number of other children to enjoy the advantages of free tuition at the High School,

The Chairman (Mr. Birch) moved that: With a view to bringing about a better state of things in the Boys' School, it be an instruction to the incoming Committee to request the Board to place the boys' and girls' schools under the management of one good and efficient Headmaster."

Mr. S. Norgrove seconded the motion

He thought that the placing of the schools under one teaching management would enable them to have a master with a higher salary, and would bring about an improvement. He did not, of course, suggest the amalgamation of the sexes. Referring to the Inspector's report, he quoted the paragraph with reference to the conduct of the children outside the schools, and said he did not think the Inspector had been round here very often. While not saying that the headmaster should be a policeman, he thought that he should reside on the premises, and that if he did the Committee would not have to go to so much trouble as it had gone to for the protection of the valuable property in its charge.

After referring to the results of the examinations, he said that children, who would otherwise finish their education in the Borough School, were being sent to the High School, and many Blenheim children were going to outside schools. It must show that parents were not satisfied with present conditions when children were sent such long distances as to Grovetown and Springlands.

Mr. L. Browne agreed to a certain extent with what had been said; but he opposed the motion as not meeting the case. If that motion were carried it would give the Board the opportunity of doing what, he believed, the majority of that body wished to do —amalgamate the sexes, and such a thing would, he was certain, raise a storm of indignation among the householders. The Chairman's proposal looked too much like the thin end of the wedge. Further, the Headmistress had been very successful, and he did not see that any good would be done by placing her under the control of a master.

Mr. R. Dixon remarked that the proposed amalgamation would mean a loss of capitation.

Mr. Jordan also opposed the motion. There was no logic in it. He could not see how matters were to be improved in the boys' department by giving the master control of the girls' department too.

Mr. E. Penny did not see the force of the proposal. Mr. Norgrove had hinted that a higher salary would secure more efficiency. In that case the salary of the Headmistress would suffer. Moreover, the question of obtaining increased proficiency by a change was problematical; the Committee might make a change and fare worse. He did not think the time was ripe for such a resolution.

Mr. Patchett also opposed the motion.

Mr. Clung- was averse to the Headmistress's excellent work being interfered with. There was a motive behind the resolution, but to attain the object it would be necessary to go to work in a different way.

Mr. Griffin opposed the motion as presenting the danger of the amalgamation of the sexes.

The Chairman said that the various speakers had misconstrued the sense of his motion, which could be amended to meet the wishes of the meeting. His aim was to have the school carried on, on the lines of the High School. He was sure that with the change he had in view effected, better results would be obtained. As for the suggestion about loss of capitation, any deficiency would of necessity have to be made up by the Board.

In the course of further discussion, Mr. Jordan said he took it that the Chairman's motion did not express his real meaning. He asked if the object in view was not the appointment of a new Headmaster? —The Chairman said that that was his object.

The motion was lost.

Subsequently, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. R. L. Brewster, that it be an instruction to the incoming Committee to take into consideration the best means of improving the conditions in the boys' department, and report to a future meeting of householders.

The selection of a Committee for the ensuing year resulted as follows: — Messrs. R. Dunn, F. Birch, R. L. Brewster, W. Ching, R. Brewer, J. Griffin, E. H. Penny, Jordan, and D. P. Sinclair.

The names did not go to a ballot, Messrs. J. Nicholas and Patchett withdrawing their names to obviate the necessity of a ballot. The retiring members are Messrs. J. Scott, S. Norgrove, J. Nicholas, and Patchett. The new members are Messrs. Dunn, Griffin, Jordan and Sinclair.

24th April 1901 Teachers' Salaries. —The Government Commission on Public School Teachers Salaries will sit in Blenheim on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Education Board offices.

Anyone desirous of attending and giving evidence before it is invited to do so.

30th April 1901 Giving evidence before the Teachers' Salaries Commission, the Headmaster of the Borough Schools stated that the teaching profession had no attraction for boys in this district. During the last twenty years not more than six male pupil teachers had come forward. There had, however, been no scarcity of female pupil teachers.

8th May 1901 following letter from Mr. D. Sturrock, Head Master, was read at the Borough School Committee's meeting last evening:— " As this is your first business meeting I consider it my duty to protect my staff and myself from the uncalled remarks made at the annual meeting of the householders by your Chairman, Mr. Birch. To do this I shall give you the Government returns for the past ten years. These-figures will show you the position of the boys' department compared with the girls'.

Roll Number

	Infants	Boys	Girls
1891	293	165	165
1892	299	164	163
1893	267	178	157
1894	270	167	143
1895	271	163	174
1896	244	167	175
1897	252	174	166]
1898	225	161	143
1899	226	146	129
1900	208	150	140
1901	173	157	177

It will thus be seen that the great falling off is in the infants' department, in fact, 20 years ago the roll number was 255. Every year about 30 girls are sent to the girls' school from the infants' department, and it takes some time to make up that loss.

	Boys	Girls
1891	85	42
1892	82	56
1893	83	78
1894	84	85
1895	91	90

1896	84	72
1897	91	70
1898	91	86
1899	87	88
1900	89	89

To gauge the efficiency of a school, more than the mere percentage of passes has to be taken into account. The number of children absent on examination day is a great factor in estimating the percentage, as the absentees are not reckoned as failures, and children who absent themselves from the examination are not usually the bright ones.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ABSENT ON EXAMINATION.

Boys. Girls.

1891-1893 15 44

1894-1900 16 61

At last examination no boys were absent, while seven girls absented themselves.
WELLINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL RESULTS.

Full drawing certificates gained by boys over 40 Full drawing certificates gained by girls 0.
COMPARISON' OF A FEW SCHOOLS FOR LAST YEAR. Per cent of passes,

Springlands 92

Blenheim Boys' 89

Blenheim Girls' 89

Grovetown 88

Renwick 83

SCHOLARSHIPS. In regard to scholarships, two have been gained in my time, and, considering the conditions under which they were gained, it is creditable. It has been the custom to stuff and cram pupils for scholarships from 8.30 in the morning till 5.30 in the afternoon, and even Saturdays were used for the same purpose. This is in direct opposition to the conditions of scholarship. Pupils who get 2 hours per day extra tuition should secure all the honours, and it would be a disgrace to them if they-did not, It is not to be expected that a teacher should devote a couple of hours of his leisure in this work, and correction of exercises takes up some considerable time. Another point in connection with the scholarship examination is that children are allowed to go up time after time, and they get no handicap. A pupil who has had two or three tries meets the first year candidate at an unfair advantage, and thus after all it really is no great credit to the experienced scholarship pupil to carry off the prize. The teachers of Marlborough, perhaps with one exception, kept to the rule made by them that no extra tuition should be given, but that scholars should gain these prizes on true merit. I regret to make these comparisons, but your Chairman has forced me to do so, through an unwarrantable slur cast upon the staff of the Boys' school."

The Chairman said the Committee could hardly do justice to the above subjects on the spur of the moment, and suggested that they take another opportunity of discussing the communication. The comparisons sent in by the Head Master were very useful, as enabling the Committee to gauge the progress of their school ; and he maintained that the consideration of such data should be regarded as an important part of the Committee's duties. He would like to go thoroughly into the questions brought up by Mr. Sturrock. A conversational discussion took place in which the majority of members expressed themselves as opposed to the Head Master's attitude on the question of scholarships, and supported the opinion that the teacher should devote special attention to examination work. One member said he was prepared to stake his word that Miss Douslin had done no extra work in coaching scholarship candidates, as was stated in the above communication.

The Chairman said that all the subjects dealt with could be fully gone into on a more favourable occasion.

On the motion of Mr. Ching, the Chairman and Messrs. Penny, Griffin, and Sinclair, were appointed a subcommittee to consider the details of the Head Master's letter, and report to next meeting

8th May 1901 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, there being present Messrs. Birch (chairman), Brewer, Brewster, Ching, Sinclair, Dunn, Griffin, Jordan and Penny.

The following attendances were reported by the head teachers: — Boys' School, average 295.9, roll number 366. The average attendance per cent, in the Infant School was 76, and that in the Boys' School 86. Girls' School, average--149.7, roll number 170.

The Visiting Committee reported a satisfactory state of affairs. The Chairman was thanked for having put the pump in order and attended to the water supply.

The Secretary was instructed to have the school blinds repaired. Accounts were passed for payment ; and Messrs. Brewster and Dunn, were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Mr. Griffin said he had been informed that school boys had been heard using not the best of language in the vicinity of the school. It was resolved to ask the Headmaster to supervise the boys during recess time, and to do all in his power to check bad language.

14th May 1901 TO THE EDITOR

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 teachers, 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).—I am, etc., D. E. Leslie. Renwick, May 11th, 1901.

5th June 1901 Borough School Committee have decided that the schools be closed for the midwinter holidays at noon on Friday the 14th inst., and reopened on Monday, July the 1st.

5th June 1901 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, all the members being present.

The Headmaster's report showed an average attendance at the Boys' School for the month of 295.9, the roll number being 351. The average attendance at the Girls' School, according to the Headmistress's report, was 154.6, the roll number* being 183. It was shown that the attendance at the Redwoodtown side school had improved, there being 26 on the roll, and the average attendance being 22.5.

The Education Board forwarded a communication from the Department with respect to the message to be telegraphed to the various schools in the Colony on the arrival of the Duke of York in this Colony.—It was resolved to carry out the suggestion as to a Royal demonstration being made 'by the children on that occasion.

Miss Brennan, pupil teacher, who has received an appointment in the Taranaki district forwarded her resignation. — The resignation was accepted, and the Secretary was instructed to congratulate her on her appointment.

It was resolved that Miss Maud O'Brien, who was recommended by the Headmaster, be nominated to the Board for the position vacated by Miss Brennan. '

A communication from the Education Department notified that flags would be supplied to all Committees,

It was reported that several books were missing out of the school library. —It was resolved to request the Headmaster to call in all books, and to give no books out until all missing books had been returned,

The further trimming of the hedge round the school grounds was ordered.

Messrs. Ching and Sinclair were appointed Visiting Committee for the month.

The Chairman (Mr. Birch) brought up a draft report on the communication,' received at the previous meeting from, the Headmaster, in reply to remarks made by Mr. Birch at the householders' meeting. A lengthy and animated discussion ensued, members dilating on the various points touched upon by the Headmaster. The general opinion was expressed that the principles off the School Teachers' Association, to which the Headmaster was attached, was in some important matters not in the interests of the schools. Finally it was resolved that the reply to Mr. Sturrock's communication be left to the Chairman personally.

5th June 1901 At the meeting of the Blenheim School Committee last evening, the Chairman brought forward a draft reply in answer to the letter of the Headmaster—Mr. Sturrock — which was received at the previous meeting, and published in our columns During discussion on the draft reply it transpired that the sub-committee appointed to draw up the same were not unanimous ; considerable difference of opinion existing as to the reply that ought to be sent to Mr. Sturrock. It was eventually decided to leave the reply in the Chairman's hands to be dealt with personally.

10th June 1901 Correspondence was received from the Department notifying the supply of six New Zealand flags and booklets on the Union Jack, and medals commemorating the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.

The flags had been distributed to the largest schools. The Blenheim School Committee asked that Miss O'Brien be appointed in place of Miss. Brennan resigned.— Granted, subject to the approval of the Head. Teacher

11th June 1901 For some" days past a staff of workmen under the supervision of Mr. Paine, at the direction of Mr. Harding," the engineer of the Public Works department, have been busily engaged in decorating the Government buildings with native greenery and shrubs, flags, and draperings in purple, white and gold.' The whole of. the decorations are of a very artistic and effective nature and were completed in time for the demonstration that took place this afternoon in connection with the landing in New Zealand of the Duke arid Duchess of Cornwall and York.

Soon after two o'clock the children from the girls, boys, and infant departments of the Borough Schools, with the School Cadets under Capt. Sturrock, were marched on to Market Place and drawn up in front of the Government Buildings.. Here His Worship. the Mayor and the Borough Councilors had assembled. The signal of the landing of the Royal party was announced by the firing of a shot from the old cannon. A verse of the National Anthem was sung by the children and the largo crowd of people present.

19th June 1901 The Borough School Cadets left by the train last night for Christchurch to take part in the review to be held there on the occasion of the Royal visit. The company mustered 46, and took, their departure in high spirits under the charge of Captain Sturrock and Lieut. Robinson.

28th June 1901 Examination Coaching.—The Masterton School Committee is taking steps to prohibit state school 'teachers from "coaching" pupils for civil service and other examinations, and after the receipt of a letter from the Education Board, in which the latter stated it did not .sec its way to take any steps in the direction indicated by a resolution of the committees in this connection, it was decided by five votes to three that the attention: of the

Minister of Education be drawn to the fact that paid teachers of State schools in large centres are entering into what the committee considers unfair competition with private and qualified individuals in "coaching" pupils for civil service and other examinations, and that the Minister be requested to have such regulations framed by the Education Department as will render such competition impossible,

5th July 1901 This monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee, held last night, was attended by Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Brewer, Ching, 'Jordan, Penny and Sinclair.

The Headmaster reported that the attendance at the Boys' School during the month was particularly good. The roll number in the upper department was 151, and the average 133. In the Infants' department the roll number was 182, and the average 140.7. The total figures were 363, roll number and average 295.5.

The Headmaster regretted that his visit to Christchurch caused him to contract an acute attack of bronchitis, and he had been compelled to keep his room since his return. He was now nearly well. A pupil teacher was suffering from Scarlatina and would be absent for some time. As fevers, etc., were very prevalent, he suggested that the caretaker be instructed to use disinfectants in the closets and urinals. Too much caution could not be exercised at this time of the year, when all kinds of complaints are about.

Miss Girling had received her full certificate from the Education Board.

The Acting-Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month was 149, the roll number being 179. The Visiting Committee having made its report, some repairs and a number of small requirements were arranged for. The privy accommodation, which was reported to be in a disgraceful condition, was ordered to be attended to, and the Secretary was instructed to procure disinfectants. With regard to broken windows, it was decided to have the boys informed that if this source of expense was not diminished the playing of football on the school grounds would be stopped. Mr. W. B. Parker offered £7 10s for the old bathing shed given to the Committee by Dr. Cleghorn.—A sub-committee was appointed to speak with Mr. Parker.

Accounts amounting to £20 13s were passed for payment. Arrangements were made to invite applications for the position of janitor of the schools.

Messrs. Brewer and Jordan were appointed the new Visiting Committee.

5th July 1901 The question of continuing the Redwoodtown side school was discussed at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last evening, and was then deferred till next meeting. The Board's annual loss on the school has been £40 10s, this amount, however, including £46 10s, in the cost of fitting up the building. Under present conditions the Committee loses about £6 a year on the school. The roll number is 30, and the average attendance 22.

8th July 1901 School Property.—The purchase by its Executive Committee of the property facing York Terrace for £230, was approved by the Education Board to-day. It was explained that this transaction meant that the Board now possessed the whole of the block on which the Borough schools stand.

9th July 1901 BLENHEIM.

The chairman of the Committee waited on the Board with regard to the Redwoodtown side school, and the making of new provision for the caretaking of the Borough Schools. He pointed out that the Board's loss on the Redwoodtown school, established a few months ago, was £46 10s, and the Committee were losing £6 a year. The Board decided that the Committee be asked to endeavor to obtain a reduction of rent, and that it be empowered to renew the lease for three months only. The Board agreed to the suggestions as to the appointment a new janitor under the arrangement existing hitherto, and that the present caretaker be allowed to occupy the spare rooms at Redwoodtown in consideration of her; cleaning the school there.

12th July 1901 School Medals.—The children of the Borough Schools to-day received their souvenir medals in connection with the visit to New Zealand of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

17th July 1901 Arbor Day.—To-day was celebrated as Arbor Day by Government officials — Post and Telegraph. Department excepted. The observance of such a day by Civil Servants is a perfect farce, because the majority of them have never " put a spade to the ground " in their lives, and are not likely to. They are "not built that way." It is said the School Committee intend giving the children a holiday next week, and supplying them with trees to plant. The Conservation Society might join in and take the matter of planting in hand.

7th August 1901 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the above was held in the boys' school last evening. Mr. Birch occupied the chair and there were also present : —Messrs. R. Dunn, E. Penny, D. Sinclair, Jordan, Ching Brewer and the Secretary (Mr. Brewster.)

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology from Mr. Griffin, for not being able to attend, was accepted.

The monthly report of the Head Master and Mistress showed that in the boys' school there were 365 pupils on the roll and the average attendance had been 271 0. In the girls' school there were 179 on the roll, and the average attendance was 133.4.

With reference to the books that were missing from the school library the Visiting Committee reported that they had made enquiries from Mr. Sturrock, and he said that one of the locks of the library had been broken and a number of books removed. Mr. Sturrock had tried to trace the books, but up to the present had been unsuccessful.

It was decided by the members of the Committee to ask Mr. Sturrock to furnish them with a list of the missing books.

The Secretary was ordered to put an advertisement in the paper asking for the return of the books from those persons who should have any of them.

It was pointed out that the hall had been very wet during the recent rainy weather, and also that the pipes on the verandah were blocked up. These matters were ordered to be attended to without delay.

Miss Brewer, Head Mistress of the girls school, applied for a day's holiday for her pupils for the purpose of planting trees in the playground.

The Committee, after a long discussion, granted a day's holiday on Friday next.

Several articles were reported broken, and they were ordered to be replaced by new ones.

Mrs. E. Hayworth sent in her resignation as janitor, and it was decided to advertise for applications for the position. Mr. Wilmott had asked the Visiting Committee what his position was in the school, he had been appointed in the place of Mr. Simson, who had gone to Africa.

The Committee resolved to ask the Education Board if Mr. Simson was still, in their employ, and when they received the Board's reply they would let Mr. Wilmott know how matters stood.

Mr. Birch moved a resolution to the effect that the Committee accept an offer to let the house belonging to Redwood Street school for twelve months on condition that the buildings be kept clean. This was agreed to.

Accounts were passed for payment

The Committee expressed their sympathy for Miss Crombie, pupil teacher, who is suffering from an attack of Scarlatina.

Messrs. Birch and Penny were elected Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

7th August 1901 It was brought to the notice of the Blenheim Borough School Committee last evening that two boys, who had recently left school, had stolen two rifles, used by the school boys for their purposes, and sold them for 10 shillings each. A good start for a bad end! '

13th August 1901 BOROUGH SCHOOLS. APPLICATIONS for Caretaker of above Schools (duties shown by Mr. F. Birch), will be received on or before 20th inst. at 8 p.m. Any person having in their possession Books belonging to the Blenheim Borough School Library, are requested to return the same at once to Mr. Sturrock or the Secretary to save further steps being taken. R. L. BREWSTER, Acting Secretary, Blenheim School Committee.

13th August 1901 The Blenheim School Committee wrote asking if Mr. Simson, whose leave of absence had expired, was still in the employ of the Board. The matter was ordered to be held over for the Committee's report at the next meeting

REDWOODTOWN SCHOOL. The schoolmaster was allowed to let the -house belonging to this school on condition that he kept the school and outhouse clean; three months' notice on either side to be given.

21st August 1901 A special meeting of the School Committee was held in the school-house last evening to consider applications for the position of caretaker of the schools. The successful applicant was Mr. J. H. Williams, of Grove Road, who was elected by ballot. It was resolved that a copy of the duties be recorded in the minute book and given to the caretaker.

4th September 1901 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

This usual monthly meeting of the above Committee was held in the School last evening. Mr. F. Birch occupied the chair, and there were also present -.—Messrs. D. Sinclair, J. Griffin, R. Dunn, W. Clung, E. Penny, and R. Brewster.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Jordan and Brewer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence from the Head Master, giving the number on the roll as 380, with an average attendance of 300, which is a slight increase on last month, although sickness still prevails. — From the Mistress of the girl's school, giving the number on roll as 176, with an average attendance of 144.7, which is also an increase.

Messrs. Birch and Penny were appointed to supervise the drawing examination, to be held to-day in connection with the Wellington branch of the Technical. School. "We understand that the girls' department are going in for both scale and freehand, and Mr. Sturrock expects to have a large number for freehand.

Accounts were passed for payment. The Visiting Committee reported all the schools in good working order. The Secretary was instructed to write re library books missing, to those persons known to have them in their possession, and demand the immediate return of the same.

Messrs. Brewster and Griffin were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month

9th September 1901 BLENHEIM. A letter was received from the Committee pointing out that 12 months' leave of absence of Mr. Simson, second master, had expired, and asking the Board if any intimation as to his return had been received: If not, would the Board take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy ?

Mr. Sturrock, head master, wrote saying that he had just received a letter from Captain Simson, who was now in charge of the 22nd New Zealand Squadron in South Africa. Capt. Simson, who was in good health, stated in this letter that he wrote to both the Board and the Committee with regard to extension of leave. Evidently the communications had gone astray. It was resolved to draw the Committee's attention to the Board's resolution of 9th of April, 1900,' by which Mr. Wilmot was appointed to the position for 12 months or until Mr. Simson's return after that time.

Permission was given for a small extension of the caretaker's property.

9th October 1901 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, there being present Messrs. Birch (in the chair), Dunn, Griffin, Jordan, Penny, Sinclair, and Brewster. Leave of absence was granted Messrs. Brewer and Ching. The Headmaster wrote that the number of children on the roll was 370, and the average attendance was 274. The poor attendance was due to the prevalence of influenza and measles. The Headmistress wrote that the number on the roll was 172, and the average attendance 129.4.

Mr. Sturrock, Headmaster, asked the Committee to provide a new bell-rope and ladder, and to have some leaks in the roof stopped. The Secretary of the Education Board wrote stating that in future the Head Teacher will send to the Committee examination schedules as soon as he has classified the scholars. It was resolved to reply recognising the value of the schedules, and to request the Board to supply a new ladder and have the downpipes and ridging complained of attended to. The Visiting Committee reported that they found the schools in a satisfactory state. The Marlborough Educational Institute wrote asking a donation to the fund for a presentation to Captain Baillie. The Committee decided they could not funds, and the matter passed to the members of the committee individually.. It was resolved that the teachers be requested to wind up all blinds every night, to prevent the breaking of windows windows ; and that a record of all books taken by the teachers from the library be signed by them. ; The accounts passed for payment £34 12s 9d. Messrs. Ching and ?? appointed visiting Committee for this month.

14th October 1901 BLENHEIM. The Works Committee were instructed to attend to certain repairs needed in the Blenheim School. The Blenheim Committee wrote with reference to the appointment of Mr. Wilmot as second master in place of Lieut. Simson, who is on active service in South Africa. They wished to know the effect of the Board's resolution appointing Mr. Wilmot. It was resolved to reply that the Board did not appoint Mr. Wilmot permanently; also that Mr. Simson be communicated with, and asked whether it is his intention to return.

15th October 1901 MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD. THE following is the programme of "Demonstration. lectures" to teachers, to be delivered at the Borough School, Blenheim .by Edmund C. Isaacs, Organising Inspector under "The Manual and Technical Instruction Act: TUESDAY, 22nd October.—9.30 a.m., Modelling; 2.30 p.m., Modelling. WEDNESDAY, 23rd October.—9.30 a.m., Paper-folding; 2.30 p.m., Paper-mounting, THURSDAY, 24th October.—9.30 a.m., Carton Work; 2.30 p.m., Cardboard Modelling. FRIDAY, 25th October.—9.30 a.m., Brush Drawing ; 2.30 p.m., Brick laying. Teachers of Public Schools admitted free of charge. JOHN SMITH, Secretary

6th November 1901 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was hold last evening, there being present Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Penny, Sinclair, Brewster, Brewer, Griffin, Ching and Dunn. The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the girls' school as 145, the roll, number being 172. The result of the drawing examination were—Freehand, 19 passed out of 25 ; Scale, 7 passed out of 20, There was no report from the Headmaster, and the Secretary was instructed to write and ask him for one. Reference was made to the recent visit of Mr. Isaacs, Inspector under the Manual and Technical Act-, and the Chairman moved, Mr. Ching seconding', " that Mr. Sturrock, headmaster, be written to and asked to explain why he did not attend the whole of Mr. Isaac's lectures." An amendment was moved by Mr. Penny and seconded by Mr. Dunn, "that the Committee express regret that the Headmaster did not attend all the lectures given by Mr. Isaacs." The amendment was carried on the following division ; — Ayes : Messrs. Griffin, Penny, Brewster, Brewer and Dunn. Noes: Messrs. Sinclair, Ching and Birch. Messrs. Dunn and Ching were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. The Secretary reported that there was only the sum of £3 odd available for the

payment of the caretaker's salary, amounting to £4, and it was resolved that he pay over all in hand.

The Chairman of the Borough School Committee mentioned last night the fact that while in Nelson recently his attention was directed to the movement being made there to bring about the advantages of district high-school education, providing for the free higher education of pupils of the primary schools who have passed the Sixth Standard. Such conditions, he understood, existed at Westport and Motueka, the Government making due provision ; and at Nelson arrangements were being made for the accommodation, of about 50 Sixth Standard pupils at the College. Now that the teachers in this district had combined to teach only up to the Sixth Standard, he thought that the establishment of similar facilities here was very desirable. On the motion of the Chairman, Messrs. Penny, Sinclair, Griffin and Birch were appointed a sub-committee to obtain information on the subject and report to the Committee.

7th Nov 1901 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In your report of the Blenheim School Committee in tonight's issue, Mr. Birch is reported to have said: — " Now that the teachers in this district had combined to teach only up to the Sixth Standard, etc." I cannot allow this statement to go unchallenged. It is a gross libel on the teachers of the province. No such combination exists. —I am, etc., Herbert J. Robinson, President T. I. *Teachers Institute*) November 6th, 1901

9th November 1901 HEADMASTER AND MR. ISAAC'S LECTURES.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir,—My action at the last meeting of the Blenheim School Committee on the question, Why did Mr. Sturrock absent himself from Mr. Isaac's lectures? has excited a well-known individual, with the aid of his worthy henchmen (a wonderful mixture of H., S. and Alphabetical D.), to a personal attack upon myself. Why all this "tommy rot" about Garrison Band, River Boards, etc.? If he had anything to state in defence of Mr. Sturrock's action on the question at issue, why did he not come to the point and state it like a man? For want of argument he has substituted abuse. " Thomas Jones" in his letter made a vain-glorious boast that the resolution should have been, carried, stating that the Headmaster could give reasons for not attending. This, Mr. Editor, was all the resolution asked for. He has thought fit to drag into his letter (in very questionable taste) the late Headmaster. I will take this opportunity to let both the householders and the present Headmaster know what my grievance is.

On June 12, 1894, Mr. Sturrock was appointed Headmaster, and, from current reports industriously circulated by a prominent townsman, most of us thought we were going to have the late Master's prototype. It did not take me long to find out that I was most sadly misinformed. To prove this I will give you a tabulated form showing the condition of the standards in 1893 as left by the late Master, also another showing how they stand after the last examination, 1900:

1893. Standard VI., presented 20, passed 18 ; V., 34-32 ; IV., 29-29; III., 42-3 4; II., 44-35.

1900. Standard VI., presented 14, passed 7 ; V., 17-14; IV., 42-36; III., 38-35 ; II., 31=31.

You will notice, Mr. Editor, from a perusal of these figures that Mr. Sturrock has earned for himself the reputation of being the least successful teacher in the Boys' School, having well-nigh reversed the order of merit. While on this point I should like to say that parents have complained to me that while their boys can pass through the standards up to the fourth, the chances of passing the remaining two are so remote that they prefer sending them either to Grovetown, Springlands, or the High School. This statement is to some extent borne out by the decreasing numbers in the fifth and sixth standards. With reference to scholarships, you will doubtless remember the pride all Blenheim took in these examinations, and how our school stood second to none in the province in this respect. What has Mr. Sturrock done ? He

certainly did tell the Committee some time since that he had got two In his time,; What a record for seven years work!

There are other matters I should like to deal with, but I fear that I have already trespassed too much on your valuable space, and I will only just refer to them—viz., the cultivation and training of male pupil teachers, singing, drill, etc., all of which was maintained in a better state of efficiency. I think " Thomas Jones" would have done well to have left the late headmaster's name out of his letter. The name of the present headmaster falls into insignificance when the work of the two men is compared. I am anxious that our schools should once again occupy that high standard of merit, and it is my intention to do all I can in this direction, even at the expense of bringing the headmaster (whoever he may be) to book.—I am, etc., F. Birch.

13th November 1901 HEADMASTER AND THE DEMONSTRATION LECTURES.
TO THE EDITOR.

I Sir, —A sprat sometimes catches a mackerel. I sent the sprat along and I caught the intellectual Chairman of the School Committee, and I believe I have landed him. It would not take very much to do that. My object in writing was not so much to hold him up to ridicule (however much he deserves it) as to find out his method of reply. I have got that, and what is it ? A malicious tirade against the headmaster, and why? I told you in my last letter. Pie has told us that the fifth and sixth standards are very badly I taught, and that the scholars have to be sent to the Grovetown or Springlands schools to be finished off. If our clever and highly educated chairman will take the trouble to analyse the results team. 1895-1900 in the fifth and sixth standards he will find (if he can do so) that the percentage of passes of the schools mentioned are: Blenheim Boys ... 78.7 Grovetown 71 Springlands 62 Mr. Editor, he now talks about singing and drill. Results prove themselves. There is at present in the school an excellent library, and who got it ? Not Mr. Birch by his melodious voice ! Drill—What have the commanders of the forces said about the drill of the boys ? Colonel Fox, who was the most strict we have had, recommended the Government to give the Blenheim boys a grant of £50 a year (see statistics), and Colonel Pole-Penton complimented the boys on their excellent work. At the late review in Christchurch where were our boys placed? In the first battalion (a post of honor), and why? Not because they were the worst drilled. But, Mr. Editor, what is the good of explaining. Late Band Sergeant Birch knows more drill than commanders of forces My advice to Mr. Birch is, " Stick close to your lathe and never go to sea, and you'll never be a member of the School Committee." Mr. Editor, in conclusion, I consider a chairman of a school committee who takes the stand he has, single-handed, deserves the thanks of his colleagues on the committee.—I am, etc.,

Thomas Jones. Blenheim, November 12.

15th November 1901 BOROUGH BOYS' SCHOOL.
TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—While not wishing to take up your space replying to "Thomas Jones's" statements, I would ask you through the medium of your paper to allow me to expose his method of showing results .- by percentages " the points" on which he thinks he has scored. Why did he omit the results of the 1894 examination. Mr. Editor, I will tell you the results of Standards V. and VI. that year were as follows: —24 presented ,

10 passed ; and 23 and 15—the percentage for these two being 66*. The percentage of passes for these standards for the previous year was 90", thus showing a fall of 24 in Mr. Sturrock's first year's work with these standards. " Percentage" and cramming" are now favorite terms with careless, indifferent and unsuccessful teachers. The first is used by them as a means by which they take credit for the excellent work done by the other teachers in the lower standards —and notably in our Boys' School, Standard 11., which by this test shows 100' for the last examination, as against Mr. Sturrock's 50' in Standard VI., a small class of 14 boys,

which I submit, Mr. Editor, should all have been scholarship winners, being under Mr. Sturrock's special supervision and instruction. The second is used for the purpose of frightening parents on account of injury to the health of their children; also to belittle other more painstaking and successful fellow teachers. " Thomas Jones," your letters are as scurrilous as your name is fictitious. I know you quite well, and, alas, so do the Picton people.— I un, etc.,

F. Birch.

15th November 1901 The demonstration lectures under the Manual and Technical Act at present being given by Inspector Isaacs at the Borough Boys' School to the teachers of the Marlborough Education District are meeting with some measure of success. The fact that the schools throughout the district are closed for one week accounts for the attendance of some fifty teachers, male and female. On Monday paper-folding was Mr. Isaac's subject, and plasticine work and paper mounting consumed attention yesterday. The lectures will continue till Friday

18th Nov 1901 BOROUGH BOYS' SCHOOL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sib,—Mr. F. Birch in your issue of yesterday rakes up. the results of the 1894 examinations. Surely what happened seven years ago can have very little to do with the present state of the School. It appears to me that the present Headmaster is not personally liked by Mr. Birch, who has, in consequence, made up his mind to " worry" him out of his school. If Mr. Birch has good ground-s,- or thinks he has, for supposing the Headmaster not to be fitted for his position, let him formulate his charges, and have' the matter threshed out, either in the law courts or by a commission of enquiry set up by the Board of Education. If he is not prepared to do this, let him keep silent. His continual "nagging" is lowering the position of the Borough School; it is unsettling^ the minds of the parents; it is straining those good relations that exist, or should exist, between children and teachers; and last, but not least, it is taking the heart of the teachers out of their work. How can a teacher be expected to show to advantage when he is being continually "worried " and " nagged at" by a self-important individual who is not competent to form a just estimate of the value of a teacher's work. Mr. Birch appears to be assuming to himself the functions of the Inspector and , Education Board.—I am, etc., Parent. November 16,1901

4th December 1901 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening. Present— Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Dunn, Ching, Brewer, Jordon, Brewster, Griffin, Sinclair, Penny. GENERAL. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month was 279.2, the roll number being 337. These figures did not include the Redwoodtown side school. The Headmistress reported the average attendance as 147*G, the roll number being 170. The Visiting Committee reported that they visited the Infants' department and found a satisfactory state of affairs. Messrs. Brewer and Sinclair were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Applications were received from Misses E. L. Bull, May Macalister and A. Litchfield that their terms of pupil teachership, which had expired, be extended over another year.—It was resolved to recommend the applications to the favorable consideration of the Board. Accounts were passed for payment; arrangements made with respect to the cleaning of the Redwoodtown schoolhouse ; and other routine business transacted. DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. Reporting on behalf of the sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting, the Chairman said that it had been looking into the question of obtaining for this place the advantages of free secondary education for children who had passed the Sixth Standard. Reference had been made to the fact that a district high school would overlap the functions of the High School proper already in existence. But it was considered that it would be possible to obtain the facilities alluded to

without causing such overlapping. It was hoped that the Government would follow the policy spoken of in Nelson, where the College had been approached; and the suggestion was that similar arrangements be made with the Marlborough High School. In such cases capitation varying from £2 to £9 15s was granted; and it mattered little to whom" the money was paid so long as adequate provision for free secondary education was made. In Nelson repeated applications had been made for such provision, but so far no reply had been received. The sub-committee had been advised from I Nelson to collect all possible information on the subject, and put in an application as soon as possible. The question of free higher education was receiving a good deal of attention throughout the colony; the Government were at work in this direction, and this district should see that its cairns were not neglected. When the matter had advanced another stage the sub-committee would apprise the Committee. Mr. Sinclair produced an advance copy of the scheme put forward by Mr. Hogben (Inspector-General) for a colonial system of free higher education, to which reference was made in these columns the other day. The sub-committee was instructed to obtain from the Headmaster the probable number of children in the Borough School who would take advantage of facilities for such education. AN EXPLANATION. On the conclusion of the ordinary business, Mr. R. H. Dunn said that he wished to ask the Chairman a straight question. Did the words "Alphabetical D" in a letter that was signed F. Birch and appeared in the newspaper refer to him (Mr. Dunn.) The Chairman.—Yes. Mr. Dunn.—Well, I wish to deny publicly having anything to do with the letter signed " Tom Jones." Several people had twitted him on the matter, and he very much objected to his name being dragged into the correspondence in this way. He thought that Mr. Birch would only be doing right if he apologised to him.

The Chairman said he would give Mr. Dunn his apology as he had said that he had nothing to do with the letter. His letter got into print very quickly. Mr. Sinclair assured him that he knew nothing of the letter signed " Tom Jones "; he (Mr. Birch) knew that Mr. Dunn was friendly with Mr. Sturrock, and he thought that he was connected with it.

Mr. Dunn said that, as regarded the writing of the letter, he knew nothing whatever about it

5th December 1901 Lord Kitchener's dispatches mention that Captain Simson, Seventh New Zealanders, and Lieut. Quintal, of the New South Wales Bushmen, greatly distinguished themselves during the night capture of the Spanderberg laager at Durhonspruit. Lieut. Tudor, Sixth New Zealand Mounteds, is mentioned for gallantry in holding a position at Capon river for three hours against fifty of the enemy with twelve men. Lieut. Caskey, Queensland, is mentioned for his conduct on the same occasion.

5th December 1901 Honor —The Borough School boys, before assembling this morning, gave three cheers for Captain Simson, and the school flag was hoisted in his honor in recognition of his achievement as mentioned in this morning's cables.

9th December 1901 BLENHEIM. Applications from three pupil teachers in the Borough School that their terms be extended over another year were received from the Committee with a favorable recommendation. The applications were granted subject to any variation the Board might be compelled to make under the new Teachers' Salaries Act

11th December 1901 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

PROCEEDINGS IN COURT.

There were a large number of cases set down for hearing this morning at the Magistrate's Court for breaches of the School Attendance Act, 1901.

The first case was that against Frederick Birch. He was charged with a breach of the Act for his son James for the week ending November 15th last.

Mr. D. P. Sinclair appeared for defendant, also on behalf of the Blenheim School Committee. Mr. Sturrock was called on to conduct the cases, but before entering on the duty protested against have to do so. He said he was placed in a very unfair position in this matter of

breaches of the School Attendance Act. Parents held him responsible for these prosecutions through him having to appear in Court, and it brought much odium upon him. It was only fair and reasonable to him that these cases, as provided for by the Act, should be conducted by the Chairman of the School Committee, or the Truant Officer, or someone appointed by the Education Board.

Mr. Sturrock, giving evidence, said that James Birch only attended school five times for the week ending November 15th. The child had no certificate of exemption.

To Mr. Sinclair: The boy was in Miss Browne's class. He was informed for the following week, 22nd ultimo, that the boy was suffering from an accident. He produced Mr. Birch's note.

His Worship informed counsel that the note was of no value, as the only certificate he could notice was one from a medical officer.

E. Thomas, Truant Officer, called by Mr. Sinclair, said he was appointed under the Act of 1894. He had had no new appointment given him since the new Act came into force. He had mentioned the matter, and believed the Board were to pass a resolution reappointing him, but did not know if they had done so. He laid the present information.

To Mr. Sturrock: He was still in the pay of the Education Board.

Defendant, called, said his son James met with an accident by scalding on Monday, November 11th. He went to school for a day or two, but had to keep away later owing to the accident. The mishap occurred on Monday, the 11th, as he came out of school,

Mr. Sturrock "a holiday?" Was not Monday 11th

Witness then remembered it was; and Mr. Sturrock pointed out the attendances made by the boy for the week.

Kin Worship to defendant: Are you prepared with a medical certificate this morning?

Mr. Birch said he had not one, and thought it very hard if the word of the parent could not be accepted as a good and sufficient excuse. He had seen the precis of the new Act in the newspaper, and was explaining the course he took, considering if he sent the note, as he used to do under the old Act, that should have been sufficient, and was going on to give his opinion that the provisions of the new Act were too stringent, when His Worship interrupted him, and said he must not attempt to dictate to the Court. He (His Worship) was there to see the provisions of the Act; were carried out. He considered, and he could speak as one entirely outside the controversy, that the action taken by Mr. Birch in writing the letters he did to the papers was calculated to stir up strife in educational matters, and coming from one who was a member of a School Committee was a scandal and a disgrace. Either Mr. Sturrock was fit to hold his position or he was not, and if he was not the Education Board, who appointed him, would remove him, but it was extremely reprehensible for Mr. Birch to act as he had done.

Mr. Birch said what he had written was true, and was in reply to other letters.

E. Thomas, re-called by Mr. Sinclair, was asked: —Are you pressing for penalties this morning? He said he had no power to acquiesce in the School Committee's request. It was his duty to lay the informations and thus bring the cases into Court, and the law must take its course.

This concluded the evidence.

Mr. Sinclair asked that the case be dismissed. He submitted that the Truant Officer had now no appointment. He was appointed under the Act of 1894, and that Act was abrogated and repealed by a section of the new Act, but no provision was made under the new Act for the continuation of the Truant Officer's powers or for his re-appointment.

His Worship said he would consider the point, but did not think it was tenable.

Judgment in both cases against Mr. Birch was accordingly reserved until 2 o'clock.

Mr. Sinclair then said, on behalf of the School Committee, he wished to submit to His Worship the resolution passed at last night's meeting. After reading it and handing in a copy,

he asked that- in the present cases the parents might receive a caution, and the cases against them be dismissed.

His Worship said that when the last lot of cases were before him he intimated that until the provisions of the Act became better known in first offences he would only inflict the minimum fine. He intended to adhere to that course, and thought that would sufficiently meet the case.

Same defendant, for his son Gerald, pleaded guilty, the lad having played truant.

William Bridger, for his son Roy, for the week ending November 15th, was fined 2s.

Andrew Watson, for the same period, and for the week ending November 22, for his son Andrew, and son Percy for week ending November 22, was fined 2s in each case.

Mrs. O'Rourke, for her daughter Ida for week ending November 22nd, said her daughter had the measles, but when asked the date said she did not know the time, as she took no notice of it. A witness who was called said the child was ill with measles, but she did not know the date. The Headmistress said she had received a notice for the week ending November 5th. Fined 2s.

. Mrs. McKegney, for her daughter Kate, for week ending November 29th, pleaded measles as the cause, and said she sent a notice to the school. The notice was put in by the Headmistress, and was dated November 4th. Defendant then explained the girl had a relapse. Fined 2s.

Alfred Lucas, for his son Walter, week ending November 15th, was fined 2s.

11. Maurice, for her daughter Violet, week ending November 29th. Fined 2s.

Thomas Gilmore, for his son Joseph, week ending November 15th, said the boy was sent to school. Evidence was given as to non-attendance. Fined 2s.

William Sowman, for Gordon Sowman, week ending November 10th, said the boy was sent to school. Nonattendance was proved, and a fine of 2s was imposed.

George Brenchley, for his daughter Zillah, week ending November 29th. Fined 2s.

At 2 o'clock His Worship said he had looked into the matter, and found that the Truant Officer was duly appointed under the Act of 1894, and that appointment had not been cancelled. The Act of 1901 was more than a repeal of the Act of 1894 ; it was a reenactment. Clauses 9 and 10 of the new Act were identical with those of the 1891 Act, and it appeared to him that once the appointment was properly made it could only be cancelled by the Board ; and in further support of this he quoted section 21 sub-section 4 of the Interpretation Act, 1888. He must convict defendant in both cases. Seeing defendant was a member of the School Committee he felt inclined to give him the benefit of the new Act and One him 103 on each charge-, but as this morning he had fined other defendants only 2s each, he would fine Mr. Birch in the sum of 2s only on each case.

12th December 1901 Leave Extended.—The Chairman of the Blenheim School Committee (Mr. Birch) to-day received a telegram from Miss Douslin, Headmistress of the Blenheim Girl's School, from Bulawayo, South Africa, asking that her leave of absence might be extended till February 5th, as she was unavoidably detained. After consultation with the members of the Committee, Mr. Birch replied that the leave was extended as requested.

16th December 1901 BOROUGH GIRLS' SCHOOL.

At the annual examination of the Blenheim Girls' School held last week 168 were presented, and 159 passed, being a percentage of 94.6. The following girls passed the several standards:—

Standard VII. (9 presented, 9 passed) —Ivy Burn 3, Edith Berry, Mary Foster, Kathleen Furness, Grace Garnham , Nessie Harding, Rene Horton, Ella Lucas, Annie Morcom,

Standard VI. (21 presented, 17 passed)— Frances Atwood), Mabel Ball, Faith Brewer, Miriam Brewer, Lizzie Cowley, Muriel Eckford, Christina Fraser (credit pass), May Healy,

Ada Ham, Josephine Hilliard, Vida Harding, Maggie Leslie (credit pass), Katie Leake, Helen McCullum, Mary McCallum, Edith Sowman, Doris Stapleton (credit pass.)

Standard V. (33 presented, 32 passed) —Olive Armstrong, Ettie Ball, Elsie 'Ball, Edith Bentley, Stephanie Buckhurst, Rita Connolly, Ruby Daikee, Amy Fryer, Gertrude Gallop Monica Grace, Frances Hutcheson, Kathleen Hilliard, Desima Horton, May Lange, Grace Litchfield, Kathleen Lucas, Queenie Lucas, Mary Lucas, Eileen Macey, Linda Mallet, Lily May Lily Mahon, Connie Maxted, Cassie Morcom, Molly Park, Irene Harker, Annie Saunders, Ethel Sowman, Eva Watson, Mary Walker, Hilda Wanden, Annie Witt.

Standard IV. (38 presented, 38 passed). — Eva Armstrong, Sophie Brewster, Winnie Brewster, Jessie Binley, Ella Browne, Elsie. Batty, Olive Birch, Connie Clouston, Eva Cheek, Alice Cheek, Winnie Coward, Jessie Dew, Mary Derbsyshire, Ursula Grace, Irene Goslin, Phoebe Jackson, Mary Kirkpatrick, Georgina- Lacey, Doris Lane, Gwennie Mason, Violet Maurice, Jessie Mahon, Gladys McIntosh, Maggie McCallum, Nellie Oban, Ivy O'Rourke, Nellie Pond, Alice Roberts, Lily Register, Edith Simmonds, Rica Salvias,,,' Rene Simson, Nora Sigglekow, Lila Sowman, Millie Taylor; Moina Vannini, Grace Verry, Elsie Wanden.

Standard 111. (36 presented, 35 passed).—Maud Atwood, Evelyn Baldick, Eliza Boon, Zilla Brenchley, Irene Buckhurst, Elizabeth Brayshaw, Millie Ball, Mary Coster, Evelyn Crook, Olive Ching, May Coward, Catherine Earp, Lily Eyles, May Ferguson, Doris Fisher, Rona Farrar, Eliza Gallop, May Gillet, Marion Hindmarsh, Ruby Jordan, Effie Jackson, Violet Lacey, Kate McKegney, Doris Parker, Evelyn Patchett, Maud Priddle, Lily Simpson, Norah Sowman, Elsie Sowman, Eliza Smith, Eva Uren, Daisy Wensley.

Standard II; (31 presented, 29 passed). — Hope Armstrong, Bessie Brennan, Ivy Browne, Maggie Chapman, Alice Drapery Ella Dew, Florence Eyles, Beatrice Sowman, Muriel Farmar, Nona Horton, Elsie Holdaway, Lettice Holdaway, Mona Litchfield, Kathleen Litchfield, Beatrice Lucas, Evelyn Lucas t Emily Lucas, Ada Lacey, Ina McKegney, Martha McCallum, Gertrude Mogridge, Mabel Mears, Annie Nicholas, Nellie Penney, Lily Radd, Violet Roberts, Nora Sanders, Irene Terrill, Florence Witt.

20th December 1901 Girl's School. — This afternoon, before the breaking up ceremony at the Blenheim Girl's School, Miss Brewer, acting-Headmistress, and Miss Farmar, who has been acting as first assistant mistress during Miss Douslin's absence in South Africa, were the recipients each of a handsome and valuable souvenir, consisting in each instance of a pair of silver serviette rings. The presentations were made on behalf of the senior girls by Miss Kathleen Furness, as a mark of esteem and respect to their head teachers. Both ladies thanked the girls very heartily for their gift. Before finally breaking up afternoon tea and refreshments, provided by the pupils, were handed round.

1902

1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 274.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wilmot	David H	D2	Assistant Master	£ 185.00
1902	146	Blenheim Girls	Douslin	Minnie E	D2	Head Female	178.8
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 125.00
1902	146	Blenheim Girls	Brewer	Lottie M	D2	Assistant Female	£ 105.00
1902	146	Blenheim Girls	Litchfield	Alice R E	E4	Female Probationer	£ 105.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Harris	Annie Maud		Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Nellie M S		Female Probationer	£ 50.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	O'Brian	Maude		Female Probationer	£30.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Winifred M		Female Probationer	£ 30.00
1902	284	Blenheim Boys /Side	Crombie	Agnes M		Female Probationer	£ 20.00

8th January 1902 BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The results of the examination of the Boys' and Girls' Schools by Inspector Smith on December 2nd were received by the School Committee last night. They are as follows:—

Notes on passes in Standards I to V. —Out of the 177 who passed, 21 failed in two subjects at my examination. These were distributed thus—S5, 3; S4, 6; S3, 8; S2, 3; S1, 1; total, 21. Class Subjects—Geography, satisfactory; drawing, satisfactory; grammar, inferior; history, moderate; elementary science, object lessons, etc., fair; recitation, good. Additional subjects.—Singing, good; needlework, excellent; drill and exercises, good.

Instruction of S7 and Primers — Satisfactory.

Notes:—Out of the 133 who passed (under the new regulations) 25 failed in two subjects. These were distributed as follows: S5, 9; S4, 6; S3, 9; S2, 1; total, 25. Class Subjects.—Geography, satisfactory; drawing, satisfactory; grammar, moderate; history, satisfactory; elementary science, object lessons, etc., fair; recitation, satisfactory. Additional subjects.—Singing, good; needlework, good; drill and exercises, good. Instruction of S7, satisfactory. The figures show that eleven failed in the Boys' School and nine in the Girls' School.

Messrs. Birch, Sinclair, and Penny were appointed a sub-Committee to look into the details of the results, and to obtain information from the Inspector as to what constituted a failure, the details in this connection completely puzzling the Committee.

Boy's School

Class	Presented	Present	Passed
S7	2		
S6	10	10	6
S5	32	32	30
S4	31	29	27
S3	30	30	27
S2	28	28	28
S1	65	65	65
Primers	144		
Total	342	194	283

Girl's School

Class	Presented	Present	Passed
S7	10		
S6	21	21	17
S5	33	33	32
S4	38	38	38
S3	36	36	34
S2	32	31	29
Total	170	159	150

8th January 1902 Miss M. Douslin, headmistress of the Borough School, who has been visiting South Africa, will, it is expected, be back in New Zealand on February 5th. She will resume her school duties immediately after her arrival.

The Chairman of the Borough School Committee reported last night the recent interview of the deputation from the School Committees' Association with the Education Board. He expressed appreciation of the Board's sympathetic reception. One request he brought before

the Board was that the Committee should be supplied with information as to the disposition of the High School scholarships, and a promise was made that such information would be sent on. He thought it very desirable that the Committee should be notified as to the disposition of the scholarships. He mentioned the fact that a scholarship examination was held the other day at which the Blenheim Boys' School was not represented by one candidate
9th January 1902 BOROUGH BOYS' SCHOOL.

The names of the girls who passed in the December exams, have already been published. The names of the successful boys are:—

Standard VI.—B. Atwood, S. Brewster, G. Daikee, A. Fisher, F. Mills, C. Rabbits.

Standard V. —L. Brayshaw, A. Brennan, F. Blackburn, G. Connolly, J. Crombie, R. Foster, R. Fulton, F. Horton, C. Hale, V. Logan, H. Lucas, C. Livingstone, J. Morgan, W. Macey, W. McAllister, W. Maxted, S. Mogridge, C. Mogridge, J. McKenzie, C. O'Brien, E. Patchett, F. Patchett, N. Parker, J. Penny, G. Register, F. Sheridan, A. Simmons, J. Taylor, J. Walker, A. Wensley.

Standard IV.—C. Armstrong, R. Bridger, G. Brenchley, W. Chuck, J. Fryer, G. Furness, B. Garnham, J. Gilmour, L. Holdaway, A. Hadfield, W. Hindmarsh, S. Knight, G. Lange, H. May, H. Macey, R. McAllister, W. McKenzie, H. Mears, H. Oban, L. Porter, S. Porter, H. Patchett, G. Sowman, S. Tunnicliffe, N. Taylor, R. Watson, A. Watson.

Standard III.—G. Benning, G. Birch, E. Brewer, A. Crombie, A. Coleman, G. Daniels, L. Dunkley, H. Gosling, R. Hale, J. Hodson, IT. Hodson, W. Logan, G. Lucas, L. McHattie, C. McCartney, M. Mills, H. Priddle, E. Reid, F. Saunders, E. Simmons, E. Simpson, R. Uren, P. Watson, J. Witt, H. White, W. Walker.

Standard II—F. Ball, L. Bowser, S. Brewer, C. Brown, 11. Dames, W. Dew, A. Fryer, H. Goodman, IT. Hadfield, S. Harding, J. Hilliard, L. Horton, A. Iremonger, J. Iremonger, W. Lange, H. Mason, O. Mead, O. Norgrove, A. Patchett, F. Parker, T. Rabone, C. Rabone, H. Register, H. Sheridan, C. Sheridan, W. Smith, H. Tunnicliffe, R. Wooster.

In Standard I. 65 were presented, and all passed.

13th January 1902 LEAVE OB ABSENCE. Captain Simson, of the Seventh Contingent, wrote explaining that his application for an extension of his leave of absence as second master of the Borough School was mailed in sufficient time to reach Blenheim before the expiration of the twelve months. He would give the Board at least three months' notice before returning to duty if the Board would grant an extension on that understanding.

Messrs. Redwood and Duncan and other members thought that Captain Simson should be given every consideration. The letter was ordered to be forwarded on to the Committee.

13th January 1902 Teacher's Salaries. — " The new scale of salaries," remarked the Chairman of the Education Board this morning, " would bring about considerable changes in Blenheim. It will reduce the number, and make changes of sex." At a subsequent stage of the meeting the subject was discussed at length, and resolutions passed to be forwarded on to the Education Department. The Blenheim School is the one affected to the greatest extent. Scholarships The results of the examination of candidates for the Marlborough scholarships were presented to the Education Board. There were 20 candidates, and nine obtained a sufficient "number of marks—60 per cent—to qualify. The maximum number of marks was 720. Following are the first nine names in the order of merit: —Margaret Newman, Havelock Suburban, 537; Mary Wemyss, Renwick, 520; Monica Grace, Blenheim Girls' School, 501; Constance Maxted, Blenheim Girls', 492 ; Kathleen Hilliard, Blenheim Girls', 484; Decima Horton, Blenheim Girls, 470; W. B. White, Onamalutu, 464 ; Charles Alguist, Canvastown, 453; Mary Park, Blenheim Girls', 433. There were seven scholarships open, and they were awarded by the Board as follows : —The two country scholarships go to M. Newman and W. B. White ; the three town scholarships to Mary Wemyss, Monica Grace, and Constance Maxted ; the two "Governors' scholarships" to Kathleen Hilliard and Decima Horton. The

three town scholarships are worth £10 a year, the two country honors £35 a year, and the two Governors' scholarships provide for free tuition. The winners go to the Marlborough High School.

14th January 1902 local effect of the new scale of staffing and salaries introduced by the Public School Teachers Salaries Act of last year was discussed at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday.

The Secretary submitted a statement showing how the various schools would be affected. He pointed out that the Blenheim Borough Schools would be affected to the greatest extent. According to the Department's plan, the number of teachers would be reduced, and the total amount of the salaries would be lowered. The Headmaster's salary would go up from £271 to £303, while that of the Headmistress would be reduced by about £50. The Department's plan made important alterations in the staffing. There were at present in the school one male and five female assistants, and now it was ordered that there be two male and two female assistants. Picton was allowed one more pupil teacher, and an assistant female teacher less. Renwicktown was entitled to two pupil teachers. Marshlands was entitled to another female assistant. Okaramio was not entitled to an assistant female. There were no grants for sewing mistresses anywhere. Blenheim's case was the most troublesome of the lot, as the Department expected the boys' and girls' sections to be classed as one school. The Department had written to him ordering that the system of classing them separately be abolished. But he pointed out, the Board could claim under section 3 of the Act that it be allowed two years in which to bring matters into conformity with the Act.

After discussion, Mr. Litchfield moved:—" Seeing that changes in the staffing of some of our schools are imperative under the new Act, it shall be an instruction to the Secretary of the Board to convey to the various Committees affected a schedule of the changes that will be necessary, with a view to the cordial cooperation of Board and Committees, so as to bring the staffing of all schools into conformity with the Act within the period allowed by such Act, viz. December, 1903.

Mr. Fell said that the treatment of the Blenheim boys' and girls' departments as one school involved changes of vital importance. It meant a big difference to the Board and to the teachers, and the Board should strenuously resist such developments.

Mr. Macey said his impression was that the parents would strongly object to the proposed amalgamation.

Mr. Duncan thought that the Department had been too hasty. The proposal was very ill-advised.

Mr. Litchfield's motion was carried.

It was also resolved that the special attention of the Blenheim School Committee be drawn to the correspondence from the Department with respect to combining the two schools.

A resolution was passed asking the Minister for the necessary authority to apply the provisions of section 3 of the Act to local conditions, with a view to the gradual effecting of the changes in contemplation.

During the discussion reference was made to the fact that the staffing reforms involved the question of structural alterations to the school buildings. Readjustment of the teaching staff would render the present design of the class rooms in some cases inconvenient.

14th January 1902 LEAVE OF ABSENCE. Captain Simson, of the Seventh Contingent, wrote explaining that his application for an extension of his leave of absence as second master of the Borough School was mailed in sufficient time to reach Blenheim before the expiration of the twelve months. He would give the Board at least three months' notice before returning to duty if the Board would grant an extension on that understanding. Messrs. Redwood and Duncan and other members thought that Captain Simson should be given every consideration. The letter was ordered to be forwarded on to the Committee.

20th January 1902 TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, —The particulars of the Marlborough scholarships, as published the other day, are anything but pleasing to the parents of boys in the higher standards of the Blenheim Boys' School. Last year one of the Blenheim boys was absolutely last in a list of 20, and the only other candidate from that school was not far off. This year—owing, it appears, to repeated failures to annex a prize—no candidates from the Boys' School were sent up, so no invidious comparisons can be made. The householders have, however, every reason to be satisfied with the success of the Blenheim Girls' School, which has taken four scholarships out of the seven available. At this juncture «he Department's precious Regulations come in, and, according to your report of the Education Board, the Head Master is to have his salary increased by £29 a year, whilst the Head Mistress will have hers reduced £50. In. order that these anomalies shall not occur again, and by way of bringing the combined schools up to the same dead level (that is, the level of the Boys' School), the much-talked-of amalgamation is to take place, and shortly the whole of the Borough Schools will be placed in charge of the Head Master. Truly the prospect is anything but cheerful! This is a very literal interpretation of the Scriptural maxim, "To him that hath shall be given, and to him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath," It will be interesting to hear what "Thomas Jones" has to say on this new development.—I am, etc., Parent.

20th January 1902 Miss Douslin, Head Mistress of the Borough Girls' School, who has been on holiday leave to South Africa, will arrive in Wellington by the Ruapehu, which is expected there to-morrow evening

22nd January 1902 BLENHEIM HOUSEHOLDERS MEETING. A MEETING of Householders will be held at the Borough School on WEDNESDAY EVENING next, 29th inst., at 7.30 p.m. Business: To lay before the householders for consideration the proposed amalgamation and the working of the Colonial Scale of Staff and Salaries. R. L. BREWSTER, Secretary

22nd January 1902 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

The question of the proposed amalgamation of the boys' and girls' sections of the Borough Schools was considered at a special meeting of the School Committee held last night. There were present Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Jordan. Brewster, Dunn, Penny, Sinclair, Chine and Griffin.

The Chairman explained that the matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Education Board in connection with the consideration of the new scale of staff and salaries introduced under the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act of 1901. The Department had informed the Board that under the new arrangements as to staff and salaries, the division of the boys' and girls' sections must be discontinued, and the school must be treated as a single one. Recognising the importance of the proposed changes, he had brought them under the notice of the Committee for their immediate consideration, and had invited Mr. W. H. Macey, as a member of the Board and an ex-member of the Committee, to attend the meeting and explain the situation.

Mr. Macey said that the Board had referred the position to the Committee. He laid before the meeting schedules, prepared by Mr. J. Smith, showing the salaries that would be paid to the present staff under the new scale and the staff and salaries that would be connected with the school treated as a single institution in accordance with the Department's instructions. He explained that under section 3 of the Act authority could be obtained from the Minister for a postponement of the new staffing till the 31st of December, 1903.

The schedules produced showed that with the retention of the present staff the increases of salaries according to the new scale would be: —Boys' school, including Redwoodtown side .school — Headmaster, £234 (on the basis of payment for last quarter of 1901) to £274 ;

assistant master, £140 to £185 ; assistant female, £110 to £125 ; assistant female, £70 to £100 ; assistant female, £54 to £80 ; two ex-pupil teachers, (4th year) £40 to £50 ; pupil teacher, (4th year) £40 to £50 ; two pupil teachers, (second year) £24 to £30. Girls' school—Head female teacher, £176 to £178; assistant female, £85 to £105; ex pupil teacher, (4th year) £40 to £60; ex-pupil teacher, (4th year) £40 to £50; ex pupil teacher £40 to £50.

The new staff and salaries under the single-school system would be:—Headmaster £303, Mistress £140, assistant master £220, assistant female £110, assistant male £105, assistant female £100, assistant male £80, four pupil teachers (4th year) £50 each. Male, instead of female pupil teachers, would be required.

It was pointed out that in the case of a "mixed" school the Headmaster's salary would go up from £274 to £303, and the second master's from £185 to £220, while the Headmistress's salary would be decreased from £178 to £140.

In answer to a question by Mr. Sinclair as to the feeling of the Board with regard to the proposed "mixing" of the schools, Mr. Macey said that probably the Board would be influenced by the Committee. At the Board's meeting he gave it as his opinion that the householders would prefer the present system. The Chairman said that while fully agreeing with the principle of a "mixed" school, as it was carried out in the time of Mr. Lucas, he would be very unwilling to apply such a reform to the school under existing conditions. The chief difficulty was that the general wish was to have the present Headmistress's salary raised rather than decreased, each successful work had she done. The proposed drop was a very considerable one. With the data before them, the wisest course would perhaps be for the Committee to be given a chance of reelecting the staff. In that case the new scale could be applied more satisfactorily. He would not be willing to adopt it in any other way; he would rather take advantage of section 3 of the Act, as suggested by the Board, and extend the time for the adoption of the new regulations. However, he thought it would be wise to submit the whole question to the householders. A meeting of the householders could be convened, the situation could be explained to them, and they could be asked to express their views as to the "mixing" of the schools. Mr. Jordan said that while it was very desirable that the householders should have a voice in the matter, there were the considerations that the Committee were elected by householders who were apparently very much in favor of separate schools (the Chairman—I doubt that) and that there was only a short period before the next election. He felt inclined to rely for the time being on section 3 of the Act. There must have been some reasons of a radical character why the mixed system was abolished. The Chairman said that the reasons were not at all radical. They were very simple—want of harmony between the heads of the boys' and girls' sections.

Mr. Penny could see no reason why there should not be a "mixed" school, provided that there were proper arrangements as to the playgrounds. The Chairman said that a way out of the difficulty in connection with the Headmistress's salary, as fixed by the Department's proposed scale, would be the raising of the average attendance of the Girls' School to 201. The last average being 147 that was out of the question.

Mr. Jordan said that the Headmistress's salary was not the only consideration. They should take a broader view. The Chairman said he quoted that salary as only one instance. After further discussion, Mr. Jordan moved that the Board be asked to urge the Minister to grant the privilege obtainable under section 3 of the Act, which allows an extension of time till December 31st, 1903. Mr. Dunn seconded. The Chairman moved and Mr. Penny seconded an amendment that the question be submitted to a meeting of the householders for an expression of opinion—

Mr. Jordan pointed out that even though the extension of two years were obtained from the Minister, the staffing of the school and the management of the boys' and girls' sections could be brought into line with the Department's proposed changes at any time within that period.

The amendment was carried, and the date of the householders' meeting was fixed for Wednesday next at 7.30 p.m.

Messrs. Birch, Griffin, Penny, and Sinclair were appointed a sub-Committee to prepare a detailed statement of the position for the information of the householders' meeting.

23rd January 1902 EDITOR

Sir, —On Wednesday evening next the householders of the Blenheim Schools will be asked to express their opinion as to the advisability of immediately amalgamating the Boys' and Girls' Schools and reorganising the staff, or in the alternative permitting the schools with the consent of the Minister of Education to remain as they are until the 31st December, 1903. According to your report the School Committee has referred the matter to the householders for their consideration, which is the most satisfactory course to pursue. As "The Public Schools Teacher's Salaries Act" has only recently come into force, and; when applied to our local schools, instead of removing any anomalies and inequalities that may exist, it gives rise to greater complications, therefore it may be advisable for the householders to allow things to remain as they are until 31st December, 1903, in order that the working of the Act, in other places may be observed. If the Boy's and Girls' Schools are continued separate until the end of 1903 the Education Board has power to adopt a new scale of salaries in the interim, which will mean a commendable increase to most of the teachers. For instance: In the Boy's School the Headmaster rises from £234 (on the basis of payment for last quarter of 1901) to £274; assistant master, £140 to £185. In Girls' School: Headmistress advances from £176 to £178. If the schools are amalgamated at once the following curious results will take place: the Headmaster's salary will rise to £303, being an increase of £29, and the assistant master's will rise to £220, being an increase of £35 on the scale that may be adopted for the Boys' School if worked separately. Why an assistant master should receive a higher proportionate increase than the Headmaster is hard to understand. When the schools are amalgamated the Headmistress becomes mistress subject to the superintendence of the Headmaster, and her salary falls from £178 to £140, a decrease of £38. Thus, where an advance is expected a decrease is observed. When the work of the Girls' School is reviewed during the years in which it has been separated from the Boys' School, and the excellent results that have been obtained, it is difficult to see what advantage would accrue from an immediate amalgamation. At the last scholarship examination four of the successful candidates were scholars from the Girls' School. The good results that have ensued in the Girls' School during the past year has won golden opinions for the efficient manner in which the staff have discharged their duties, and it would seem a strange recognition of their ability if immediate amalgamation was forced on, and the salary of an excellent teacher reduced by £38. The schools are working very satisfactorily, and good results are being obtained in all the departments, and it seems strongly inadvisable to alter existing arrangements. When the householders look into the matter and consider the different phases of the amalgamation question there is no doubt that until the end of 1903 they will deem it the preferable course to allow the Boys' and Girls' Schools to remain separate, and not to insist upon an immediate amalgamation.—I am, etc., Householder.

28th January 1902 THE EDITOR.

Sir, —I think parents of the boys attending the Borough School have a right to demand why it is that their children have been debarred from obtaining a scholarship this year. They have a good substantial grievance against the Head Master in this respect. Not a single candidate put forward! Why is this the case? The Borough Boy's School has drifted back to this sad condition since the advent of the present Head Master, and either the boys have grown more stupid than they used to be, or the teaching is not up to the mark. The public naturally draw their own inferences, and this state of affairs forms a very inappropriate occasion to talk about amalgamating the schools. —I am, etc., Pro Bono Publico

30th January 1902 The members of the Borough School Committee have arranged to visit the school on Monday morning next, and welcome Miss Douslin, the Headmistress, on her return from South Africa.

30th January 1902 MEETING OF HOUSEHOLDERS.

The meeting of householders convened by the School Committee for the consideration of the '* proposed amalgamation of the boys' and girls' sections of the Borough School and the working of the colonial scale of staff and salaries" was held last night in the school. There was an attendance of about fifty persons, and the proceedings, which were of an interesting character, lasted about an hour and a half. The office of chairman went begging for a few minutes, the chairman of the School Committee and a member of the Education Board declining election, as they thought the appointment should be free from any official significance, while another nominee begged to be excused because he was of the opinion that the School Committee should give them a lead. Finally Mr. E. Penny accepted the office.

The two schedules which were produced at the last meeting of the School Committee and published in these columns, showing in detail the effect of the colonial scale of staff and salaries as applied to local conditions, were marked out on blackboards. The one tabulation showed the new scale of salaries applied to the Borough Schools' teaching staff as at present constituted ; the other showed the scale of staff and salaries that would have to be applied the Borough Schools classed as a " single" institution, instead of, as heretofore, as an institution with the girls' and boys' sections conducted separately.

The following communication from the Education Board to the School Committee was read out:—" You are doubtless aware that on the 1st of January current the colonial scale of staffs and salaries came into operation. The staffs of some schools in this district are not in accordance with the new law, but the Act provides that in such cases the existing staffs can be retained with the sanction of the Minister, until they can be brought to statutory strength with as little hardship as possible to individuals. There is, however, a limit to this concession, and all staffs and salaries must be made to conform to the scale by, or before the end of the year 1903. I am therefore directed to ask you to cordially co-operate with the Board so as to bring the stalling of your school into conformity with the Act, within the time limit fixed by the same. The deviation from the statutory staff of your school is as follows -.—Taking the boys', infant, and side schools as one the present staff is one pupil teacher above the scale. Taking the girls' school as a separate school, the present staff is also one pupil teacher in excess. If, however, the Government, at the end of the two years insists upon the Blenheim School being treated as one school, the following changes will have to be made:—Two assistant masters to be appointed ; two females to be dispensed with ; three pupil teachers to be dispensed with."

The Chairman explained the details of the respective schedules. The application of the scale to the present system of managing the school would mean fairly equitable increases of salary all along the line; the application of the scale to the school as a " single" institution involved a reduction in the number of the staff, and a marked increase in the salaries of the principal male teachers, with a decrease in the salary of the Headmistress from £176 to £140. Mr. L. A. Browne moved, " That this meeting of householders express its opinion that it is desirable that the Board should be requested to use every endeavor to maintain the present system of working the Blenheim Borough Schools as long as the Public School Teachers Salaries Act' of 1901 will permit." He said they had had 15 years' experience of the present system, and he did not think anyone could say it had not worked well. If there was any fault in the teaching it was not due to the system. The Girls' School had obtained most satisfactory results; and, whatever might be said against the Boys' School, he failed to see how that department could be improved by amalgamation. He thought the present system should be kept going as long as possible, and he pointed out that during the two years' grace allowed by the Act something

might transpire which would remove the obligation to amalgamate. He favored the separation of the boys' and girls' sections, and expressed his belief that if a poll of householders were taken the verdict would be overwhelmingly in favor of the status quo. Mr. J. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. D. Sinclair, who supported the motion, spoke at length in favor of retaining the present system. The new scale of salaries as applied to the existing staff was in favor of the teachers as a whole; amalgamation would mean that, while the salaries of the Head Master and assistant master would go up to £303 and £220 respectively, the Head Mistress would sink to the status of a female assistant and her salary would drop considerably. That was very unfair treatment for a most deserving teacher. Further, he did not think that the head female teacher should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Head Master and second master. Having referred to the successes of the girls' school in the matter of scholarships, he went on to give the various reasons why the householders should vote against amalgamation, which would mean the dismissal of five teachers on three months' notice. He did not think amalgamation would be in the interests of either pupils or teachers, and he hoped to see it avoided even at the end of the two years. Mr. E. Rabbits asked the School Committee to give the meeting some idea as to how the higher standards in the boys' schools compared with these of schools in the immediate vicinity.

Other speakers thought that this subject was out of order at this stage of the meeting. The motion should be disposed of first.

Mr. Birch said he would propose an amendment which would give them the opportunity of dealing with this subject. He moved "That this meeting, through the medium of the School Committee, request the Education Board to amalgamate the Borough Schools and bring them into accord with the Government's colonial scale of staff and salaries; and, as the new scale will necessitate an alteration of the present staff, we further request the Board to give the present staff three months' notice that their services will not be required, and that applications be at once called for a new staff." He said he had nothing to say against the girls' school, which had achieved excellent results. But he wanted to see the boys get on as well as the girls; and in proposing his resolution he had in view the accomplishment of this object. From the tone of the meeting he did not suppose that his proposition would be carried, but so jealous was he of the interests of their boys that he felt bound to move it. Householders had expressed concern as to the ['comparative results of the Blenheim boys' school and other schools in the district, and it was only a reasonable thing to ask that their boys should have as good an education as the boys at other schools in the vicinity. The report of the Commissioners—expert gentlemen who knew what they were talking about—pointed out that it was possible to make a school of this size the very highest type of a primary school. But he maintained that such a desideratum involved a readjustment} of the staff. He understood that about 40 boys left this school every year. Last year only 11 boys got into the sixth standard ; this year only 10, and only 5 passed. It was being reduced to vanishing point, and it was a question as to whether it would not pay the Board to send the boys to the High School and abolish the Sixth Standard. He thought the time had arrived for public opinion to assert itself and mend matters. 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.

In answer to a question, Mr. Birch said that in the fifth standard of the boys' school there were 32, and all passed but two, a very good result. Mr. Rabbits seconded Mr. Birch's amendment.

Mr. J. T. Robinson said he wished to say a few words, though at first he did not intend to take any part in the discussion. He was very much surprised at Mr. Birch going for amalgamation, for he was one of the hottest advocates of separation some years ago. It was "twaddle" making out the Headmaster to be this, that and the other, and he strongly deprecated the "ink-slinging" in the newspapers, which was enough to take the heart out of any man. Mr. Birch gave no credit to the Headmaster for success of his technical education. The percentage of passes in any particular year did not always mean that justice had not been done to the sixth standard, or to any other standard. He thought that Mr. Birch's resolution would be better left alone. He had no brief for the Headmaster, but he could not sit still and accept all that had been said by Mr. Birch. It was a great pity that this objectionable pitting of the girls against the boys should be persisted in. The same thing happened in Mr. Lucas's time, and there was nothing in it. If Mr. Birch did not have confidence in the Head Master let him take the proper course and table a motion before the School Committee.

Mr. J. Williams traversed Mr. Robinson's remarks. He was opposed to the "principle of his dogmas." Mr. J. W. White called attention to one point, which, he said, seemed to have been overlooked. A drain on the higher standards of the boys' school had been caused by the establishment of the High School.

Mr. Jordan reiterated the conviction he expressed at the Committee's meeting that it would be wise to take advantage of section 3 of the Act and maintain the present system for the time being.

Mr. Sinclair spoke in opposition to Mr. Birch's amendment, as threatening the separate existence of the girls' school.

Mr. Rabbits contended that they had a right to demand teaching capacity that would produce the best results, and if readjustment was necessary for this end it should be effected. He also addressed himself to the subject of scholarships. Mr. Browne, in replying as the mover of the original motion, said that he considered amalgamation as too high a price to pay for any alteration that Mr. Birch might require in the Boys' School. He pointed out that apparently under the Act an average attendance of 201 would give the Girls' School the right of independence, and he suggested this might be secured by the counting-in of the girls in the Infant School, all girls being counted as part of the Boys' School until they were in the Second Standard.

The amendment was lost, only four voting for it; and Mr. Brown's motion was carried.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, who said in his closing remarks that the meeting was a fairly representative one, and its voice should carry some weight.

5th February 1902 The monthly meeting was held last evening. Present — Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Clung, Jordan, Brewer, Brewster, Penny, Sinclair .

TEACHERS' REPORTS

The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School was 270, including 80 at the Infants' School, and the roll number 321, including 102 at the infants' School. The side school numbers were 20 and 22 respectively. The details of the standards in the Boys' School were: Standard Leverage 52, roll number 02; Standard If , 31 and 36 ; 111., 27 and 29 ; IV., 24 and 31 ; V., 23 and 20 ; TL, 18 and 20 ; Yr 7, 6 and 0.

The Headmistress reported for the Girls' School that the number on the roll was 185, and the average for Monday and Tuesday 164. The number in classes was as follows :—Standard VII 20, VI. 28, V. 38, IV. 36, 111. 34, IT. 29.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETING

The Secretary reported the resolution passed by the recent meeting of householders which considered the proposal to amalgamate the boys' and girls' departments and the working of the colonial scale of staff and salaries. This was in favor of an extension of time for the re-arrangement of the teaching staff till the end of 1903. On the motion of Mr. Sinclair, it was resolved that the Committee express its unanimous approval of the resolution and forward it to the Board with the strongest recommendation that it be adopted. The Secretary of the Board wrote forwarding, in compliance with the request of the Committee, the average attendance, approximately, of the Boys' and Girls' School separately, on the supposition that the girls now attending the infant department (i.e. Standard I. and infants) were taken from the boys' return and added to the girls'. The average attendance for the year ending December 31 was : Boys 290, Girls 140. Deducting 64 from the boys' return and adding the number to the girls', and adding to each return 10 as representing the side school, the figures would be: Boys' department 236, girls' 220. The Headmistress (Miss Douslin) wrote asking the Committee to endeavor to get the scholarship age limit raised to fourteen years. " I find that, out of 28 girls who came from the Infant School to work in Standard 11., the majority of them are over nine years. If these children succeed in passing a standard each year they will be over 13 years of age when they pass the Fifth Standard. This gives them very little chance of doing advanced Fifth Standard work, for scholarships under the age of 13/' A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the relations of the boys', girls' and infants' departments and the possibility of discovering such readjustments as to the working of the schools as would preserve the independence of the girls' section. With reference to the passing of children from the infants' department to the girls' and boys' schools, the Visiting Committee reported that they had gone into the matter and found that the average age at which the children were passed on was undesirably high. A motion was passed that the Chairman, Messrs. Sinclair, Brewster and Penny analyse and tabulate all available data and information with regard to the questions as to raising the scholarship age, and suggested attachment of the girls' and boys' sections of the Infant School to the boys' and girls' departments respectively of the main school with a view to raising the average attendance of the girls' department and retaining the independence of that part of the institution. This subcommittee were also instructed to wait on the Board next Monday and place before them the wishes and suggestions of the Committee.

The Committee expressed itself as in favor of the girls in the Infant School being placed under the control of the Headmistress. GENERAL. A number of requirements asked for by the teachers were ordered to be attended to.

The Headmaster reported that all the pupil teachers were successful in the examinations held by the Technical School at Wellington.—The Committee passed a motion expressing its appreciation of this success.

The Headmistress asked that a pupil teacher be appointed in place of a pupil teacher whose term had expired. —It was resolved to ask the Headmistress to make a selection of a pupil teacher, and this be recommended to the Board.

Messrs. Penny and Griffin were appointed the Visiting Committee for next month

5th February 1902 The good work done by Miss Brewer, as Acting-Headmistress during the absence of Miss Douslin, was highly eulogised by the School Committee last night. In the discussion with reference to the separate working of the boys' and girls' section, reference was made to the fact that the attendance at the girls' school on the occasion of the reopening this week was a considerable increase on the average for last year, the figures being 114 and 164. It was pointed out that was a material advance towards the 201 that would under the new Act entitle the girls' section to retain its separation from the boys' department.

10th February 1902 A deputation from the Blenheim Committee—consisting of Messrs. Birch, Penny and Sinclair—waited on the Board, and addressed it on the subject of the

relations of the Infant Department and the Boys' and Girls' Schools. Mr. Birch said that the object in view was the establishment of a better working scheme. The Committee's first suggestion was that the Infant Department be placed under the sole control of the Headmistress. The local system, under which the Infant section was controlled entirely by the Headmaster, was quite exceptional, and there was every reason to believe that the proposed change would be in the interests of the schools as a whole. It could then be anticipated that the children would pass on from the Infant Department to the main school at a more satisfactory age. Such a development would be better for the boys, as well as the girls section. The second scheme suggested by the Committee was that the girls and boys in the infant section be attached respectively to the boys and girls of the main school. This would give the Headmistress supervision of the infant girls', and the gain would mean that the girls' school, which was now expected under the colonial scale of staff and salaries to become amalgamated with the boys' school, would have the right of independence. The desire of the Committee was that the Headmistress's department should be kept separate from that of the Headmaster, the counting-in of the infant girls, as suggested, would raise the girls' average attendance above the statutory 201, and the object in view would be attained. Then there would be no motive for the keeping back of the children in the Infant Department. There was a motive now. He did not say that the Headmaster took advantage of the position, but the fact was that the Headmaster's capitation benefited by the retention of the children in the Infant School. The deputation went on to explain the request made by the Headmistress—that the Committee should endeavor to get the scholarship age limit raised. She had pointed out that" a great number of girls were not passed on from the preparatory classes at an age early enough to enable them to participate in the benefits of the various scholarships. On looking into this question the Committee were startled at the high average age at which the " infants" were passed on to the standard classes. If a remedy could not be found in the first or second suggestion the Committee would ask that the scholarship age be raised.

It was pointed out that if the control of the whole of the Infant Department were given to the Head Mistress the numerical strength of the Boys' School might be seriously weakened.

Messrs. Penny and Sinclair said they thought the second proposal—the division of the infant boys and girls—was the one preferred by the Committee.

After considerable discussion on the legal points of the position, the whole question of the management of the Borough Schools was discussed on radical lines, the Board going into committee for this purpose.

Finally it was resolved that the whole question be deferred, and the School Committee requested to give it fresh consideration and communicate with the Board at next meeting

BLLENHEIM. The Headmistress wrote with regard to the Redwoodtown side school.—It was resolved to communicate with the Blenheim Committee, and, they acquiescing, inform the teacher of the side school that the teaching must be confined to the First Standard

11th February 1902 The recommendations of the Executive of the Board that the iron fencing enclosing the Blenheim grounds be extended to include the newly acquired properties was held over for an estimate of cost.

The Blenheim School Committee forwarded the householders' resolution and its own confirmation thereof with respect to the application of the colonial scale of staff and salaries to local conditions. It was explained that the Board were awaiting the Minister's reply to the Board's request, made some time ago, for the sanction of the Minister for a postponement of the measure till the end of 1903.

14th February 1902 special meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night. Present .—Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Griffin, Jordan, Sinclair, Dunn, Penny, Ching, Brewer and Brewster.

THE SIDE-SCHOOL. The Chairman explained that he had convened the meeting for the consideration of certain matters which he considered should be given immediate attention. A communication from the Board reminded the Committee that when the former body agreed to the establishment of the Redwoodtown side-school it was on the understanding that no standard higher than the First should be taught there. The Chairman reported the investigations of the Visiting Committee. The attendance was not good. There being plenty of accommodation in the Borough School, it was waste of power, in his opinion, to keep a teacher employed there at £100 a year with such a few scholars. The school was a losing concern. Mr. Sinclair moved that the matter be held over to the ordinary monthly meeting.—Mr. Dunn seconded. The Chairman moved an amendment that the guarantors (Messrs. Mapp and Ham) be informed that if the March attendance is not up to the guaranteed number, 25, the Committee would recommend that steps be taken to close the school. The amendment was carried. Considerable discussion took place with reference to teaching beyond Standard I at the side school. Mr. Sinclair moved that the matter be deferred till next monthly meeting and the Visiting Committee report. He was dead against the convening of so many special meetings. The amendment was carried.

RE-ORGANISATION. A communication from the Board asked the Committee to re-consider the whole question of the reorganisation of the Blenheim Schools and report their conclusions to the next meeting of the Board. The request was the outcome of the interview that the deputation from the Committee had with the Board on the question of applying the colonial scale of staff and salaries to local conditions.

The Headmaster wrote that he would deal in his next monthly report with questions referred to him by the Committee. This was in reply to the Committee's request for information with regard to the passing of children from the Infant department to the main school, to the Sixth Standard, and to the non-participation of boys in the competition for scholarships. The Chairman regretted the fact that the information asked for was not before this meeting.

Mr. Sinclair thought that the Headmaster's reply was very reasonable. The Committee's request, sent on the 5th, was that the information, which might be difficult to collate, be forwarded by the 8th. This was very short notice, and, in any case, the Headmaster was not bound to supply the information. It would be a matter of courtesy for him to do so. A lengthy discussion ensued, in which conflicting opinions were expressed. This subject having been talked out, the deputation which waited on the Board reported what took place on that occasion. The discussion that passed in committee between the Board and the deputation was traversed, and the Committee placed in possession of the remarks made by members of the Board. It was agreed that the Committee's main suggestion to the Board was that the girls in the infant department should be counted in with these of the Girls' School with a view to raising the latter's average attendance to the statutory 201, thus avoiding the necessity threatened by the colonial scale of staff and salaries of amalgamating the girl's section with the boy's department. This proposal, it was explained, did not by any means imply the derating of the mistress of the Infant School, as had been supposed in some quarters. In fact, one alternative suggestion was that the Infant department should be made an independent institution.

A denial was given to the suggestion made by a member of the Board that the representations made by the Committee's deputation were in the nature of a "subterfuge," and that the Committee were endeavoring to accomplish a certain object by round-about methods. Mr. Penny said that the scheme laid before the Board by the Committee for the re-organisation of the schools was in itself quite genuine, and the Committee were thoroughly honest. The fact was also emphasised that the request of the Board that each Committee re-consider the question of re-organisation did not in any way clash with the resolution passed by the householders' meeting with regard to the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' section, or with

the Committee's suggestions, which were well received. It was pointed out that nothing could be done in the way of settling the question of re-organisation, referred back to the Committee by the Board, until the information requested from the Headmaster was supplied.

After further discussion the meeting ended, no motion being proposed.

15th February 1902 One of the members of the Borough School Committee strongly protested at the meeting on Thursday night against the convening of so many special meetings. He did not see why the business could not be confined as nearly as possible to the ordinary monthly meetings. Another member said there had not been so many special meetings as all that, and these that had been held were all: very necessary. He pointed out that the Committee now in office had been called on to perform a most important and difficult task—the re-organisation of the schools under the colonial scale of staff and salaries, and this demanded time and consideration. As things were* he did not see much hope of their formulating a scheme before next meeting; and they would be going out of office in a few weeks. If they did; not tackle the question the householders would be able to accuse them of shirking it. The chairman said this was exactly his idea in hurrying up the matter. The present Committee knew the "run of the ropes," and therefore was the proper one to settle the whole business. Another committeeman pointed out that if the scheme was uncompleted at the end of their term they could explain the facts to the householders, and will offer themselves for re-election. Such action would acquit them of any charge of cowardice.

19th February 1902 Cadet Uniforms, — The Blenheim Rifle Cadets have been measured for their new uniforms, which is to be a naval outfit. This, together with the School Cadets new uniform—khaki with maroon facings—will be a decided addition to our military attractions. Both uniforms are being supplied by the New Zealand Clothing Factory

5th March 1902 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last night. Present—Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Brewer, Sinclair, Ching, Jordan, Brewster, Penny. The Headmaster reported the attendance at the Boys' School:—infants, 76*6, Standard I. 54-8, S. IT. 20, S. 111. 27, S. IV. 25-4, S. V. 24, S. VI. and VII. 28, side school 203; total 286*1, the roll number being 344. The Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month was :—Standard 11. 25-725, S. 111. 284, S. IV. 3025, S. V. 33-725, S. VI. and VII. 364; total 154-5, the roll number being 185. The Headmistress stated that under the new scale, she believed, the school was not entitled to more than a staff consisting of head teacher, assistant, and two pupil teachers. This does not allow of a teacher for each class, and she was afraid that unless they had another teacher they would not be able to keep their work up to the standard of former years. It was resolved that the Headmistress be asked to recommend another teacher, and the nomination be forwarded at once to the Board, with a view to obtaining special permission from the Department for the required addition to the staff. Small requirements in the schools were ordered to be attended to. Miss Edith Bull, pupil-teacher, tendered her resignation, explaining that she was leaving the district.—The resignation was accepted. No successor having been recommended, the matter of appointing one was left over. The Headmaster notified that the Health Officer had ordered earth closets to be put in.—It was decided to await further information. The fact was mentioned that a strong disinfectant (sheep dip) was being used weekly. The Visiting Committee reported their visit to the Redwoodtown side school. The average attendance was 20.30. There were a number of young children who would not be able to attend the Borough School if the side school was closed up.—The Chairman said that probably about a dozen of the twenty children would come to the Borough School. He suggested that, to provide for the education of^ the young children who were specially benefiting by the side school, an aided school be established.—No action was taken. A lengthy communication, was received from the Headmaster containing information asked for by the Committee with respect to the passing of children from the infant department

to the main schools, to' the Sixth Standard, and to scholarships.—This was held over till next meeting, so that members might have an opportunity of perusing the statement, which included several sets of figures.

6th March 1902 THE HEADMASTER'S REPLY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, —I notice that although the Blenheim School Committee was to receive Mr. Sturrock's reply to their insinuation at last meeting they have not supplied the public with its contents. Why is this ?—I am, etc., Fairplay.

10th March 1902 SIDE-SCHOOL. A Redwoodtown parent waited on the Board and asked that his two children, who had passed Standard 1., be allowed to remain at the side-school. The circumstances were exceptional, as the children had to work till nine in the morning and then go to school. — The Board referred the matter to the Blenheim Committee

RESIGNATION. Lieut. Simson wrote from South Africa under date, Johannesburg, January 24th, resigning his position as second master in the Blenheim Borough Schools. Lieut. Simson, who went away with a lieutenancy in the Fifth Contingent, and held a captaincy in the Seventh, now holds a lieutenancy in the South African Constabulary.— The resignation was accepted, and the question of appointing a successor in | permanency to Mr. Simson was referred to the Committee for an expression of opinion

Two tenders were received for the re-adjustment of the fencing round the Blenheim School. These were: £28 May and McKinley, and £17 F. W. Adams, and were referred to the Executive Committee. The question of filling up the corner ground of the Borough School property was referred to the Executive Committee with power to act.

11th March 1902 BLENHEIM. The Committee forwarded a notice it had received from the Health Officer directing that earth closets be used on. the Borough School property. The Committee had investigated the matter, and ascertained that the cost of the improvement would be *^4 a remarked that the expense was too much for the Committee's capitation, and the Board could not afford to increase the grant. A strong disinfectant was being used weekly. The fact being mentioned that the Borough Council had under consideration the introduction of the sealed-pan system, and were now awaiting the arrival of the expert, it was decided to refer the Committee's communication to the Council. SWIMMING. The Blenheim Rowing Club' wrote asking that the allowance made to the Board for the encouragement of swimming be donated to the club with a view to the institution of races at the Easter regatta for children attending public schools.—The request was acceded to, on condition that no prize exceeding 25s be given, and proper notice of the competitions be published. .

12th March 1902 LIEUTENANT SIMSON.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY.

Lieut. Simson's letter to the Education Board resigning his position of second master in the Blenheim School was written at Johannesburg on January 24th. The writer, who Trent away as a lieutenant in the Fifth Contingent and promoted to captaincy of the Seventh, says: — "Now that the Seventh's time is nearly expired I have been strongly advised to take a position in the South African Constabulary, which is to be a permanent force, for the preservation of law and order after the troops are sent home. There are yet 4000 names on the application list, and very few commissions vacant; consequently on appointment one has to sacrifice a 'star;' but as the force is to be permanent, and promotion is to go by merit alone, this reduction in rank is not so very serious, more especially as the reduction in pay amounts to only 1s 6d per day. I start on a salary of £450, with a position worth £2000 in front. Many Army men with 10 to 12 years' service are sacrificing a 'star' and seniority in order to join. The above is written to let you know the inducement I have had to resign my position on your staff." ...

In the course of his " letter Lieut. Simson says the Squadron (Wellington) in which he was in command during the year earned the confidence of the senior officers. It was always called out when hard work was to be done, and the account to date reads-Credit: 89 prisoners taken, 15 killed (actually handled), besides ' convoy, cattle, horses, and sheep, &c. Dr. 1 man killed, 16 wounded, prisoners nil. The Squadron has been specially mentioned in column despatches six times and twice in Lord Kitchener's despatches to the War Office. Every man has a clean sheet, there being not one entry for crime or default. (It may be mentioned that Lieut. Simson himself on resigning his command received very satisfactory notices from the officer commanding for the work done, and for the condition of the squadron, men, and horses.) In his letter Lieut. Simson expresses regret at parting company with the institution where he spent so many years, and severing his connection with the Board, whose every act was characterised by kindly courtesy and justice.

12th March 1902 SCHOOL READJUSTMENTS.

NEW SCALE OF STAFF AND SALARIES.

The following communication from the Education Department was read at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday : —" In reply to your memorandum of January 14th, I have to inform you that the Blenheim Girls' School may be treated as a separate school; the statement in the Department memo of January 9th was made under a misapprehension. The school has now been included in grade 8 of Return 1, thus making the total of salaries and pupil teachers' allowances claimed on that return £5909 4s With regard to the increases in staff proposed in return No. 2, I have to inform you that pupil teachers cannot be included in proviso 2 of section 3 5 the salaries of the pupil teachers at Renwick and the Blenheim Girls' School will be paid for the present, but the Board is requested to arrange transfers as soon as opportunity offers. The Department should be notified when the changes have been made. As the assistant at Okaramio and Picton, whom you apply for permission to retain under section 3 and 2, are not provided for under either the Board's scale or schedule 1, I have to inform you that their salaries will be paid so long as it will allow time for notice of dismissal to take effect, (about three months from this date) unless an earlier opportunity can be found of transferring them. As also pupil teachers cannot be retained under proviso 1 of section 3, I have to inform you that the Board should take the first opportunity of transferring the extra pupil teachers at the Blenheim Boys' School. Her salary will meanwhile be paid." It was explained that the Department's acknowledgement of the separateness of the Boys' and Girls' Schools related only to the statutory period ending with the year 1903. It was resolved that, in accordance to the Department's instructions, three months' notice that their services would no longer be required be given to all sewing mistresses and to other teachers affected.

The Secretary stated that the Department's instructions mean that the services of an assistant teacher at Okaramio and one at Picton would have to be dispensed with. A pupil teacher at the Blenheim School resigned during the month, and therefore no notice would be necessary in that case. The Board would not be able to comply with the request for another assistant in the Blenheim Girls' School.

15th March 1902 MARLBOROUGH SCHOOLS.

INSPECTOR SMITH'S REPORT,

In his annual report presented to the last meeting of the Education Board, Inspector Smith explains that in his previous report he expressed the intention of leaving for the future the results given by the teachers unaltered, unless under special circumstances. " As, however, such special circumstances have arisen, and as I was unwilling to make any invidious distinctions, I shall be bound to treat all schools this year as before, taking advantage of clause 0 of the regulations empowering me to examine all the pupils of the school. I was also more inclined to do so since my absence on the Salaries Commission prevented my renewing that valuable insight into, and experience of the work of the schools which the visits of

inspection so abundantly afford; I therefore substituted my results for these of the teacher, whenever they differed, and in some of the large schools special cases were considered in consultation with the teachers, and marked accordingly. Altogether I refused promotion in 32 cases which were passed by the teachers."

THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

Referring to the treatment of the various subjects of the syllabus, the Inspector says that reading on the whole is fairly well taught and gives rise to very few failures. With regard to writing, he says that although the copy-book, writing in the district is fairly satisfactory, the same can by no means be said of the ordinary handwriting of the scholars as judged by the specimens produced in the written work of the examination, which is frequently very poor, and occasionally abominable. Spelling this year is, next to arithmetic, the least satisfactory of the pass subjects. While very good at some schools, in others it was far from creditable. At the Blenheim Boys' School it was exceptionally good. Referring to arithmetic, Mr. Smith says that it is not easy to account for the notorious fact that this subject, though taking up fully one fifth of the whole school time, invariably produces the least satisfactory results, and that relatively, the largest proportion of failures should be found, not in the smaller, but in the larger schools. Grammar among the class subjects occupies the same position as arithmetic among the pass subjects, and probably from nearly the same causes.

Taking Standard V^f. alone throughout the district, it is shown that arithmetic, as usual, is largely responsible for the failures in this, as in other districts. Geography comes next, and in many cases this is no doubt due to the fact of its position as a "class" subject in the other standards. It will be seen also that spelling contributed largely to the failures in this class. The comparative success of drawing is largely due to the interest taken in the subject both by teachers and scholars under the stimulus afforded by the Wellington Technical School's animal examination.

Singing is practised at 10 schools, viz.—Blenheim Boys', Blenheim Girls', Cullensville, Havelock, Marlborough, Marshlands, Okaramio, Onamalutu, Renwick, and Springlands. There are a few schools larger than several of these just named not taking this subject, but I do not consider that this must necessarily be regarded as "a ground of reproach," clause 10 of the regulations notwithstanding. In most of the schools named the singing is taught by ear only, and in few is there much instruction in the theory.

Drill was presented in 9 schools — Blenheim Boys', Blenheim Girls', Canvas town, Cullensville, Grovetown, Okaramio, Renwick, Springlands, and Tua Marina. In the Blenheim and Renwick schools the drill and the exercises of both boys and girls were very good.

Handwork, although not unknown in some of our schools has not yet been generally taken up, but the Inspector expects a fair number will have something of the kind to present at the next examination. Several schools continue to employ kindergarten methods in the preparatory and lower standards, and some very pretty and creditable examples of such work were shown at the "annual" visit. Mr. Smith expects many of the schools will introduce modelling this year, and has already a supply of plasticine for that purpose.

Needlework is taken up in all schools having women teachers, and, in not a few cases, with creditable results, considering the very short time that can be spared for the purpose. SMALL SCHOOLS. The small aided schools in the Sounds County have with very few exceptions fully justified their existence, by producing as good results as it is reasonable to expect. "At sixteen of them I promoted every scholar examined, and in only one case where the result was not so satisfactory the teacher was not to be blamed, but greatly to be pitied. At a few of the small schools some of the class or additional subjects are omitted, such as history or science, but the majority take up more or less successfully every subject of the syllabus excepting singing and drill." the catholic schools. Inspector Smith was unable to examine

these schools last year through press of work, and "this year for the same reason he was compelled to limit his examination to the Sixth Standard classes. Ten girls and six boys were examined, and all passed but one girl. The nine girls who passed made an average of (591 per cent, of the possible mark?, four of them gaining 'credit passes,' that is over 75 per cent, of the total marks. The boys averaged 62 per cent of the maximum. The average age of the girls who passed was 14 years and 6 months, and that of the boys, 13 years and 7 months; and though the girls gained a higher average of marks than the boys, they had the advantage of nearly a year in age and a very much more regular attendance, the boys averaging only 250 attendances against 267 by the girls. Both schools did very good work, the only weak subject being arithmetic; and a few of the girls were not very successful with spelling. On the other hand, the composition of the Girls' was, on the whole, somewhat better than that of the boys; so that taking one thing with another I consider they were practically equal and both can bear comparison with most of our larger schools. The standards below the Sixth were examined, according to the regulations, by the teachers."

26th March 1902 The Borough School Cadets donned their new khaki uniforms yesterday afternoon. The new uniforms of the Blenheim Rifle Cadets, which is of the naval pattern, will be at hand in a few days

11th April 1902 A letter from the Education Board to the School Committee's meeting last night notified the resignation of Mr. C. Simson as second master, and asked the Committee what steps they wished to be taken towards the permanent appointment of a successor. It was resolved that the Board be recommended to call for applications. At the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night, consideration was given to the letter received at the previous meeting from the Headmaster in reply to the Committee's request for information as to the passing of children from the Infants' Department to the main school, the examination results of the Sixth Standard, and the non-participation of boys in the scholarship competitions. After considerable discussion it was resolved that the information supplied by the Headmaster be acknowledged, and the wish was expressed that it be published.

11th April 1902 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting was held last night. Present—Messrs. Birch (Chairman), Brewer, Sinclair, Brewster, Jordan, Penny, Ching. A parent waited on the Board and asked that his children be allowed to remain at the Redwoodtown side school after having passed Standard I. A letter on the same application was received from the Education Board, which pointed out that the school was established only for preparatory classes. If a concession was granted to one it would be difficult to refuse others, and the Board was not in a position to maintain another full school. Mr. Mapp wrote in reply to the Committee's letter pointing out that the attendance at the school was not up to the guaranteed number. He asked that the school be continued, and suggested the appointment of a teacher at a lower salary. The question whether the school, which was a losing concern, should be continued was discussed. It was stated that the school was a great convenience to the people of that locality, and if it were closed several children, who would not be able to attend the main school, would be affected. Members expressed unwillingness to shut up the school, but it was pointed out that it deprived the main school of one of its best teachers, and weakened the staff considerably. The following resolution was passed, "The Board having intimated that it is not in a position to establish a full school so near the main school, and the committee having given every opportunity to the guarantors to bring up the average attendance to the stipulated number, 25, which has not been attained, the Committee recommend the Board to give the necessary three months' notice to the owner of the schoolhouse that the property will not be needed after the expiration of that time. It was decided to inform the parent, who waited on the Committee, that no action would be taken with regard to his children. An aided school was suggested and

the hope, was expressed that in the end there would be due provision for educational facilities in that locality. The Head Master reported that the average attendance of the boys' school during this month including the infants "and side 'school was 331', the roll number being 277.5. The Head Mistress reported the average of the girls' school as 155.4, the roll number being 180. It was resolved to call the attention of the Board to the leaky condition of the school roof and the spouting. On the recommendation of the Headmaster, it was resolved to ask the Board to appoint Miss Minnie Macey temporarily

In reference to the notice received by the Committee from the Inspector of Nuisances with regard to the closets, The Board wrote suggesting that the Committee consult the Borough Council with a view to more economical methods of satisfying the requirements of the Health Officer. A further communication was received from the Inspector of Nuisances insisting on the provision of earth closets within fourteen days. It was decided to forward a second notice to the Board with a recommendation that the Health Officer's requirements be adopted. The usual notices with regard to the committee elections was received from the Board. The Visiting Committee made a report and accounts were passed for payment. A sub-committee was appointed to draw the report for the annual meeting of householders on the 28th

12th April 1902 At its meeting this week the Borough School Committee considered the letter received at last meeting from the Headmaster in reply to the Committee's request for information as to the passing of children from the Infant's department to the main school, the examination results of the Sixth Standard, and the non-participation by boys in the scholarship competitions. In answer to the first, question the Headmaster wrote: — "No excuses were given for children in Standard 1., and all the children who passed were advanced into the higher standard. The Chairman made absurd statements at the last meeting of the Education Board, and for the information, of the Committee I shall give a few tables, which will be of interest. Average age of children who have passed Standard I. Year. Years. Months. 1891 9 5 1892 ... 9 7 1803 ... 9 1 Average age for these years 9 years 4 months. Year. Years. Months. 1894 ... 9 2 1805 ... 9 0 1896 8 ' 10 1897 9 0 1898 ... 9 1 1899 ... 9 1 1900 ... 9 1 1891 8 9 It will thus be seen that the age (8 years 9 months) that startled the Chairman is 7 months lower then in the years 1891-1893. The Chief Inspector in Auckland says :—' There has been a rise of two months, as was inevitable, as last year no fewer than 2115 pupils in the preparatory classes were over eight years of age. A large number of our pupils enter school at so late an age that it is impossible that they could pass Standard I. before they are nine. This is not, in my opinion, a very serious matter, as the age at which Standard VI- is passed is already low enough for entering on the duties of life's career.' That is the opinion of an expert, and it is mine too. The average age in the educational districts is: Years. Months. Auckland ... 9 1 Taranaki ... 9 2 Wanganui ... 8 10 Hawke's Bay ... 8 9 Nelson ... 8 10 Grey 8 0 Westland ... 8 9 Otago ... 8 8 Blenheim Boys ... 8 9 The other districts are a month or so younger. Compared with the other districts, there is no reason for the alarm that the Chairman talks about. The Act states that excuses have to be given for children over eight in the preparatory classes. It follows as a natural consequence that if children begin their school career at five they should be able to pass Standard I. in three years. Hence why the Department requires explanations for those over 8 not in Standard I, The following is the table of the 20 girls who were not in Standard 1., and it will give some food for reflection. (In this table the Headmaster quotes 20 cases, ranging from 5 years 3 months to 11 years as the age of entering school. The time at the infant school was from 1 month to 3 years 10 months.) From this list it will be seen that a great percentage of children began their schooling at a very late age, and impossibilities cannot be done. The two marked thus are the only ones exception can be taken to, and we have sound reasons for them. The

insinuation that I might probably keep children back to earn increased capitation is contemptible. I have with me letters from every teacher I have had in the infants' department flatly contradicting any such thing, and as I may require them at a later date I have not forwarded them. However, if any member of the Committee would like to see them I shall have pleasure in showing them. Answer to question 2.— Many reasons may be given for failures in Standard VI.—irregular attendance, half timers. The Act states that a scholar may fail in two subjects and pass Standard VI., providing the two subjects be not in numbers 1-5. None of the scholars failed in two subjects from I—5. Answer to question 3.— The names of scholars who wish to compete for scholarships are always forwarded. Only one boy offered himself, and on enquiry was found to be over age, and was thus debarred. At any time reliable information is wanted I shall be pleased to forward it."

Mr. Jordan said it seemed to him that the Headmaster's explanation quite upset the Committee's first theories about the age at which children were passed from the Infant department to the main school. With regard to the examination results of Standard VI, he was surprised to know that the case was such that it appeared to be from the Headmaster's letter. It looked as if non passing of pupils was unfair to both the master and children.

The Chairman quoted the regulations on this latter point, and said he had also interviewed the Inspector on the matter. The regulations gave the Inspector the right to use his discretion in the passing of children ; and the Inspector's practice was not to pass a child who had failed badly in two subjects. The Inspector told him that some of the boys in Standard VI. did not come up to Standard V. requirements. The Inspector had acted in accordance with the regulations and his custom. Mr. Sinclair remarked that bad attendance was given as one reason for failures. The best genius in the world could not contend against such a handicap.

A discussion took place with respect to scholarships. The Chairman expressed the opinion that teachers should take the initiative in the matter of selecting the most promising boys for such competitions.

Mr. Brewer said that parents also might be expected to urge on their children to gain these honors.

The Chairman agreed, but said that the teachers had the best opportunity of picking out, encouraging, and assisting the bright boys. Reference was made to the principle laid down by the Teachers' Institute as to the duties of teachers and the scholarship coaching work.

The Chairman said that a principle which confined itself only to the bare letter of the contract did not accord with his idea of the high level of the teaching profession. While admitting that the Headmaster had made out a very good case in the matter of the passing of children from the Infant School, he was not at all satisfied with the information given on the other two subjects.

After further discussion, a resolution was passed acknowledging receipt of the Headmaster's letter and thanking him for the information.

14th April 1902 THE SIDE SCHOOL. Messrs. Mapp and Ham waited on the Board, and urged that the Redwoodtown side-school be not closed. A communication was received from the Borough School Committee recommending that, as the average attendance was not up to the guaranteed number and the school was a losing concern, steps be taken for the closing of the school at the end of three months. The question was postponed till next meeting, to enable the deputation to interview the School Committee.

The Town Committee of the Board recommended that a number of iron enamel basins be placed in the boys' lavatory ; that two leaks in the roof of the boys' school be attended to and

a ladder be procured ; that May and McKinley's tender for the re-adjustment of the school fencing be accepted. Mr. Register's tender for earthwork and gravelling had been accepted.— The report was adopted.

15th April 1902 BLENHEIM. The School Committee recommended that the Board fulfil the requirements insisted on by the Health Officer, that earth closets be used at the Borough Schools. An estimate was given that the cost of such an improvement would be £24 a year. The matter was referred to the Board's Town Committee with instructions to make the most economical arrangements possible. On the recommendation of the School Committee, it was resolved to call for applications for the permanent position of second master vice Mr. C. Simson, applications to be in at the expiration of three months' notice to be given for the termination of the temporary engagement of Mr. Wilmot. The recommendation of the Committee that Miss Minnie Macey be appointed pupil-teacher was adopted.

Referring to the £850 land purchase in Blenheim he said that unless the land purchased was absolutely wanted for school purposes any relief in this instance appeared to be questionable. He would submit the Board's point of view as to the acquirement of the whole block, to the Minister. Mr. Seymour returned to the Minister, and having placed the whole position before him, had to leave the matter there.

26th April 1902 The Borough School Committee's financial statement to be presented to the meeting of householders on Monday night shows that the receipts for the year, including a balance of £5 4s 11d, amounted to £117 19s 5d. The expenditure amounted to £112 17s 4d, and there remains a credit balance of £5 2s 1d.

29th April 1902 The annual meeting of householders of the Blenheim school district was held last evening at the schools. More than the usual amount of interest was manifested in the occasion, the attendance being a record for many years. Ballot papers for the election of the Committee were given out to as many as 80 householders.

Mr. J. T. Robinson was appointed Chairman. Mr. F Birch declined nomination, expressing the opinion that election of one other than the Chairman of the Committee would be a more satisfactory appointment. The report of the outgoing Committee was as follows : —

Your Committee beg to report that during the past year they have held 17 meetings, including five specials, with an average attendance of eight members per meeting. Individually this was as follows :—Messrs. Birch, Penny, Sinclair and Brewster 17 Mr. Ching 16, Messrs. Brewer and Jordan 14, Mr. Griffin 13, Mr. Dunn 12. During the year there has been a slight increase in the average attendance at the schools, of eight boys and girls per month. The best averages with the boys was in July and August, the numbers being 296 out of 365 on the roll and 300 out of 380.

With the girls it was in January and February, with 164 and 155 out of 185 on the roll.

In June the Cadets had an order to join the concentrated camp at Christchurch, which was held to meet their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, when everyone conducted themselves with credit to the district, the 1st Battalion to which they were attached gaining great kudos.

The Education Department have forwarded two handsome ensigns to the Committee, one being placed at the boys' and the other at the infant school.

The Education Board have acquired the whole of the block bounded by York Terrace, Alfred and Seymour Streets (Omaka sections 74 to 80 inclusive) which, when fenced in and straightened up, will make a substantial (as well as being more private) playground, of which, the boys are sorely in need, if only to mitigate the breaking of windows, which has always been a serious item in the Committee's expenses.

The Committee, after due consideration, decided to make a change in the caretaker, as they thought the work too much for the faithful and painstaking servant of the past 15 years, and so far are satisfied that it was beneficial.

During the year Mr. Simson, second master, resigned ; the Committee have recommended the Board to call for applications in the usual way. Mr. Wilmot, who has carried on the duties during the absence of Mr. Simson, has given every satisfaction. Three pupil teachers have also resigned—Miss Brennan, who received promotion to another district; Miss Bull, whose family have left the district; and Miss Healy, whose time expired. As you are aware, the Education Department have made a change in the staff and salaries by an Act, which may materially alter existing arrangements if carried into effect, intensifying the already considerable difficulty in working the schools efficiently.

Mr. Isaacs, on behalf of the Education Department, visited the town last October and gave lectures on manual and technical instruction to all the teachers of the district, which no doubt was of benefit to the younger ones. During Miss Douslin's absence the Girls' School was most ably conducted by Miss Lottie Brewer and Miss Mary Farmar, as was proved by the large percentage of passes at the examination, and it gives the Committee great pleasure to again announce to you the success attained in the girls' department, for out of five pupils of the Borough Schools who are now receiving advantage of higher education at the High School, three won scholarships. The results of the examination were satisfactory, as all the standards show good work except the VI. Standard boys, which is very largely accounted for by half timers and irregular attendance. We also regret to record that the boys are conspicuous by their absence at the scholarship examinations. We would urge parents, whose sons are old enough, to enquire into their ability and see the necessity of getting them nominated in time. As regards the subjects, arithmetic and geography are again the weak points in the pass subjects, notwithstanding that arithmetic occupies seven or eight hours per week; grammar, among the class subjects, occupying the same position as arithmetic. But spelling was exceptionally good in the boys' school, as only four failed out of 100 in the four upper standards, notwithstanding that this is the least satisfactory subject throughout the Marlborough Education district.

Again, out of the 310 scholars who passed under the present regulations 45 would have failed under the old.

We regret to report a loss in the library; several books have been taken away, and notwithstanding they are so prominently marked on the binding, and our advertising, yet no one has thought it right to, return or report any information which would assist the Headmaster or Committee in recovering them. In presenting the balance sheet we again this year have to report a deficiency of £7 0s 6d between the capitation received and the expenditure, and had it not been for the goodly number of truant fines we could not have made ends meet." The report and balance sheet were adopted.

The election of a Committee was then proceeded with. In reply to the Chairman, the Secretary of the outgoing Committee said that a number of written nominations were received, but these had been declared by the Chairman of the Committee as not formal. Mr. Birch explained that these nominations were put in after the statutory date. Accordingly all the nominations were verbal. Eighteen nominations were received, and it was resolved that the ballot close at 9 o'clock. The result of the ballot was the election of the following nine gentlemen as the new Committee.—Messrs. E. Penny, 59; W. Jordan, 52 ; D. P. Sinclair, 49; Dr... Anderson, 47 ; C. Ferguson, 47 ; J. J. White, 44; «, M. Neville, 44 ; R. H. Dunn, 44 ; J.

J. Corry, 39. The remainder of the voting was as follows:—Messrs. F. Birch, 35; W. Ching, 34; W. E. Green, 32; S. Connolly, 28 ; R. Rice, 23 ; J. Griffin, 22; R. L. Brewster, 18; S. Rabone, 17; R. Brewer, 15. The members re-elected are Messrs. Penny, Jordan, Sinclair and Dunn, The retiring" members are Messrs. Birch, Ching, Griffin, Brewer and Brewster. There were two informal papers. The results were known before 10 o'clock, and were awaited by a considerable number of householders. A vote of thanks to the chair closed the proceedings.

29th April 1902 The finances of the Blenheim School Committee were considerably assisted last year by the truancy fines. It is a great pity, said the Chairman of the householders' meeting last night, that parents do not send their children to school more regularly. They could not expect their children to achieve success, do justice to themselves and their teachers, and gain scholarships if they did not see that they attended school properly. He hoped that parents would take the hint.

On the conclusion of the householders' meeting last night a meeting of the New Borough School Committee was held, there being present : Messrs. Penny, Dunn, Sinclair, Ferguson, Neville and White. Mr. E. H. Penny was elected Chairman ; Mr. Brewster was re-appointed Secretary pro tern ; and Mr. J. J. White was elected Treasurer.

The Headmaster's application for leave of absence to enable him to visit Wellington was granted. Mr. Dunn and Dr. Anderson were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. The date of the monthly meetings was fixed as the first Tuesday before the Education Board's fixture, as heretofore

7th May 1902 The usual monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. In the absence of Mr. B. 1 H. Penny (Chairman), Mr. Neville was 1 voted to the chair, and there were also present: Messrs. Dunn, Ferguson, Sinclair, Jordan and White. Messrs. Mapp and Ham waited on the Committee with regard to the Redwoodtown side school, urging that it be not closed, and suggesting that, with 5 a teacher at a lower wage it would pay i its way. 3 The deputation were informed that the Committee would with their assistance do all they could to continue the f school, but that the residents must exert themselves to increase the , average. It was resolved that no steps be taken for a month to close the school; 3 that the sympathy of the Committee is . with the residents and in favor of a continuance of the school. It was decided to forward a copy of I the resolution to the Education Board. f The Headmaster reported the roll number was 345 and the average attendance 266.6. The quarterly examinations had been satisfactory. He required a flag rope and two panes of glass for the Boy's School. . No report was received from the Headmistress. " The Visiting Committee reported • that the Schools were well attended. Sand, etc., for the earth closets should be procured at once, and some seats were required for the infant play- " ground. 9 The caretaker was voted £5 for the 3 quarter to obtain earth and attend to the closet pans. y The Secretary was instructed to " enquire the price of sand per load and f make arrangements with the janitor • and notify the Education Board as to 8 the cost. The Secretary was instructed to y attend to the Headmaster's requirements, and Mr. Neville offered steel wire for the flag ropes. . g It was resolved that the Education i- Board be requested to supply six seats a for the infant's playground, and that I the Board's attention be drawn to the ', girl's lavatory. p Messrs. Sinclair and White were ap« d pointed the Visiting Committee.

7th May 1902 The newly - constituted Borough School Committee met last night. It was decided to make a recommendation to the Board that the permanent; appointment of an assistant master, in succession to Mr. Simson, be hastened, and that the period of application for the position be fixed as one month, instead of three months. The winter holidays were

fixed as from June the 14th to July the 1st. With regard to the Health Officer's requirements as to the privy accommodation of the schools, arrangements were made for a trial of the system of earth closets for one month

9th May 1902 BLenheim SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

o . TO THE EDITOR. Sir,—In your account in last night's Express of the monthly meeting of this committee, I see that they recommend the use of and for the earth closet?. A very little knowledge of elementary chemistry would inform them that sand is the worst material that can be employed. It has no absorbent power, nor is it of any use as a deodoriser. The best material is dried and sifted clay; next, loamy soil. Silted ashes may be mixed with the clay, to advantage in saving cost. But whatever material is used should be sifted through a quarter-inch mesh. The earth or clay should be stored under a shed, open to the north, in order to get the benefit of the sun, as it is important that dry earth only should be used.—I am, etc., Sanitas. P.S. —Why does not the Committee consult the Health Officer ?

13th May 1902 THE SECOND MASTERSHIP. The Blenheim Committee forwarded a letter from Mr. Wilmot, assistant master at the Blenheim Boys' School, asking that in fairness to himself, the permanent appointment in succession to Mr. C. Simson be effected within one month instead of three months. The Committee recommended the consideration of applications for the position at an earlier date than that originally proposed. The Board's Town Committee recommended that a suggestion be made to the School Committee that the decision to call for applications be abandoned and that Mr. Wilmot be permanently appointed forthwith,

Mr. Litchfield explained that the impression was that in any case Mr. Wilmot would be chosen.

Under these circumstances, the calling for applications would be a useless proceeding, and it was suggested that an arrangement between the Committee and the Board would save advertising expenses and would save other teachers the trouble of applying. The proposal was that the Board's Town Committee confer with the School Committee to ascertain its feeling. If the latter body still wished to have applications invited, the period could still be reduced from three months to one month.

Mr. Duncan supported this proposal. The Board only acted in accordance with the law in providing for three months' notice. The course now suggested would enable them to settle the matter to the satisfaction of all parties, and give the new School Committee the opportunity of saying whether they wished to adhere to the old Committee's decision to call for applications. Mr. Wilmot had evidently filled the position satisfactorily, and had the pre-emptive right to the permanent appointment.

A resolution in the terms of the above recommendation was carried

The original motion was carried. It was reported that during the month Miss Alice Litchfield, pupil teacher, was transferred from the Blenheim staff to Picton as a temporary assistant. The Picton Committee, while satisfied with the arrangement, wrote expressing the opinion that it should have been notified thereof. The Chairman explained that the arrangement was made by himself under circumstances of extreme urgency.

The Chairman of the Blenheim Committee wrote asking that the pupil teacher be returned to Blenheim as soon as possible.

13th May 1902 The following tenders were received for the purchase of the Board's stock of school books and materials:—F. Paine £110, E. H. Penny £120. The Secretary said that the face value of the stock in hand—the selling price—was £292. But a deduction of about £50 had to be made on account a number of books that would never be sold. Some books had

been on the shelves 12 years. The largest customer, the Borough Boys' School, had dropped away. The tender of Mr. Penny was accepted.

This action means that the Board goes out of the book-selling business ; but it was stated that certain articles—not for sale—would be kept in the office, such as maps, inks, chalk, and kindergarten apparatus.

BLLENHEIM. Oh the recommendation of the architect, it was decided that Messrs. Garnham & Jordan be asked to continue the arrangement providing for the care of the windmill. The Truant Officer reported good attendances at Blenheim, Springlands, and Grovetown. He reported that children in advance of the First Standard were attending the Redwoodtown ' side-school. It was resolved to inform the teacher , that the Board did not wish the side school to be open to such pupils. The Blenheim Committee recommended that the Redwoodtown side school be continued.

A resolution was passed that; the attention of the School Committee be drawn to the excessive cost of the Redwoodtown side-school, and that it be asked to recommend some means by which the cost might be reduced to reasonable limits, otherwise the Board would be compelled to close the school.

The application of the Truant Officer for an increase of salary was granted, His advance being from £13 a year to £15. The Blenheim Committee reported that, in accordance with the Health Officer's requirement, they had arranged for the introduction of the system of earth closets, a trial to be made for one month. The cost would be £2 10s a month. The action of the Committee was approved, but it was resolved to recommend it to extend the arrangement over three months.

The Committee recommended the Headmistress's request that a number of forms be placed on the playground. —The question was deferred.

26th May 1902 The procuring of a few loads of gravel for the Borough School grounds has been authorised by the Education Board's Executive.

At the conference of the Borough School Committee and the Education Board's Executive last week; the representatives of the Board explained that that body considered the working of the Redwoodtown side-school to be too expensive, and desired the Committee to suggest some more economical methods of carrying on the school.

The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. Penny) reported having interviewed the Headmaster on the matter, and it was decided to substitute Miss Wanden by a teacher at a less salary, and to have Miss Wanden back in the Borough School. This course was approved by the Board's Executive.

A meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last week for the purpose of conferring with the Executive of the Education Board, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of the latter body. There were present Messrs. Penny (chairman), Neville, Corry, Sinclair, White, Dunn and Ferguson. Messrs. McCallum and Litchfield represented the Board. The former suggested on behalf of the Board that the expense of advertising for an assistant master in succession to Mr. C. Simson, resigned, and possible disappointment to applicants, might be avoided if the Committee could consent to the permanent appointment of Mr. Wilmot.

After discussion, in which Messrs. Penny and Ferguson expressed the opinion that the matter should be settled at a meeting of the Committee at the usual place, Mr. Corry moved and Mr. White seconded a motion that the Board be recommended to appoint Mr. Wilmot at once. Eventually the motion was carried unanimously.

4th June 1902 The meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs. Penny (in the chair), White, Jordan, Ferguson, Neville, and Dr.. Anderson. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Dunn and Sinclair.

Mr. Birch waited upon the Committee to make a complaint and ask for an enquiry. It was decided that the Chairman and the Visiting Committee sort the matter and report.

It was decided to arrange the Winter holidays so as to fit in with the Coronation celebrations, i.e., close the school on 25th inst. and reopen on the 14th July. Messrs. White and Sinclair were reappointed Visiting Committee for the month.

2nd July 1902 Correspondence was received by the Borough School Committee last night from the father of a boy who was punished at and expelled from the Borough School a few weeks ago. The parent forwarded a statement of the circumstances as he understood them after obtaining the evidence of boys in the school who witnessed the affair, together with communications that had passed between himself and the teacher, and the names of the boys whom he approached on the matter. The stand taken by the teacher, who in regard to the expulsion derived his authority from section 38 of the Act, was that; the boy had been guilty of gross impertinence and would not be re-admitted until he had apologised. The parent asked that the matter be investigated.

The Chairman said he thought that in justice to all sides an enquiry should be made. Mr. Dunn proposed, and Dr. Anderson seconded, that the visiting Committee with the Chairman make an enquiry and report to the Committee at the next monthly meeting. Mr. Corry moved, and Mr. Ferguson seconded, an amendment to the effect that the Visiting Committee report to a special meeting to be held three days after they had collected the evidence. They thought that the confirmation or removal of the expulsion should be effected as soon as possible. It was pointed out, on the other hand, that the Headmaster was away at the present time, and that there had been some delay on the part of the parent in communicating with the Committee. The original motion was carried.

The Borough School Committee held, the monthly meeting last night, when there were present Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Jordan, Dunn, Dr.. Anderson, Ferguson, Corry, White and Sinclair. The Chairman explained that the meeting was being held a week earlier than the usual date in order to arrange for the nominations in connection with the annual election of three members of the Board. The Chairman was requested to nominate Messrs. A. G. Fell, J. H. Redwood and W. B. Parker, the three retiring members. Messrs. Sinclair and Ferguson were appointed the Committee's delegates for the ensuing year to the Marlborough School Committees' Association, which meets next; Saturday; A printed copy of the Board's new regulations was received. Accounts amounting to £18 were passed for payment. Messrs. Sinclair and White were reappointed the Visiting Committee.

At the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night Mr. Jordan moved, according to notice, that in future all meetings, ordinary or special, be held at the usual place and hour. He referred to the special meeting held in another building in the daytime for the purpose of conferring with representatives of the Board in the matter of the appointment of the second master, and said he understood that the question was to be finally settled at the ordinary place and time, and he did not yet see the necessity for the course that was adopted. Doubtless the decision would have been the same ; but he did not agree with the holding of meetings at such a time as debarred several members from attending and taking part in the transaction of the business. The other members agreed with this opinion ; the chairman making the reservation that it would not perhaps so wise to make an arbitrary rule which might be found inconvenient under exceptional circumstances. After some discussion the motion was carried.

17th July 1902 The Blenheim Borough School Rifle Cadet Volunteers are among the corps transferred from, the control of the Defence Department to that of the Education Department

26th July 1902 A special meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Sinclair, Jordan, Corry, Neville, White, Ferguson and Dr. Anderson. It was convened for the purpose of considering the case of the boy who was expelled from the school before the winter holidays. The circumstances are that a letter protesting against the action of the teacher and asking that an enquiry be made was received at the last monthly meeting from the father of the boy. A subcommittee was set up to make an investigation and report to the next monthly meeting. The sub-committee took evidence during the week, and it was then decided to convene a special meeting of the Committee for the immediate settlement of the question, a letter having been received from the parent stating that the teacher of another school, having in mind the dismissal from the Borough School, had declined to admit the boy. On last night's meeting being opened, it was pointed out that the resolution passed at the previous meeting instructed the sub-committee to bring up their report at the next monthly meeting; and the question was raised as to whether the matter could legally be dealt with on this occasion. The Chairman ruled that the business could be validly transacted at the special meeting.

After considerable discussion, two members withdrew, and the Chairman then declined to go on with the meeting, saying that he thought the matter should be settled by a full number of members.

On the motion of Mr. Corry, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, it was resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman for calling the meeting, and that his action be confirmed.

11th August 1902 In a long article about the Coronation Ceremony the following material related to Blenheim Schools: The Blenheim Girls' School was represented by three wagons, decorated by Miss Douslin and staff, and drawn by Messrs. Smart Bros.' engine, Mr. A. Freeth driving. The Blenheim Boys also had three wagons, which had been decorated by Miss Brown. Mr. Sturrock, and staff, and were drawn by Mr. Patchett's engine, driven by Mr. Patchett. Mr. W. Jordan was in charge of the brigade of engine

13th August 1902 It only wanted a few minutes to eleven o'clock when the School Committee rose from its sitting last night. The discussion on the expulsion case was prolonged and animated.

13th August 1902 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last night. Present : Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Sinclair, White, Neville, Ferguson, Corry, Dorm, Jordan, Dr. Anderson.

GENERAL.. The Inspector of Nuisance wrote expressing dissatisfaction with the condition of the privy accommodation connected with the school. The earth in use was not suitable. After discussion, it was resolved that the communication be handed to health officer (Dr.. Anderson) and he be asked to report direct to the Board at its next meeting.

The Head Mistress reported the average attendance at the girls' school during the month as 142.7, the roll number being 172. The Head Master reported the average attendance at the boys' school as 76.4, the roll number being 346, these figures including the Redwoodtown side school. *As published*

The Inspector and the Head Master wrote drawing attention to the necessity of keeping the Redwoodtown school in a cleaner condition. —It was resolved to write to the Redwoodtown caretaker accordingly.

At the instance of the Head Mistress, it was resolved to recommend the appointment of Miss Kathleen Furness as pupil teacher, in place of Miss M. Macalister, now at Picton.

The Inspector pointed out that, contrary to the regulations, three children who had passed Standard I were at tending the Redwoodtown school.—It was resolved to inform the parents that the children must attend the main school.

The Inspector's reports on the inspection of the boys' school and Redwoodtown school were received from the Head Master. The remarks were : Organisation, satisfactory; time-tables,

quite suitable ; methods and quality of instruction, very good ; order, discipline, tone, honor, etc., very good ; supervision in recess, provided for ; manners, and behaviour of pupils, satisfactory ; state of buildings, ground and fences, good ; school accommodation, quite sufficient; cleanliness and tidiness, sanitation etc., fairly satisfactory.

With regard to the Redwood town Committee the Inspector said that the sole charge of five distinct classes was too much for a young pupil-teacher in her second year, and was an arrangement unfair both to the teacher and the children and if long continued, the progress of some or of all the classes would be much retarded.

A circular was received from the Timaru School Committee inviting cooperation in the matter of urging on the Government the insufficientness of the present allowances made to Committees for incidental expenses and the insufficiency of the grants made for building purposes.—A resolution supporting the movement was passed and ordered to be forwarded to the Hon. C. H. Mills.

Messrs. Jordan and Neville were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

THE EXCLUSION DISPUTE,

The sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting to enquire into the circumstances of the case in which a boy was sent out of the school some three months ago after being punished by the Headmaster and who was refused admittance on the grounds that he should apologise for gross impertinence in their report. , -The report was a statement of the correspondence that passed between the Head Master and the parent (Mr. F. Birch) with the evidence taken by the subcommittee, and did not present a finding. The correspondence showed that the parent, after obtaining information from the boy denied that his boy had been guilty of the conduct attributed to him, and also contended that the master, in expelling the boy had exceeded the power conferred on him in this direction by section 87 of the Act. The circumstances from the Head Master's point of view were set out in a letter received from him by the Committee.

The subcommittee which conducted the enquiry took the evidence of the boys of the class-room in which the incident occurred.

This having been read out, a lengthy discussion ensued.

Subsequently Mr. White moved that before coming to a decision the Committee take the evidence of the Head Master and the teacher who was in charge of the class while the Head Master was out of the room and who called out the boy who was punished.

Dr.. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Ferguson moved an amendment that the Head Master be requested to re-admit the boy without apology. Mr. Corry seconded. The amendment was lost on the following division :
Noes—Mr. J. White, Dr. Anderson, Messrs. Dunn, Neville, and Jordan. Ayes—Messrs. Ferguson. Corry, Sinclair and the Chairman.

The original motion was then carried. It was then proposed by the Chairman, and seconded, that in accordance with the above resolution, the Head Master and the teacher who was in charge of the class be requested to send in a written statement for a special meeting to be held on Friday, the 22nd inst.

Mr. Sinclair moved that the five members who had voted for the resolution already carried be a sub-committee to continue the investigation. This proposal found no seconder. Mr. White moved and Mr. Neville seconded an amendment that the teachers be asked to attend the special meeting. The amendment was lost by 4 to 3, and the original motion carried.

18th August 1902 BLENHEIM. The Secretary of the Committee wrote with regard to the earth closets complained of by the Inspector of Nuisances. —The matter was held over pending the receipt of a report from the Health Officer.

The Headmaster referred to the Board the case of a pupil teacher who had been prevented by illness from attending; the examinations. —It was resolved to inform the Headmaster that the pupil teacher must wait till the next examinations in December

19th August 1902 A peculiar failing on the part of a school boy was mentioned at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday. It was explained that though he had tailed more than once to pass a certain examination he was not by any means dull or unwilling. "Nervousness, perhaps, No, it wasn't that either; he had a habit of falling to sleep over his examination papers. 23rd August 1902 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night for the further consideration of the "expulsion case" which has been the subject of several discussions. There were present Messrs. Penny (Chairman) Corry, Ferguson, Neville, Sinclair, White, and Dr.. Anderson. At the previous meeting, after receiving the report of the sub-committee appointed to collect the evidence, the Committee deferred its decision until it had obtained reports from the Headmaster and the teacher who was in charge of the class to which the boy belonged. Their written statements were received last night.

Dr.. Anderson said that, as there was a close division at the previous meeting, it would perhaps be the proper thing to further defer the question for a full attendance, two members being absent. Mr. Corry thought that there should be no further delay, and he moved that the teacher be requested to re-admit the boy without the apology required by the teacher. He explained that the question was not one as to the corporal punishment of the boy; the question simply related to the powers conferred on the teacher by section 87 of the Education Act. He would not like to see the discipline of the school suffer in any way, and in this connection pointed out that the motion was in the form of a request. Mr. Ferguson seconded on similar grounds. He thought the boy's conduct did not come within the scope of the section of the Act which conferred on the teacher the power of expulsion.

The Chairman took a similar view. He thought corporal punishment met the case. He quoted section 87, which reads: "It shall be lawful for the teacher of any school to expel or forbid the attendance of any child for want of cleanliness or who may be likely to communicate any contagious disease, or who from gross misconduct or incorrigible disobedience may be considered an injurious or dangerous example to the other scholars. The parent or guardian of any child so expelled or whose attendance has been forbidden shall have a right of appeal first to the Committee, and finally to the Board of the district."

He did not think the discipline of the school would be injuriously affected by the readmission of the boy in the manner proposed. The question was really one as to the interpretation of section 87, and his opinion was that the teacher had gone too far in applying it in this particular case. The motion was in the form of a request to the teacher, and if he still declined to re-admit the boy the matter would be one between the teacher and the parent, who had farther power of appeal.

Mr. Neville was not in favor of the boy being admitted without an apology.

Mr. White said the position was a judicial one, and the decision of the Committee would be a precedent. He did not think the boy should have been expelled under clause 87. His opinion was that if a boy was impertinent he would be punished, and if he then rebelled against the punishment he would really be guilty of " incorrigible behaviour " within the meaning of section 87. Still, he recognised that if firmness was not displayed by the teachers discipline would suffer ; and he was very unwilling to assent to anything which would weaken their authority.

When a boy tells a teacher to " mind who you are hitting," they must not do anything which would create the impression that that they considered conduct of that kind lightly. After further discussion Dr.. Anderson moved an amendment —That the Committee, having enquired into the circumstances of the punishment and expulsion of the boy, were of opinion

that the corporal punishment inflicted was deserved, but found that under clause 87 of the Education Act the teacher had no power to expel a boy from the school on such grounds, and therefore decided that the boy should be readmitted.

Mr. Neville seconded

The amendment, met; The general view, and after further discussion, the original motion was withdrawn, and Dr. Anderson's motion was carried

1st September 1902 TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The members of the Marlborough Education Board who at last meeting expressed some concern as to the encroachment of drill on the time of the schoolboys will hardly be prepared to unreservedly accept the assertion of Major Loveday, the officer commanding public school cadets, " that the scheme for the organisation and equipment of the cadet corps meets with the entire approval of the various education boards of the colony, and there is no reason why the general wish to see the boys taught the drill and duties of a soldier and learn to. become good shots should not be carried out." So says that officer in his annual report to Parliament, which contains interesting evidence of the progress of the cadet movement. The total number of school cadets in the colony now reaches 5712, and apparently it is intended to make the most of this young military force. Major Loveday asks that ell possible encouragement should be given to rifle shooting. He proposes matches between corps should be permitted, and an annual competition between education district teams should be held at certain centres in each island for challenge shields, to be given by the department on such conditions as may be fixed

3rd September 1902 Mr. D. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Borough Schools, has been incapacitated during the last few days by an, affection of the eyes. In a letter received by the School Committee .last night Mr. Sturrock said' he hoped to be able to resume his duties in a day or two. Mr. Wilmot has been successfully carrying on the school in his absence The Committee expressed regret at the Headmaster's misfortune, -and ex- , pressed the hope that he would be speedily restored to health.

8th September 1902 Dr. Anderson, Health Officer, reported that Dr. Frengley, District Health Officer, with himself, inspected the closets of the Borough School. They agreed that the earth system was practically Useless, and that it should be discontinued. The closets should be cleaned more frequently, and the school authorities should await the Borough sealed-pan system.—It was resolved that a copy of the report be forwarded to the School Committee.

It was resolved to draw the attention of the Committee to damage being done to fence round the school ground.

17th September 1902 School Attendance. —At the Magistrate's Court this morning, Edward Morgans was charged that his son Owen did not attend the Borough School the required number of times for the weeks ending August 29th and September 5th. The attendance was very irregular, and defendant was fined 2s on each charge.

18th September 1902 Drill Instruction.—The services of qualified men for the instruction of school teachers in military drill in various centres of the colony, including Blenheim, are required by the Education Department. Applications are invited in an advertisement appearing today

17th October 1902 School Attendance. —At the Magistrate's Court this morning, Edward Morgans was charged that his son Owen did not attend the Borough School the required number of times for the weeks ending August 29th and September 5th. The attendance was very irregular, and defendant was fined 2s on each charge.

18th October 1902 The resignation of Dr.. Anderson as a member of the Borough School Committee was received at last night's meeting, and was accepted with regret. Dr.. Anderson explained in his letter that he found he could not spare the time necessary for the satisfactory

performance of the duties. The Committee resolved to ask Mr. F. Birch to fill the vacancy, as having polled the next highest number of votes at the election.

27th October 1902 Cadets.—The Blenheim Rifle Cadets will parade to-morrow (Tuesday) evening instead of Wednesday night. Shooting will be held tomorrow morning, a drag leaving the Square at 5 a.m. sharp.

12th November 1902 A request from the A. and P. Association that the children be granted a holiday on the 20th inst., the second day of the Show, was considered at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night. It was resolved that the children be given a holiday from twelve o'clock on condition that they would be admitted free to, the Show grounds

The Borough School Committee met last night. There were present Messrs. Penny (chairman), Birch, Ferguson, and White. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month was 139.4, the roll number being 165. According to a report from the Truant Officer, the attendance, following on the holidays, was poor. A parent applied for an exemption from attendance for his son and forwarded a medical certificate. The request was granted. Messrs. Dunn and Birch were appointed Visiting Committee for the month.

13th November 1902 DRILL INSTRUCTION. A circular was received from the Education Department with reference to the proposed classes for the instruction of teachers in drill. If the Board agreed the Board would appoint Mr. D. Sturrock (Headmaster of the Borough School) as instructor. A sum of £20 to £25, according to the size and work of the class, would be available for remuneration. The teachers would meet for instruction for one hour and a half not less than twenty times, and not more than forty times in one year. Free railway tickets would be conceded. Arrangements would be made for the periodical testing of the efficiency of the classes. It was resolved to address the teachers throughout the district with the object of ascertaining how many would join the class, the circular to be sent to female as well as male teachers.

26th November 1902 Obituary. — The late Mr. Walter Andrews, whose funeral took place at Picton on Saturday, was well known in Marl borough. 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 failing* 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.

3rd December 1902 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, there being present Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Jordan, Birch, White, Sinclair, Dunn and Corry. ; It was reported that the tender of Bartlett and Gallop for the re-staining of the blackboards had been accepted. The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the Girls' School, during the month as 138, the roll number being 165. The Headmaster reported the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month as 290.6, the roll number being 351. The Visiting Committee made a report in which they noted that they saw a better attendance in the Boys' School than on past occasions, and satisfactory work was being done in both the boys' and girls' departments. Excellent work was being done in the Infants'

School, Reference was made to the breakage of windows. and a subcommittee was appointed to go into the question of providing gauze screens for the windows and given authority to approach the Education Board on the subject. An application from Miss Macey, pupil teacher, for reappointment for a further term was ordered to be recommended to the Board. With reference to the remark of the Visiting Committee that the Boys' School was dismissed on the A. and P. Show day at eleven o'clock instead of at twelve, the hour fixed by the Committee, the Chairman explained that the school was dismissed at the earlier hour on his authority, given after receiving certain representations from the Headmaster. Accounts amounting to £12 were passed for payment.

3rd December 1902 recommendation was received by the Borough School Committee last night from the teachers that Christmas holidays commence immediately on the conclusion of the Inspector's examination. Accordingly, Mr. Sinclair moved and Mr. Dunn seconded, that the schools be closed on the 19th of December for a period of six weeks. . A discussion took place with regard to the length of holidays, and a number of amendments were moved, the chief being one by Mr. Birch that the duration of the recess be five weeks. The latter said that he believed in the schools being run in the interests of the scholars rather than those of the teachers. Mr. White said he thought that, with the cry for education that was being raised all over the Colony, it was preposterous to grant holidays without rhyme or reason simply that children might spend their time in playing in the gutter. The Chairman supported the original motion, contending that as, according to the regulations, the Committee had to give eight weeks during the year it would be better to give six weeks now and two weeks in winter then five now and three weeks later on. The amendment was lost, with another amendment by Mr. Corry that the schools close on the 6th of January, and the original motion was carried.

5th December 1902 EDITOR.

Sib,—I desire to draw your attention to a statement in your report of the Blenheim School Committee's proceedings on the 2nd inst. I am reported to have said (in my capacity as one of the Visiting Committee) that excellent work was being done in the Infant School. Readers of your paper will in all probability come to the conclusion that my remarks referred to the infant department of the Blenheim boys. As a matter of fact I omitted to visit that department and consequently had nothing to say about it. What I did say was this: That in visiting the Redwoodtown side school, and from what I saw there, I concluded that although only a young teacher was in charge excellent work was being done. I also pointed out; that 'the recent alterations of teachers suited both the Blenheim and Redwoodtown schools and brought the latter up to the paying point.—I am, F. Birch

8th December 1902 BLENHEIM. The Committee recommended that the pupil teacherships of Miss Macey and Litchfield be renewed for another year. With regard to the latter's position, the Secretary explained that her regulation term had expired, and it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the Department for a re-appointment. He believed the recommendation was entirely in the interests of the school, and for that reason he favored it. Mr. Ferguson said the only point was that the re-appointment might spoil the chances of young teachers. The Chairman said that the arrangement might be considered a temporary one. At the end of next year the now inexperienced members of the staff would be more capable of replacing Miss Litchfield. The Committee's recommendations were adopted.

23rd December 1902 A Satisfactory Result.—The percentage of passes gained by the Blenheim Girls' School at the late examinations is 93.5. The teachers are to be congratulated on this excellent result of their year's labors.

23rd December 1902 The following have passed their respective standards at the late examination:— Boys' School.

Standard VII.—Ernest Heffer, Fred Mills.

Standard VI.—Edward Birch, C. Braddock, Foster, Hale, Macey, McAllister, S. Mogridge, O'Brien, Penney, Simmons, -Scott-Smith.

Standard V. — Armstrong, Chuck, Freeth, Fowler, Garnham, Knight, Lange, May, Macalister, McKenzie, R. Porter, H. Patchett, Sowman, M. Tunnicliffe, A. Watson.

Standard IV. — E. Brewer, Birch, Coleman, Cowley, Crombie, Conolly, Dunckley, Goslin, Hale, J. Hodson, Hester, Logan, G. Lucas, W. Lucas, L. McHattie, O. McHattie, M. Mills, A. Mills, McArtney, Melville, Patchett, Priddle, Reid, Saunders, Simmons, Simpson, P. Watson, Witt, Walker, Wills.

Standard III.—Ball, Bowser, S. Brewer, Brown, Dames, Fryer, Goodman, Hadfield, Harding, Hilliard, Horton, A. Iremonger, J. Iremonger, Lange, Mason, Mead, Nicholas, A. Patchett, Parker, T. Rabone, C. Rabone, B. Sheridan, W. Smith, Wooster, V Smith.

Standard 11. —E. Armstrong, R. Armstrong, Dunckley, Day, D. D'Arcy Irvine, Henderson, Eyles, Greig, Hendra, Hillman, Jackson, Lucas, McCallum, Mason, Morgan, Penney, Pike, Park, B. Patchett, Reid, Thomas, Vercoe, Verry, Vannini, Wakelin, Wanden, Wemyss.

Standard I. (Boys). — Attwood, Brenchley, Burnett, Chandler, Dodson, Earp, Elliott, Ewart, Ferguson, Fowler, Fryer, Gibson, Grace, Hillman, C. Lucas, G. Lucas, McKegney, Nicholas; Patchett, Penney Randle, Register, Sigglekow, Simmons, Stapleton, Thomson, Wanden, Wemyss (2), Wensley, Witt.

(Girls).—B. Ball, F. Bentley, M. Booker, E. Booker, L. Cester, M. Crafar, M. Crook, A. Funnell, E. Gamble, M. Harding, J. Hodgson, E. Hodson, M. Jellyman, K. Lane, E. Lucas, J. Main, F. Main, E. Marks, O. Maxted, A. Middlemiss, M. Morgan, N. Norgrove, J. Reardon, M. Saunders, E. Speer, R. Taylor, E. Vercoe, A. Watson, P. Williams.

Side School.—Standard I—C. Hill, P. Smith, L. Foley, C. Gallop, E.

Girls' School. Standard VII.—Mary Foster, Miriam Brewer, Christina Fraser, Josephine Hilliard, Faith Brewer, May Healy. Standard VI.—Mary Walker (credit pass), Annie Henderson (credit pass), Stephanie Buckhurst (credit pass), Decima Horton (credit pass), Amy Fryer, Frances Hutcheson, Hilda Wanden, Grace Litchfield, Mary Lucas, Linda Mallet, Eileen Macey, Gertie Gallop, Ella Armstrong, Julia Foley.

Standard V.—Agnes Boon, Sophie Brewster, Winnie Brewster, Ella Browne, Jessie Binley, Elsie Batty, Olive Birch, Daisy Braddock, Violet Braddock, Connie Clouston, Alice Cheek, Eva Cheek, Ursula Grace, Irene Goslin, Olive Heffer, Phoebe Jackson, May Kirkpatrick, Doris Lane, Georgina Lacey, Gwennie Mason, Violet Maurice, Jessie Mahon, Maggie McCallum, Gladys McIntosh, Nellie Oben, Ivy O'Rorke, Nellie Pond, Alice Roberts. Lily Register, Rica Silvius, Irene Simson, Lila Sowman, Edith. Simmons, Millie Taylor, Mona Vannini, Grace Verry, Elsie Wanden, Ina Wemyss.

Standard IV. — Eliza Boon, Zilla Brenchley, Millie Ball, Elizabeth Brayshaw, Olive Ching, Catherine Earp, Lily Eyles, May Ferguson, Rona Farmar, Eliza Gallop, Winnie Garnham, May Gillet, Dorothy Heffer, Ruby Jordan, Effie Jackson, Lettie Henry, Winnie Ham, May McKenzie, Myra North, Doris Parker, Evelyn Patchett, Maud Priddle, Lily Simson, Nora Sowman, Olive Sowman, Eliza Smith, Eva Euren, Daisy Wensley.

Standard III.—Hope Armstrong, Ivy. Browne, Mary Booker, Zoe Clouston, Hilda Coleman, Alice Draper, Florence Eyles, Cicely Foley, Muriel Farmar, Nora Horton, Elsie Holdaway, Lettice Holdaway, Mona Litchfield; Kathleen Litchfield, Beatrice Lucas, Evelyn Lucas, Emily Lucas, Ada Lacey, Ina McKegney, Martha McCallum, Gertrude Mogridge, Mabel Hears, Annie Nicholas, Nellie Penney, Lily Radd, Violet Roberts, Nora Sanders, Irene Terrill, Florence Witt.

Standard II.—Ada Ball, Ella Braddock, Rene Birch, Bella Brayshaw, Joyce Bottrell, Dorothy Cheek, Eileen Connolly, Elsie Draper, Aileen Day, Dolly Dew, Flora Earp, Gertie Ferguson, Sadie Freeth, Agatha Foley, Lavinia Greig, Madeline Hilliard, Florence Hodson, Doris

James, Rita McHattie, Maggie McDougal, Olive Morcom, Viva Patchett, Nettie Patchett, Greta Riley, Fiona Reid, Ethel Vercoe, Ada Wooster, Ruby Young.

1903

1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Sturrock	David	D1	Head Master	£ 272.16
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wilmot	David H	D2	Assistant Master	£ 185.00
1903	139	Blenheim Girls	Brewer	Lottie M	D1	Head Female	£ 178.80
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Brown	Mary M	D1	Mistress	£ 125.00
1903	139	Blenheim Girls	Litchfield	Alice R E	E3	Assistant Female	£ 105.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Wanden	E W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Harris	Annie M	E4	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1903	139	Blenheim Girls	Healy	Annie		FPT4	£ 50.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	O'Brian	Maude		FPT3	£40.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Nellie M S		FPT5	£ 40.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Crombie	Agnes M		FPT2	£ 30.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Macey	Winifred M		FPT1	£ 20.00
1903	247	Blenheim Boys /Side	Morcom	Annie		FPT1	£ 20.00
1903	139	Blenheim Girls	Furness	Kathleen		FPT1	£ 20.00

6th January 1903 RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.' The following are the tabulated results of the scholarship examination which was held in December last :—

Elvira O'Sullivan is awarded a country scholarship, worth £35 a year. Decima Horton and Irene Simpson gain town scholarships, which are of the value of £10 a year each. "Free places " are given to Connie Ricketts and Maggie Brydon.

Elvira O'Sullivan	Havelock Suburban	12.4	471
Decima Horton	Blenheim Girls'	12.9	456
Irene Simson	Blenheim Girls'	11.7	398
Connie Ricketts	Renwick	12.9	388
Maggie Brydon	Renwick	12.9	375
Frances Jackson	Onamalutu	12.7	322
Spencer White	Onamalutu	11.2	297
Sidney Mogridge	Blenheim Boys'	12.11	289
Ursula Grace	Blenheim Girls'	11.5	275
John Barnett	Tua Marina	12.11	267
Hubert Macey	Blenheim Boys'	12.8	206
Rowland Watson	Blenheim Boys'	12.4	200

12th January 1902 The Blenheim Committee asked that the windows of the Boys' School be protected with wire-netting. Mr. Parker opposed the request, on the ground that to comply with it would open the door to similar applications from other committees, and would be a source of expense. He advised that the matter be put into the hands of the police, and an effort be made to detect the offenders, some of whom at least were well known. He believed there would be no difficulty in bringing the guilty ones to book. After some remarks on the growing prevalence of stone-throwing, and the evil of the practice, it was resolved that the Committee be asked to endeavor to discover the delinquents, and thus check the office. Scholarships. The Secretary read out the scholarship examination results, which were published last week. All the scholarships were tenable for two years. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Smith said it was specially worthy of mention that Havelock Suburban had

headed the list for two years. All the successful candidates had done even and creditable work.. The awards indicated by Mr. Smith, as published, were approved. It was resolved that the Board's congratulations be forwarded to the teachers of the successful candidates.

12th January 1903 TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, —In justice to the Borough School boys who competed for the High School scholarships it is only fair to state, as you have referred to it in " Brief Mention," that they had no preparation or coaching previous to the examinations. The girls and others were coached not only in school hours, but for a number of evenings for weeks before the event came off. I am aware that the teachers are not supposed to give special instruction, but when we know it is done it will be seen how heavily the Borough School boys were handicapped.—! am, etc., Ut Prosim.

13th January 1903 The new regulations with regard to the admission of boys and girls to the High School who have passed the Sixth Standard were discussed at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night. A subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Penny and Sinclair were appointed to wait on the Education Board and glean information on the question.

There were present at the monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee last night Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Birch, Jordan, Sinclair, and Ferguson. A letter expressing appreciation of the Truant Officer's services was ordered to be sent to the Board. It was resolved to ask the Board to supply wire-netting for the protection of the windows of the boys' school. Messrs. Penny and Neville were appointed Visiting Committee for the month. Accounts were passed for payment. Notice was given of intention to move on a certain question at next meeting

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 out his duties. They spoke of his work as having been performed fairly and impartially, and as having been successful in securing better attendances.

With regard to the Borough School Committee's proposal to extend the term of a pupil teacher, the loss of whose services under the new staffing would be detrimental to the interests of the school, the Department has informed the Education Board that neither the new Act nor the Board's regulations provide for a period exceeding five years. The Secretary to the Board has again written to the Department explaining the special circumstances, and is awaiting a reply.

13th January 1903 HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE NEW REGULATIONS. CONSIDERATION BY HIGH SCHOOL BOARD.

A copy of the new regulations issued by the Department of Education, providing for a system of free places in secondary schools, was received by the Governors of the Marlborough High School yesterday with a communication asking if the Board would take advantage of the scheme. The regulations are as follows: —

1. Subject to these regulations £6 per annum will be paid to the governing body of any public secondary school on account of each free place provided —that is, on account of each pupil admitted without payment of fees for tuition—in excess of those referred to in clauses 2 and 3 hereof.

2. (a.) Before receiving the amount named in clause 1 the governing body of a secondary school shall be required to provide, on such conditions as may seem fit to it and are approved by the Minister, one free place for each £50 of its net income derived from endowments, including therein also grants from School Commissioners and interest upon moneys derived from the sale of endowments; but for the purposes of this clause no account shall be taken of

any special endowments for scholarships or of scholarships granted out of such endowments. (b.) Further, the secondary school shall be required to admit to free places all pupils of good character who satisfy the conditions of clause 4 and wish, to attend the Secondary school. (c.) The secondary school shall give to each holder of a free place granted under these regulations instruction in Arithmetic and English of a standard higher than that required for Standard VI. of the public school syllabus (the English to include English composition, and a study of one or more of the works of some standard author or authors— not less than 800 lines of poetry or 200 pages of prose in a year, or an equivalent in poetry and prose); also regular instruction in one of the subjects prescribed in clauses 22, 24, 25, and 27 of the regulations under "The Manual and Technical Instruction Act, 1900" ; and, further, in three or more of the following subjects: French, German, Latin, Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Elementary Mechanics, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Physiology, Geography, History, or other subject approved by the Minister (Geography and History must be beyond what is prescribed for Standard VI.)

N.B. —Grants for subjects taught in accordance with the regulations for " School classes" under •• The Manual and Technical Instruction Act, 1900," will be payable in addition .to the grants under these regulations. (d.) The programme of each pupil admitted to a free place Under these regulations shall be determined by the Principal of the secondary school after consultation with the parent or guardian of the pupil: Provided that no such pupil shall be compelled to take Latin or to take more than one language besides English. 3. No payments shall be made on account of any pupil holding one of the free places named in clause 2, (a). 4. To be entitled to hold one of the free places granted under these regulations a pupil must, before entering the secondary school, have obtained a " certificate of proficiency" as defined "by regulations under " The Education Act, 1877," and must not be over fourteen years of age on the 31st December preceding the date of his admission to a secondary school as the holder of such free place. 5. Payments shall be made quarterly, but payment on account of any-pupil shall cease after two years from the 31st December preceding the date of his admission, unless he be entitled to a free place under clause 6. 6. The payment of £6 per annum on account of any holder of a free place under the foregoing clauses may be continued for two years longer provided he satisfies such tests as may be required by the Inspector-General of Schools and is granted a free place in the secondary school : Provided further that regular instruction is given to him of a more advanced character than that given to the holders of the free places referred to above. : 7. (a.) It on a report from the governing body of the secondary school or from the Inspector General of Schools it shall appear to the Minister that the attendance, conducts diligence, or progress of any pupil is not satisfactory, the payment on account of such pupil shall cease at the end of the quarter in which such report is received.

(b) No attendance shall be counted satisfactory in the case of any holder of a free place if he is absent (except on account of illness) more than 20 per

•cent, of the number of times that the school is open, or more than 30 per cent, of such number of times if the

total distance that he would be required to walk from his place of residence to the school or from his place of residence to the railway or other public conveyance and from the. railway or other public conveyance to the school is more than three miles, the distance being estimated by the nearest road. 8. These free places are open to boys and girls alike. % 9. Any holder of a free place whose parents, after his admission to the secondary school, shall remove more than five miles from the secondary school at which his free place is held may continue to hold his free place at any other secondary school at which such free places are tenable. 10. These free places are not tenable with any other free places or with any scholarships except in cases approved by the Minister in which such scholarships are granted to enable the holders thereof to meet the cost of books or apparatus, or are necessary to

enable the holders to meet the cost of travelling to the secondary school or of boarding away from home in order to attend the secondary school.

11. A free place under these regulations cannot be held by any pupil who is on the books of a secondary school for any part of the year 1902. 12. These regulations shall come into force on the 1st January, 1903.

Messrs. E. H. Penny and D. Sinclair, representing the Borough School Committee, waited on the Board and sought information as to the intentions of the Board.

The Chairman informed the deputation that the Board would carefully consider the question, and acquaint the Committee with their conclusions.

Correspondence on the subject was received from Dr. Innes, headmaster of the High School, who said that the adoption of the scheme seemed to be left to the option of the Board. If the Board decided to accept the offer and bring the scheme into operation this year, he would like the matter settled immediately so that the pupils to whom the doors of the High School would be thrown open would be able to enter upon their work with the commencement of the term on February 2nd. He suggested that the Board advertise with the object of ascertaining the number of pupils that would probably be added to the school. In the course of discussion the Chairman remarked that important questions were as to how far the accommodation and the teaching staff of the High School would prove adequate for any large extra strain that might be placed upon it, and as to whether the Board would be able, with the capitation which it would receive under the new scheme, to proceed on sound financial lines in making extra provision in these directions,

It was resolved to advertise, as suggested by Dr. Innes, and with the aid of the information thus obtained, farther consider the question at a special meeting to be held a fortnight hence.

4th February 1903 The Blenheim Committee were authorised to remedy a leak in the roof of the school, and to order a ladder.

Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, acknowledged the Board's congratulations on the success of the Blenheim Girls' School in carrying off two of the recent scholarships. She added that the success of pupils was due in a great measure to the painstaking work of Miss Litchfield, teacher of the Fifth Standard

A resolution was passed by the Borough School Committee last night requesting the various Committees in the district to urge on the Board of Governors of the High School the desirability of bringing into effect as soon as possible the Government's offer providing for a scheme of free secondary education.

10th February 1903 The Blenheim Committee were authorised to remedy a leak in the roof of the school, and to order a ladder.

Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, acknowledged the Board's congratulations on the success of the Blenheim Girls' School in carrying off two of the recent scholarships. She added that the success of pupils was due in a great measure to the painstaking work of Miss Litchfield, teacher of the Fifth Standard

The Blenheim Committee were authorised to remedy a leak in the roof of the school, and to order a ladder.

Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, acknowledged the Board's congratulations on the success of the Blenheim Girls' School in carrying off two of the recent scholarships. She added that the success of pupils was due in a great measure to the painstaking work of Miss Litchfield, teacher of the Fifth Standard

4th March 1903 The Borough School Committee sat till a late hour last night, the greater part of the sitting being occupied with the discussion of the Headmastership question which was the subject of » resolution at the special meeting of last month. The matter was taken in Committee, but in preliminary discussion it appeared that on the day following the special meeting the resolution was by requisition of the majority of the members, ordered to be

withheld from the Education Board pending last night's meeting, which was attended by the Headmaster

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee held last evening was attended by Messrs. White, Ferguson, Sinclair, Corry, Neville, Birch, and Jordan. In the absence of Mr. Penny, Mr. Corry was voted to the chair. The Headmaster reported the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month at 249.1, the roll number being 304. These figures include those of the side school—viz., 20 and 18. The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the Girls' School as 153, the roll number being 182. The Secretary of the Board forwarded a cheque for £25 3s, capitation for the quarter ending March 31st. Mr. Jas. Hutcheson was re-appointed auditor of the Committee's accounts. A circular was received from the Marlborough School Committees' Association conveying the recommendation that the school holidays consist of six weeks per annum, exclusive of promiscuous holidays, and each Committee have the right to allocate the six weeks to suit its own schools. It was stated that at present the holidays consisted of eight weeks a year. Mr. Neville moved, and Mr. White seconded, that the recommendation of the Association be adopted. Mr. White said that, considering the amount of money spent by the country on education, and the patent fact that children did not occupy their holiday "time" in the most profitable manner, six weeks were quite enough. An amendment by Mr. Sinclair that the period be seven weeks was lost, and the original motion carried.

9th March 1903 HEADMASTERSHIP OF BOROUGH SCHOOL. Correspondence was received from the Borough School Committee concerning the Head mastership. Mr. Litchfield proposed that the Board take into consideration the whole question of the state of the Blenheim Borough Schools, with the view of remodeling the Schools in accordance with the requirements of the Education School Teachers' Salaries Act. This motion was carried, and at a subsequent stage of the meeting the question was further discussed. On the motion of Mr. McCallum, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, the following resolution was passed:—"That the engagement of Mr. Sturrock with the Board be terminated on July 1st, 1903 and during the present month the Secretary notify him of the grounds:;

(1) The School Committee has requested the Board to take such action on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the last four reports of the examinations of the School;

(2) That the provisions of the School Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901, may be brought into force in Blenheim. It was further resolved that the School Committee be requested to consider the question of amalgamation of the sexes.

BLENHEIM HEAD MISTRESS. Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, wrote resigning, her position as Head Mistress and. stated that she wished to take her departure at the end of this week to catch a steamer leaving Sydney for South "Africa,; The resignation was accepted, and the Board granted the leave which would enable her to leave at the end of the week, subject to the approval of the School Committee.

At a later stage of the meeting a communication was received by the Board bearing the signatures of six members of the School Committee, and agreeing to an arrangement under which the school -would be carried on temporarily by Miss Brewer as Head Mistress and Miss Litchfield assistant.

10th March 1903 HEADMASTERSHIP OF BOROUGH SCHOOL,

Correspondence was received from the Borough School Committee concerning the Head mastership. They conveyed the resolution: "That the Committee are dissatisfied with the results of the Blenheim Boys' School in the higher standards for the past three years. As there has been practically no change for the better during this time, we are of opinion that the Headmaster is mainly responsible for these results. Therefore, we respectfully ask the Board to terminate the engagement."

The following letter, dated March 7th, and signed by Messrs. J. White, R. H. Dunn, S. M. Neville, and D. P. Sinclair, members of the School Committee, was received: — "We are desirous of acquainting the Board with the circumstances connected with the School Committee's resolution re the Headmaster. First, there was not a full meeting when the resolution was passed, and it was withheld at the request of the members of the Committee until after the regular monthly meeting, to give the Headmaster an opportunity of explaining matters from his point of view.

Secondly, the Chairman and Mr. Dunn were absent from the monthly meeting held last Tuesday. At that meeting a motion was made that after hearing the Headmaster's explanation the resolution re the Headmaster be not forwarded to the Board. This was lost by the casting vote of the Acting-Chairman, who thus had two votes. Had Mr. Dunn been present the motion would have passed, as one member declined to vote. The voting would then probably have been four for the motion and three against, one declining to vote. Those who voted for this motion were of opinion that the matter should be dealt with by the Committee to be elected next month, as the householders will then have the matter before them at the time of the election.

We are also influenced by the fact that the Chairman of the former Committee, whose views were unfavorable to the Headmaster, was not re-elected, although a candidate, but as a vacancy occurred during the year he was appointed by the Committee to fill the vacancy. This may be taken by the householders as contrary to their express wish. We are therefore of opinion that the matter should be left over till after the householders' meeting in April."

Mr. Litchfield proposed that the Board take into consideration the whole question of the state of the Blenheim Borough Schools, with the view of remodeling the Schools in accordance with the requirements of the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act. This motion was carried, and at a subsequent stage of the meeting the question was further discussed.

On the motion of Mr. McCallum, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, the following resolution was passed :—" That the engagement of Mr. Sturrock with the Board be terminated on July 1st, 1903, and during the present month the Secretary notify him accordingly, on the grounds:

(1) That the School Committee has requested the Board to take such action on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the last four reports of the examinations of the School;

(2) That the provisions of the School Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901, may be brought into force in Blenheim." The speakers expressed themselves as agreeing with the representations of the Committee; and with regard to the latter clause of the Board's resolution pointed out that in applying the provisions of the Teachers' Salary Act to the school, which meant that the single control of the institution would be placed in the hands of a headmaster, the re organisation of the staff was necessary.

Mr. Ferguson remarked that the resignation of the Headmistress, who is leaving for South Africa, simplified the position to a certain extent. - It was further resolved that the School Committee be requested to consider the question of amalgamation of the sexes, and report to the next meeting of the Board. This, said Mr. Chaytor, was a question which ought to be settled in connection with the scheme of applying the provisions of the Teachers' Salaries Act to the school. Mr. McCallum remarked that the amalgamation of the sexes was the general thing throughout the colony, and the time had arrived when Blenheim should consider if it was acting wisely in following" an exceptional course.

BLEMHEIM HEAD MISTRESS. Miss Douslin, Head Mistress, wrote resigning her position as Head Mistress, and stated that she wished to take her departure at the end of this week to catch a steamer leaving Sydney for South Africa, The resignation was accepted, and the Board granted the leave which would enable her to leave at the end of the week, subject to the approval of the School Committee. At a later stage of the meeting a communication was received by the Board bearing the signatures of six members of the School Committee, and

agreeing to an arrangement under which the school would be carried on temporarily by Miss Brewer as Head Mistress and Miss Litchfield assistant

18th March 1903 BOROUGH SCHOOL CADETS.

The first stage of the class firing Shooting took place at the Vernon Butts yesterday afternoon. The weather was exceedingly boisterous, but in spite of that some excellent shooting took place, w. Macey scoring six bulls and one outer. The conditions were seven shots at 100 yards, bull's-eye 4, inner 3, and outer 2. The following were the principal scores :—

Cadet H. Lucas ~. 26

W. Macey ... 26

Sergt. Brewster ~, 24

Sergt. Fulton21

Cadet Garnham ... 21

“ Freeth 21

“ James 21 "

“ McKenzie ~. 20

“ H. Macey ... 19

“ Sowman... .. 19

23rd March 1903 BOROUGH BOYS' SCHOOL.

The boys of No; 2 Cadet Company of the above schools commenced their class firing last Saturday morning. Considering that many of the boys were quite unaccustomed to rifle shooting the results were very satisfactory. The following are the highest scores :— Sergt. .M. Mills ... 22 Cadet A, Fryer ... 20 Cadet Hendra 17 Cadet Parker 16 Cadet Wooster... .. 16 Cadet Hilliard... .. 15

23rd March 1903 Sir,—The home lessons set by the teachers of the lower standards in the Borough School are far in excess of the modern standard of home work. From the infant class up it is resolving itself into the children, being taught at home by their parents and not by the teachers. It is an understood rule S that from the third standard down no home lessons excepting spelling shall be given, and only that when it has been gone over before in school. This la .very far from being the case, and it behoves the School Committee to look into the practice.—I am, &c, Parent.

24th March 1903 Miss M. Douslin, whose resignation as Headmistress of the Blenheim Borough Schools was received at the last meeting of the Education Board, left by the train last night en route to South Africa via Sydney. Many friends were at the railway station to bid her farewell, including a crowd of the school girls, who have held her in such high regard. The gathering of pupils and the nature of their valediction were a touching tribute of the affection entertained for her by the young people into whose daily life she' has so closely entered. Much general regret is felt at the severance of Miss Douslin's connection with the Schools which she has conducted for some years past with such marked success. The records of the school during her term of management have been of the very highest character, and Miss Douslin won from the educational authorities and the parents nothing but praise. Miss Douslin joins her father and brother at Bulawayo.

27th March 1903 TO THE EDITOR.

Sib,—Your correspondent "Parent," in Monday's issue, touched on a question that has been agitating a good many parents lately—that of home lessons. He only refers to the lower standards, bat if he has cause for complaint as to his children in the lower standards, I guess he will have more to say later on when they are a stage or two higher. " Another Parent," who apparently holds a brief for the teaching staff, tries to gloss over the matter by saying his " children never went to a school where there was so little to do at home." Evidently his children have never been to a school outside of Blenheim, so that his remarks may be quite

truthful, and yet mean nothing. How is it, air, that one or two of the most successful of the Marlborough schools are run without home lessons, whilst in the Borough the fad of "cram" is ridden to death. In a household where several children are going to school I can assure you it is not with feelings of unmixed pleasure that tired parents see the children unload their well-filled schoolbags and proceed to commit to memory geography, spelling lessons, history, etc. Even now, though early in the year parents have good ground of complaint, but later on things will be much worse where the date of the examination is approaching. It appears to me that the syllabus in the larger schools is overcrowded with too many subjects, and the teachers through not having sufficient time during school hours crowd some of their work on to the children and their parents in the shape of home lessons. I can assure you, sir, that when home lessons are about there is to a parent not much pleasure in trying to read or write, and that "home, sweet home" is to him a meaningless parody.—I am, etc., Yet Another Parent.

8th April 1903 The Blenheim schools close for the Easter holidays on Thursday and reopen on Wednesday morning

A communication from the Education Board received at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night asked the Committee to consider the question of amalgamating the boys' and girls' departments with a view to bringing the schools into line with the Teachers' Salaries Act. It was decided to defer the question for the new Committee.

The ordinary business of the Borough School Committee last night having been concluded, Mr. Ferguson referred in condemnatory terms to the letter containing the signatures of certain members of the Committee which was read at the last meeting of the Education Board in connection with the Headmastership question. He referred to the sending of the letter as most reprehensible. Mr. J. White responded in defence, and a lengthy and brisk discussion ensued. Our complete report of the discussion is crowded out of this issue.

The case of the Head Master of the Borough Schools has been taken up by the New Zealand Teachers' Institute, which has formulated an appeal against the decision that the Education Board arrived at on the recommendation of the School Committee. Notice has been served on the Board, which has ten days within which to prepare its case; and a special meeting of the Board will be held this afternoon. It is understood that Dr. McArthur, S.M., has been selected as arbitrator by the Head Master. The Board will select its arbitrator to-day; and the appeal will be taken before the local Magistrate.

8th April 1903 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting was held last evening. Present — Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Jordan, Corry, Ferguson, Birch.

ATTENDANCE RETURNS. The Headmaster reported the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month as 250 8, the roll number 304. These figures included the Infants' department and side school. The Headmistress's report stated that the average attendance at the Girls' school during the month was 247, the roll number being 274. **APPOINTMENTS.**

The Acting Headmistress (Miss Brewer) recommended some alterations in the temporary arrangements made in the school since the resignation of Miss Douslin. If an experienced teacher were placed in the position of pupil teacher vacated by Miss Litchfield, instead of a probationer, the result would be more satisfactory, as now the staff were carrying on the work with four teachers, two of whom had little or no experience. She suggested the appointment of Miss Healy, who was now outside the school but who had had experience. Miss Douslin recommended the appointment of a probationer as pupil teacher in the Girls' school. Considerable discussion ensued on the question of filling up the vacancy under the temporary arrangements. Mr. Jordan contended that as a matter of justice preference should be given to the probationers, whose gratuitous services had been accepted on the understanding that they would be appointed to the first vacancy. Other members pointed out that the Headmistress

asked for an experienced teacher who would be able to take the higher standards, and whose competency would ensure, the efficient teaching of the school.

Mr. Corry moved that the senior probationer be appointed.

Mr. Birch moved an amendment that the recommendation of the Headmistress be adopted. This was carried on the casting vote of the Chairman.

Mr. White protested against the practice of ignoring the probationary system.

It was then resolved to forward the recommendation to the Board. Mr. Ferguson, who spoke in sympathy with Mr. White's contention, intimated that he intended to bring the subject before the Board.

GENERAL. The application from a resident of Redwoodtown to allow his child to continue at the side school for another term was left in the hands of the Chairman.

A letter from Miss Douslin paid a high tribute to the ability of Miss Brewer, who has taken up the position of Headmistress temporarily.

A suggestion that emanated from Renwicktown that the Board be asked to take over the appointment of a truant officer for the district was brought forward, but no action was taken.

Messrs. Jordan and White reported their interview with the Inspector on certain subjects which were discussed in committee at the previous meeting. On the motion of Mr. Ferguson, a resolution was carried expressing the Committee's high appreciation of the successful work of Miss Douslin as headmistress.

Reference was made to the promise made by the Mayor on the occasion of the opening of the Seddon railway that the school children would be given a special "treat"; and, on the motion of Mr. Corry, it was resolved that His Worship be reminded of the promise.

It was resolved that the Blenheim meeting of householders this month be advertised on the preceding Saturday and the following Monday. The Chairman and Secretary were deputed to draw up the report for the householders meeting and arrange for its publication prior to the meeting. Messrs. Ferguson and White reported as the Visiting Committee. They mentioned a number of small requirements, for which provision was made. Mr. White expressed satisfaction with the work that they saw being done in the Boys' school. Accounts were passed for payment, the final settlement showing a deficit of £2 on the year's transactions.—The Chairman was asked to bring the financial requirements off the Committee before the Board.

At the instance of Mr. White, a resolution was passed in appreciation of the manner in which the secretarial work has been carried out during the year by Mr. R. L. Brewster; and a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his year's presidency.

9th April 1903 TEACHER'S NOTICE OF APPEAL.

A special meeting of the Education Board was held yesterday afternoon to receive the notice of appeal made under the Public School Teachers' Incorporation and Court of Appeal Act, 1895, by the Headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School against the Board's dismissing him from his position. The grounds of appeal set out by the notice were (1) that the examination and inspection reports for each of the past four years were quite satisfactory, especially when the whole of the circumstances were taken into consideration; (2) that the dismissal was not necessary to the scheme of amalgamating the boys' and girls' departments of the school. It was also notified that the Marlborough Board of the Teachers' Institute of New Zealand had nominated Dr. McArthur, S.M., of Wellington, as one of the members of the Court for the purposes of the appeal, and, as provided by the Act, undertook to pay whatever costs may be awarded against the appellant. The written consent of Dr. McArthur to act as a member of the Court was attached.

The Board set up a Committee consisting of Messrs. Ferguson, Macey, Litchfield, McCallum, and the Inspector to confer with the Board's solicitor (Mr. Rogers) in drawing up the defence, such committee to have full power in stating the grounds of dismissal.

Mr. Ferguson was appointed to conduct the Board's case in Court; and Mr. J. B. Rayner was selected as the Board's nominee as a member of the Court.

The Board's statement of reply must be served within ten days of the service of notice of appeal. Copies of both documents must also be forwarded to the Minister within ten days, and the Minister will then appoint the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. T. Scott-Smith, to convene the Court and hear the case in conjunction with the other two members of the Court. The Magistrate shall be Chairman of the Court, with an original and a casting vote. Appellant may himself appear in Court or may be represented, and the Board has the same right; but no solicitor or counsel can appear or be heard. The Court is to hear the appeal at the time and place appointed by the Chairman, the time being not later than fourteen days after receipt by him of the Minister's instructions.

20th April 1903 The Headmaster's Appeal.—The report of the committee appointed by the Education Board to draw up the statement of reply in connection with the Headmaster's appeal against the alleged wrongful dismissal was laid before to-day's meeting, and approved. The statement is a considerable extension on the two bare reason?) given to the Headmaster in the Board's original communication, there being ten clauses and several sub-clauses. The case will be heard in the Blenheim Court under "The Public School Teachers' Incorporation and Court of Appeal Act, 1895," before Mr. T. Scott-Smith, S.M., with Dr. McArthur, S.M., and Mr. J. B. Rayner, as members of the Court nominated respectively by appellant and respondent. The Board's statement of reply has been duly filed, and the time of hearing will be fixed by the Magistrate after receiving instructions from the Minister to hold the Court. The case must be taken within a fortnight after receiving these instructions.

21st April 1903 The monthly meeting of the Education Board was held yesterday. Present Messrs. Seymour (Chairman), Macey, Ferguson, Duncan, Parker, McCallum, and Litchfield. **BLLENHEIM.** The appointment of Miss Healy to the staff of the Blenheim Girls' School was confirmed. ! A resolution was passed that the staff of the Girls' School as reconstructed in connection with the resignation of Miss Douslin remain as at present, the appointments to be temporary, and the salaries to be according to the various positions held. Mr. Litchfield asked whether it would not be advisable to take at once such steps as would clear the way for the bringing of the Borough Schools into ,me with the provisions of the new scale of staff and salaries in regard to amalgamation. It would perhaps save trouble and delay if they took such notion now as would provide for the permanent appointment of the Headmaster, which position would be vacant in July if the notice to Mr. Sturrock took effect. Mr. Ferguson thought that, in view of the Headmaster's appeal case, it would not be wise to take such action now. While recognising that in connection with the re-organisation of the staff for the purposes of the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' departments it would be necessary to give notice to the teachers, he thought it would be well to await the settlement of the appeal case. He thought that the Board was following the principle of 'judging by results,' and he thought that in appointing the Headmaster of the newly constituted staff the Board should give him an opportunity of saying who should work under him. The Committee wrote pointing out the unusually heavy strain on the finance, stating that at the end of the year there was a deficit of several pounds, and asking the Board for increased capitation. It was resolved to ask the Committee for particulars as to the amount expended on blackboards and the extra expenditure owing to the non-residence of the teacher.

21st April 1903 The Headmaster's Appeal.—The report of the committee appointed by the Education Board to draw up the statement of reply in connection with the Headmaster's appeal against the alleged wrongful dismissal was laid before yesterday's meeting ,and approved. The statement is a considerable extension on the two bare reasons given to the Headmaster in the Board's original communication, there being ten clauses and several sub-clauses. The case will be heard in the Blenheim Court under "The Public School Teachers'

Incorporation and Court of Appeal Act, 1895," before Mr. T. Scott-Smith, S.M., with Be McArthur, S.M., and Mr. J. B. Rayner, as members of the Court nominated respectively by appellant and respondent. The Board's statement of reply has been duly filed, and the time of hearing will be fixed by the Magistrate after receiving instructions from the Minister to hold the Court. The case must be taken within a fortnight after receiving these instructions

25th April 1903 Following is the report to be presented by the School Committee to householders of the Blenheim school district on Monday evening: — Your Committee have the honor to report having held twelve ordinary and five special meetings during the past year, the average attendance of members being seven. Individually the attendance was as follows : Messrs. E. H. Penny 15, J. J. White 17, C. Ferguson 16, D. P. Sinclair 11, W. Jordan 12, J. J. Corry 12, S. M. Neville 9, 11. H. Dunn @; Dr. Anderson, who resigned his seat daring the year, attended 5, afterwards his seat; being taken by Mr. Birch, who has attended each subsequent meeting. The average attendance in the schools is equivalent to last year's. In consequence of removals from the Infants' department subsequent to the examinations, the roll of the Boys' School shows 40 less and an average attendance of 25 less, while the Girls' School roll has increased 40 and an average attendance of 50 as compared with the several months preceding. As the year goes on the admissions into the Infants School tend to bring the roll numbers and average attendance to a normal point. The Side-school at Redwoodtown maintains an average attendance of about 20 scholars and is proving of continued benefit to the residents, who find the Borough Schools too great a distance to send the little ones. The ! whole question of the school staff is in an unsettled state. The Education Board has given the Headmaster notice to terminate his engagement on July 1st. Against this the Headmaster has appealed, so the matter has therefore to be settled elsewhere. In May, 1902, the Committee through the Board received the resignation of Mr. Charles Simson, the second master, who had received extended leave of absence to proceed to South Africa during the war, at the conclusion of which he accepted an appointment in Cape Colony; and Mr. Wilmot, who had been temporarily filling the position, made application for permanent appointment, which was made in due course.

In March, 1903, Miss Douslin applied to be relieved from the position as Headmistress, having received a lucrative post at Bulawayo. The Committee and Board decided to accept the resignation at short notice, and have temporarily appointed Miss Brewer as Headmistress with Miss Litchfield and Miss Healy assistants. In combination with these matters pertaining to the staff, your Committee at its last meeting received a memorandum from the Education Board requesting consideration of the advisability of amalgamating the Boys' and Girls' Schools. As the question of the staff and amalgamation are so intimately connected and the Committee's term of office so near completion, it was unanimously decided to refer the whole matter to the incoming Committee. The careful consideration of the question being of vital importance to the future efficiency and well-being of the schools, your Committee desire to commend it to your earnest deliberation. A reference to the balance-sheet will show that a recurring deficiency appears. This is owing entirely to insufficiency of capitation, the large size of the schools necessitating very considerable expenditure on cleaning, fuel and repairs. The state of the finances has been exhaustively placed before the Board, and it will be for the new Committee to further pursue the matter. Your Committee desire to record their appreciation of the excellent and thoroughly efficient manner in which Miss Douslin performed her duties and the gratifying results on her work in the Girls' School. In conclusion we also acknowledge with pleasure the consistent courtesy and assistance rendered by the press in reporting so fully and fairly the meetings of the Committee and all matters concerning the welfare of the school."

25th April 1903 The publication of the report of the Borough,. School Committee should enable the householders to equip themselves for the meeting to be held on Monday night.

The election of the Committee eh this occasion is, it is believed, attracting an exceptional amount of interest, and a largo attendance may be looked for. The Committee going out of office are ending a period which has been marked by a good deal of controversy and conflict of opinion, and have not proceeded on unanimous lines in all things. On the question of chief importance in fact, there was a sharp division, in connection with which may be mentioned the non-attendance of members who at the outset expressed views not in accord with the final decision. It is to be regretted that full and consistent attendances could not have been secured throughout. The principal issue was that relating to the Headmastership, and the circumstances of this case will no doubt provide one of the factors of the election. The question is now to be settled in the Teachers' Appeal Court, and is in a sense subjudice; but, while the minds of the householders may be suspended as to the main merits of the case, it is probable enough that they will cast their verdict in such a manner as to make it plain whether they approve or condemn the exact course taken by the Committee. Another important question for the consideration of the householders is the proposed amalgamation of the boys' and girls' school. The outgoing Committee were asked by the Board to review this subject, in view of the necessity of bringing the schools into Hue with the provisions of the new scale of staff and salaries and the Committee held the matter over for special reference to the householders. As far as we understand the position, it is practically compulsory to amalgamate the two departments during the ensuing year, and what remains to be done is to settle the procedure and the details. One point involved is the reorganisation of the teaching staff, and the expediency of giving notice to and re-appointing teachers for this purpose has to be considered. The occasion claims the lively interest of the householders, and they will be performing a real public duty in attending me meeting and assisting in the direction of school affairs during the ensuing year.

28th April 1903 Blenheim Householders' Meeting. —The proceedings at the householders' meeting in the Borough School last night were animated and interesting. One householder suggested that the candidates should express their views before the balloting. That would have made matters more interesting no doubt, but' as there were 17 candidates, it would have been Tuesday morning before the proceedings concluded if the proposal had been adopted. An extended report of the proceedings appears on our fourth page.

28th April 1903 BOROUGH SCHOOL HOUSE HOLDERS.

The annual meeting of the householders of the Blenheim school district for the election of the Committee was held last evening in the Borough School. Au unusual amount of interest was manifested in the event, and the gathering was the largest of the kind ever held in this district, the attend

numbering about 200. Mr. J. T. Robinson was voted to the chair on the motion of Mr. S. M. Neville.

The report of the Committee for the year, as published in these columns on Saturday, was read by the Secretary (Mr. R. L. Brewster) together with the balance sheet for the year ending March 31st.

Mr. L. A. Browne moved that the report and balance-sheet be adopted, and in doing so said that he wished to combine with the motion an expression of thanks and confidence in favor of the old Committee. He did not come prepared with a set speech.' No doubt what was prominent in the minds of most people at the present time was the question of the termination of the Headmaster's engagement; bat -without entering into details

Mr. E. H. Penny (Chairman of the old Committee) rose to a point of order, which he proceeded to explain amidst some commotion.

The Chairman intervened, saying that the motion for the adoption of the report and balance sheet should be taken by itself. Other matters could be considered separately. Mr. McNab said he would willingly vote for the motion acknowledging the work of the Committee for

the past year, but would object to any reflections on the Headmaster. (Hear, hear.) . Mr. Browne said he had no intention of reflecting on anyone. He recognised the ruling of the Chair, and would simply move the adoption of the report. . Mr. J. J. White seconded. In doing so he would like to make an explanation as to the coarse which he and three other members of the Committee took in a certain matte", and for which (if the expression would be pardoned) they had been roundly abused. In the first place notice was sent out to the members stating that the business of the next meeting would be important— A voice: Is this in order ? The Chairman: The subject has been referred to in the report. Mr. J. B. Green rose to a point of order. It seemed to him that if they were not careful they would trespass on ground which, he thought, the most of them were anxious to avoid. As far as the Committee's actions were concerned, a great many had read about them in the papers and did not want to go over the ground again. The Chairman said he thought that Mr. White had better leave the matter over. It would be wise to get the report and balance sheet out of the way first, Mr. White said that the circumstances he wished to explain did not appear in the papers. But he would accept the Chairman's ruling. The motion for the adoption of the report and balance sheet was carried. Mr. Browne then moved a vote of thanks and confidence to the outgoing Committee—that was to say, thanks for their services during the past year and confidence in those who cared to seek re-election. He would refrain from speaking on the matter on which he was pulled up, and would simply claim the right of reply if there was anything to say later on. Mr. S. Norgrove seconded. Mr. McNab moved an amendment providing the addition of the words : " While regretting their foolish and vindictive action against the Headmaster." Mr. Penny rose to a point of order. The question referred to by Mr. McNab was subjudice, and he did not think it should be touched. Mr. Green said that if Mr. Browne would eliminate the •»confidence" clause from the motion he would support it. The thanks related to work already done ; if the feeling of the meeting was in favor of confidence it would be shown in the voting. Mr. Penny said that he had asked Mr. Browne to confine himself to the thanks clause. Mr. McNab withdrew his amendment. Mr. Browne struck out the confidence clause ; and his motion was then carried. The election of the Committee was then proceeded with. On the motion of Mr. Green it was resolved that nominations close at 8.5 p.m. The Yen. Archdeacon Grace and Mr. Armstrong were appointed scrutineers. Mr. Ferguson asked for a ruling on the point as to whether a wife could vote as well as a husband.—The Chairman said he did not think so.

Seventeen nominations were received, and the time for the closing of the poll was fixed at nine o'clock, 180 ballot papers being given out. The result of the election became known at 10.20 o'clock, and is as follows : — E. H. Penny 125 C. Ferguson 108 F. Birch 101 W. Ching 99 J. Brown 98 S. Norgrove 95 J. J. White 85 S. M. Neville 80 H. L. Jackson 79 The other candidates were J. J. Corry 75, W. Jordan BG, S. P. McNab 66, J. Griffin 66, W. Marple 62, L. A. Browne 62, T. J. Ball 51, J. Nicholas 29. The members of the old Committee who are re-elected are: Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Ferguson, Birch, White, and Neville, The members of the old Committee who stood and were defeated are Messrs. Corry and Jordan. A vote of thanks to Mr. Robinson for his Chairmanship brought the meeting to a close.

1st May 1903 Dr. Me Arthur, S.M, arrived from Wellington by the train last evening to take part, as a member of the Teachers' Appeal Court, in the hearing of the case in which the Headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School appeals against his dismissal by the Board of Education. The case will be opened tomorrow.

11th July 1903 THE STEAMER SERVICES. A member drew attention to what he called the " last 'Frisco mail fiasco. The mail closed here at 10 a.m. The Penguin left Nelson at 7.30, got to Picton at 3 p.m., and left at 4 p.m. It would have been only a matter of the steamer waiting another hour in Picton, and the Marlborough public would have had a considerable extension

of time. The same member also referred to the incident in which several school teachers and a considerable number of other travelers were unexpectedly delayed at Wellington and much inconvenienced because the Raetihi went straight on to Nelson instead of calling at Picton. It seemed to him that in both cases Marlborough had been inconsiderately treated. Whenever anything went wrong with the itinerary Blenheim and Picton were the first to suffer. After discussion it was resolved that the facts of these cases be definitely ascertained, and that if they bore out the original representations, the Union Company be communicated with.

14th July 1903 THE TEACHERS' APPEAL CASE. The minutes of a special meeting held on June 18th were confirmed. On that occasion the Board passed resolutions in regard to the teacher's appeal case. One resolution instructed the Secretary to write to Mr. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Borough Schools, informing him that the Board would not recognise him as Headmaster after July 1st.- Another resolution voted the sum of £10 as the fee for Mr. J. B. Rayner, as the Board's appointee to the Appeal Court.

The outward correspondence having been read, Mr. Ferguson asked if any reply had been received from Mr. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Borough School, to the Board's letter giving him notice that the Board would not recognise him after July 1st.

The Secretary replied in the negative. He had repeated the notice, but no reply had been received.

Mr. Ferguson asked what was the position. He did not wish the Board's action to have the appearance of per section, nor did he think that construction could be fairly placed upon it; but he pointed out that they would stultify themselves if they allowed Mr. Sturrock to continue in the position. They should come to a definite conclusion one way or the other; otherwise they would be condoning a position they had all along protested against.

The Board went into committee and consulted its solicitor, Mr. Rogers.

The Board appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Sturrock during the afternoon.

On resuming, the Committee reported that they had interviewed Mr. Sturrock, who gave them to understand that he regarded the decision of the Teachers' Court of Appeal as having the effect of reinstating him. In reply to the suggestion that he should agree to a statement being made to the Supreme Court, he said he would consult his legal advisers. Mr. Fell, who made the report, went on to say that he was not in favor of such an extreme course as locking-out—a suggestion made at the morning meeting. He preferred to proceed with the application to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to quash the judgment of the Court of Appeal. (The view enunciated by the Board in discussion was that the Appeal Court's decision was not in itself a reinstatement. If the Board did not reinstate it was for the teacher to seek his remedy.)

Mr. Chaytor concurred with Mr. Fell's remarks. The Board did not wish to take any unfair advantage of the teacher; and he preferred to see the matter settled in a decorous manner.

The Chairman agreed and thought that the Board would best consult its dignity by adopting the course suggested.

Mr. Ferguson agreed. He was sure they did not want to "jump on" the teacher. He brought the matter up for the reason that he thought it was due to all parties to have it properly settled; and at the same time he did not wish the Board to be compromised. The Board had officially notified the teacher that it did not recognise him as the Headmaster, and one question was as to the attitude that should be adopted by the School Committee in receiving reports and directing the affairs of the school.

Other members suggested that the Committee should adopt a non-committal attitude.

A motion was then carried that the Board's solicitor be instructed to proceed with the application for a writ of certiorari

5th August 1903 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night, all the members being present. The Visiting Committee reported that the work in the school was being carried on in a satisfactory manner. The attendance had been poor, owing to the prevalence of sickness, chiefly whooping cough, and to bad weather.

Matters in connection with the Truant Officer's work were discussed, the Education Board having notified that that officer would in future be under the direct control of the Board. It was stated that some parents had been applying to the doctors for medical certificates of exemption from attendance, and it was pointed out that such certificates were obtainable from the head teacher or the Chairman and one member of the Committee.

Accounts were passed for payment. Messrs. Ferguson and Brown were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

10th August 1903 THE BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP. Advice was received from the Board's solicitors as to the progress of matters in the Blenheim Headmastership case. It was stated that according to instructions the monthly salary had not been paid. The question was asked as to why the application for a writ of certiorari was not proceeded with in accordance with the resolution of last meeting. The reply was that the question as to procedure—certiorari, appeal, or other method—was a matter in which the Board had to accept the guidance of its legal advisers

11th August 1903 was given by Mr. Parker to move at next meeting. That the staffs of the Blenheim Borough schools receive three months' notice of the discontinuance of their services with a view to the forthcoming amalgamation of the schools.

9th September 1903 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening. There were present:—Messrs. Penny Birch, White, Neville, Brown, Norgrove, Ching, Ferguson, and Jackson ; this being a full attendance. The report from the Head Mistress was read; and the Visiting Committee reported a satisfactory state of affairs. Messrs. Neville and Norgrove were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts were passed for payment

9th September 1903 THE TEACHER'S APPEAL CASE.

DISCUSSION BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following letter was received by the Borough School Committee last night from the Secretary of the Education Board:—"I am directed by the Marlborough Education Board to inform you that the Board does not recognise Mr. Sturrock as head teacher of the Blenheim Boys' School, and to request you not to receive from, or forward to, him any communication until further advised." There was also amongst the correspondence the usual monthly report from the Headmaster ; and when this came up the remark was made that the Committee could not receive it. Mr. White thereupon moved that the report be received and read. He said [that the Committee sat there as the direct representatives of the householders, and if they made themselves subordinate to the Board in this sense they would be destroying the very object for which they were appointed. If they were not prepared to take up a stand according to their own judgment they were not fit to retain office. He went on to contend that Mr. Sturrock had not been really dismissed, as the decision of the Court of Appeal made the Board's action invalid. The Board had shut the Committee's mouth at last meeting by stating that a writ of certiorari had been applied for; now it turned out that no such application had been made. They would be wrong to play the game of the Board, which evidently did not wish to look back now they had put their hand to the plough, and kept on worrying the teacher. Such action was, in his opinion, unmanly and unjust and unworthy of any public body. Mr. Neville

seconded the motion. Mr. Ferguson took exception to some of the strong remarks that that fallen from Mr. White. There was nothing unmanly or unjust on the side of the Board. They all knew that in connection with the proceedings in Court a certain question of law was reserved, and most of them knew very well that that point was entirely in the hands of the lawyers. The Board could not go any further. After the Board's notice Mr. Sturrock was acting entirely on his own responsibility in keeping on after July 1st. It remained for the Committee to decide whether it would stultify the action of the Board, the members of which regretted just as much as any member of the Committee the unfortunate and unexpected delay that had occurred. The matter was in the lawyers' hands, and the Board had done its best, Mr. Ching said that if they were not going to stand by the Board the best thing to do would be to resign in a body and go before the householders. Mr. Neville said that he was quite willing to take that course. The Committee were elected directly by the householders, and they elected the Board. They had a perfect right to have their own opinion. He considered that the Headmaster had been treated in an ungentlemanly manner, and that such a state of things tended to contaminate the discipline of the school. It was not right to allow the thing to hang on for such a length of time. Mr. Jackson said that if he understood the position rightly Mr. Sturrock had been reinstated by the Court. He thought Mr. Ching's idea was a good one. The present position was ridiculous, and should not be tolerated. They were not doing right to the school in refusing to read the reports. Mr. Neville again referred to the effect of existing conditions on the discipline of the school. The Chairman said that it was this he wished to see avoided. He wanted to see the Committee keep altogether aloof from any complications—in fact, to take neither one side or the other. (Hear, hear.) If Mr. Sturrock was re-instated he would work with him and do all he could to help him. If they followed out Mr. White's suggestions they would only be rushing into what they should try and keep clear of. Mr. White did not think they should sit on a rail. They should do their duty and try and bring the matter to a head. Mr. Ferguson said that was not a fair way of putting the Chairman's attitude. Mr. Neville: Is it true that you were obliged to write to two or three lawyers and they would not take the case up?

Mr. Ferguson: No; it is not true.

Mr. Brown said that, without entering into the rights or wrongs of the case, the present state of affairs was most unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear). He thought the matter should have been settled long ago. If they did not read the Headmaster's reports they would not know how the school was being carried on. Mr. Birch took exception to the term "unsatisfactory condition" as applied to the present progress of the school. The teaching conditions of the school were better than ever. He had made enquiries and found that affairs were going on very satisfactorily. He would be satisfied if they had gone as well for the past nine years. Mr. Jackson: Then it would be a good idea not to receive reports for the future? Mr. Birch said 'that the reports had nothing to do with what he was talking about. He went on to say that the Committee should stand by the Board. The motion was lost on a show of hands, Mr. Jackson said he would like to see the voting recorded on the reporter's notes as well as the minutes. Mr. Birch said he had the same wish. A division was taken as follows: — Ayes: Messrs. White, Jackson, Neville and Brown. Noes: Messrs. Penny, Ching, Norgrove, Birch and Ferguson. In further discussion the suggestion was made that the Committee should pass a resolution urging the Board to settle the matter as speedily as possible. Mr. White said he rather felt inclined to move a resolution to be forwarded to the Minister of Education. The matter had been hanging fire for months, and the Board had not been paying the salary that should have been handed over for work performed. The Board ignored Mr. Sturrock, and yet made no provision for the fulfilment of the duties he was carrying out. He took it that they | dare not appoint anyone else or they would be guilty of contempt of Court. Mr. Birch said that all this was not the Committee's fault. The matter was one for the Board to deal with. Mr.

White: But we are not subordinate to the Board. Mr. Birch: My opinion is that we are. Mr. White said that the Committee were the direct representatives of the householders. He went on to deprecate a condition of things which must necessarily mean worry to a conscientious and hard-working teacher and must be detrimental to the school. This was all the more to be deprecated since it was the consequence of action taken in defiance of the ruling of the final Court of Appeal. He would move that a communication be sent to the Minister of Education. The Chairman said he could hardly receive a motion of that kind. Mr. White asked for permission to read his resolution. It was as follows :—" This Committee is of opinion that it is detrimental to the interest of the schools for the Headmaster to be kept in a state of anxiety and worry: by a retention of his justly earned salary ; by the endeavour of the Education Board to ignore that Mr. Sturrock is headmaster do facto under the decision of the final Appeal Court (the Board having made no other provision for the fulfilment of his duties); and by the expense he is obliged to incur to defend himself against threatened and protracted legal proceedings; such proceedings having been threatened since the Appeal Court's decision in his favor, in May last, the decision of which. Court is declared by Statute to be final and conclusive ; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Hon. the Minister of Education." Mr. Neville seconded. Mr. Birch thought that the motion was a splendid bit of special pleading. Mr. White said that every part of the resolution was based on facts. Mr. Ferguson said one of its statements was not true — the one that referred to Mr. Sturrock being there as head teacher. Mr. Sturrock was duly notified not only by letter but by a deputation. Mr. White.—Telling him that he is not Headmaster does not make the statement a fact. Mr. Jackson.—Why allow him in the school? Mr. Ferguson said that was a matter for the Board. He also denied that there had been any persecution or narrating, as had been alleged. After further discussion, Mr. Ching said he was in favor of asking the Board to expedite the settlement of the difficulty, but he would not vote for communication with the Minister. Mr. Neville—We can write to the Minister. Mr. White.—We will take care that the Minister does know the circumstances. The Chairman suggested as an amendment: " That this Committee call the attention of the Education Board to the unsatisfactory relationship to Mr. Sturrock, and request the Board to use every possible means to effect a settlement. Mr. Neville did not think the state of things was unsatisfactory as far as Mr. Sturrock was concerned. The position was that two or three were persecuting him. Mr. Ferguson took exception to the latter statement. The Chairman said he was not saying that Mr. Sturrock's work itself was unsatisfactory, (Mr. White.—Then why keep back his salary ? The Chairman : That is not our fault. Mr. Neville : But the Minister could see into the matter. In further discussion Mr. Birch remarked that it was easy to see from the fall meeting that something was on. Otherwise three or four might have been absent. . A short passage-at-arms of a good humored character was carried on in this direction-; and finally Mr. Ching moved the amendment drawn up by the Chairman. He thought they should do nothing to stultify the Board, He would work just as cheerfully as ever with Mr. Sturrock if that gentleman was in the position when the thing was finally settled. Mr. Norgrove seconded the amendment. Mr. White said it should not be overlooked that the Board was not paying Mr. Sturrock his salary. Mr. Ching: Would you go on paying an employee a salary after giving him notice to quit ? Mr. White said the position was different. In this case the Board received the salary money from the Department, but retained it instead of handing it over to the teacher. The Minister should be acquainted with this fact. Mr. Norgrove said the matter of the salary was quite outside the present question. The Committee had no official knowledge that the salary was not being paid. Did Mr. White know whether Mr. Sturrock had applied for the salary. Mr. Neville: It is not the practice for teachers to apply for their salaries. Mr. Norgrove: Perhaps not. But it had to be borne in mind that Mr. Sturrock was, presumably, acting under legal advice just as the Board was; and the Committee would do well not to

interfere. Mr. Neville: I would like to know where the salary money is going. Perhaps the Board is keeping it to pay the Lawyers. (Laughter). The amendment was carried on a show of hands by 5 votes to 3. Mr. White's motion was also put (The Chairman explained as a matter of courtesy) and was lost 5 votes to 3 in the case of the first resolution

10th September 1903 TEACHER'S APPEAL CASE.

DISCUSSION BY EDUCATION BOARD.

The Borough Headmastership case was brought up at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday. Mr. Rogers, the Board's solicitor, attended by request, and produced a telegram from Mr. Skerrett, of Wellington, who is acting for the Board. This message, dated the 10th inst., stated that Mr. Bell, the teacher's solicitor, would advise that Mr. Sturrock be recognised without prejudice if his salary were paid. Mr. Skerrett added that he hoped to get a special case stated next day. Mr. Chaytor said it had been his understanding all along that the salary should be paid for work done, and that the object of withholding it was to avoid, the danger of prejudicing the Board's ease. They had been complying with the advice of their solicitor. His own feeling had always been in favor of the eventual payment of the salary. Other members concurred. In answer to a question, Mr. Rogers said the position now was that a special case was being stated, and the application for the writ of certiorari would go with that. It seemed to be the best way of settling the matter if the parties agreed to a case being stated. Mr. Fell said that this was the attitude taken up by the Board's representatives who waited on Mr. Sturrock some time ago. The latter's reply was that the matter was in the hands of his solicitor. In further discussion with regard to the delay in bringing the question to issue, Mr. Rogers said he had received a very strong reminder from the Inspector on this point, and he had forwarded this communication to Wellington. He thought the Wellington solicitors had been kept extremely busy by the licensing cases. The special case having been stated, the matter would be brought to a head as -soon as the Court would give the opportunity. The Chairman suggested that the time was arriving when the Board should consider the steps to be taken to effect what was termed the "amalgamation" changes in connection with the boys' and girls' departments of the Borough schools. A lengthy discussion on this subject ensued, in which Mr. Rogers took part. The Act of 1901, it was remarked, was difficult to construe. Mr. Fell said that it did not seem to be directly incumbent on the Board to amalgamate. Mr. Rogers said the inference seemed to be that they could not have separate schools unless the attendances in each department had reached a certain number. No resolution was passed in this direction. Mr. McCallum moved that the salary be paid to Mr. Sturrock and he be recognised as Headmaster in the terms of Mr. Skerrett's telegram. The occupancy of the headmastership would depend on the settlement of the point as to whether the Board were compelled to amalgamate the schools. That point was contained in the special case to be stated before the Judge. The recognition of the teacher (without prejudice) was advisable so that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs, under which the Inspector was not able to examine the school, might be done away with. The motion was carried. Mr. Fell said that it had never been the wish of the Board to keep back the salary. There was an impression abroad that the Board were trying to "freeze out" Mr. Sturrock, but that was ridiculous nonsense. It was false to suppose that the Board wanted to take advantage of Mr. Sturrock. It had to be borne in mind that the matter had been in the hands of a lawyer in Wellington. Mr. Rogers said that the Board's solicitor in Wellington had suggested to Mr. Bell (the teacher's solicitor) as long ago as six weeks an arrangement for the payment of the salary without prejudice. In the first place it seemed to him that it was not necessary for the teacher to remain in the position to protect his interests, as they were already protected by the Board's notice to him that they did require his services; but he could not see why any objection at all should be raised to the arrangement subsequently suggested. The School Committee's resolution urging the speedy settlement of the difficulty was read; and it was arranged that the

Committee be informed of latest developments. The notice of motion given by Mr. Parker at last meeting was brought up. This was to the effect that the staffs of the Blenheim schools receive three months' notice of the discontinuance of their services with a view to the forthcoming amalgamation of the schools. Mr. Parker said he wished to substitute an amended motion as follows:— (1) That a special meeting of the Board be held on Monday, 28th September, at 10.30 a.m. for the purpose of considering the steps necessary to be taken to re-staff the Borough schools in conformity with the provisions of the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act of 1901; (2) that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Blenheim School Committee informing it that the Board desires to consult with it and obtain its advice as to the number of teachers on the staff of the Blenheim schools whose engagement will have to be legally terminated before the Board will be in a position to call for applications for the new positions by virtue of the above Act; (3) that the Committee be asked to meet and advise the Board before the 28th inst.; (1) that Mr. Smith advise the Committee as to the number, particulars, and salaries of the staff that will be employed by the Board under the terms of the Act after January 1st, 1901. Mr. Parker said he moved this motion to provide for the position in the event of the Board being compelled to amalgamate the schools. This was a point on which no certainty existed. The status of some of the teachers would be considerably altered by the changes, and it would be advisable to give the teachers notice so that eligible appointments might be made and the whole staff placed on an unquestionable footing. Under amalgamation the headmaster would have the control of the whole school, and the head female teacher would be an assistant, and not a headmistress. Mr. McCallum seconded the motion. Mr. Chaytor suggested that the Board insert in the resolution the words if necessary to amalgamate the schools." There was doubt on the point, and until the decision of the Supreme Court was obtained there would not know their real position. It was hardly likely the Department would advise the Board; and they should be careful to give the clear three months' notice that he understood was necessary, making it conditional on the ruling of the Judge. He took it that they would, not amalgamate the schools unless they were bound to do so.

Mr. Rogers explained that the settlement of the question as to whether they were bound to amalgamate the schools was provided for in the special case being stated. He asked whether it would be possible to carry on the boys' and girls' departments separately with the staff that would be allowed under the new scale. The Inspector said he thought it would be possible. Mr. McCallum said that the teachers should be given fair notice of the course that would be followed in the event of amalgamation being found obligatory. It was stated to be a foregone conclusion that there would be another appeal case if it was decided to dismiss any of the teachers. Mr. Parker's motion was carried. The proviso suggested by Mr. Chaytor was held over, the suggestion being made that the decision of the Supreme Court would be available in time for the Board's purposes. Mr. Rogers said he would urge on matters with a view to having the decision arrived at before the special meeting of the Board.

25th September 1903 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE TEACHER'S APPEAL CASE.

A special meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last night to receive correspondence from the Education Board with reference to the Headmastership appeal case. All the members were present.

A communication from the Education Board conveyed the resolutions passed at the last meeting of that body, viz.: That the Board had agreed to pay Mr. Sturrock's salary and recognise him as Headmaster of the Boys' School, without prejudice, pending the decision of the Supreme Court; and that the Board desired to consult with the Committee as to the particular teachers in the school whose engagements would have to be terminated before the Board would be in a position to call for applications for the new positions created by virtue of

the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act, and desired to have its advice before that day, and enclosed would find particulars of the staff that would be employed after the 1st of January, 1904, with the staff at present*

Mr. Norgrove moved, and Mr. Ferguson seconded, " That the Committee recommend the Education Board to give to the teachers of the Boys' and Girls' Schools notice to terminate their engagement with the Board, in order to bring the school into line with the Salaries Act as required by the end of the present year, and that the teachers be notified that they are free to apply for any of the positions under amalgamation under the terms of the Salaries Act."

As for considerable discussion on the lines of the debate which took place at the previous meeting, Mr. White moved "*" That Mr. Norgrove's motion is not intended to apply to the Headmaster.

Mr. Neville seconded the amendment, which was lost.

The Chairman (Mr. Penny) then moved, "That this Committee, having carefully considered the Public School Teacher's Salaries Act, fails to find anything therein which compels amalgamation of the Borough Schools, and, believing the householders are opposed to amalgamation, suggests to the Board the advisability of retaining the teaching staff on the present footing as nearly as possible.

This proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. Norgrove's motion was then put and carried on the following division: —Ayes: Messrs. Penny, Ching, Ferguson, Norgrove and Birch. Noes: Messrs. Brown, White, Neville, and Jackson.

Notice of intention to move the following motion at the next meeting, was given by Mr. Birch:—" That the Committee suggests to the Education Board that in all future appointments of teachers to make the appointment 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.

Mr. Ferguson gave notice of intention to move "That this Committee again request the Board to insist upon the head teacher living in the house provided as the residence of the Headmaster.

28th September 1903 Pupil Teachers.—It was remarked at the meeting of the Education Board to-day that there is not one male pupil teacher in the Marlborough education district. As long as barley is 4.3 per bushel young men would sooner go out growing that than teach in school. Growing wool and barley pays much better, and it's much better fun, too," said a member of the Board

School Amalgamation Question. — At a fully attended meeting of the Education Board to-day the resolutions passed by the Blenheim School Committee on the question of the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' departments were received and discussed at considerable length. The Board postponed the question pending the decision of the Supreme Court in regard to the Headmaster's Appeal case. It was represented that it would be unwise to give the teaching staff notice until amalgamation was found to be compulsory under the new scale of staff and salaries; and as this point would be decided in the settlement of the Headmastership case it would be advisable to await the finding of the Supreme Court.

29th September 1903 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION.

DISCUSSION BY EDUCATION

BOARD.

At a fully attended meeting of the Education Board yesterday the following resolutions were received from the Blenheim School Committee:— (1) "That the Committee recommend the Education Board to give to the teachers of the Boys' and Girls' Schools notice to terminate their engagement with the Board, in order to bring the school into line with the Salaries Act

as required by the end of the present year, and that the said teachers be notified that they are free to apply for any of the positions under amalgamation under the terms of the Salaries Act."—Carried by 5 to 4. (2) "That this Committee, having carefully considered the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act, fails to find anything therein which compels amalgamation of the Borough Schools, and, believing the householders are strongly opposed to amalgamation, suggests to the Board the advisability of retaining the teaching staff on the present footing as nearly as possible."—Carried unanimously. . Mr. Ferguson said these resolutions were the outcome of the meeting held by the Committee for the consideration of the Board's communication in regard to the steps necessary to be taken to bring the staff into conformity with the Salaries Act. The Committee were unanimous in wishing the Board to keep the schools as they were at the present time if the Act permitted them to do so. Then if it was found by the Board that amalgamation was compulsory, the first resolution would come in. The majority of the Committee took up the attitude that in the case some teachers the difference of salary as between the old scale and the new one was such that the Committee could not take it upon themselves to recommend the Board to alter the positions of these teachers without giving them a chance of applying themselves, especially as many of these teachers had been carrying out their duties most successfully. The Committee felt very strongly that while one or two would benefit materially the majority would suffer very much by a reduction of salary. Was there anything before the Board to enable them to come to a conclusion as to whether amalgamation was necessary?

Mr. Parker asked what was exactly the wish of the Committee with regard to amalgamation. He understood that the Committee thought there must be one head, and the schools must be recognised as one institution; but they did not want to see the sexes amalgamated. Mr. Ferguson: No; that is not the position. The Committee want the schools to continue as at present. What they wanted to clear up was the question as to whether it was incumbent on them to amalgamate. This was one of the points to be settled in connection with the Headmaster's appeal case, and he would suggest that until the Supreme Court's decision in that case was obtained the Board would do well to refrain from action. The Chairman said that Mr. Rogers had informed him he had not been able to proceed to Wellington to consult Mr. Skerrett, and there was no further information as to the progress of the special case going before the Supreme Court. ' Mr. Parker suggested that the Board pass a resolution to the effect that the staff of the boys' and girls' departments be given notice that their engagements would terminate on December 31st, and that that notice would be void in the event of the decision of the Supreme Court being adverse to the necessity of amalgamation. That would perhaps be sufficient to protect the Board. The Chairman said he very much doubted' whether such a resolution would have any effect in law. It seemed to him that the proviso quite destroyed the effect of the notice. To his mind, the wisest thing to do would be to pause until they had received the decision of the Supreme Court. He understood that the difference between the total of the salaries under the new scale and the amount paid now was only £9 or £10 for the year. The present payments exceeded those under the new scale by only that amount; so that, if the change had to be effected, a few months' delay would involve but a very small sum. Another question was as to whether^ in the event of amalgamation, it would be necessary to give wholesale notice to the teachers. He had a good deal of doubt on that point. It might be necessary, but it seemed to be rather a clumsy way of working things. By consultation with the Committee, and careful consideration subsequently, they might be able to select the teachers who would hold positions under the new scale quite readily, and avoid the giving of notice to all. It seemed to him that the wisest course to adopt would be to postpone the matter until the necessity of, amalgamation was made apparent- It appeared clear that the Committee and the townspeople preferred the schools to remain as they were. One strong reason in favor of present conditions was that under the scale the salary of the

headmistress would be considerably reduced —so much so, indeed, that he was afraid the reduction would militate to a certain extent against the successful carrying on of that part of the school. Whether by an arrangement for the payment of the small difference between the two scales they would be allowed /to continue on the present lines was a question which might be worth their while to submit to the Department. The more the whole question was considered, the more he felt convinced that it would be wise to await the decision of the Supreme Court. The Secretary produced and read a quantity of correspondence received at various times from the Education Department as to the question whether the Board was compelled under the Salaries Act to amalgamate the boys' and girls' departments. This was of a very indefinite character, and implied that the Department was as uncertain as the Board. Mr. Chaytor said he thought a further delay, as suggested by the Chairman, would not be detrimental to the Board's interest. In any case, perhaps, a month's notice to the teachers might be sufficient. Mr. McCallum agreed that it would be wise to postpone the matter. It seemed to be agreed that if notices to the teachers would be followed by appeals against the Board's action, and the Board did not want to raise appeals. He regretted the delay that had taken place in bringing the whole matter to an issue in the Supreme Court. In any case if they could not give a straight out notice, without a proviso, they had better leave the thing alone. He was inclined to agree with the Chairman on that point. He moved that the discussion be adjourned sine die. In Wellington the other day he was assured that everything was in train for the Supreme Court, and that the whole question was ready to be settled. It was then resolved to adjourn the debate. At a subsequent stage of the meeting, a circular memorandum was received from the Education Department drawing attention to the provisions of the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901, wherein it is prescribed that certain modifications in the staffs and salaries of teachers may be made and continue in force until the 31st December, 1903. From the 1st January, 1901, the payments made by the Government to Education Boards for the services provided for in the above Act would be strictly enforced, No claim whatever for payment of any salaries and allowances in excess of those provided for in the first schedule of the Act would be entertained or considered. The Board should therefore make itself aware of any cases in which it would become necessary to give notice, on or before the end of the current month, to terminate any modifications authorised in terms of sections 3 and 4 of the Act.

The discussion was reopened, and finally the Secretary was instructed to write to the Department and ask under what scale it would make the payments for the Blenheim schools. It was remarked that the uncertainty of the law was not the fault of the Board, and the Department should accept the responsibility, and help the Board to solve the problem.

7th October 1903 The Borough School Committee held the monthly meeting last evening, there being present Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Brown, Birch, Ferguson, Ching, Jackson, Neville, and White. The Headmaster's report showed that the average attendance at the Boys' School last month was 252.4, the roll number being 315. The Headmistress reported an average attendance at the Girls' School of 137.4, the roll number being 162. The Secretary of the Education Board asked to be supplied for the purposes of the Department, with information as to religious instruction given in the school. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries, and forward the information. As far as the Committee knew, no religious instruction was given. A circular was received from the Stratford High School Committee with regard to the educational exhibition to be given there at Christmas time, in connection with the opening of the Technical School, and was ordered to be forwarded on to the teachers. It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Birch that the mistress be asked what provision is made for supervision during recess. A verbal addition was made to the resolution passed at last meeting with regard to the amalgamation of the Boys' and Girls' departments by the insertion of the word "compulsory." The Visiting Committee made a favorable report on the

conduct of the schools. On their recommendation it was resolved to bring under the notice of the Board the necessity of renovating the interior of the schools by painting the walls and planing the desks, and to call attention to defective lighting, which matters were mentioned in the Headmaster's report. Messrs. Jackson and Ching were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts were passed for payment.

7th October 1903 QUARTERLY EXAMS.

The result of the quarterly examination of the Blenheim girls' school were received by the School Committee last night. Inspector Smith's notes are as follows : — Roll 154, present 141 ; teachers, standards 5, 6, and 7, Miss Brewer and Miss Healy ; standards 3 and 4, Miss Litchfield and a probationer ; standard 2, Miss Furness and first probationer ; organisation, satisfactory ; time table, suitable; methods and quality of instruction in general and in detail, fairly satisfactory; order, discipline, tone, etc., good ; supervision, in recess, attended to; manners and general behavior, very good ; accommodation sufficient; cleanliness, and tidiness of school, etc., fairly satisfactory

12th October 1903 THE AMALGAMATION QUESTION.

The Department wrote under date October 22nd in reply to the Board's request for information as to the requirements of the Department under the new scale of staff and salaries in respect to the boys' and girls' sections of the Borough School. Mr. Hogben's reply was:— "The staffing of the Blenheim Borough Schools would depend upon their organisation. The Public School Teachers' Salaries Act does not limit the Board to one method of organising such schools. As it is the function of the Board to decide within the limits of the Act what the organisation of any particular school be, I regret that I am unable to state definitely, as the Board had requested, what staff or staffs should be allotted to the school in question."

It was remarked that the Board were as much in the dark as ever on the question as to "whether they were bound to amalgamate the boys' and girls' departments. A lengthy and close discussion ensued, the report of which must be deferred for next issue. .

Mr. Chaytor moved, and Mr. McCallum seconded, that the Department be informed the Board had decided to keep the schools as at present, namely, as separate schools, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary for Education and to Mr. Skerrett (solicitor for the Board in the special case stated for the Supreme Court).

This motion was lost on a division by 5 to 2, the majority being of the opinion that such a resolution was unnecessary, and that it would be wise to await the settlement of the point by the Supreme Court.

On the motion of Mr. Fell, it was resolved that, in reference to the Department's circular of 21st September, the Department would say whether payment of salaries after December 30th will be made under part 1 or part 2 of schedule No. 1. It was stated that nothing further had been heard as to the date that the special case would be taken by the Supreme Court. BLENHEIM, Miss Litchfield wrote forwarding her resignation as assistant mistress in the Blenheim School, to take effect at the end of the year. The resignation was accepted with regret. The Committee asked for painting work, that the interior of the schools be renovated, that the desks be planed and cleaned, and attention be given to defective lighting. Mr. Ferguson represented the necessity of painting the schools, especially the Infant buildings. It was resolved that an estimate of cost of the works applied for be obtained from the Committee, excepting the planing of the desks.

RELIGIOUS-INSTRUCTION. Replies were received from Blenheim, Havelock, and Pelorus committees to the Board's circular asking, for the purposes of the Department, information as to the religious instruction given before or after hours in the schools, of the district. No such instruction was given

The Kaituna Committee wrote that it had received from the Blenheim School Committee a copy of the notice of motion that that body intended to move at the next meeting of the

Marlborough School Committees' Association to the effect that all future appointments of teachers be made on twelve months' understanding. The Kaituna Committee thought such an arrangement would not answer.—It was pointed out that the communication had come to the wrong quarter.

13th October 1903 BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION.

The following communication dated October 2nd was received by the Education Board yesterday morning from Mr. G. Hogben, Secretary Mr. Ration, in reply to the Boards request for information as to the requirements of the department under the new scale of staff and salaries in respect to the boys' and girls' sections of the Borough School:—"The staffing of the Blenheim Borough Schools would depend upon their organisation. The Public School Teachers' Salaries Act does not limit the Board to one method of organising such schools. As it is the function of the Board to decide within the limits of the Act what the organisation of any particular school be, I regret that I am unable to state definitely, as the Board has requested, what staff or staffs should be allotted to the school in question."

It was remarked that the communication did not help the Board to decide whether it was bound to amalgamate the boys' and girls' departments at the beginning of the year. A member: I take it to mean that we can go on as we are. In reply to Mr. Chaytor, it was stated that no information had yet been received as to when the Supreme Court would hear the special case that had been stated as between the Board and the Headmaster in the matter of the decision given in the latter's favor by the Teachers' Appeal Court. (One of the points set out for settlement in this case is as to whether it is incumbent on the Board to amalgamate the schools.) Mr. Chaytor moved that the Department be informed the Board had decided to keep the schools as at present, viz., as separate schools, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary for Education and to Mr. Skerrett (solicitor for the Board in the special case stated for the Supreme Court). He took it that the householders wanted separate schools, as indicated by the Committee; and the Board ought to stick to the present position until driven out of it. Mr. Fell said he understood from the Department's correspondence that after the end of the year it would not continue to pay the salaries for the boys' and girls' sections as separate schools. Mr. Chaytor: I take it we are informed it will do so. (Laughter.) The Chairman pointed out that at last meeting they agreed to await the decision of the Supreme Court. Mr. McCallum remarked that if Mr. Hogben's letter meant that they could keep the schools separate, and they so interpreted it, the Board's suit in the Supreme Court fell to the ground. Mr. Chaytor said it was not the wish of the Board that there should be amalgamation rather than they should lose a point against the Headmaster. The Headmaster was now doing satisfactory work, he understood, and if the schools remained separate he did not think they would suffer through the Headmaster remaining in his present position, in charge of the boys' department. Let them therefore pass his motion. The delay in bringing the special case on in the Supreme Court was not their fault. The Department now wrote' a letter which, to his mind, indicated that the choice of separation or amalgamation was left to the Board; and his motion was intended as an expression of their wishes. If the Department said No, you can't run on, on present lines," then it was for the Department to say why not. Mr. McCallum seconded the motion.

The Chairman asked if there was any inconsistency between the motion and the previous decision to give notice to the Headmaster. Mr. McCallum said they thought then that they would have to amalgamate.

Mr. Macey: Then the money spent on the Supreme Court proceedings has been thrown away? Mr. Ferguson said he would vote against the motion. Having waited so long, they might wait for the unhampered ruling of the Supreme Court. Mr. Fell said that the motion only covered ground that had already been covered by the Board. He took it that their wish for separate

schools had been made plain; but the Department would not give them an answer as to whether that course was open to them. The Department had sent them a circular saying it would only pay the salaries under schedule 1; they could "organise" as they pleased, but did not the smaller vote for salaries mean amalgamation? It was remarked that the difference between the, total of salaries under schedule 1 and that of the present system was only £9; but there was a considerable variation to the individual salaries. Evidently the Board was now only a payout agency, and the Headmaster would have the right to claim the special salary allotted to him.

The Chairman, quoting from Parliamentary records, said that evidently the intention of the framers of the Act was to leave administration and organisation to the Board as heretofore, while removing certain anomalies and irregularities. At the same time, there seemed to be no provision for separate schools with an attendance below 200, as in the case of the Blenheim girls. Government departments never liked advising upon law points; and he thought the test thing to do was to wait and get the judgment of the Supreme Court.

Mr. McCallum thought the Board should pass the motion and thus place their wishes in regard to the amalgamation question on record. They should not attempt to hide any facts, even if the result of their candor was going to be defeat in the Supreme Court case. They would only get into a bad muddle if they were not perfectly open and candid with the Supreme Court and the Department.

Mr. Fell said he could not see that were trying to hide anything in throwing out the motion. Their wishes were known.

Mr. Litchfield said it seemed to him to be idle talking about separate schools in face of the facts that the new scale of staff and salaries provided for payment to only separate schools with an attendance of 200, and the attendance at the Blenheim Girls' School was only 150.

Mr. Fell said he did not see that those opposed to the motion were trying to conceal something for the purposes of the Supreme Court case, or, on the other hand, that any advantage would be gained by passing the motion. They were simply trying to get from the Supreme Court a decision as to whether they were compelled to amalgamate or not; and the Court did not care a fig whether the Board expressed a wish for amalgamation or separation.

Mr. Chaytor said he quite "saw the force of the contention that the Board's wishes in the matter should be duly recorded. With reference to Mr. Litchfield's remark, there was, as far as he could see, nothing in the Act to compel amalgamation in the case of schools already separate.

Mr. Macey asked if it was proposed to withdraw the case from the Supreme Court. He understood that the resolution proposed by Mr. Chaytor would -weaken the principal point of the case.

Mr. McCallum thought they should go on with the case, and have the whole question completely settled by the Court. The Headmaster was dismissed on the understanding that amalgamation was compulsory; now the Department had changed face, and the Board should let the Department know exactly what it wanted.

In further discussion the Inspector gave it as his opinion that the Board would be compelled to amalgamate,

there being under the new scale no provision for separate schools with an attendance of less than 200. Mr. Fell took the same view. The motion was put and lost on the following division:—Ayes: Messrs. Chaytor, and McCallum. Noes: Messrs. Macey, Ferguson, Fell, Litchfield and Duncan. Mr. McCallum remarked that such a vote would have in the public eye the meaning that the Board was not in favor of separate schools. The Chairman said that that would be a wrong impression. On the motion of Mr. Fell, seconded by Mr. McCallum, it was resolved that, in reference to the Department's circular of September 21st, the

Department be asked to say whether payment of salaries after December 30th will be made under part 1 or part 2 of schedule No. 1.

16th November 1903 THE QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION.

The following communication from Mr. Q. Hogben, Secretary of the Education Department, was read at the meeting of the Education Board today Referring to the 13th inst., in reply to mine of the 2nd inst., I have to say that the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act allows certain option to the Board in regard to the organisation of the schools, and its provisions seem to me to be sufficiently clear. I cannot presume to advise the Board as to which method of organisation it ought to adopt. It may perhaps help you if I call attention to the fact that part 11. of schedule I. of the Act does not allow any separate boys', girls' or infants' school with a less average attendance than 201. The necessity for giving notice, if any was required, in time to conform to the Department's circular of the 21st September has not, I suppose, been over-looked." In discussion the bulk of the opinion as to the meaning of the communication was that amalgamation of the boys' and girls' departments under one Headmaster is compulsory under the new scale of staff and salaries.

It was stated that no further step had been taken towards the settlement of the special question stated for the Supreme Court in the case between the Board and the Headmaster.

Members strongly deprecated the f* law's delay," and Messrs. Fell and McCallum were deputed to interview counsel with the object of expediting the issue, and were given full authority to take whatever action they considered necessary to this end.

11th November 1903 The Borough School Committee held the monthly meeting last evening. There were present Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Brown, Ching, Ferguson, Norgrove, and White. A letter from the Education Board asked for an estimate of cleaning, painting, and varnishing work required; and the Chairman was requested to supply the information. The resignation of Miss Alice Litchfield, teacher, was accepted, to take effect on December 31st; and the Chairman was asked to convey to her the Committee's best wishes. The Headmaster reported that the number on the roll was 316, and the average attendance during the month 248.1. The annual examination of the School would be conducted about the beginning of December. The Head mistress reported the roll number as 161, and the average attendance as 125.7; the attendance having suffered on account of sickness. The notice of motion in the name of Messrs. Ching and Ferguson, proposing that the appointments of teachers be for twelve months, was held over for a full meeting. Messrs. Jackson and Ching were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts were passed for pay - merit subject to the receipt of capitation in December.

16th November 1903 Ferguson made a report on the request of the Blenheim Committee for the hygienic overhauling (washing, distempering and varnishing) of the interior of the Blenheim School. The approximate cost of a thorough scheme would be £125, to that the question would be largely a financial one. If from a sanitary point of view there was no doubt as to the necessity of the work, which would conserve the health of hundreds of children. The recess would be the best time in which to carry out the work. Mr. Fell advocated painting rather than distempering, as the former process could be repeated when required. After discussion, it was resolved that the architect (Mr. Huddleston) be instructed to confer with, the Chairman of the School Committee, and prepare specifications and estimate of cost.

16th November 1903 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

THE QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION.

The following communication from Mr. Q. Hogben, Secretary of the Education Department, was read at the meeting of the Education Board today:—Referring to the 13th inst., in reply to mine of the 2nd inst., I have to say that the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act allows certain option to the Board in regard to the organisation of the schools, and its provisions seem to me to be sufficiently clear. I cannot presume to advise the Board as to which method

of organisation it ought to adopt. It may perhaps help you if I call attention to the fact that part 11. of schedule I. of the Act does not allow any separate boys', girls' or infants' school with a less average attendance than 201. The necessity for giving notice, if any was required, in time to conform to the Department's circular of the 21st September has not, I suppose, been over-looked." In discussion the bulk of the opinion as to the meaning of the communication was that amalgamation of the boys' and girls' departments under one Headmaster is compulsory under the new scale of staff and salaries.

It was stated that no further step had been taken towards the settlement of the special question stated for the Supreme Court in the case between the Board and the Headmaster.

Members strongly deprecated the f* law's delay," and Messrs. Fell and McCallum were deputed to interview counsel with the object of expediting the issue, and were given full authority to take whatever action they considered necessary to this end.

19th November 1903 The School Committees' Election Bill which has passed the third reading in the House gives the vote to women,

9th December 1903 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last night. Present—Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Birch, Neville, Ferguson, Ching. The Headmaster reported that the attendance at the Boys' School for the month was good, and satisfactory work was being done. The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month as 138, the roll number being 161. The Education Board notified that the "franking" privilege had been extended by the Department till the end of March. . The teachers recommended that the Summer holidays begin on Wednesday, December 23rd.—It was resolved that the schools be closed on the afternoon of Friday the 18th and re-opened on the morning of Monday, January the 25th, the Monday being selected instead of the Wednesday so as to provide a better opportunity for the cleaning and painting of the schools. To this resolution a clause was added that the teachers be noticed that they are expected to be at their posts at the appointed time of re-opening. A communication was received from the Board asking for information as to what was required in the scheme of renovating the interior of the schools, reinstating the fences, etc.—It was arranged that the Chairman and Mr. Birch and any other member wait on the Board and explain the Committee's wishes, and also suggest the removal of the teacher's residence to a site nearer Alfred Street. The Headmaster asked that a holiday be granted on Friday so that the two cadet corps might go to Picton to carry out their rifle firing under the Government regulations.—Permission was granted. The resignation of Miss Kathleen Furness as teacher was accepted with regret, and the Chairman was asked to write to Miss Furness a letter appreciative of her services. Copies Of circulars from the Education Department containing information as to -the Junior National Scholarships were received from the Board. The notice of motion with regard to the appointment of teachers was held over, the proposer, Mr. Ferguson, saying that he would like to see such an important question discussed by a full meeting, - Accounts were passed for payment; Messrs. Ching and .Jackson were reappointed the Visiting Committee for the month. The Chairman was asked to have the docks in the south-eastern corner of the ground cleared away.

15th December 1903 deputation from the Blenheim School Committee waited on the Board concerning the cleansing and painting of the interior of the Borough Schools and the removal of the headmaster's residence to a site nearer Alfred Street. A communication on the latter subject was also received from the Board's architect.—After consideration of the deputation's requests, the Board resolved that the cleansing and painting of the interior of the schools should be carried out as requested by the Committee, but the removal of the residence was left over for future consideration. The Architect was therefore instructed to prepare specifications and call for tenders for the work, and on rising the Board adjourned to Saturday

next at 10 a.m. to consider same. Correspondence on the subject of the National Scholarships was received from the Education Department, and it was resolved that the Board agrees to the conditions as laid down by the Department. Correspondence was received from the School Committees Association urging the advisability of no pupils being allowed to attend the High School until they have passed the Sixth Standard.—

The Secretary was instructed in making up his annual return to the Education Department of the teachers' salaries for the various schools under the Board's control, to return the Blenheim schools as they were last year.

16th December 1903 It is satisfactory to learn that the Blenheim Boys' School has this year gained the good pass percentage of 96.

BLENHEIM BOYS' SCHOOL.

The results of the examination, just concluded, are as follows:—'

Standard VII.—Robert Foster and Herbert Lucas. .

Standard VI. — Cyril Armstrong, Walter Chuck, Jack Fryer, Ben Gam ham, Beg Humphreys, Gerard Lange, Harry May, Bert Macey, Cecil Mogridge, Harold Patchett, Roland Watson.

Standard V—Edwin Brewer, Allan Coleman, William Cowley, A. Crombie, L. Connolly, L. Dunckley G. Daniels. H. Goslin, A. Hadfield, J. Hodson, E. Humphreys, N. James, W. Logan, W. Lucas, M. Mills, S. McFarland, D. North, L. Porter, H. Priddle, E. Reid, F. Saunders. E. Simmons, H. Yarrall. Standard IV.—F. Ball, L. Bowser, S. Brewer, O. Brown, H. Dames, A. Fryer, H. Goodman, H. Hodson, H. Hadfield, G. Harding, I. Hilliard, L. Horton, li Iremonger, W. Lange, H. Mason, O. Mead, L. Nicholas, F. Parker, Wm. Smith, R. Wooster, and A. Patchett.

Standard III.—E. Armstrong, I. Day, A. Dunckley, F. Daniels, T. Eyles, V. Greig, L. Hendra, E. Hillman, G. Jackson, E. Lucas, I. McCallam, :B. Mason, M. Penny, E. Pike, R. Park, B. Patchett, R. Reid, H. Register, W. Thomas, J. Verry, O. Sheridan, E; Wakelin, E. Wanden, M. Wemyss.

Standard II.—J. Atwood, E. Brenchley, P. Chandler, H. Oliverson, E. Ewart, A. Earp, J. Elliot, B. Fowler, W. Fergusson, C. Fryer, S. Goslin, H. Grace W. Gibson, W. Hall, O. Hill, P. Hillman, F. Humphreys, C. Lucas, O. McKegney, V. Melville, H. North, A. Nicholas, G. Penney, L. Patchett, L. Register, P. Smith, L. Stapleton, O. Sigglekow, A. Thomson, F. Vercoe, M. Wanden, G. Wensley, C. Wemyss, L. Wemyss.

Standard I.—J. Birch, H. Bottrell, C. Brayshaw, L. Bash, G. Dames, P. Davis, L. Goslin, F. Maddock, A. Mason. L. May, O. Mears, J. Middlemiss, H. Mills, W. Penny, E. Pike, W. Patchett. W. Patchett, A. Roberts, L. Bothwell, H. Saunders, N. Sigglekow, A. Smith, F. Thomas, J. Uren, S. Verry, B. Wakelin, G. Watson, R. Wemyss, A. Anderson, M. Ball, M. Baldick, M. Batty, L. Binley, D. Clark, M. O'Leary, R. Elliot, E. Eyles, L. Faulkner, D. Hall, D. Harding, A. Hilliard, D. Hillman, E. Kirby, L. Lindegren, L. Macalister, L. Morris, M. McKinley, L. Morgans, G. Parker, G. Patchett, D. Simson, J. Simpson, E. Smith, R. Thomson, M. Tovey, C. Watson, O. Watson, A. Watson. Side School.—E- Connolly, A. Gallop, C. Ham, T. McIntyre, J. Mapp, A. May.

There were only nine failures all through the classes, the percentage being 95.6.

19th December 1903 Girls' School.—Before the breaking up at the Girls' School Miss Litchfield, who is severing her connection with the staff, was in view of her approaching marriage presented by the pupils with a very handsome hot water jug.

Acknowledgment. — The teachers who have been studying drawing under the able tuition of Mr. D. A. Sturrock, and whose examinations recently took place before breaking up school yesterday presented Mr. Sturrock with a clock of line design as a slight acknowledgment of the time and services he had rendered them.

Mr. Wilmot made the presentation on behalf of those who received the instruction and Mr. Sturrock feelingly replied thanking them for the gift.

1904

1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Sturrock	David	D1	Head Master	£ 293.40
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Wilmot	David H	D2	Assistant Master	£ 195.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Brewer	Lottie M	D1	Mistress	£ 130.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Brown	Mary M	D1	Mistress	£ 105.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Wanden	E W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Harris	Annie M	E2	Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	O'Brian	Maude		FPT4	£50.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Crombie	Agnes M		FPT3	£ 40.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Macey	Winifred M		FPT2	£ 30.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Morcom	Annie		FPT1	£ 20.00
1904	367	Blenheim (Combined)	Garnham	Grace		FPT1	

6th January 1904 communication was received by the Blenheim School Committee last night reporting the business transacted at the recent meeting of the Marlborough School Committees' Association. It was intimated that a motion would be discussed at the Association next meeting on January 10th " That the Board be requested in making all future appointments to make them for twelvemonths, and that an assurance be given teachers that they will be reappointed annually, unless the Committees interested are requested not to re-appoint by a majority of the householders present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering their re-appointment."

11th January 1904 BLENHEIM. The action of the Blenheim School Committee in replacing worm-eaten desks was confirmed; and the matter of providing for improved fencing and a lavatory was referred to the architect. The architect reported on the renovation works being carried out at the Blenheim schools. His suggestion that the windows be protected with bird netting was adopted

THE LAW'S DELAY. Mr. Fell made, on behalf of Mr. McCullum and himself, a report as to the position of affairs in connection with the Blenheim Headmastership case. They recently interviewed Mr. Skerrett, counsel for the Board and Mr. Myers, who was appearing on the other side; and learned that a special case for the consideration of the Supreme Court was agreed upon between counsel some considerable time ago, and the papers were forwarded to their respective clients. Then there was a considerable delay owing to the papers being kept in hand on the other side, and the judges found it impossible to hear the case before Christmas. The position now was that counsel would endeavour to have the case heard by the judges as soon as possible. Mr. Skerrett had left for England, but had left the matter attended to, and some other lawyer, (Dr. Findlay he thought), would appear on behalf of the Board. ;

In discussion the Board touched on the question as to how the school should be conducted pending the decision of the Supreme Court. It was remarked that the Education Department had intimated that its payment to the Board in respect to the Blenheim schools would be on the basis of an amalgamated institution.

It was agreed that the Board should for the time being carry on the boys' and girls' sections as separate departments, and, if necessary, provide for any financial difference as between the two methods. The difference was only £9 a year. It was pointed out that vacancies were occurring on the teaching staff, and it was necessary to fill these up. The Board's Town Committee were asked to make temporary arrangements in regard to vacancies on the teaching staff

12th January 1904 In discussing yesterday the results of the scholarship exams members of the Education Board expressed regret that no candidates were forthcoming from Blenheim Boys, and from Picton and Havelock. The papers submitted to the National Scholarship ' candidate were characterised at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday as ridiculously captious, and "stiff" enough even for an E certificate

26th January 1904 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The incident that occurred in connection with the re-opening of the Blenheim Borough Schools yesterday, when -only one female teacher was present, and the resumption of work after the holidays was postponed till to-day, needs some explanation. There had been a series of resignations from the female teaching staff, and in view of questions that have arisen in respect to the application of the new scale of staff and salaries, the authorities had not made permanent provision for the vacancies. It was understood that temporary appointments would be arranged for pending the settlement of these questions; but apparently these arrangements were not successful. The chief point at issue is as to whether the local authorities are bound to " amalgamate" the boy and girls' sections under the recent legislation, which .comes into force as far as the Blenheim school is concerned at the beginning of this year. For months past the Education Board has tried to extract a direction from the Education Department. but that institution, in the course of an ambiguous correspondence, declined to impart legal advice. In the alternative, the Board has looked in vain to the Supreme Court for guidance, the question being mixed up with the developments following on the Headmastership case heard in the Teachers' Appeal Court, in which the Board was defeated. A special case was stated for the Supreme Court, one of the points therein being the amalgamation question; but the months have gone on and that tribunal has not found time to deal, with the case. So the Board finds itself with the new law in operation, bat no definite plan of application. Now, it is understood, the Department is prepared to pay the teachers' salaries only on the amalgamated basis, and this system! of payment, if undisturbed, presumably means that the Headmaster will have sole control, and the boys' and girls' classes will have to be unified. All along the Board has interpreted public opinion as strongly opposed to the mixing of the sexes, and has hoped to obtain such a decision from the Supreme Court as would enable them to keep the two schools separate. Awaiting that decision, it resolved to continue the old constitution of the teaching staff, the difference in the yearly payments as between the old and the new scales being only £9 ; but

the problem is complicated by the fact that: this arrangement is not in accordance with the readjustment of the salaries of individual teachers under the new order of things, some of whom are allotted larger and some smaller salaries. . The position is very unsatisfactory, as was shown by the circumstance that cropped up yesterday ; and it is not surprising that the inconceivable delay in settling matters in connection with the school has sorely tried the patience of parents and householders. It is high time that they were brought to finality.

26th January 1904 The Borough School.—The Blenheim Borough School made this morning a second and a successful attempt to resume work after the holidays. The incident which occurred yesterday morning, when only One female teacher was present, was not repeated, provision having been made in the mean time for the positions rendered vacant by the recent resignations. There was a fair attendance of pupils

3rd February 1904 School Committee. — The usual monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the members present being: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), S. Norgrove, W. Ching, H. L. Jackson, S. M. Neville, F. Birch, and J. Brown. Messrs. White and Ferguson were granted leave of absence. Mr. A. J. Maclaine was appointed Secretary for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, in place of Mr. R. Brewster, who resigned at last meeting. The Headmaster recommended Miss Gam ham, and the Headmistress recommended Misses Morcom and Fraser, as pupil teachers, and it was

decided to endorse the recommendations and forward them on to the Board. Several requirements of the school were ordered to receive attention, and correspondence was received from the Education Board ratifying the Committee's action in placing six new desks in the infant school to replace others that were worm-eaten.

The reports of Headmaster and Mistress showed a small attendance, as is usual on reopening of the school, but accentuated at present owing to a considerable number of children having been vaccinated. Mr. Sturrock pointed out the annually recurring decrease of attendance in the infant department, and suggested that there may be children of school age who were not sent to school, and that the 'Truant Officer might make a careful inspection of outlying streets.' The Visiting Committee reported the schools were in good order and quite fresh and clean after renovation. Accounts were passed for payment; and Messrs. Norgrove and Birch appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

8th February 1904 Enquiry was made as to the Cost of the work of renovating the Blenheim Borough Schools, it being stated that complaints had been made that it was excessive. The accounts showed that the sum expended was £91, 11s, and if to this were added £35 for varnishing, delayed, and not yet done,; the total cost would «be £126 11s. The lowest tender was £158 5s, so that the difference in favor of the Board's scheme was £31 14s. The architect reported in detail on the condition of the Blenheim Borough School building. He reported the destruction of property as disgraceful and as worse than at any other school he knew of in the district.—The report was referred to the School Committee for its observations.

HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.

Mr. McCallum, member of the Board, telegraphed from Wellington that he had arranged with Dr.. Findlay, Messrs. Western and Myers, for the Blenheim Headmastership appeal case to be brought on in the Supreme Court as a matter of urgency during the next day or so.—Received 18th February 1904 **BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.**

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT. DECISION RESERVED. Press Association. Electric Telegraph Copyright. Wellington, February 17. In the Supreme Court this afternoon, before His Honor the Chief Justice and Justice Cooper, the case of the Marlborough Education Board v. David Sturrock was taken. ' The case was a novel one arising out of the dispute between the Education Board and one of its teachers. The point at issue is whether an Education Board can dismiss the headmaster of a separate boys' school because under the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901, the provision for the salaries of headmasters of separate schools is terminated unless the boys and girls severally average an attendance of 200. Mr. Sturrock, having been dismissed by the Board, appealed under the Public School Teachers' Court of Appeal Act and obtained a decision in his favor. The Board, however, refused to reinstate him and is now suing him for trespass for remaining on the school premises. A special case has been stated for the opinion of the Court whether under such circumstances Mr. Sturrock is a trespasser. Judgment was reserved.

20th February 1904 **TEACHER AND EDUCATION BOARD.**

THE BLENHEIM CASE,

The case of the Marlborough Education Board v. D. Sturrock, involving the question of the powers of the Board to dismiss a teacher under certain conditions, was heard in the Supreme Court at Wellington on Wednesday before the Chief Justice and: Mr. Justice Cooper. Argument centered largely around the anomalies in the schedules in the Teachers' Salaries Act, and (says the Post report) Judges, counsel, and press alike, appeared to be bewildered by the wonderful and intricate possibilities evolved by the united brains of the New Zealand Parliament' in this particular piece of legislation. Dr.. Findlay, who, with Mr. Weston, appeared for the Boards contended that there could be no separation unless in each school there were more than-200 pupils, and in cases where such schools were, before the passing of

the Act, separated, the separation could not be continued there must be amalgamation by force of the statute. Unless that were so the principle of the whole Act could be subverted.

During the argument that ensued it appeared that there were several anomalies in the schedule of the Act, which led the Chief Justice to remark: "If this is an Act to put away anomalies, all I can say is that it seems to have the opposite effect."

Dr.. Findlay said in the present case, after the Act came into force, all the teachers could be dismissed, and a new staff appointed. On the old basis Mr. Sturrock's salary was £273 per annum, but if the combination of the separate schools were to take place under the Act the salary of the head teacher would be £304. Since 1st July, 1903, Mr. Sturrock had been paid salary and permitted to continue in his old position without prejudice..

Dr.. Findlay raised the technical objection that the Teachers' Appellate Court had not ordered Sturrock's reinstatement.

Mr. Justice Cooper: The majority of the Court stated that he was entitled to be reinstated.

Dr.. Findlay Yes, but they made no order. He proceeded to point out that when the schools, were amalgamated the salary of the headmaster would be higher, and the Board would therefore be, entitled to a better teacher.

The Chief Justice: Then you say that the change made by statute rendered every head master of such separate schools liable to practical dismissal.

Dr.. Findlay Yes. It was not necessary to give any notice except what is given in the statute. The Chief Justice said the whole case seemed to revolve round the question of whether or not section 3 of the Act of 1901 was mandatory. Dr.. Findlay contended that sections 3 and 4 of the Act made it imperative upon the Board to take the action it did.

Mr. Bell, for Sturrock assumed that as no damages were claimed costs would not be allowed against Mr. Sturrock. His client was anxious to meet the Board in every way so that they might come to a solution of the difficulty. He pointed out that the question of amalgamation might have arisen irrespective of the Act of 1901. It had been argued that the Teachers' Appellate Court could not interfere with the policy of the Board, but that was clearly not so, because "if the Board had amalgamated the schools prior to the Act of 1901, and had dismissed its teachers, the teachers would have had a remedy under the Act of 1895. The Public School Teachers' Act was; intended to allow the Teachers Appellate Court to deal with a question of this kind, and to a certain extent to interfere with the policy of the Board. The provision of the Act was to enable the Education Boards to pay higher salaries in cases where the attendances were equal to specified figures. There was no intention to make mandatory the setting-up, of amalgamated schools. There was no specific provision in the Act on that behalf; and, therefore, the Court (and the Board) should put a reasonable interpretation upon it and hold that, the policy of amalgamation was optional. To hold it to be mandatory would be most unreasonable, for by the sudden departure of a number of girls, making the average attendance under 200, there would be necessitated another change, which would be harassing and absurd. The effect of the Appellate Court's decision, Mr. Bull contended, had been to say that the Board had used the amalgamation scheme of the Act as a pretext for dismissing Mr. Sturrock, and that the dismissal was unjustified. Dr.. Findlay contended that the latter difficulty could be met by the Board; it would guard against such a happening. But if the schools were run separate it would under the Act (in certain cases) be absolutely necessary, in a school for boys alone, to employ a mistress though she would not be needed. How could the imperative terms of section 3 be carried out if a mistress was going to be put into a boys' school? The Court resolved to take time to consider the position

26th February 1904 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

BOARD AND TEACHER.

THE HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.

Press Association. Electric Telegraph Copyright.

Wellington, February 26. The decision was given by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Cooper today in the case, Marlborough Education Board v. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim public school, who was dismissed under the scheme by the Board for the re-organisation of the school which Mr. Sturrock controlled. He appealed to the Teachers' Appeal Court, which decided the dismissal was wrongful and the master was entitled to reinstatement.

The Court now held on the special case stated that the grounds on which the Board had sought to remove defendant had been found unreasonable by the only Court having jurisdiction to enquire into them, and the Board was bound to continue to employ defendant as Headmaster of the school, although such school may have on the roll additional pupils formerly attending the girls separate school, and to receive a salary based on its average attendance. Defendant was allowed £19 19s costs.

3rd March 1904 BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP.

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT.

Following is the outline of the judgment delivered in Wellington by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Cooper in the matter of the Blenheim Headmastership :—

The Chief Justice said that the contentions of the Education Board were mainly three

- (a) That the Act of 1901 prohibited separate schools with a lower average than 201, and the Board was consequently obliged to amalgamate the boys' and girls' schools;
 - (b) That that would involve payment of a higher salary to the Headmaster, which might induce candidates with higher qualifications to apply ;
 - (c) That defendant's conduct had been unsatisfactory. With regard to the amalgamation His Honor held that nothing could be pointed to in the statute indicating that Board were prohibited from having separate schools for boys or girls or infants if the attendance at such schools were less than 201 respectively, save the existence of a mistress, and he doubted if that was sufficient. But the question did not necessarily arise in the case before them, so far as defendant was concerned, because, he being recognised officially as master of the boys', infants' and side schools, in the two latter of which the classes were mixed, he was headmaster of a mixed school of boys, girls and infants, and his salary as such was payable under Part I. of the Staff and Salaries Act. The school of which he was master was not a boys' school under Part II. of that Act, and the question was—Could the Board dismiss him because the number attending the girls' school fell under 201 and say that a new appointment was required? That seemed to have been a question for the Teachers' Court of Appeal alone, which had decided that defendant was wrongfully dismissed and entitled to be reinstated. The Court - had no jurisdiction to review the decision of the Appellate Court, and by it the Board was bound. His Honor, answering the questions raised for decision, held—(a) "That defendant was entitled to be reinstated in his former position; (b) That the Board should permit girls to be taught in the school from which girls were previously excluded; (c) That that does not warrant the dismissal of the headmaster; (d) That the salary payable will be the salary payable in accordance with the schedule of Part 1., and will therefore depend on the number of boys, girls and infants attending the school. Defendant was entitled to "costs as in a special case—£19 19s. Mr. Justice Cooper answered the questions submitted as follows:—
- (a) The decision of the Court of Appeal is a valid decision, and defendant is entitled to be reinstated as headmaster of the Blenheim Public School; (b) this Court has no jurisdiction to review the decision of the Teachers' Court of Appeal, or the reasons thereof; (c) the Board is compelled to abolish the girls' separate school, but the school of which defendant was headmaster, containing two departments, was a mixed school within the scale set forth in Part I. of the first schedule, and it would remain a mixed school with an additional number of pupils attending it; (d) defendant is entitled to continue as headmaster of the Blenheim Public

School and receive a salary based on the average attendance thereat according to schedule. Judgment must be for defendant with costs.

14th March 1904 The Headmastership Case.—After considerable discussion today the Education Board decided to carry the Blenheim Headmastership case to the Appeal Court. Our report of the discussion is crowded out to day.

School Inspectorship.—The Education Board received this morning the resignation of Mr. J. Smith as Inspector of the Marlborough Schools, his position as Secretary to the Board being retained. The Board deferred consideration of the question till this afternoon.

14th March 1904 At a meeting of the Marlborough Educational Institute held on Saturday, Miss M. M. Brown, of the Blenheim School, read a very instructive paper on the educational and moral value of handwork as a branch of elementary school tuition. The paper was full of most useful hints, and regret was expressed that more of the younger teachers did not take advantage of the opportunity of profit which was afforded them. A hearty vote of thanks to Miss Brown was carried by acclamation

15th March 1904 BLENHEIM. The Blenheim Committee forwarded a communication received from the Headmaster in reply to observations made by the Board's architect as to the destruction of school property. The Headmaster's explanation was to the effect that the deterioration spoken of was mainly due to fair wear and tear, and the charge of willful destruction made against the boys was without foundation. Mr. Ferguson said it was a standing complaint with the Committee that there had not been sufficient supervision. A letter was received from Mr. F. Birch, in reference to the Headmaster's remarks with regard to the stopping up of the water pipes while he was Chairman of the Committee. The Architect wrote on the matter of the Headmaster's letter to the Committee, and maintained that the charge of willful destruction was in accordance with facts. With regard to certain plastering complained of by the Committee, he would see that the work, if defective, was carried out in a proper manner by the contractor. The correspondence was received

BLENHEIM TEACHING STATE. A letter recommending certain readjustments in the staff was received from the Committee. The Inspector pointed out that as the attendance at the Boys' School had fallen from 284 to 247, the staff would be reduced by one assistant teacher. It was now suggested that Miss Wanden be appointed to the vacancy caused by Miss Litchfield's resignation, and Miss Healy be offered a pupil teachership. It was resolved to forward the suggestions on to the Committee, the appointments to be from month to month in view of the uncertainty as to the constitution of the school.

THE EXAMINATIONS. Mr. McCallum, referring to the results of the examination, said he wished to ask the Inspector whether there was any foundation for a report that the pupils of the Blenheim Bays' School had the advantage of seeing their sets of questions on certain subjects some weeks before the examination these papers having been passed on by the pupils of another school in which they had been used. The Inspector said that he had always exercised the greatest caution in these matters. The only three schools that had one or two of the papers used

at Blenheim were those at Picton, Grovetown, and Renwicktown; and, considering the care exercised, he did not think that there could have been any transmission of any value.

NOTICE OF MOTION. 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. '

6th April 1904 The Truant Officer informed the Blenheim School Committee last night that parents of children who should attend Spring Creek, Blenheim and other schools kept their children at home on the plea that they were training them themselves. He wanted to know what power he had in these cases. If the parents were allowed to teach the children at home, must such pupils pass their examinations under the Inspector? If not, any person might evade

the Act by simply saying that the children were being taught at home. The Committee decided to forward the communication to the Education Board for a direction

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. Penny (Chairman). Birch, White, Ching and Brown. The Headmaster reported the average attendance at the Boys' School during the month as 237.2, the roll number being 311. These returns included the Redwoodtown side-school, the average attendance at which was 19 and the roll number 29, The attendance had suffered through the flood. The attendance at the Infant School was increasing. The Chairman was empowered to purchase a autoCopyist if he considered one would be serviceable to the schools and the Committee. A bonus of £2 was voted to the caretaker in recognition of extra work,

A draft of the report for the householders' meeting to be held this month was approved. A communication was received from the Secretary of the Education Board notifying that the appointments to the teachership vacancies would have to be made with regard to the fact that, on account of decreased attendance, there would have to be one teacher less ; and , making suggestions as to the constitution of the staff under these conditions. The proposals were agreed to, and it was resolved to "suggest that, if the Redwoodtown side-school were continued, a pupil teacher be sent there in place of the assistant teacher. It was resolved to give the children a holiday on St. George's Day.

7th April 1904 Lieut. Colonel Loveday was in Blenheim yesterday and inspected the Borough School Cadets. He also inspects the Springlands School Cadets.

11th April 1904 The Blenheim Committee wrote recommending that, if it was decided to continue the Red wood town side school, a pupil teacher be sent there; Miss Wanden to be brought back to the main school. After considering the roll numbers, the Board took no action. The readjustment on the teaching staff, it was said, was a matter for the Committee itself.

The pupil teacher who had temporarily carried out the work of assistant teacher in the Blenheim Boys' School complained that she had been paid only at the rate of a fourth-year pupil teacher's salary. The Secretary explained that the payment was in accordance with the regulations. It was resolved that the teacher be paid for the last quarter at the rate of £50 a year

12th April 1904 Mr. Wilmot, second master of the Borough School, proposes to form a night school, and invites those desirous of attending it to meet him on Wednesday evening next. Such an institution is a long felt want, and doubtless many are prepared to take advantage of this opportunity of study. The place and time oi meeting are advertised.

20th April 1904 At the Girl's School yesterday Miss; Annie Healy, who has been appointed to the teachership at the Rai Valley was the recipient of a token of the esteem of her class, in the shape of a gold photo-pendant. The presentation was made by Alice Draper, representing Standard V.; and Miss Brewer, head teacher, added suitable compliments. : Miss Healy was the guest at a social in the Good Templar's Hall last evening.

21st April 1904 APPEAL COURT.

BLEMHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP CASE

Press Association. Electric Telegraph Copyright,

Wellington, April 20. The Appeal Court today is hearing the case Marlborough Education Board v, Sturrock, which has been before the Teachers' Appellate Court and the Supreme Court. Both of these sustained respondents, who was headmaster of the Blenheim Public School, and had received notice of dismissal from the Board of Education. The Board now appeal.

a Principal Point is whether the Act of 1901 made it obligatory on the Board to amalgamate the Boys' and Girls' Schools at Blenheim, in view of the fact of the attendance at the latter not being over 200, and whether, if the schools are amalgamated, the headmastership of the mixed school so constituted constitutes a new position to which respondent is not entitled to be appointed, and to which the Teachers' Court cannot order him to be appointed.

, Later. Argument was concluded this afternoon in the case of the Marlborough Education Board v. Sturrock. Judgment was reserved.

23rd April 1904 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

THE BLENHEIM REPORT.

The following report has been prepared by the Blenheim School Committee for presentation to the annual meeting of householders to be held on Monday evening next:—

Your Committee beg to report that during the year fourteen meetings have been held, all of which were well attended, the individual attendance being as follows: Messrs. Penny 13, Ferguson 10, Birch 12, Ching 14, Brown 11, Norgrove 9, White 13, Neville 8, and Jackson 9. During the year there has been a decrease in the attendance, both in the boys' and girls' departments. Epidemics of sickness, the recent rush for vaccination and the wider opening of the High School in connection with the newly introduced system of free secondary education have contributed to the diminution, though the Committee retain the opinion that, after due allowance has been made for these factors, the attendance should have been greater. There seems to be a lamentable lack of appreciation on the part of some parents of the advantages of education for their children. The capitation has, however been only a few shillings less than the amount received last year. With regard to finance, the Committee have striven to keep the funds on a sound basis, while doing justice to the care of the buildings, and the year ends with a credit balance of £15 3s 2d.

The Committee have to thank the Education Board for the generous consideration it has given to requests for requirements and improvements. During the year the Board has also renovated the building and put the school in a sanitary condition. Miss Brewer was temporarily appointed Headmistress in succession to Miss Douslin ; and later on the resignation of Miss Litchfield, as assistant mistress, was received. Subsequently Miss K. Furness resigned, and Miss Healy received an appointment to the Rai Valley School. The Committee recommended that Miss Wanden be appointed to Miss Litchfield's vacancy, and that Misses Garnham, Morcom and Fraser (probationers) be appointed pupil teachers, all appointments to be pro tern. A question which gave the Committee much thought and food for discussion is what is known as the Headmastership ease. The householders are aware that the Board's decision to dispense with the services of the Headmaster was overruled by the Teachers' Appeal Court, and an arrangement was made between the parties to state a special case for the Supreme Court. The resolutions passed by the Education Board in May last with reference to the Headmastership case was endorsed, and the Committee expressed its willingness to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Board. At the August, meeting Mr. Sturrock's report was laid on the table pending the decision of the Board re taking the matter to the Supreme Court, four members dissenting to the report not being read in the usual manner. At the September meeting a memo, was received from the Education Board notifying its non-recognition of Mr. Sturrock as Headmaster, and his monthly report was again laid on the table by 5 votes to 4.

A resolution was also carried by 5 votes to 3 that the attention of the Board be called to the unsatisfactory relationship to Mr. Sturrock, and requesting it to use every endeavor to effect a settlement. The Board also notified that Mr. Sturrock would be paid his salary without prejudice pending the decision of the Supreme Court, and asked the Committee to name teachers who were to receive notice in the event of an amalgamation of the boys' and girls' departments having to be effected. It was resolved by 5 votes to 4 that in the event of amalgamation the Committee recommend the Board to give all teachers of the boys' and

girls' sections notice, the teachers to be notified that they would be free to apply for the new positions under the amalgamation scheme. It was also unanimously resolved that the Committee failed to find in the Public School Teacher Salaries Act anything which compelled amalgamation of the Borough Schools, and, believing the householders to be adverse to amalgamation, suggested to the Board the advisability of retaining the teaching staff on its present footing as nearly as possible. A subsequent motion that any notice of dismissal was not to apply to the Headmaster was lost by 5 votes to 4,

The Supreme Court did not reverse the decision of the Teachers' Appeal Court, and the Judges gave no definite decision as to whether the amalgamation of boys' and girls' sections was compulsory. In March last the Board resolved to take the case to the Appeal Court with a view to obtaining an authoritative direction on this point; and there the matter stands, the Appeal Court having heard the arguments and reserved its decision. The School Committees Election Act has been amended to provide that in the case of husband and wife any qualification possessed by either of them shall be deemed to be possessed by each of them.

26th April 1904 BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting of householders for the election of the Committee, held last night, was well attended, there being present about 60 householders, including a small number of ladies. Mr. E. H. Penny, the Chairman of the old Committee, occupied the chair. The minutes of last annual meeting were confirmed.

The report (as published in these columns on Saturday), together with the balance sheet, was read. Mr. J. B. Green moved that the report and balance sheet be adopted. He expressed regret that the attendance at the school during the year was not what it should have been, but remarked that various special circumstances, some of which were mentioned in the report, conduced to this condition. Taking all things into consideration, one was pleased to see that matters had kept up so well as they had. The Committee, the Board, and the teachers, too, had had to contend with such difficulties during the past twelve months as had not arisen in any other part of New Zealand.

He did not intend to refer to the chief difficulty, beyond remarking that it was not a matter for discussion on this occasion. The public had watched the proceedings of the Committee very closely, and, as far as he could judge, approved of its action in leaving the matter to the Board. Mr. L. A. Browne seconded, and in doing so asked if the teachership appointments mentioned in the report were to continue pro tem until the case was settled in the Appeal Court.

The Chairman replied that he understood that was the case. The Chairman said that the Committee had endeavored to conduct its affairs in the spirit of Mr. Green's remarks. It had desired to avoid all contentious matter, and confine its energy to seeing that the schools were carried on with as much regard as possible for the true interests of education. There had been no contention between the Headmaster and the Committee during the year. They had worked amicably together, and he believed this state of affairs was due to the fact that the Committee as a whole decided to take no part with either the Board or the schoolmaster, but confine itself entirely to its recognised duties. He explained that the credit of £15 mentioned in the balance sheet had to be reduced by £5, the amount of -outstanding accounts not provided for when the financial statement was drawn up. The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Jordan, seconded by Mr. Green, a resolution was passed congratulating the Committee on the success with which it had managed its finances. The proposer said that perhaps the Board had been liberal, but the Committee had certainly been successful. The election of the Committee for the ensuing year was proceeded with, and twelve candidates were forthcoming for the nine places, all being nominated in the room. The results are as follows:—

J. Brown 55

E. H. Penny	46
H. L. Jackson	45
J. J. White	44
S. M. Neville	43
W. Ching	41
W. H. Green	40
W. Jordan	37
F. Birch	35
W. Pike	30
L. A. Browne	26
J. Griffin	19

The first nine candidates were duly declared elected. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman and the scrutineers (Messrs. J. B. Green and F. Greenfield).

The newly-elected Committee met subsequently. It was proposed by Mr. Ching and seconded by Mr. Green that Mr. Penny lie re-elected Chairman. Mr. Neville proposed, and Mr. White seconded, that Mr. Brown be chairman. The first motion was carried. Mr. A. J. MacLaine was appointed Secretary.

26th April 1904 The personnel of the newly-elected Blenheim School Committee comprises seven of the old Committee and two new members. All the Committeemen who offered themselves were returned, and, in addition, Messrs. W. H. Green and W. Jordan replace Messrs. Ferguson and Norgrove, who were not nominated for another terms

4th May 1904 A boy named Hilliard had the misfortune- to meet with an accident whilst playing football (*Rugby*) at the Borough School on Monday. He fell heavily to the ground, and sustained a broken collar bone.

6th May 1904 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The adjourned monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening. There were present: Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Birch, Ching, Jordan, White, Brown, and Neville.

A circular was received from the New Zealand Educational Institute asking for co-operation in the movement which had for its object the establishment of a teachers' superannuation scheme. It was resolved That this Committee consider that, in the best interests of education, and as an act of justice to the rising generation, the -establishment of a fund for the superannuation of aged and in harm teachers is an urgent necessity, and that the Government be respectfully requested to introduce without delay the legislation necessary to give effect to a scheme established on a sound financial basis." The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the- boys' department (including the Infant and Redwoodtown schools) daring the past month was 259 9, the roll number being 314. The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the Girls' School as 131.7, the roll number being 162. Miss Wanden had commenced her duties in the Girls' School/ and Miss Healy had left for Rai Valley. A report from the Headmaster with reference to the ineffectiveness of the" wire netting on the Infants' School windows was ordered to be forwarded to the Board.

Messrs. Birch and White were appointed to represent Blenheim on the School Committees' Association,

Messrs. Ching and Jordan were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. The following resolution was received from the Board:—" The Board is very disappointed to find that no candidates were sent up in December for the High School scholarships from the Blenheim Boys', Picton and Have lock Schools, and that the Committees of these schools be asked to obtain explanations or reasons. That the Committees be informed that the Board will not allow pupils attending these schools to be deprived of their right to compete for scholarships by the whim or incompetence of any teacher."

It was resolved that the communication be sent on to the Headmaster, and he be asked to reply in time for the next meeting of the Committee.

16th May 1904 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

A MEMBER'S RESIGNATION.

A certain quantity of business having been transacted at the special meeting of the Blenheim School Committee last night, the Chairman said there was no other business excepting the resignation of Mr. W. H. Green as a member of the Committee. Mr. Green had told him that he had handed in his resignation to Mr. White's office. Mr. White said he had written instructions from Mr. Green not to hand in the resignation until the regular monthly meeting. The Chairman said it was immaterial whether he had the written resignation in hand or not. He would declare a vacancy and propose that the usual steps be taken to fill it. # Mr. Ching asked why the resignation was not handed to the Chairman. Mr. White said that was a question that had better be put to Mr. Green. No doubt Mr. Green had his own reasons. Probably he thought it wise to give his resignation to those members of the Committee with whom he had been acting, to hand it in at the appointed time. At last meeting it was understood that the Committee would not meet again until the next ordinary meeting.

The Chairman said that there could not have been any understanding that the Committee would not be called together in the meantime. As it turned out, it was necessary to meet to fix the special holidays. Mr. White thought that the proposal to deal with the resignation before it was received savoured of indecent haste.

The Chairman moved that Mr. W. D. Pike (the first of the non-elected candidates at the householders meeting) be appointed to fill the vacancy. This was the usual course.

Mr. White contended that the Chairman was acting without statutory authority. When Mr. Ferguson changed his residence no such question was raised and no desire evinced to oust him straight away.

The Chairman said that the two cases were not on all fours.

Mr. White: One difference is that the other man was on your side and supported the same views. Mr. Ching: What do you mean by "sides"?

Mr. White said he would reply plainly. The "side" he referred to was antagonistic to the Headmaster. The Chairman said he denied such imputations. Mr. White was taking the very action that would prejudice the Headmaster. All along his (the Chairman's) policy had been to leave the Headmastership case solely to the Board and confine the Committee to the ordinary administration of school affairs. He was in no way antagonistic to the Headmaster. The antagonistic spirit was being displayed by Mr. White.

Mr. White said that those views were very fine, but, looking at the matter practically, it was imperative in the interests of the school that something should be done to relieve the strained relations, and yet the Committee sat still while the Board declined to recognise the Headmaster and pay his salary.

Mr. Birch said that the Committee could not have assisted the position.

Mr. White contended that the Committee evaded its responsibility in not taking action in one direction or the other. Certainly the minority of the Committee last year got the Headmaster his salary. They referred the position to the Minister. Mr. Birch said the salary could have been had from the first if "the other side" had acted as it should have done in stating its case.

The Chairman interposed, saying that they were getting away from the business.

Mr. Jordan said the real question was whether Mr. Green had left the district. Apparently he had. If he remembered rightly, the Act stated that as soon as a member left the district his seat became vacant.

Mr. Birch said it was well known that Mr. Green had left. It was not on all fours with the case of Mr. Ferguson, who did not sever his connection with the place.

Mr. White said that Mr. Ferguson himself left the school district.

Mr. Brown said they did not know that Mr. Green would not return before the monthly meeting. Mr. Birch seconded the Chairman's motion.

Mr. Neville said that if it was Mr. Green's wish to have his resignation left over to the ordinary monthly meeting, he did not see why there should be such haste in filling the vacancy.

The Chairman said that it was not Mr. Green's wish originally before his mind was influenced. Mr. Green told him that he was willing to be succeeded by Mr. Pike.

Mr. White said he had no objection to Mr. Pike personally.

Then followed a good humored pas-sage-at-arms, in which the expression "the other side" was freely used. One member taxed another with "tommy rot," and with working for the interests of the teacher rather than those of the children. Mr. Jordan expressed regret that there should be any "sides" at all.

Mr. White said that it would be illogical to fill the vacancy with a rejected candidate. The logical course would be to take some householder who was in accord with the views of the resigning member.

The Chairman: How do you know that Mr. Pike does not hold those views ?

Mr. White: I don't know that he does.

The Chairman said that if the position was worked out mathematically Mr. White himself would not hold his position by the vote of the majority of the householders,

Mr. Neville said he would be only too glad to vote for the motion, but it looked as if there was some special motive in bringing the matter on with such undue haste.

Mr. Ching: What is your motive in holding Mr. Green's resignation back ?

The motion was carried on the casting vote of the Chairman, the voting being : —Ayes : Messrs. Jordan, Birch, Ching, and the Chairman. Noes; Messrs. Neville, Jackson, Brown, and White.

18th May 1904 The Blenheim School Committee resolved last night to grant holidays to the children on May 24th, Empire Day, and June 3rd, Prince of Wales's Birthday Last year on Empire Day, in accordance with the wish of the Education Department, the children saluted the flag at a ceremony held at the school; but on this occasion it is assumed that that function will be performed at the South African gathering to be held at Tua Marina.

A special meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last night. There were present: Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Ching, Neville, Jordan, Brown, Jackson. The Education Board forwarded an extract from the monthly report of the Truant Officer suggesting that a general certificate of exemption be set up in connection with the Catholic schools so as to bring them under the truancy inspection system. It being pointed out that the matter was one for the Board and not the Committee to deal with, the (Secretary was instructed to re urn the communication to the Board. The Board acted under a misapprehension in referring the matter to the committee for determination The Board forwarded an application from a parent for a certificate exempting his children from attendance at a State school on the assurance that they were receiving sufficient education at home. The application was granted, subject to the children being presented for examination when called upon.

21st May 1904 shipment of eight thousand black leather poaches has arrived at Wellington from England for distribution among the public school cadet corps

6th June 1904 MARLBOROUGH INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

RESIGNATION OF NELSON POSITION.

Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A., was in Blenheim at the end of last week and will return in a few days to take up his duties as Inspector for the Marlborough At the meeting of the Nelson Education Board last week a letter was received from Mr. Strachan resigning the position of Junior Inspector, and thanking the Board for the courtesy and consideration received from the Board as teacher and Inspector during an inclusive period of five years. No one could

periodically meet the gentlemen gathered round the table without learning a good deal, and he had learned many things at the Board's meetings that would be of value to him. He had also been a witness of many kindnesses to others than himself, and had seen that the Board dealt in a kindly spirit with those engaged under it. He had taken up the work for experience, and he hoped that it would not be thought that his leaving was caused in any way by dissatisfaction, for it was not so, but he recognised that the finances of the Board made it impossible for the Board to offer him promotion, and his motive was the proper one of desire to advance in his profession, and strive for his ideals. Mr. Strachan supplemented his remark with a few details of the experiences of Inspectors in carrying out that large part of their work that did not come under the immediate View of the Board; these going to prove that the work was of a varied character, and that the officers in travelling the district under the Board's jurisdiction had by no means the easy time that some might imagine. Personally, he had received a great deal of experience that would be of value to him during his term as Inspector. Mr. Maginnity moved that the resignation be received with regret Mr. Strachan had given the Board the highest satisfaction, both as teacher of secondary subjects at the Westport High School, and later as Inspector. The loss to Nelson would be a serious one, but Mr. Strachan justly and properly set himself to follow high ideal", and as long as he strove to inculcate these he would be doing the best possible work wherever he went, and the Board could in all heartiness wish him success.

The Chairman seconded the motion, endorsing what Mr. Maginnity had said and expressed satisfaction that Mr. Strachan had obtained promotion, a position which he hoped would lead to something still better. Mr. Atmore spoke of Mr. Strachan as a whole hearted enthusiast in the cause of education, and heartily endorsed the remarks of the mover and seconder.

The motion was unanimously carried

8th June 1904 The Blenheim School Committee decided that the schools close on the 24th of June for the winter holidays, and re-open on July the 11th.

8th June 1904 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Blenheim School Committee held the monthly meeting last night. There were present:— Messrs. Ching (in the chair), Neville, White, Jordan, Jacob, and Pike.

The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the boys school during the month was 253.2, the roll number being 313. These returns included the infant department, 67.8 and 83, and the Redwoodtown school 21 and 30. Mr. Sturrock also stated that he was at present engaged in examining the school, and, as far as he had gone, the work was of the average quality for this time of the year. In the first standard room the children suffered from the cold, and more adequate heating was required. Something should be done, as comfort was conducive to much better work, and a better attendance was likely to be maintained. He called attention to the wet condition of the roads in the front of the school and along Park Terrace. He reminded the Committee of the promise made some years ago to place seats in the infants' playground.

The Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the girls' school during the month was 129.4, the roll number being 159.

Mr. Jordan, on behalf of the Visiting Committee, endorsed the requirements asked for by the teachers.

Messrs. White and Jordan were deputed to consult the teachers with regard to the seating accommodation asked for, and to have it supplied. They were also authorised to obtain particulars as to the cost of a gas heater, and wait on the Board to ask that the cost be defrayed.

It was resolved to draw the attention of the Borough Council to the bad state of the roads in the vicinity of the schools.

With reference to the Board's recent communication, the Headmaster wrote: "I have always entered pupils for scholarship examinations when pupils, or parents, have so desired. Last year no one wished to enter, as free places could be had if the Sixth Standard was passed under fourteen years of age. All my Sixth Standard pupils under fourteen passed, and were awarded free places, although one declined the honor and is still with me. The latter part of the resolution is evidently the Board's opinion or reason for pupils not having been entered, and it that was so there was no need to put me to the trouble of replying."

On the motion of Mr. Ching, seconded by Mr. Neville, it was resolved that the Headmaster's reply be forwarded to the Education Board,

Authority was given to order coal and other minor business was transacted.

Messrs. Birch and White were appointed Visiting Committee for the incoming month

13th June 1904 BLENHEIM.

Mr. White waited on the Board on behalf of the Blenheim Committee, and brought a number of needs under its notice.

The request for a gas stove for the additional heating of the Infant School was granted.

The application for a new supply of sanitary pans was referred to the architect, with power to act on the Secretary's authority.

The architect wrote with regard to the breakage of school windows, and suggested that this continual trouble would be averted if the school residence were removed from its present inconvenient site and the boundaries of the playground extended.

The Board approved of the proposition that the residence be shifted to the ground next to the Board's offices, but deferred the question pending the Appeal Court's judgment in the Headmastership case, which, it was said, was expected to be given at the end of the month.

The School Committee forwarded the Headmaster's reply to the Board's communication with respect to the dearth of candidates at scholarship examinations.

It was resolved to refer the matter back to the Committee, and point out that the regulations provided that candidates should be nominated by the Headmaster only.

27th June 1904 BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.

EDUCATION BOARD'S APPEAL

DISMISSED.

Wellington, June 27.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal from the decision of the Chief Justice und Judge Cooper in the case Marlborough Education Board v. Sturrock.

Judge Edwards dissented from the judgment.

The Court of Appeal held that the decision of the Teachers' Court of Appeal was a valid decision, and Sturrock is entitled to be reinstated in his former position as headmaster of the Blenheim School.

27th June 1904 the request of the School Committee the Borough Council have given much needed attention to the roads and paths in the vicinity of the Borough Schools. Parents may now entertain less concern about their children's health while at school.

28th June 1904 APPEAL COURT.

THE BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.

FULLER PARTICULARS.

Press Association.

Electric Telegraph.

Copyright. Wellington, Jane 27. A majority of the Court of Appeal to day were of opinion that the appeal from the decision of the Chief Justice and Judge Cooper in the case of the Marlborough Education Board versus Sturrock should be dismissed.

This is a long-standing case concerning the right of the Marlborough Education Board to terminate the engagement of Mr. Sturrock as headmaster of the Blenheim Boys' School on

the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' schools at Blenheim, in order to comply with the provisions of the Public School Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901.

The Board terminated Mr. Sturrock's engagement on the occasion of the amalgamation in question. Mr. Sturrock appealed to the Court constituted under the Public School Teachers' Incorporation and Court of Appeal Act, 1895. That Court allowed the appeal, and held that Mr. Sturrock was entitled to be reinstated.

The Education Board appealed from this decision to the Supreme Court, and the case was heard in that Court by the Chief Justice and Judge Cooper. Their Honors dismissed the appeal.

The Board thereupon appealed to the Court of Appeal. The majority of the Court of Appeal, consisting of Judges Williams and Denniston, were of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed in accordance with their opinion. The questions put by the case were answered as follows :—(1) The decision of the Teachers' Court of Appeal was a valid decision, and respondent is entitled to be reinstated in his former position; (2) The Supreme Court has not power to review the decision of the Teachers' Court of Appeal or the reasons thereof; (3) The Board was not compelled to abolish the existing schools—it might amalgamate them, but that did not entitle the Board to dispense with the services of respondent, unless the statutory Court of Appeal so decided; (4) Respondent is entitled to continue as master of the amalgamated school, and to receive the salary based on the average attendance thereat, according to part 1 of the schedule to the Act of 1901. Judge Edwards dissented from this decision. The appeal was dismissed, with costs on the lowest scale.

30th June 1904 Female Teachers.—In his judgment on the Blenheim teacher's appeal case, His Honor Mr. Justice Williams observes :—" For teaching young boys, though they may be well out of the infant school stage, a good female teacher is as competent as a male. In the United States, according to the report of the Mosely Commission, the majority of teachers in the public boys' schools are women."

6th July 1904 Arbor Day.—The Borough School Committee received last night a circular from the Colonial Secretary stating that Wednesday, the 15th of July, would be observed as a public

holiday in the Government offices throughout the Colony for the celebration of Arbor Day, and the Government hoped that Mayors and Chairmen of local bodies would place the matter prominently before the people and do all they could to encourage the planting of public reserves and other available lands, both public and private, with suitable trees. Reference was made to the Borough Council's scheme to direct public interest on that occasion to the planting of the reserve at the Wairau Bar, and sympathy with the project was expressed. The matter of fixing the holiday was left in the hands of the Chairman.

Borough School Committee. — There were present at the monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee last night Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Ching, Brown, Pike, Neville, Jackson, and Jordan. Notices setting forth the dates and particulars of the Junior Civil Service and Junior National Scholarship examinations were received from the Minister of Education, and ordered to be forwarded to the Headmaster. The Education Board notified that a gas stove had been granted for the Infant Department, and that the architect had been instructed to attend to certain repairs. The Board also returned the Headmaster's letter to the Committee with reference to scholarship examinations and other matters, and directed attention to clause 5 of the Board's scholarship regulations. No action was taken in the last mentioned matter. The Headmaster's report stated that the average attendance at the Boys' School for the past quarter was 254, a considerable increase on the corresponding quarter of last year, The heating of the Infants' Department had been greatly improved. The road leading

to the schools had been repaired, but he would like to see a permanent channel put in and graded so that the rain would not lie during wet weather. It was decided that the question of asphaltting the water-table be brought up in the spring, and the Borough Council be asked to do the work. Three tons of coal were ordered, and accounts were passed for payment.

9th July 1904 The Blenheim Borough Schools will reopen on Monday morning at 9.30 o'clock.

11th July 1904 THE BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP CASE.

A report of the judgment of the Appeal Court in this case was received from the Board's solicitor.

The Board's Executive recommended that the case be referred to the School Committee with a request to report to the next meeting". Mr. Litchfield, on behalf of the Executive, said that what was now required from the Committee was a clear indication as to whether amalgamation of the boys' and girls' sections of the school was desired or not.

A brief discussion ensued, in which Inspector Strachan said that there were possible courses—mixed schools (in which all the boys and girls would be brought together); separate schools throughout; and the continuance of the present arrangement, under which the infant department is attached to the boys' school. In the first mentioned case the total of salaries (omitting pupil teachers) that would have to be provided by the Department was £902, and the salaries of the headmaster and assistant master would be increased, while there would be a decrease in the headmistress's salary; in the second case the total of salaries would be £810 15s, and the salaries of the headmaster and assistant master would be considerably less; in the third case the total of salaries is £891 9s.

In a brief discussion, it was remarked that the starving of the teaching staff in the Boys' school would tend to lower the calibre of the staff, and would react on the interests of the children. The recommendation of the Executive was adopted. Mr. Rutherford, M.H.R., wrote agreeing to ask in the House whether the appointment of Dr. McArthur, S.M., as the representative of the Teachers' Institute in the Court of Appeal for the hearing of the Blenheim Headmastership case was sanctioned by the Minister of Education or any member of the Cabinet

3rd August 1904 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night. There were present:—Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Neville, White, Ching, Pike, Jordan, Brown and Birch. The Headmaster reported the attendance at the boys' school for the time since the winter vacation. It had not been good on account of sickness. The average was 235.5, the roll number being 312. This included the infants' department, the figures for which were 61.7 and 90. The Headmistress reported that the attendance at the girls' school had been poor owing to the prevalence of sickness. The average for the month ending July 31st was 114 6, the roll number being 1155. The quarterly examination held at the end of June was well attended, and the results were satisfactory. The average attendance for the quarter was 128.1, the roll number being 153. On Arbor Day about thirty trees were planted on the school grounds by the scholars. A number of small requirements were granted, and accounts amounting to £13 were passed for payment.

3rd August 1904

This Blenheim School Committee received last night a communication from the Education Board asking for an expression of opinion as to the best arrangement in regard to the boys' and girls' sections of the school. The letter detailed three schemes, viz. :—(1) The present combination; (2) complete separation of the sexes; (3) a single mixed school. The schemes were based as on the average attendance for September and December quarters of 1903 and the March and June quarters of 1904.

On the present combination (boys and infants 245, girls 131) the scale of staff and salaries was :—Boys', infants' and side school: Headmaster £281.10s, mistress £115, assistant teacher £155, assistant teacher £80; and two pupil teachers. Girls' department: Headmistress £176 3s

mistress £105, and two pupil teachers. Total, £892 13. Sexes separate throughout (boys 181, girls 195):— Boys: Headmaster £76, mistress £110, assistant teacher £80, and two pupil teachers. Girls: Headmistress £185 15, mistress £110, assistant teacher £80, and two pupil teachers. Total, £808 1s. A single school (mixed), 376 pupils, average:—Headmaster £291 4s, mistress £130, four assistant teachers £195, £105, £100 and £80, and three pupil teachers. Total, £901 4s. The Board's communication noted in regard to scheme 1: "The Chief Justice in his judgment assumes that the girls' school is amalgamated with the boys'. This is not so. Therefore, it does not appear that the present combination is strictly legal." With regard to scheme 2: (a) "It appears from the majority decision of the Court that separate boys' and girls' schools with averages under 201 are legal; (b) if the scheme of separate sexes throughout be adopted the serious reduction in the first assistant's salary (boys') may affect the efficiency of the appointee to that position; (c) vide (c) below." With regard to scheme 3 the notes were: (a) The most serious loss is in the case of the position held by Miss Brewer; (b) this scheme gives a considerable increase to the first assistant male; (c) if the schools be made into one it is not absolutely necessary to have both sexes working in the same room. There would, however, be some possibility of loss of efficiency if the sexes were taught in different rooms, though belonging to the same school. For instance, a teacher might be able to take two classes of 30 each instead of one class of 60. The same defect would appear if the sexes were grouped in separate schools, (d) The Inspector is of opinion that a single mixed school would produce the best results. The experience of far and away the majority of the schools (both large and small) in New Zealand shows that under capable management no harm is likely to ensue from teaching both sexes together." On the motion of Mr. Penny (Chairman seconded by Mr. White, it was resolved "That the Committee understands the expressed desire of the householders is in favor of the present system of conducting the schools, and therefore suggests the continuance of the same

5th August 1904 MIXED SCHOOLS.

Having been asked by the Education Board for an expression of opinion as to the most suitable arrangement in regard to the boys' and girls' divisions of the school under its charge, the Blenheim School Committee have passed a resolution favoring the existing system under which the sexes are separated in the main school and taught together in the infant department. The Committee has given this answer on the assumption that the present combination is in accordance with the wishes of the householders, as expressed at a meeting of the householders some two years ago. If our memory serves us aright, the householders, in expressing that desire, were influenced rather by their consideration of the details of the alternative scales of salaries than by the simple question of mixing the sexes. But, though, no doubt, many householders thought on that occasion mostly of the status of individual teachers, a large number of parents regard the matter from the more important point of view which relates to the desirability or otherwise of adopting a system under which the boys and girls would be taught together. In this connection it is interesting to note a heated discussion which took place on the subject of " coeducation " at a meeting of the United States National Education Association, held at St. Louis last month:—The custom of educating boys and girls together was condemned, as tending to raise suicide, by Mr. G. S. Hall, the president of the Clock University." Co-education and higher education have reduced the rate of both marriage and off spring." he declared. "Scarcely three fourths of our male and only about one half of our female graduates marry, and those who do so marry late and have few children." The separate school and college for girls were strongly advocated by Mr. Hall. He said that his own experience and observations had convinced him that the high schools interfere with the laws of nature, in that a large percentage of the girls were taught to wish that they had been born boys. The manners of the girls were roughened, and they did not take pride in distinctively feminine qualities, or in the grace and charm of their young womanhood. He

said that there was something wrong with a girl in the middle teens who was not gushy and sentimental at times. The girls' colleges in universities train for self-support," he concluded, and hold that if marriage commit can best take care of itself. I urge the precise opposite. The bachelor woman, who, in Herbert Spencer phrase, has developed individualism at the expense of genesis, is a magnificent creature, but not made for wifedom or motherhood."

Against this the president of another large American University urged that it was better to meet a life companion while doing class work than to trust to the chance acquaintance of the ball-room. His complaint was less that the girl students became unfeminine than that they were too prone to reciprocate the affection of the male students and marry young. "We don't want our boys and girls to fall in love through propinquity," urged a professor. "Coeducation encourages this, and love and love making ought to be banished from the colleges." "The woman in her college waste no time in languid sentiment and have no glittering gush," retorted another professor. ' You might just as well separate the sexes in the church, theatre or any other public place as in the colleges."

On the whole the opinion of the Convention seemed to lean in the direction of supporting the co-education system. The old threadbare arguments of its opponents carry little weight with intelligent American teachers.

It will be observed that Inspector Strachan, who has just taken up the supervision of the Marlborough schools, is of opinion that a single mixed school in Blenheim would produce the best results. He says that the experience of far and away the majority of the schools (both large and small) in New Zealand shows that under capable management no harm is likely to ensue from teaching both sexes together. In saying this he is only repeating a truism which was uttered in Blenheim by the Educational Commission which travelled through New Zealand a few years ago

Accounts were passed for payment. On the list was an account from the Board's solicitor for £158 2s 8d, as costs in connection with the litigation with regard to the Blenheim headmastership. Messrs. Litchfield and Fell were appointed a committee to negotiate with the solicitor.

In response to the request from the Board for an expression of opinion, the Blenheim School Committee intimated that, understanding this was the wish of the householders, it would advise that the present combination of the girls' and boys' departments be adhered to.

Mr. Chaytor moved that the recommendation of the Committee be given effect to.

Mr. White seconded. He said that the Committee thought it was better to leave things as they were for the present, at all events. Later on, perhaps, when circumstances were suitable, it would be wise to divide up the sexes in the Infant School (which was now a mixed school) and make the girls' and boys' sections of the Borough School continuous throughout. Mr. McCallum supported the motion. In view of recent circumstances, it would be well to allow matters for the time being to remain as at present. The salaries of both the headmaster and the assistant teacher would be considerably affected by attaching the girls in the Infant Department to the girls section in the main school. The motion was carried.

8th August 1904 Teachers' Appeal Court.

Mr. Rutherford, M.H.R., wrote acquainting the Board with the reply given by the Minister of Education in the House that neither he nor any member of the Cabinet was consulted on the appointment of Dr. McArthur, S.M., to the position of assessor in the Teachers' Appeal Court.

7th September 1904 School Holidays.—A circular request from the Marlborough Exhibition Committee that the schools be closed for a week during exhibition time was considered by the Borough School Committee last night. It was resolved to close the schools for two days, the dates to be fixed by the Chairman after consulting the head teachers.

8th September 1904 The Blenheim School Committee have appointed a deputation to wait on the Education Board and ask for a definition of the duties of Visiting Committees

12th September 1904 THE SCHOOL CADETS.

Colonel Loveday wrote stating that he had been requested by the Education Department to submit a scheme for the holding of annual training camps for school cadet corps; but before doing so he wished to know if the suggestion that the camps be held in the last week of the school year met with the approval of the Board. He had been authorised to say that a regulation would be issued under which attendance at camp would count as attendance at school.

The Inspector pointed out that this suggestion did not take into account the girls, who would be at school while the boys were at camp. Members generally thought that it would be a mistake to interfere with the school year. The suggestion was made that the camp be held in holiday time—that the boys go straight from school to the camp. The affair would be a holiday to them. The Chairman remarked that that arrangement might not fit in with the wishes of the teachers. Mr. Chaytor said that only a few teachers would be affected, and these would be interested in the cadet movement. As for the clashing with the Christmas festivities, he suggested that the holidays be fixed to avoid that. It was resolved to recommend that the camp be held in the first week of the holidays, those to be fixed so as to avoid clashing with the Christmas festivities.

23rd September 1904 PHYSICAL DRILL COMPETITIONS

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, but the competitors as a body did creditable 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 CLASS SINGING. The school children's class singing competitions were taken on Friday and Saturday. The pupils of the Sisters of Mercy were awarded first and second prizes in the general competition, in which the Blenheim girls' school and Koromiko school also took part. In the boys' section the Blenheim Borough School was the only competitor and was awarded a prize.

5th October 1904 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening. There were present: Messrs. Penny (Chairman), White, Pike, Jordan, Brown, Birch.

The Headmistress reported the average attendance at the Girls' School during last month as 116.8, the roll number being 154. The average attendance for the last quarter was 115. The attendance during the quarter suffered through sickness.

The following girls were successful in the recent Exhibition competitions : —Olive Sowman, first prize for patching ; Muriel Farmar, second prize for darning. Best copy books: Ivy Browne first prize (10 to 13), Rosina Thomson (8 to 10) special, Florence White and Lily Faulkner highly commended. Elocution: Christina Frazer, first (15 to 17), Lily Sowman second ; Gertrude Mogridge, first (12 to 15), Nora Sanders second; Lily Binley, first (10 to 12). Map drawing: Maggie McCallum and Evelyn Patchett h. c. Freehand: G. Fraser, h. c.

It was stated that several prizes had been won by the pupils of the Boys' School.

The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School (including infants' department and side-school) during last month was 237, the roll number being 314. The

figures for the Redwoodtown. side school were respectively 19 and 26. The attendance had been affected considerably through sickness, mumps being the principal complaint.

The Headmaster informed the Committee that the teacher of the Redwoodtown side school had been incapacitated by illness. Mr. White moved that the Headmaster be requested to supply information as to the ages and standards of the children attending the Redwoodtown school, the distance of their residences from the side school and Borough School. The Committee should ascertain whether they were justified in maintaining the school. Mr. Birch said that the school was established on the understanding that the average attendance would be 25. and this had not been kept up. The motion was carried. The Chairman reported that there had not yet been an opportunity in obtaining from the Inspector and Secretary of the Education Board a direction as to the duties of Visiting Committees, but a definition would be obtained as soon as possible.

The Visiting Committee stated that the attendance at the school had greatly improved within the last few days

Accounts were passed for payment. Messrs. Neville and Pike were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

5th October 1904 The Borough School Committee has been informed by a communication from the Education Board that a regulation had been adopted that a strap thirty inches by one inch shall be the only instrument of corporal punishment in the Marlborough district.

Eulogistic reference was made at the meeting of the Borough School Committee last night to the work contributed by the school children to the Marlborough Exhibition, The young people, said the Chairman, had acquitted themselves most creditably, and the manner in which the school was represented at the Exhibition was very gratifying. A resolution expressing the appreciation of the Committee was ordered to be forwarded to the teachers. Reference was also made to the excellent demonstration of physical drill.

10th October 1904 The first of the series of lectures organised for the instruction of the school teachers of Marlborough in ambulance work was given by Dr. Anderson in Blenheim on Saturday, The class was well attended, 43 teachers being present. There is every indication that the class will prove to be a popular institution

10th October 1904 VISITING COMMITTEES. Mr. White asked for a direction as to the powers of Visiting Committees appointed by School Committees, in respect to the inspection of registers and rolls. In a general discussion it was pointed out that all the powers possessed by the committees themselves could be delegated to sub-committees. These powers covered all affairs in connection with the management of the schools. The Secretary said that he had repeatedly told Committees that they had the full right to examine rolls and registers, and take action if necessary

21st October 1904 It was hardly to be expected that the action of the Marlborough Education Board in adopting a system of appointing school teachers from year to year only would go unchallenged. The Board has established a radical precedent, and the Minister's reply to the question put in the House by Mr. Baume will be awaited with interest. The Minister is asked together declare that the practice pursued is not permissible under the Education Act, or to bring down amending legislation which will nullify the effect of such a practice. Thus the Education Department is called on to either ratify or condemn the system of appointment introduced by the Board; and, as the Department is not blind to the fact that the success of the education system depends largely on the attractiveness of the teaching profession, it is quite on the cards that the method of engaging teachers by the year will soon go by the board. The Education Board, which has explained that its innovation is designed to protect itself from the provisions of the Teachers' Appeal Act, may be credited with the best of intentions; but, whatever may be said about that Act, even the members of the Board can hardly be enamored of the principle which it claims has been forced upon it. Even from its own point of view the

argument may well be used that, looking at the broad aspects of the educational system, the Board has chosen the worse of two evils in shaking the security of tenure of the whole teaching profession.

21st October 1904 Trafalgar Day.—The ninety-ninth anniversary of Trafalgar Day was observed with honors at the Borough School to-day. The Headmaster, Mr. Sturrock, addressed the pupils on the meaning of Nelson's victory, and the flag was hoisted and saluted.

31st October 1904 The late Mr. Macklin, whose death we announced a few days ago, was headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School for several years, and left this place in 1881. Deceased had a varied career. After receiving a good education at Londonderry and Leicester College, he came out with his wife and family to Victoria in 1857, and almost immediately came across to New Zealand. He had charge of schools in the Otago district before taking the Blenheim school, in which he was assisted by his wife and daughters. He then became a teacher at Kempsey (N. S. W.), and for five years was editor of the Macleay Chronicle there. He was also the first Council Clerk for the Borough of Kempsey, holding the position for five years. Shortly after the death of his wife in 1889 he joined his son-in law, Mr. Stewart, at Macksville (Macleay), and retired to a great extent from active politics. He was 69 years of age.

5th November 1904 Mr. Sinclair Macalister, eldest son of Mrs. S. J. Macalister, of Picton, kept his first year's terms at Victoria College, Wellington, gaining second class honors in jurisprudence and Constitutional History, and third-class honors in Latin. Mr. Macalister was educated at the Blenheim Borough School, and is now in the General Post Office, Wellington.

7th November 1904 A recommendation has been made by the Education Committee of the House that in the case of appointment, suspension, or dismissal of school teachers no recommendation of a school committee shall be binding upon an Education Board.

11th November 1904 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held on Tuesday night. There were present—Messrs. Penny (chairman), Pike, Jordan, Jackson, White, Browne, and Neville. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys' School last month was 240.7, the roll number being 302.

Mr. Sturrock presented a report with regard to the Redwoodtown side School. The number on the roll for the past month had been 28 (14 boys and 14 girls). The average for four weeks had been— Boys: 106, 97, 105, and 9; girls: 95, 94, 88, 77. On Monday morning the attendance were boys 11, and girls 13. He enquired the distances that children would have to come, and only in one or two cases could it be called a hardship. Many of the children attending the side school had brothers and sisters attending the main school. The building was not suitable.

Consideration of the Redwoodtown question was deferred.

Mr. S. Norgrove wrote asking for a ruling with regard to the practice of making the children clean the desks. —It was resolved to reply that the cleaning of desks by scholars had been customary for many years, and generally speaking, the parents favor the system as part of the school discipline.

The Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls' School during the month was 128, the roll number being 151. The annual examination was to be held on Tuesday, November 15th.

The Secretary of the Education Board wrote reminding the Committee that on the departure of Miss Douslin for South Africa Miss Brewer was appointed headmistress on a temporary basis only. The Board was of opinion that a permanent appointment should be made, and would be glad to have an expression of opinion.—It was moved that the Board be recommended to appoint Miss Brewer permanently, the Committee being quite satisfied with

the present management; and an amendment was moved that the Committee recommend that applications be called.—The original motion was carried.

It was resolved to ask the Borough Council to asphalt the path in front of the school and also the watertables.

The Visiting Committee agreed with the Headmaster's observation re the unsuitability of the Redwoodtown school building.

Mr. White made a report on the Board's directions to him with regard to the powers of committees. The committees had full power in the matter of examining rolls, and could delegate this power in whole or in part to visiting committees. The committees had also sole power, under the Board, in respect to the letting of school buildings.

The use of the school for their meetings was granted to the School Committees' Association.

Messrs. Jackson and Neville were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month 14th November 1904 The Blenheim Committee recommended that Miss Brewer be appointed Headmistress absolutely in succession to Miss Douslin.

It was moved that the recommendation be adopted, the appointment to be made on the usual terms, from year to year; and the Committee be asked to make recommendations as to the other members of the staff,

Mr. White called attention to the fact that the Board was establishing precedent in appointing a head teacher without advertising for applications

After discussion, the motion was carried.

7th December 1904 School Committee.—All the members of the Blenheim School Committee were present at the monthly meeting held last night. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance last month at the Boys' Main School and Redwoodtown side school was 264.4, the roll number being 294.

Inspector Strachan's report on the recent examinations had not yet been received. The Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls' School last month was 148.4, the roll number being 166. She enclosed the examination schedules received from the Inspector. It was decided to ask the Headmistress for a resume of the examination results, which were too detailed for a satisfactory review.

The Town Clerk advised that the work of asphaltting water tables in the vicinity of the schools would be done as soon as possible.

Letters were received from two parents objecting to the practice of making children clean the desks, which practice was approved by the Committee at the previous meeting. It was resolved to reply that the Committee did not deem it necessary to take any action in the matter. The Education Board advised that, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation, it had appointed Miss Brewer headmistress, the appointment to be renewable annually under the Board's recent resolution. Miss Brewer has hitherto held the position as Miss Douslin's temporary successor.

The Board also asked for recommendations concerning other members of the staff. It was resolved to ask the Board for a list of members of the present staff and their positions.

Accounts were passed for payment. Some small repairs were ordered to be executed.

Messrs. Brown and Ching were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

12th December 1904 The Blenheim School Committee recommended that the Redwoodtown side school be closed at the end of the school year. The school was represented as expensive, and, practically speaking, unnecessary, the main school being close enough to the locality. A letter was received from a resident opposing the suggestion. It was moved that the Committee's recommendation be adopted, and it was resolved to give the owner of the school house three months' notice of termination of the tenancy. The Secretary pointed out that unless there had been a certain increase in the attendance of the Borough School it would be

necessary to dispense with the services of the extra teacher allowed for the side school if that school were closed.

The Inspector remarked that if the teacher had to be dispensed with it would be the Department rather than the Board or Committee that would be relieved of the expense. The main objection to his mind was that the school building was not suitable from a health point of view. The resolution was carried, members relying on the judgment of the Committee and presuming the Committee had all the facts in mind.

Inspector Strachan stated that he had completed his examination tour, the Blenheim Borough and Sounds' schools being taken last month, and the list ending up with the Convent schools. Three schools were placed in the "good" class on the work done last month, these being Blenheim Girls', Tia Ora, and Mahau Sound. There was a good deal of variety in the work of the Sounds' schools, but he was satisfied with the general condition of these schools. A number of schools were, of course capable of considerable improvement, but it had to be remembered that in the small schools a good deal of time was lost in obtaining the services of teachers. Two schools —Ram's Head and Onahau— failed to come up for examination, and an explanation would be asked for.

In reply to a question the Inspector stated that he was very pleased with the character of the work done by the Blenheim Infant Department, and especially in the First Standard.

Inspector Strachan was asked to mention the Blenheim Boys' School. He said that it was placed in the "satisfactory" class. He read out the details, and added that to some extent the work done by the lower classes in the boys' school improved the work of the school as a whole; nevertheless, the upper classes did not appear to have done less than "fair" (in the technical sense of the word).

Mr. Ferguson said that the Inspector's remarks went to bear out the case made out by the Board in regard to the fifth and sixth standards.

Mr. Litchfield remarked that while the girls' school ranked as "good" the boys' school ranked as "satisfactory" —a point lower.

Mr. Fell said that the Board should not discuss the reports until they had had time to go into them.

The Inspector stated that he would have the reports placed before the Board in printed form as soon as possible.

1905

1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	Sturrock	David	D1	Head Master	£ 260.18
1905	139	Blenheim Girls'	Brewer	Lottie M	D1	Head Female	£ 175.50
1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	Nicoll	Thomas A	D4	Assistant Master	£ 155.00
1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	Brown	Mary M	D1	Mistress	£ 115.00
1905	139	Blenheim Girls'	Wanden	E W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 105.00
1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	Harris	Annie M	E2	Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	O'Brian	Unst M E	Licensed	FPT5	£ 50.00
1905	237	Blenheim Boys'	Macey	Winifred M		FPT3	£ 40.00
1905	139	Blenheim Girls'	Morcom	Annie E		FPT2	£ 30.00
1905	139	Blenheim Girls'	Garnham	Grace		FPT3	£ 30.00

6th January 1905 M. H. R Medal. —We learn that Miss Olive Ching, of the Blenheim Girls' School, was successful in winning an M H R medal at the recent annual examination or Marlborough schools, with 670 marks out of a possible 800. The competition was open to pupils of the sixth standard in the schools of Marlborough, and Miss Ching secured first place among the girls. Teacher and pupil are to be heartily congratulated

8th February 1905 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee last night there were present: Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Neville, White, Birch, Pike and Brown.

The Education Board notified that Mr. Dundon, owner of the Redwoodtown side-school-building, had been given notice to terminate the lease.

The Board also forwarded a list of the teachers at present employed in the school^ with their status and salaries. The staff of the Boys' School included the headmaster, assistant headmaster, mistress (Infant School), assistant female teacher, and three female pupil-teachers; the salaries ranging from £262 2s down to £30 per year. The Girls' School was staffed by a headmistress, assistant female teacher and two female pupil-teachers, the salaries ranging from £177.7s to £20. The Redwoodtown side-school teacher was included in the boys' department. The Headmaster reported the number on the roll for the past fortnights 284, and the average attendance 209.2. The Headmistress's figures were 164 and 113.6; and the average attendance for the last December quarter was 129.5.

A parent wrote re the ill treatment of his boy at the school.—A sub-committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and it was decided to forward the parent's letter to the Headmaster asking for an early reply.

In view of the Visiting Committee's report, it was resolved that some small repairs be effected.

The Chairman and Mr. Jackson were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month Inspector's report. Mr. Strachan, Inspector of Schools, reported on his annual visit as follows: — Boys' School.—The total number of pupils at the date of the Inspector's visit was 301, and there were present 294; the average ages ranged from 6 years 9 months in the preparatory class to 13 years 5 months in Standard VI. .

A better management of the staff was suggested, and the infant division was stated to be understaffed. Six certificates of proficiency were granted in Standard VI,0000000000000000000000 and two of competency. Of the compulsory subjects of examination reading, writing, spelling, recitation, arithmetic, and drawing were satisfactory, composition moderate to fair, singing good to excellent;, physical instruction excellent, geography fair to satisfactory, and history good to excellent.

Of the additional subjects, nature study and elementary science was good, handwork good, and needlework excellent. The order, discipline, and tone of the school were satisfactory, as also was its efficiency.

Girls' School.—The total on the roll at date of visit was 149, there being present 141; and the average ages ranged from 9 years in Standard II. to 15 years 8 months in Standard VI.

In Standard VI. certificates of proficiency were granted to 15 pupils, and certificates of competency to three. Of the compulsory subjects, composition, arithmetic and geography were satisfactory, writing fair to satisfactory, physical instruction and history satisfactory to good, spelling and drawing good, singing good to excellent, and recitation excellent. In additional subjects, nature study and elementary science were good, handwork fair, and needlework. good to excellent.

The order, discipline and tone of the school -was excellent, and its efficiency good.

n both reports the honors gained at the Marlborough Exhibition were added.

14th February 1905 BLENHEIM BOYS'. The resignation of Mr. D Wilmot from the position of second master was received, he having been appointed headmaster of the Stoke School, Nelson. The resignation was accepted, to take effect one month after notice. The Secretary was instructed to invite applications for the position by advertisement locally and in the Schoolmaster

17th February 1905 MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD. WANTED-Male Assistant Teacher for the Blenheim Boys' School. Salary, £155 per annum. Applications, to be accompanied by full particulars as to age, qualifications and previous experience, are to be

forwarded to the undersigned not later than MONDAY, 6th March. JOHN SMITH, Secretary. 16th February, 1905

8th March 1905 Mr. T. A. Nicoll, the candidate whom the Blenheim School Committee recommended to the Education Board for appointment to the position of assistant master in the Boys' School, is at present second assistant in the Woodville District High School, where he has been for three years. He is 25 years' of age, and single; and is a sergeant in the Woodville Rifles and captain of a company of cadets. He is a prominent athlete, and coached the runners-up for the football championship of Hawke's Bay last winter. At his last examination, out of a class of 46 children presented, 45 passed

8th March 1905 At the Blenheim School Committee meeting last night an interesting discussion occurred on the request of the Education Board for the expression of an opinion as to the advisability of instruction in cookery (for the girls) and woodwork. Several members took the view that the so called technical work was out of place in the primary schools, where there was hardly time to teach the ordinary subjects of the curriculum. The teaching of cookery was doubtless in place, provided the instruction was not confined to "toffee and Turkish delight," as one, member put it; but if parents wished their boys to learn carpentering they would not expect them to be taught at school.

Other members favored the elementary instruction in the use of tools, and one member regretfully wished that he had learned their handling when he was a boy. (A member: "And many of us wish we had learned chemistry" Laughter). It was retorted that elementary chemistry was taught. It was stated that the Education Board had already provided for an instructress in cookery.

14th March 1905 Among the correspondence were communications that had passed between the Education Department and the Secretary with regard to the basis on which the staff of the Blenheim Schools should be salaried. The Department had written that, as the boys' and girls' divisions should not be regarded as 'separate schools' the salaries should be paid in accordance with schedule 1 of the scale provided for by the Teachers' Salaries Act.

The Secretary had replied pointing out that the majority of the Judges of the Appeal Court in connection with the Blenheim headmastership case decided that separate boys' and girls' school, when the average attendance was below 201, were legal.

The recommendation of the Blenheim School Committee that Mr. Nicoll be appointed second teacher in the Boys' School was adopted. The Committee asked for apparatus for the nature study set out in the new syllabus.—The matter was held over pending enquiries.

The sum of £1 was granted for the purpose of fencing off certain ground.

16th March 1905 Blenheim School truancy case was taken yesterday morning by two Justices of the Peace, the parent, Mrs. Small, being fined 2s with 7s costs.

31st March 1905 The Nelson teachers formally protested to the Education Board on Tuesday against the appointment of Mr. Wilmot, of Blenheim, to the Stoke school. There were 18 applications for the position, and Mr. Wilmot's name was one of three (the other two being local teachers) sent forward by the Board to the Committee for the final selection. Mr. Gibbs and Knapp, representing the Educational Institute, waited on the Board, and complained that the Board did not forward to the Committee the names of local teachers equal and superior by certificate and length of service to one of the two local applicants whose names were sent, and, likewise, equal and superior to the successful outside applicant.

Mr. Wilmot was not blamed in any way, and would be cordially received by the Nelson teachers. The complaint was that local men of equal or superior attainment had not been

given a chance —it was a question of principle. The Board discussed the matter at some length, and, on the motion of Mr. Atmore, passed a resolution to the effect that the Board always acted in the interests of the children, those being considered of paramount importance. No complaint had come from the Stoke Committee. The Board, by 5 to 3, declined to pass a bylaw to make canvassing a cause of disqualification. A laugh was raised later in the meeting when the resignations were under discussion, the first four, received all being for the reason that the teachers had received appointments under other Boards. The "free traders " claimed this was justification for their action in reciprocating by giving outsiders a chance for Nelson vacancies.

4th April 1905 Prior to his departure last week for Stoke, Mr. D. H. Wilmot was presented by the staff and pupils of the Borough School with a handsome marble clock, suitably inscribed.

5th April 1905 At the meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee last night Mr. Birch drew attention to the habit of the school children in playing on the streets during recess, and moved that Mr. Sturrock, headmaster, be requested to keep the children off the road, it being the Committee's intention to get a portion of the playground asphalted in order to allow of marbles and other games. A subcommittee was appointed to look into the matter, with power to spend up to £10 if thought desirable.

10th April 1905 A report on the construction of the proposed Technical School of two rooms on the Blenheim school ground was received by the Education Board to-day from the architect, who pointed out that the site was within the inner area, and the building would, according to the Borough by-laws, have to be erected in brick. The cost would be much greater than that of a wooden structure, and he suggested that the Borough Council be asked to re-adjust the boundaries of the inner area be as to exclude the ground in question. The site was isolated, and there would be no danger of fire.

The suggestion was adopted. The Town Executive were authorised to apply to the Department for a grant on receipt of plans from the architect.....

11th April 1905 The Blenheim School Committee commended to the Education Board the project of establishing "merit boards" in the schools, whereon the names of successful scholars could be recorded. At the meeting of the latter body yesterday M^r. White thought that the idea should be encouraged. Other members thought the matter should be left to private generosity. It was stated that Havelock and Renwicktown already possessed this means of emulation. The Chairman said he had heard those merit boards were out of favor in America now. Finally it was resolved to obtain from the Committee an estimate of cost of these boards, and further consider the question at next meeting.

11th April 1905 Mr. F. Nicoll, the newly appointed assistant master of the Blenheim Boys' School, took up his duties yesterday.

20th April 1905 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

REPORT OF BLENHEIM COMMITTEE.

The report to be presented to the annual meeting of householders by the outgoing Committee is as follows: — "Your Committee beg to report that during the past year 14 meetings have been held. The individual attendances. of members, were as follows: Messrs. E Penny (chair) 11, J. Brown 13 H.L. Jackson 7, J. J. White 14, S. M. Neville 10, W. Ching .12, O. Jordan 10, P. Birch 12, W. Pike 9, and W. H. Green 1. A vacancy occurred on the Committee during the year, Mr. Green leaving the district, and Mr. W. Pike, the first of the non-elected candidates at the householders' meeting, being appointed in his stead.

The Committee ended the year with a credit balance of £22 11s Id. The average Attendance at the Boys' School during the past year was considerably higher than in the previous year, but that at the Girls' School has slightly decreased.

An event which was of much importance to the Borough School, as to many other schools in the district, was the Marlborough Industrial Exhibition, opened on September 17th 1904. The value of the Exhibition to the interests of education was fully recognised by both the Committee and the teachers, and the heartiest cooperation was extended to the management of that enterprise. The pupils of the Blenheim Schools took the keenest interest in the various competitions in the juvenile department, sending forward a large number of entries and carrying off a creditable share of the prizes.

The distinction of winning the Marlborough M.H.R. medal for girls last year fell to Miss Olive Ching, of the Blenheim Girls' School.

Having carefully considered the question, the Committee recommended the Board in December to close the Redwoodtown Side School. The Board acquiescing, the school was not re-opened after the midsummer holidays.

In November the Committee were asked by the Education Board to consider the advisability of making permanent appointments in respect to the teaching staff in the Girls' School, and the outcome of that communication was the appointment of Miss Brewer permanently as head mistress in accordance with the Committee's recommendation. It must be understood that under the terms recently established H V the Board, all appointments are made as from year to year. Recently Mr. Wilmot resigned to take up the Headmastership of the Stoke School, and his good work as assistant master at the Boys' School was acknowledged by the Committee in appreciative terms.'

On the recommendation of the Committee the Board appointed Mr. Thomas A Nicoll of Woodville (Hawke's Bay) as successor to Mr. Wilmot.

Early in the year, the Blenheim Headmastership case, which at the time of the last meeting of householders was in the hands of the Court of Appeal, was decided by that tribunal, the judgment being in favor of the teacher, and stating that the boys' and girls' departments could be carried on separately. The annual examination on this occasion was conducted by Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A., who made his first appearance in the district as Inspector. The retirement of Mr. A. P. Seymour from the position of chairman of the Education Board was much regretted by the Committee, who would here like to place on record their sense of the valuable work done by that gentleman in the cause of education extending over more than a quarter of a century. The Committee contributed to his testimonial.

The committee note with satisfaction the active interest evinced by the Board in the subject of technical education, and trust that the efforts of that body will be accorded the warmest sympathy of the public of Marlborough."

26th April 1905 BLENHEIM BOROUGH.

The statutory annual meeting of householders of the Blenheim Borough Schools district was held in the school buildings last night, about thirty persons, of whom two or three were ladies, being present. Mr. E. H. Penny was voiced to the chair, and read the report and balance sheet for the expiring year. These showed that there was a credit balance of £22 14s 1d; and that the average attendance at the boys' school during the year had been considerably higher than in the previous year, while it had decreased slightly in the girls' school; reference was made to the prominent part taken by pupils of the Blenheim Schools in the Marlborough Exhibition competitions, and the creditable share of the prizes carried off;

The Committee expressed their regret at the retirement of Mr. A. P. Seymour from the Chairmanship of the Education Board, and appreciation of his lengthy service; and the active interest of the Board in the subject of technical education was noted with satisfaction. The report and balance sheet were adopted. –

The Chairman then read a circular received from the New Zealand Educational Institute, asking for an expression of opinion, in the terms of a resolution suggested, as to the urgent necessity for the establishment of a teachers' superannuation scheme, to be financed entirely

by the teachers. It was pointed out that a superannuation fund, by providing for the retirement of aged and infirm teachers and officials, would cause good men now in the profession to remain there, and tend to induce some of the best boys to become teachers, The necessity for this had been made evident by the difficulty that Education Boards have had, during the last twelve months, to secure suitable men and women for the vacancies that had occurred.—

Mr. J. J. White, in moving the following resolution, referred to the present evil existing in the difficulty of ridding many of the smaller schools of teachers whose best days were past, and whose retirement would be rendered more convenient by such a scheme as was proposed. The motion read: " That the householders of the Blenheim Borough School consider that, in the best interests of education, and as an act of justice to the rising generation, the establishment of a fund for the superannuation of aged and infirm teachers is an urgent necessity; and respectfully asks that the Government will, without delay introduce the legislation necessary to give effects to a scheme, established on a sound financial basis."— Mr. J T. Griffin seconded the resolution, which was carried on a show of hands by ten to six.

The taking of nominations for the nine Committee memberships was proceeded with, and the following were received :-V Birch, W, M Ching, E. H. Penny, W.O. Pike, W Jordan, J. J. White, J X- Vail, W. H Green, and J. T. Griffin The candidates not being, in excess of the vacancies, these gentlemen were declared duly elected. The new members are Messrs. Green, Vail, and Griffin Votes of thanks were then passed to Mr. W. Carr for the provision ,of lamps for the meeting ;,to the retiring Committeemen (Messrs. H. L. Jackson, . M. Neville, and J. Brown) and to the Chairman and the meeting concluded. The newly-elected Committee met subsequently and unanimously appointed Mr. Penny Chairman for the ensuing year.

3rd May 1905 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

All the members were present at the first meeting of the new Committee, held last evening, and Mr. E. H. Penny (Chairman) presided. The action of the Chairman in authorising the replacing of gas stoves in the Infants' department was approved.

The Headmaster's monthly report showed that the average attendance had been 239.5, the roll number being 297, and the percentage of attendances 82, or 2 per cent, higher than the statutory requirement. It might be better, said the report, but some parents just keep wit bin the law, and seldom send their children more than eight times.

The Headmistress's report gave the average attendance as 133.5, the roll number being 159.

Matters re class books for the assistant master, new bell-rope, docks, etc., were left in the hands of the Chairman.

After some discussion in regard to the piece of ground which is being fenced off near the Infant School for the purposes of a children's flower garden, during which it was pointed out that the soil would need pulverising before the children could work it, the opinions also being expressed that the area defined was-too large, and would probably take away from the adequacy of the senior girls' playground, it was resolved that the contractor be requested to stay his operations, and that the members of the Committee individually inspect the site; also that the Visiting Committee consult Miss Brewer, the Headmistress, in regard to the proposed area; the whole matter to be decided at next meeting. :

Mr. Birch was authorised to repair the senior school organ at a cost of £3 10s.—It was also resolved that Messrs. Birch and White be a sub-committee to purchase, at a cost not to exceed £5, another second-hand organ for the school, in order that the constant transferring from one department to the other shall be avoided. ,

In regard to school football matches, the Headmaster's suggestion that one day of the week be fixed for the purpose, the class work to cease at 3 p.m., but the hour thus lost to be made up earlier in the day, was adopted.

The Headmaster stated in his report that the medal for the best shot in the district had been won by Sergt. Logan, of No. 1 Company, School Cadets, and a suitable opportunity was

awaited for its presentation by the officer commanding the district.—The Committee resolved that a holiday be granted to the School on Empire Day (May 24th), and suggested that the medal be presented on that date.

Arrangements were made for the immediate supply of three tons of coal to the School.

The Visiting Committees for the next four months were paired by ballot, Messrs. Ching and Vail to act this month. .

24th May 1905 Among those who watched the Empire Day proceedings at the Borough Schools to-day was Mr. J. White, who was the first teacher of the first school in Blenheim. The site of that school was the ground on which the present infant department stands, and it is recorded that when there was a longer interval than usual in the communications with Wellington, and the supply of school requisites ran short, the children used to make penholders from the plentiful growth of docks on the playground. To-day the old gentleman, who is well on in the eighties, had the pleasure of seeing the children being addressed by his own son, who is a member of the Education Board and of the School Committee.

25th May 1905 The usual ceremony was carried out at the Borough Schools yesterday morning in observance of Empire Day.

The pupils were assembled, the Cadets parading on the roadway, and the girls and the infant department being gathered in front of the uniformed forces. There was a full attendance of both boys and girls, under the supervision of Mr. Sturrock (headmaster). Miss Brewer (head mistress) and Miss Brown (infant department.) The National Anthem was sung and the flag was duly saluted.

Addresses were delivered by Mr. E. H. Penny (Mayor and Chairman of School Committee), Inspector Strachan and Mr. J. J. White, and with these gentlemen were several members of the Committee.

Mr. Penny said that the Government of New Zealand would like the young people to understand the meaning of what they were doing that morning. The flag they were saluting represented the highest forms of liberty and freedom; and these were the underlying principles of the British Constitution. The speaker then briefly indicated the historical development; of these privileges, tracing them back to the time of King Alfred, remarking on their survival in the reigns of King John and King Charles, and describing how they were assisted by the upheaval of thought which marked the beginning of the last century. This was the flag for which their forefathers fought at Creasy, Blenheim, Waterloo, and Trafalgar; and it was this flag meaning what it did that the rising generation were asked to respect and train themselves to defend.

Mr. Penny then presented to Private W. J. Logan the silver medal won by him as the highest district scorer in the recent Government shooting; and to Privates Verry and Wanden the marksmen's badges they had gained in the same competitions.

Inspector Strachan, M.A., was asked by the Mayor to address the pupils. He described the flag as the symbol of what was best in our national inheritance, and as representative of civic freedom, humane sentiment, and evenhanded justice. In Russia, where disorder and misrule now prevailed, the people could not claim redress as a matter of right; in that country there was no well-ordered process of securing justice. Only the other day the people tried to reach the Czar as the ultimate court of appeal, and, though they went forward peaceably and without arms, they were shot down by the hundreds in the streets of St. Petersburg. No such thing occurred under the British Constitution. The freedom of the press was unknown in Russia; even if a man succeeded in getting into the newspapers a letter unfavorable to the authorities, it reached the people with a black mark smeared all over it. In Russia, and in other countries, too, the people were as chattels of the rulers; and they must not ask how their taxes were spent. In our own land the money collected from the people was spent on roads and bridges and in ameliorating the conditions under which we lived. In Russia such money

was—probably very often—converted to private uses. Then, the flag meant human sentiment. 'Not long ago the British Parliament voted twenty millions sterling for the emancipation of the slaves; and since then the nation had never shirked "the white man's burden."' The statesmanship of the present day carried with it ever-widening philanthropic obligations; and our legislators now escaped the idea of serving their personal ends and saw their duty in the work of improving the lot of the people. When he spoke of evenhanded justice as a quality of our Constitution, he meant that in the general sense, for, of course, an individual might occasionally have to struggle for some time to procure his vindication. Witness the desire to take restitution to Adolph Beck, the man who was wrongfully imprisoned. The Dreyfus case showed that even the judicial processes of France did not work so smoothly and effectively as those of England. The character of the Courts of Russia he had already indicated. In Germany a strong military element sometimes did injustice to the citizen. Nowhere was there meted out the same measure of justice as was accorded to the people of the British Empire. Whenever they saw the flag, they knew it to mean that they were united, not as the property of the King, so to speak, but as a people with the King as their nucleus—as the figure round which the national forces could concentrate when the occasion arose. He noticed that the motto on the medal presented to the best shootist among the Cadets was Defence not Defiance." This meant that they should endeavor to attain and maintain that strength which more surely secured peace and enabled them to advance the citizenship of the nation on solid foundations. There were plenty of human hawks who would take away from us what we possessed if we were not prepared to put up a good fight. We hoped that our strength would never be so challenged; but, if it were, the drill and preparations that the Cadets had undergone would greatly help them as men to do their duty. Who could say that some high call was not awaiting one or two or many of those in front of him? It might yet be that not once or twice in your Island story Death and duty shall read glory." The Mayor read a telegram from Mr. J. Duncan (Chairman of the Education Board) regretting his inability to attend. The telegram included congratulations to Private Logan, the winner of the district shooting medal, and trusted that his success would stimulate the spirit of emulation among all Marlborough cadets, and would be the forerunner of greater things for himself.

Mr. White, a member of the Education Board and the School Committee, briefly addressed the gathering. He asked the boys and girls to think over what had been said to them, and not allow the occasion to pass without strengthening in some degree their sense of the constitutional and Parliamentary privileges which were enjoyed under the British flag. He also laid stress on the wisdom of securing the stability of these principles by the encouragement of Empire Leagues, the volunteers and the cadets. In conclusion, he reminded them that May 24th was the birthday of the late Queen Victoria and he wished them a pleasant holiday.

Cheers were given for the flag and the King; and then followed cheering for Private Logan and for His Worship the Mayor. The children were then dispersed.

May 24. The Mayor addressed the school children on the occasion of Empire Day.

7th June 1905 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, there being present Messrs. B. H. Penny (Chairman) Pike, White, Jordan, Ching, Vail, Griffin, and Birch. The Headmaster's report showed that there were 295 children on the roll of the Boys' School, with an average attendance of 231.4 during the month. The Headmistress reported the roll number as 160, and the average attendance 132.7. The lower attendance in the Boys' department was attributed to the prevalence of scarlet fever.

A request was made that a gas stove be placed in the baby-room of the Infant School; and it was decided to put one in at once, the account to be sent to the Education Board, Mr. White to explain the matter to the Board. It was decided that the school clocks should in future be

placed in the sole charge of the caretaker. Several minor repairs were left to the Secretary to have seen to immediately; and a leakage in the roof was referred to the Board.

On the motion of Mr. Vail, it was resolved that the girls' playground be fenced off from the corner near the caretaker's cottage to the Infants' playground, with a gate into the latter, a portion of the ground to be dug up, Accounts amounting to £10 8s were passed for payment.

13th June 1905 An account for a gas stove ordered by the Blenheim Committee for the warming of the "baby room" in the Infant department was accepted by the Board; and authority was given for a number of minor repairs

5th July 1905 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night, and attended by Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Green, Pike, Birch, and Vail. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. White and Griffin, Messrs. Birch and White were re-appointed delegates to the Marlborough School Committees' Association. Mr. J. G. Bacon, dentist, wrote offering to inspect the teeth of the children attending the Borough Schools. The Secretary was instructed to obtain fuller particulars from Mr. Bacon. It was resolved that Mr. F. W. Adams's written report re the urgency of repairs to spouting, etc., on the school buildings be forwarded to the Education Board. Inspector Strachan reported on his visits to the Boys' and Girls' Schools, in both of which the attendances had been very poor. The tea china, however, was very satisfactory. With regard to suggested alterations in the timetable carried out in the Boys' school, it was resolved to ask Mr. Strachan if it was the Committee's function to instruct the Headmaster; and, if so, Mr. Sturrock to be notified accordingly. Messrs. Jordan and White were re-appointed Visiting Committee. Accounts amounting to £15 16s were passed for payment. The very moat is being made by the teachers attending the Winter School of Instruction being held at the Borough Schools. The several subjects opened were yesterday expanded by the various specialists, and their enthusiastic pupils—who, by the way, have come at their own expense from the remote reaches of the Sounds, and from as far as the Rai Valley and Kekerangu—were given a veritable "feast of reason." The Inspector General of Schools (Mr. Hogben) will give an address on Friday upon "Mathematical Geography." It is intended by the local teachers to entertain the visiting members of the profession at a social at the close of the school. Besides the ordinary sitting yesterday, two hours additional were put in during the evening

6th July 1905 The attendance of teachers at the Winter School, being held this week in the Borough School, numbers over ninety

11th July 1905 Mr. Hogben explained the position as regards the status of the Blenheim Borough Schools, the boys' and girls' departments of which would be treated as separate institutions. The Chairman then commended to Mr. Hogben's notice the Board's ambition to establish a Technical School in Blenheim, mentioning the fact that an application for £500 had been made to the Government. Mr. Hogben asked a number of questions with a view to ascertaining whether the Board wished to have one building in which instruction would be given to adults as well as to children, or whether the idea was to provide for classes (cooking, woodwork, etc.) for children only. The object of the Departmental correspondence with the Board was to find out the probable number of pupils and the exact nature of the accommodation that would be required. It was explained by members and the Inspector that the idea was to build a school on the Borough School ground and to provide for adults and children under the one roof and at the same time. Mr. Hogben said that provision of this character had been made at several places—Timaru, Waimate, Palmerston North, Temuka.

Mr. Hogben was Inspector General of Schools

9th August 1905 Blenheim School Committee held the monthly meeting last evening. There were present:—Messrs. Penny (chairman), Birch, Jordan, White, Ching, Griffin and Green. The report of the Headmaster showed that the average attendance at the Boys' School had been 231 as against a roll number of 296. The Headmistress reported an average of 131.1 and

a roll number of 161. The Visiting Committee reported satisfactory conditions. Various small repairs were arranged for, and accounts amounting to £18 were passed for payment

6th September 1905 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was attended last evening by Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman), Green, White, Vail, Griffin, Ching, Pike, and Jordan. The Headmaster reported that the average attendance for the month of August was 242, the roll number being 298. The figures supplied by the Head Mistress were 137.9 and 167. Sickness in varying forms was mentioned as the cause of the rather poor attendance. The Headmaster thanked the Committee for granting the use of the ground for the purpose of the children's gardens, and stated that great interest was being taken in the plots. In this connection the report of the Visiting Committee concurred. Mr. Sturrock reported that the whole of the staff of the Boys' School had passed the examination in first aid in connection with St John ambulance. Miss Brewer stated that the modulator previously asked for was not to hand; and the "Chairman was authorised to attend to the matter. Mr. J. G. Bacon further wrote in regard to his proposed examination of the children's teeth. He proposed giving each child a card marked in a way to indicate the state of its teeth, with explanatory remarks. Parents would be under no obligation to him. On the motion of Mr. Griffin, the offer was approved, any further arrangements to be made with the teachers in charge. Accounts having been passed, and the Visiting Committee's report received, the meeting adjourned.

4th October 1905 EXAMINATION IN BLENHEIM SCHOOLS. The following report was received by the Blenheim School Committee last night from, Mr. J. G. Bacon, dentist:—"As instructed by your Committee, I examined the teeth of the children attending the Blenheim Schools, and herewith forward my report. „ BOYS." Examined about 150 from 1st to 7th Standard, and found that out of those examined only 28 had sound teeth, the remaining 122 having an average of four, decayed teeth.

GIRLS. "Examined about 160 girls from 1st to 7th Standards, and out of these 23 had sound teeth, whilst the remainder had an average of four decayed.

INFANTS. "Examined about 30 infants. Out of these 15 had sound teeth and the other 15 had an average of two decayed permanent teeth. "The cause of so many decayed teeth I attribute to (1) defective development, (2) irregularity, (3) want of cleanliness. The children should be made to use a tooth brush after every meal, and more particularly before going to bed. They should also be made to brush the gums well, and even if bleeding ensues and sore spots arise, still the persistent brushing will harden the gums, and in a short time cure the sore spots.- If you should require my services at any future, time, kindly let me know, and I will assist your Committee all in my, power. A member hoped that the Committee would not have to supply the children with false teeth. (Laughter). The Chairman explained that in such cases it was the practice for the examining dentist to give charts to the children, so that the parents might be informed as to the young people's teeth; and the parents could choose their own dentist if they decided to have the defective teeth attended to. Of course the patients would have to make their own terms with the dentist. Mr. Birch hoped that the charts and Mr. Bacon's report to the Committee would arouse the parents to the necessity of having their children's teeth seen to. The trouble was to get the youngsters to go to the dentists. The Chairman said it was an ordeal that adults, too, very often shirked. But the sooner the teeth were seen to the more suffering would be prevented. Reference was made to a new anesthetic, which was said to have lessened the unpleasantness of the dentist's chair. Other members joined in the hope that the investigation would attract the attention of parents and would be acted on. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon

4th October 1905 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. There were present: — Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Birch, White, Griffin, Vail, Green, Ching, Pike, Jordan. , The Headmaster reported that the average attendance, at the Boys School during the

month was 235.2, the roll number being 304. Colds, croup, and other ailments had affected the average. The details of the attendance in the Standards were: Infants, 103 on roll, 68 average; S. I., 58 and 46; S. II., 36 and 29; S. III., 34 and 27.6; S. IV., 30 and 26.3; S. V., 27 and 24.1; S. VI., 16 and 14.2. The school examinations had been fixed for the 30th inst. The Headmistress reported that the average attendance at the Girls School during the month was 133.5, the roll number being 157. The details were: S. II., 32 roll number, average 25.3; S. III., 35 and 31.2; S. IV., 28 and 24.6; S. V., 26 and 21.1; S. VI., 23 and 20.2; S. VII., 13 and 11.1. The average attendance for September quarter was 135.12, a great improvement upon preceding quarters. The annual examination by Inspector Strachan was to take place on October 26. Messrs. Vail and the Chairman, as Visiting Committee, made a report. With regard to the garden plots being tended by the children, the former suggested that appearances would be improved if the centre portion of the ground were made into a lawn instead of being planted. Some of the plots were looked after excellently. It was resolved to ask the Board to erect a new fence between the gardens and the playground: and it was decided to supply the children with some hoes and rakes to encourage their care of the plots. Mr. Vail said that a number of parents approached him with representations that the children's dinner time had been curtailed, and he asked that the facts be ascertained. Other members agreed that, for the sake of the children's health, the full time should be allowed; but thought that this had been done as a general thing and that Mr. Vail must have been wrongly informed.—The Chairman undertook to see into the matter. Accounts were passed for payment. Messrs. Green and Birch were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

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 see 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.....

20th October 1905 CEREMONY AT THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The persistently wet weather militated somewhat against the success of the ceremony of saluting the flag at the Borough Schools, in commemoration of the Battle of Trafalgar, at noon to-day. However, the school children were present in considerable force, and there was a good muster of the senior and junior cadets. The parade, under the command of Mr. Sturrock, having been drawn up in front of the school, the Royal salute was performed, the National Anthem being sung by the children. The Chairman of the School Committee (Mr. E. H. Penny) then addressed the assemblage. Having explained the significance of the Centenary, he proceeded to picture the state of Europe one hundred years ago. It was the arena of many battles, and the great military genius, Napoleon, seemed to be bent upon striking a blow at England. Now, every country and every movement needed a leader, and at that time there proved to be three great military leaders in the world—Napoleon, were honoring to-day—Nelson, the Wellington, and the man whom they greatest admiral ever known. He then described the victory of Trafalgar, which, however, meant the loss of Nelson.

That great sea-king had accomplished what he did by early learning to do his duty; and they all were familiar with his signal to the fleet, which would always be one of those phrases which stir the blood of everyone of English descent. To-day their relations with the French were very different, and a fortnight ago the officers of the French fleet foregathered with those of the British Navy at Westminster. Peace had its glorious victories, and it was good to pray that the present entente between Britain and France should long continue. Now, it was a great thing that Nelson did: certainly the Victory of Trafalgar changed the whole course of history, and enabled England to become the great naval Power she is today. As Shakespeare had it: If England to herself were-true, there was nought could make her rue; and the fears of alien immigration, the Yellow peril, and foreign competition would never trouble her. Mr. Penny then called for three cheers for Nelson, and three more for "our friends the French," which were heartily given. Mr. McCallum, as senior member of the Education Board, next addressed the children. He said he had not prepared an address, but would take his usual character, and criticise. First of all, as to the saluting of the flag. A teacher in the North had resigned from the service because he was compelled to salute the flag. This custom was wrong, because the flag was only an emblem of noble deeds. — There was no harm, however, in saluting that which the flag represented; and he was sure the boys and girls would not act like that teacher. Then as to the wisdom of holding the celebration at all. They were at present good friends with the French people, and should not be there doing that. The general celebrations of Trafalgar would have the effect of causing bad feeling. They should endeavor to bury those feelings. They should not adopt the jingoistic spirit which was such a feature of the British race. They were too fond of singing "Sons of the Seas" etc. They should rather go on civilising Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, And the battle-flags were furled In the parliament of man, The federation of the world. Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers, And I linger on the shore, Arid the individual withers, And the world is more and more. — Tennyson. Now, it was not so much the individual race they wanted to support, so much as the race as a whole. The children should obey their teachers, and it was in this way they would lay the foundations of their country. Mr. Strachan (Inspector of Schools) said the occasion had his entire sympathy. They made too little of history in their schools; and he thought they should emphasise the connection between the colonies and Great Britain, When a man was born of a noble house he was not afraid to mention his father simply because of the hard knocks he had given his competitors in the battle of life. They were met there in no spirit of antagonism to the French. The flag was one that stood for freedom, and the best objects that men strove for. The fact that they were there to-day was simply an accident. The Battle of Trafalgar was one of the way-posts in the course of British history. They saw in Nelson the centre round which all our navy's deeds gathered. From the early naval deeds of Hengist and Horsa, down to the days of the Spanish Armada, and to our own time there had been naval heroes, and the British navy had frequently proved its ability to hold its own against the world. But Trafalgar seemed to summon up the best traditions of the nation—perhaps because of the noble signal to the sailors "England expects every man to do his duty." He had been lately reviewing some essays on the navy, written at the instance of the Navy League, and he was pleased to see what a good work that League was doing amongst the children. It was their duty to see that the sailors, when they went forward to fight our battles, were well armed. The day of testing would surely come; they must not forget the lessons of history. Other people's history could also teach them something. For two thousand years Carthage had been nothing but a name and a tradition, yet, before Rome defeated her, she was the greatest commercial nation in the world. Great Britain was now the greatest commercial nation, and they must see^ that they were well armed and ready. They were also bearing the "white man's burden," and enabling people to work out their lives in peace. The Chairman of the Committee then re-addressed the children, saying that, owing to the nearness

of the examinations, only half a day's holiday could be given. Three cheers were then given for the King; the gathering was photographed; and the proceedings ended

13th November 1905

Mr. T. Nicoll, first assistant of Blenheim Boys, wrote asking to be paid as teacher in separate, instead of mixed school—viz., £185, instead of £155. The salary was quite out of proportion to the work. It was pointed out that the salaries were paid according to scale, and the alteration of one salary would involve a change of the status of the school, which was a Departmental matter. Inspector Strachan referred to the schedule of salaries provided for by the Amending Bill passed last session, and • said that at a first glance it' would compel the Board to completely amalgamate the schools. No salary was provided for a separate girls' unless the attendance was over £200. The new legislation would come into force in January nest. It had only just come to hand, and he had not yet had time to ascertain its effect locally. The whole question was deferred till next meeting. RE-APPOINTMENTS. Under the system of annual appointments of teachers, the Board

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 neighborhood, 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 Redwoodtown side-school was not a very successful experiment.

The Inspector's recommendation was adopted, and steps were authorised to carry it into effect.

15th 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 neighborhood, 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 Redwoodtown side-school was not a very successful experiment.

The Inspector's recommendation was adopted, and steps were authorised to carry it into effect.

18th November 1905 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

THE ANNUAL INSPECTION,

At the last meeting of the Blenheim School Committee Inspector Strachan reported upon his annual examination of the Blenheim Boys' School, visited October 30, as follows:—Average age: Standard 6 (fifteen present), 13yr 8m; Standard 2 (thirty-six present), 9yr 10m; lowest division of Infants' School (twenty-six present), 6yr. Organisation: Satisfactory. Certificates of proficiency granted in Standard 6, 6; certificates of competency, 3; average age of recipients, 13yr 6m. Compulsory subjects; Reading, good (improved); composition, fair to satisfactory (Standard 1 excellent); writing, marked general improvement, most noticeable in Standard 5; spelling, satisfactory (Standard 4 excellent, Standard 3 good, Standard 2 good to excellent); recitation, excellent, much improvement, shown; arithmetic, fair to satisfactory; drawing, good; singing, good to excellent; physical instruction, good to excellent (upper division military, lower division wands); geography, good ('Standard 6 much improved); history, Standards 4 and 3 excellent. Additional subjects: Some attention has been paid to gardening (infants) and seed germination, and the girls appear to take much interest in their plots; ambulance, fair to satisfactory; brush drawing and plasticine modelling, satisfactory to good; needlework (infants), Good Order, discipline, and tone: Satisfactory. Efficiency of school, etc., Satisfactory to good (improving most evident in Standards 5, 4 and 2). Total on roll, 294 (65 girls); total presented, 285. The teachers were: D. A. Sturrock, headmaster, Standards 5 and 6; F. Nicoll, assistant, Standards 3 and 4; Miss Harris, Standard 2; Miss O'Brien, Standard 1; Miss Brown, infant mistress, and Miss Macey, Class P The report upon the Girls' School was as follows:—Average age: Standard 6 (twenty-two present), 13yr 9m ; Standard 2 (twenty-nine present), 9yr sm. Organisation: Satisfactory. Certificates of proficiency in Standard 6, 18; average age of recipients, 13yr 9m. Compulsory subjects: Reading, good to excellent ' (Standard 3 excellent); composition, satisfactory (Standard 2, oral composition good); writing, good to excellent, marked general improvement ; spelling, good to excellent—the school may ho described as "strong" in this subject recitation, excellent; arithmetic, satisfactory ,Standards 4 and 3 good to excellent; drawing, excellent (improved); singing, excellent (of high merit); physical instruction, good to very good, improved (dumbbell and wand); geography., satisfactory (Standard 7 good); history, fair (Standard 8); moral instruction and health, both appear to be well attended to. Additional subjects: Weather and temperature charts are kept; brush work very good (designing), Standard 2 plasticine very good; needlework, good to excellent (samples of darning taken); physiology, good. Older, discipline and tone: Excellent. Efficiency of the school, etc.: Good. Advancement is shown in handwork, nature study, and writing; in other directions the .high standard of last year is well maintained. Total on roll 157; total presented, 149. Teachers: Miss Brewer, headmistress (Standards 7, 6 and 5); Miss E. "Wanden, Standard 4; Miss A. Morcom (pupil teacher), Standard 3; Miss G. Garnham (pupil teacher), Standard 2.

8th December 1905 The Blenheim School Committee last night received from the headmaster of the Blenheim Boys' School (Mr. Sturrock) and head mistress of the Girls' School (Miss Brewer) the detailed results of the Inspector's annual examination of the Sixth Standards. In the boys' department, two lads received Inspector Strachan's remark " good," and these were Owen Mead, aged 13yr 9m., proficiency certificate; and Max Gandar, 12yr. 7m., proficiency certificate. The .proficiency card was also gained by Sydney Brewer, 13yr. 2m.; Jack Hilliard, 13yr. Bm.; Frank Parker, 13yr. 10m.; and Hampton Lord, 13yr. Competency certificates were taken by Horace Dames, Gordon Harding, and Leo Horton. In the Girls' School. (Standard VI.) the remark "excellent" appeared opposite the names of Gertrude Mogridge, 13yr. 9m., and Irene Terrill, 13yr. 10m. ; and "good" opposite Ivy Browne, 10 years; Muriel Farmar, 13yr. 5m.; Kathleen Litchfield, 13yr.; Martha McCallum, 13yr. 1m.; and Nora Sanders, 14yr. 2m. The foregoing gained proficiency certificates, as well as Joe

Clouston, Cicely Foley, Mona Horton, Effie Jackson, Mona Litchfield, Emily Lucas, Dora-Nairn, Vera Nairn, Nellie Penny, Lily Radd, Nora Sowman, and May McKenzie.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, there being present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, Green, White, Ching, Pike, Vaile, and Jordan. The headmaster reported that the average attendance at the Boys! School for November was 227.8, the number of the roll being 274. He recommended that the holidays commence on Friday, 15th, and that the school re-open at the end of January. The recommendation was adopted; six weeks to be allowed; the schools to resume on Monday, 29th January, 1906. The headmistress reported the average attendance, for November was 135, the roll number being 165.

Mr. Birch was authorised to carry out necessary minor works recommended by the Visiting Committee; and Messrs. Birch and Pike were deputed to consider the question of seating accommodation in the Infant School, and report to the Board direct. Messrs. Jordan and White were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. '

11th December 1905 Inspector Strachan reported to the Education Board this morning that he had recommended the Hon. (. H. Mills to present the M.H.R. medals for 1905 to Irene Terrill and Max Gander, of the Blenheim Schools, as gaining the highest awards in the sixth standard.

15th December 1905 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CADETS.

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 re : 'presented. 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 manoeuvres. 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 dispatched 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. 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

1906

1906	365	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 300.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Brewer	Lottie M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 205.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Gifford	James R A	Licensed	Assistant Master	£ 135.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 135.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Harris	Annie M	E2	Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Morcom	Annie E		FPT3	£ 55.00
1906	365	Blenheim	Garnham	Grace		FP3	£ 55.00

3rd January 1906 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, there being present: Messrs. E T. Penny (Chairman), Jordan, White, Pike, "and Ching. The Education Board notified the granting of £10 for alterations to the gallery in tin Infants' School. This matter was left in the hands of the Chairman-and Mr. Pike, with power to act, the expense not to -exceed £10. Messrs. Jordan and White were appointed Visiting-" Committee for the ensuing month. Minor accounts were passed for payment, and the meeting adjourned.

7th February 1906 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was-held last evening, there being present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, Jordan, Pike, Griffin, Clung, Green, and White. Mr. Vail was granted leave of absence. The Headmaster's roll showed an average attendance of 195.6, the roll number being 284; and the Head Mistress's roll 115, the roll containing 155 names. Miss Eraser was recommended for appointment to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss O'Brien, as pupil teacher in the Boys' School, subject to enquiries. It was resolved to supply the infants with three" spades, and to 'forward to the Education Board for attention the reports of the head teachers re leaks in roof.'" It was resolved that in future the Chairman do not close the schools without the concurrence of the Committee.' Upon the report of the Visiting Committee,-it was resolved that Mr. Ching get the grounds thoroughly cleaned up, and that Mr. Birch be instructed to finish the desks on gallery in Infant School, in accordance with Miss Brown's ideas; also that the Education Board, be asked to erect new conveniences in the girls' grounds. Mr. Birch reported that an organ could be obtained for £5, the amount specified by the Committee. Messrs. Birch and Griffin were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts were passed for payment, and 'the meeting adjourned.

7th March 1906 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. There were Present: Messrs. White, Jordan, Pike, Griffin, Birch, Green, and Ching. In the absence of Mr. E. H. Penny, Mr. White was voted to the chair. Mr. Vail was granted leave of absence.

The Secretary of the Education Board wrote " stating that the Board had agreed to pay one-half of Bythell's account for fencing the Infant School garden ; that the contractor for the spouting repairs would be instructed to attend to the leaks in the roof; and that the Board had resolved to erect new closets at the Girls' School, in brick, tenders to be in by next meeting of the Board.—It was resolved to ask the Board to have the work done- at once, and built in brick. , The Headmaster (Mr. Sturrock) reported that the number of scholars on the roll in the boys' division was 282, and the average attendance for February had been 223.4.

The Headmistress (Miss Brewer) reported the average attendance as 125.1, the number on the roll being 154. The quarterly examination, held last week, had yielded satisfactory results. '

A discussion as to the lowness of the average attendance took place, and Mr. Birch moved that, as the average of the Borough Schools for some time past had been about 20 per cent, below the number on the roll, the Education Board be requested to call the attention of their Truant Officer to the fact. —Seconded by Mr. Green, and carried.

The Education Board notified that the appointment of an auditor or the School Committee's accounts would be made at its next meeting, and invited the Committee to nominate its own auditor.—Mr. J. Hutcheson was appointed.

In respect to a letter from the Education Board, submitting all the applications for pupil teacherships, it was stated that the matter had been dealt with, Miss Fraser having been appointed at the last meeting. Mr. Griffin, on behalf of the Visiting Committee, reported that everything in both departments of the school was in good order, and the attendance was most

pleasing. He referred with warm appreciation to the excellent appearance of the children in all classes, the uniformly well-dressed and cleanly character of the scholars being very impressive. The grounds had been cleaned up, and were in good order and the infant department required a new fence.—Mr. Birch endorsed Mr. Griffin's observations. Mr. Ching was authorised to have the macrocarpa hedge trimmed. Messrs. Penny and Pike were appointed Visiting Committee for March. Accounts amounting to £2 1s were passed for payment

12th March 1906 THE BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

At the meeting of the Education Board to-day the question of amalgamating the Boys' and Girls' Departments of the Blenheim School was discussed. A communication from the Education Department insisted that the school must be a mixed one, and salaries would be paid only on that basis. The Board's Executive recommended that all the members of the teaching staff be asked to send in their resignations to clear the way for the necessary re-adjustments. This recommendation however was not adopted; a resolution being passed that the Board hold a special meeting on Monday next to discuss the whole question.

13th March 1906 THE BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

AMALGAMATION QUESTION

At the monthly meeting of the Marlborough Education Board yesterday, all the members except Mr. Fell being present, the question of converting the Blenheim Boys' and Blenheim Girls' separate schools into a combined school was brought forcibly before members by the receipt of the following memo, from the Secretary of , the Education Department: — " With reference to your return No. 1 of teachers' salaries for 1906 I have to point out that the salaries set down for the Blenheim Girls' School are those, prescribed in the schedule to " The Education Act Amendment Act, 1905," for a "mixed school" of grade 10. A "mixed school" is-defined as a school to which all boys and girls of school age are admitted. I have to ask therefore whether the school is in fact a "mixed school." The salaries cannot be paid under part 1 unless it is a "mixed school." Moreover, it cannot come under part II as a "separate school," as it has less than 200 children in average attendance. The Department would be glad to have an early reply stating exactly what the position is. If it is a mixed school would it not be advisable to change the name, which is somewhat misleading? The same remark applies to the Blenheim Boys' School. E. O. Gibbs, Secretary. —

The Board's Executive, which had considered the communication, recommended that, in view of the provisions of the Act, all the teachers of both schools be requested to send in their resignations.

The Inspector (Mr. Strachan) said he thought the Board was compelled to comply with the Act. He had spoken with Mr. Hogben, Inspector General, upon the matter, and he had expressed a similar opinion. The Board was compelled to make some alteration, at any rate. Neither school was at present a "separate" school under the Act, because the average attendance in each case, was too low; nor yet was it, legally a "mixed" school, because of the separate staffs. There were no salaries provided for any other sort of schools, and unless the Board took action no remuneration would be forthcoming to the teachers for their services. For the past two months only, the courtesy of the Minister had been responsible for the forwarding of the salaries; but it now appeared that that consideration was to be withdrawn. In fact, the Inspector-General had plainly indicated his opinion that the Board should have dealt with the matter long ago. His only suggestion was that the teachers be asked to resign.

Mr. White asked whether the teachers were by statute required to resign.

The Inspector said the position would be simply that there were no salaries for them—except, perhaps, payments were continued per the courtesy of the Minister.

Mr. White said that the voluntary resignation of teachers would clear the way very considerably; but it was hardly right to expect teachers who had gained positions, and now

held them by virtue of the law would be likely to give them up merely to convenience the Board. The Inspector said the Board was in the position of being compelled to make a new start, as salaries were suspended until they did so. He also pointed out that the Infant School was also "under the ban" according to the new statute, as it included pupils other than boys.

Mr. Ferguson asked whether the Board could, if it took the whole of the girls and the whole of the boys, including those in the Infant Department, they could have a separate boys' school. The fact was that parents were very much against the mixing of the schools.

The Inspector said that even this recourse would not provide nearly enough boys for a separate school. Besides, the Act said distinctly that infants below the Standard I. age should not be admitted as scholars at a "separate" school.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Smith) produced the attendance averages for the past year. The average over the whole of the three departments last year had been 370. The Inspector showed that the December, 1905, roll numbers of boys and girls in the three departments were 226 and 246 respectively. The average attendance, on which the schools were staffed was only 80 and 81 per cent of these figures, so that one-fifth had to come off. The total necessary for a separate school was 200.

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.

The Department's memo, was referred to the Board's solicitor.

Mr. Ferguson and other members stated that it had been Mr. Hogben's opinion that teachers in a district could be transferred to any other position within such district, without regard to comparative salary. Mr. White: Mr. Hogben makes the jaw, but he does not interpret it.

Mr. Litchfield said it was wrong to drift into the assumption that the teachers would not resign. Also, legal conditions were probably a good deal different to what they were at the time of the Appeal Court case, and he was not sure that they could not now dismiss their teachers.

The Inspector said it was his personal opinion that the legal conditions were now different.

Mr. Litchfield, referring to the obtaining of legal advice prior to the special meeting, said he thought leading counsel should be consulted. There was no doubt the Board had been led astray by trusting to local opinions in the past. The resolution re legal advice was modified to provide that the local solicitor secure the best opinion available.

19th March 1906 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

THE AMALGAMATION QUESTION

A special meeting of the Marlborough Education Board, called for the purpose of dealing with the question of amalgamating the Blenheim Borough Schools, was held this morning. There were present: Messrs. J. Duncan (Chairman), White, McCallum, Ferguson, Chaytor, Parker, and Fell. The question was discussed from all points,

Mr. White starting the ball rolling by enquiring as to the circular which had been sent to the teachers practically asking them to resign. No instruction was given, that he was aware of, for such a circular at the last meeting of the Board.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Smith) read the circular which Inspector Strachan had asked him to send to the teachers. The Chairman said he was surprised. He had not understood that any such action was to be taken. The whole matter was to be left to the special meeting. The action in sending the circular was not right.

The Inspector said he thought the Board's discussion amounted to a decision in that direction. The Secretary stated that the teachers had, with one consent, declined to resign.

Several of the members: "Quite right."

Mr. Fell thought they would be foolish to place themselves unconditionally in the hands of the Board.

Mr. Chaytor said the circular was harmless, and it was just as well the Board was cognisant of the teachers' attitude. They now knew where they were. He thought they should get the opinion of their legal adviser, and then ask the Chairman of the Blenheim School Committee to confer with the Board in the matter. Mr. White said he certainly went away from the previous meeting with the understanding that all was to be left to the special meeting. He thought it was not a question for lawyers, but for a little common sense. Two of the teachers were under year-to-year engagements, and would shortly be in the hands of the Board; and as to Mr. Sturrock, it had been the opinion of the Court of Appeal that he should be placed at the head of the amalgamated school. He could see no reason for any argument at all; the positions should be arranged according to salaries. It should be done to-day. Mr. White asked whether the schools were not now "mixed;" schools under the Act. The Chairman said that other members had not the grasp of the matter that Mr. White evidently had, and it was deemed advisable to have a legal opinion, and that was the reason for their attendance to-day. It seemed clear to him that the schools were mixed ones under the Act, as they both came under the required number of pupils. The Committee could, however, still keep the boys and girls separate." - Mr. Rogers, the Board's solicitor, who had been sent for, then gave an outline of the questions which, he had forwarded to Mr. Skerrett, of Wellington, for an opinion, in accordance with the Board's instruction. These were: (1) Was there any way open to the Board other than that of amalgamation? (2) If not, what was the legal position of the Board towards the teachers? (3) Would it be competent for the Board to transfer a teacher to any other school in the district, despite the lower salary paid for such position? There had not been time for a reply from Mr. Skerrett. At the invitation of the Board, Mr. Rogers gave his own answers, as follows :—(1) Amalgamation must be brought about; (2) the existing appointments of teachers terminated under the new Act; therefore (3) transfer was unnecessary.' Mr. Chaytor said it seemed a drastic thing for Parliament to terminate teachers' appointments by a new Act. Mr. Rogers said they had a remedy; they could petition. Mr. McCallum—That is the remedy which criminals have to resort to.

Members expressed the opinion that the necessity of amalgamation was evident.

Mr. Fell asked why the Board could not leave the schools separate, and merely pay the salaries as for a mixed school.

The Inspector pointed out that it would be a matter of teaching efficiency. He also gave the opinion that the head teacher should have the right to dispose of all the teachers as he wished. Mr. Fell said he thought they were making much of a little. It was simply a matter of altering the salaries. The Board had tried to remove the head teacher some years ago, and he was sorry it had not succeeded. However, that was past and gone, and he was not now going to allow that matter to influence his mind. There had certainly been an improvement in the teaching since that time, and he was sure it had done good. He thought there should be no need to consider the question whether or not the teachers' positions had lapsed. Let them go to the teachers and ask them to give up the old positions and take the new ones.

Mr. McCallum said he should have liked to have approached the matter in the off-handed manner of Mr. Fell ; but he pointed out that the following out of his suggestion would lead them into the position of asking the teachers, to accept new positions with a year-to-year tenure. He did not think Mr. Sturrock would be likely to accept a year-to-year appointment, on the principle suggested by Mr. Justice Williams. If Mr. Sturrock would so accept, then the speaker was with Mr. Fell. He thought also that they should be jealous for the standard of

education in the district. The Board had spent something like £200 on lawyers and they had got an improvement, but there was room for a further advance. Let them ask their Inspector, and he would tell them that Miss Brewer was the better teacher, and was entitled to the better position. He himself was not personally antagonistic to Mr. Sturrock, but he was personally antagonistic to wrong methods, and they should get rid of these and not care twopence for Mr. Sturrock's or anyone else's opinion. He did not want to raise an acrimonious discussion, and if the majority thought it was wise to displace Miss Brewer and put her down, let it be tried for twelve months. If Mr. Sturrock would take a year-to-year position, he thought he would be a better teacher on such a tenure. If the Committee were prepared to appoint Mr. Sturrock, he was prepared to abide by that body. Mr. Chaytor asked whether the Board was prepared to have a lady for a head teacher.

The Inspector said he saw no reason why sex should be considered in the matter. As to the respective "rights" of the present heads of both schools, they were equal. However, if a choice must be made, it might be pointed out that for the last two years the girls' school had been classed as "good," whereas the boys' school had been "satisfactory," in important subjects. However, he considered that Mr. Sturrock was capable of doing the work if he would give his mind to it. Certainly the school had improved considerably. The question was, would he go on improving at the same rate?

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Strachan said both head teachers held D 2 certificates.

Mr. Ferguson asked whether it would not be better to leave the question to the new Board.

Mr. McCallum—No; we have more sense than the new Board, I don't care who they are. We all know the circumstances.

Mr. Ferguson said merit should be rewarded in all cases.

Mr. White said he understood that Miss Brewer had more assistants than Mr. Sturrock, with fewer scholars. The Inspector said the numbers of pupils last year were 163 in the boys' school, and 161 in the girls', and the staffing was similar, with the exception that Miss Brewer had two pupil teachers in place of Mr. Sturrock's one qualified teacher for the lower standards, which really meant the same thing.

Subsequently, the Inspector stated that if he were asked which teacher to give the head position to, he would say Mr. Sturrock, as he was a man, and gave good results in singing, drill, etc.

Mr. Ferguson said he was going to vote against Mr. Sturrock. He thought the whole Act had been made to suit the teachers, it was a pity to bring up the old question, but he felt it his duty to oppose the appointment of Mr. Sturrock. On the suggestion of Mr. Chaytor it was decided to adjourn until two o'clock, with the object of holding at that hour, a joint conference with the Blenheim School Committee.

20th March 1906 BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

AMALGAMATION QUESTION

CONFERENCE BETWEEN BOARD AND COMMITTEE

At the Education Board's office yesterday afternoon the members of the Board and the Blenheim School Committee met in conference to further consider the question of the amalgamation of the Blenheim Boys' and Girls' Schools, as required by the Act of 1905. The Board was represented by Messrs. J. Duncan (Chairman), Ferguson, McCallum, Chaytor, White, Fell, and Parker. The members of the Committee present were :— Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, White, Jordan, Vail, Green, and Pike. The Chairman of the Board explained the attitude into which the Board had discussed itself at the morning meeting. It was now desired that the Committee should state its attitude. Messrs. McCallum and Fell also addressed the Committeemen. The latter showed that the proposed disposition of the teachers would make their salaries, as compared with those now being paid, as follows:— Now Hereafter Mr. Sturrock £265 £300 Miss Brewer £235 £205 Mr. Nicol £160 £135 Miss Brown

£120 £135 Miss Wanden ... £110 £110 Miss Harris £105 £90 Mr. Fell then moved, "That the following teachers be appointed to the new mixed Blenheim School for one year, to the new positions:—Head teacher, Mr. Sturrock; first assistant, Miss Brewer; second assistant, Mr. Nicol; third assistant, Miss Brown; fourth assistant, Miss Wanden; fifth, Miss Harris. These appointees to be paid according to the schedules in the Education Act,- subject to proviso 582 of Section 11, of the 1906 Amendment Act." Mr. E. H. Penny (Chairman of the Committee) said the Committee had had no opportunity of discussing the matter together, but, from his own opinion, he thought the proposed action was the most reasonable way out of practically an impasse. He, of course, along with the Committee, felt sorry that Miss Brewer should sustain a drop in salary after the good work she had done. The Chairman referred to clause 11 of the Education Act, 1905, subsection 2, which provided that any teacher whose salary would: be reduced under the new Act should not, so long as in the occupancy of that position, receive a lower salary. The same would, of course, apply to Mr. Nicol. Mr. Penny said that that clause, if, rightly interpreted, was a wise provision.

Mr. W. Green pointed out that if the sexes were kept separate there would be a waste of teaching talent. Had not the head teacher the authority to mix the sexes to do this?

The Chairman and Inspector gave the opinion, from the Act, that, provided both Board and Committee were of one mind about the conduct of the school, the teacher must conform. Of course, where the teacher had the complete confidence of the Board and Committee in every respect, there would be considerable latitude allowed.

Members of the Board referred to the case, in Picton, where the head teacher had disposed his staff as he liked, despite Board and Committee. Mr. McCallum said his own opinion was that the sexes should be gathered in the same class-room, for there was thus a swing a labor. But he had always deferred to the wishes of the householders, and it was the Board's intention to keep the sexes separate.

Mr. Penny said many householders had stopped him in the street and declared their antagonism to the mixing of sexes.

Mr. Vail said he thought it would be most unfair to any headmaster to circumscribe his duties. If he was to be headmaster he' should have authority. He contended that they should work according to the Act, without respect to persons. .

Mr. Fell pointed out that the arrangement of the sexes was to be left to the Committee.

Mr. Penny thought it was useless trying to work within the four corners of an Act which must be a riddle even to those who made it. In the meantime, the resolution of Mr. Fell appeared to be a wise attempt to solve the problem along the line of least resistance.

Mr. White said he supported the resolution. They had never heard of any officiousness on the part of Mr. Sturrock in connection with the Infant School, and there would not be likely to be anything of that nature in regard to the. girls' department. The idea of some of the Committee members that the positions should be declared vacant, arid fresh applications called, was inadvisable. The Chairman of the School Committee moved a resolution of the Committee expressing satisfaction with the Board s attempted solution. They were sorry to see teachers such as .Miss Brewer and Mr. Nicol suffer decreases in salary; while it was pleasing to see the prospect of an increase; for' Miss Brown, whose work in the infants' department was an example to the whole province. "

The motion of the Committee was carried unanimously. Mr. Green said he took it that the teacher would be controlled less by the Board and Committee than by the Act. The statute, distinctly said that the headmaster should have charge of the school. Mr. Jordan moved that the Committee request the Board to retain the existing system of separate teaching. Mr. White seconded the motion', which was carried, Mr. Green dissenting. The Committee then withdrew. The Inspector pointed out that Miss Brewer was, not really suffering a drop in salary by the proposal. The salary got during all last year by Miss Brewer was £175, and this

would now be £205. He explained that the higher figures had been arrived at from the Secretary's action in trying to get the higher scale as for "separate" schools as from 1st January last. In reality, all the teachers except Mr. Nicol, would get increases. He went on to state that, comparing the proposed allocation with that of last year, the salaries would be paid as follows— „ „ 1905 1906 Mr. Sturrock £260 £300 Miss Brewer £175 £205 Mr. Nicol ... £155 £135 Miss .Brown £115 £135 Mm Wanden £105 £110 Miss Hams £80 £90 The Secretary explained that he had warned the teachers that their increased salaries for January and February of this year were liable to reduction when the new Act was enforced. The over-payments would come out of the March salaries. Members thought that the excesses of salary mentioned should not be reclaimed by the Board. A motion by Mr. Fell to this effect was passed. The Secretary having been instructed to apply to the Department for increased allowance for Mr. Nicol in terms of the clause in the Act quoted by the Chairman, the Board adjourned

26th March 1906 Mr. T. A. Nicol, who has held the position of first assistant at the Blenheim Boys' School for about eighteen months, has accepted the post of relieving head teacher at Bulls, in the Rangitikei district. He left for his new sphere of activity on Saturday.

6th April 1906 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. ; There were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Green, Pike, Jordan, 'Clung, Birch, Griffin, White, and Vail. - . The Headmaster reported , the attendances for the month as follows: — Boys, average attendance 199.9, number on roll 242 , girls, average attendance 171.3, number on roll 205., Miss Harris had been temporarily appointed in place of Mr. Nicoll, and Miss Christina Fraser had taken Miss Harris's work. The new Act had brought about the loss of one teacher, and that had to be borne by the boys' end of the school. The infants' department had only two teachers with a roll number of 143. It would be seen that something must be done, as poor work in an infant department meant weak, standards. The girls' end have a roll number of 150 and four teachers, and the boys' end a roll number of 154 and three teachers. This was brought about by the new Act, and not through Mr. Nicoll leaving. On the motion of the Chairman, the resolutions passed at the conference with the Education Board were confirmed.

It was decided that the Committee hold a special meeting on Tuesday, 17th inst., the Chairman and secretary to draft a report for presentation to the householders' meeting. Mr. Birch reported that the subcommittee set up to buy the organ for the girls'. school had two organs. • in view.—The matter was left in the hands of Messrs. White and Birch.

On the motion of Mr. White, it was resolved that the Chairman's action in writing to the Education Board strongly objecting to the erection of the outbuildings in the girls' ground in iron was approved, and the Chairman and Visiting Committee and Secretary were deputed to wait on the Board and protest. Messrs. Green and White were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month..

Accounts amounting to £3 10s were passed for payment.

9th April 1906 THE BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION

While he was addressing the Education Board this morning as one of a deputation upon another matter, Mr. E. H. Penny, Chairman of the Blenheim School Committee, asked if the question of the mixing of the sexes was a question which would come before the Board to-day. He asked because the Committee wished the matter to be ventilated as much as possible, in order to secure its being made a test issue at the forthcoming householders' meeting for the election of the new Committee.

Mr. D. A. Sturrock wrote accepting the position of headmaster, of the Blenheim mixed school. He pointed out that all head teachers had the right to allocate their staff subject to the

approval of the Inspector. Again, the staff allowed by the Department to work the Blenheim schools was not based on teaching the schools in departments, but on a properly mixed school. The roll numbers, at present were:—Girls' end, 150 scholars, with a staff of two certificated teachers and two pupil teachers. The boys' end, the same number, with two certificated teachers and one pupil teacher, and the Infants' School of 143 with one certificated teacher and one pupil teacher. It was obvious that this division of the staff was not in the best interests of the school and that more efficient work would be got by the proper amalgamating of the schools as meant by the Department. Miss Brown, teacher of the Infants' School, also wrote accepting the new position, and complaining of insufficient staffing under the new system. The Inspector (Mr. Strachan) submitted the following information, contained in his monthly report upon the Blenheim School: —

"The following is the roll and organisation of the various ejas.se'-.; during the March quarter, 1906:— Standards 7 (2), 6 (27) and 5 (29) of the boys' were taught by Mr. Sturrock"; Standards 7 (9), G (24), and 5 (26) of the girls by Miss Blower, first assistant; Standards 4 (30) and a (39) of the boys were taught by the second assistant'; Standards 4 (36) and 3 (32) of the girls by Miss Wanden, certificated, and Miss Morcom, pupil teacher. Standard 2 of the boys, with 27 pupils, was under Miss Harris, certificated ; and that of the girls, with 23, under Miss Garnham, pupil teacher. Standards 1 (51) and P. (92) were under Miss Brown, 'certificated, and Miss Macey, pupil teacher.

" According to the scale of staffs and salaries, an assistant in a school |of the grade of this one is supposed to teach an average of 60 pupils, and a pupil teacher an average of 30 pupils. Miss Brown has 143 children (roll number) under her supervision, assisted by a pupil teacher. Standard 2 (boys), on the other hand, is taught by an assistant (27 children on roll). It would be better to place Miss Harris in charge of Standard 1, and relieve Miss Brown of all responsibility in respect of that class. A pupil teacher should be able to teach Standard 2 (boys), 27 pupils on roll. Standards 3 and 4 (girls) are over-staffed. The pupil teacher there might give half her time to assist in other parts of the school, especially with the infants.

" When the schools were amalgamated one pupil teacher was lost to the staff. This was met by not appointing a successor to Miss O'Brien. Miss O'Brien was employed on the boys' side, where the attendance has not diminished. Therefore, that side should not bear all the weakening of the staff. The difficulty would be somewhat met by the above suggested changes. " I may remark, however, that, throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand, co-education of boys and girls is customary. It is customary at the Marlborough and many other High Schools and in the Universities. There appears no valid reason why the present separation of the sexes should be maintained. The girls could still use their own playground, and enter the school by their present entrance. The discipline throughout the school is good. It is, therefore, not apparent why Blenheim should maintain a custom different from that obtaining in other parts of New Zealand. With coeducation the staff could be used with better effect, as the following shows: (The classes would be of quite reasonable size for one teacher each, except that Standard 3 might have some assistance from a pupil teacher, and the preparatory division a teacher and a pupil teacher):

Roll. Standards 6 and 7 62

Standard 5... 55

Standard 4... 66

Standard 3 ...71

Standard ,2 ...50

Standard 1 51

Class P... 92

"The teachers would not then have their energies dissipated over two considerable classes. The pupil teacher assisting Miss Wanden could also spare some time for the headmaster, thus giving him the possibility of doing his work of supervision and class examination."

The Board decided to leave the matter with the Committee in the meantime.

Mr. White said the Infant School staff required looking into immediately. There were 143 pupils there with only one certificated and one pupil teacher. It was important that the young should be taught adequately. It was decided that the matter of making temporary arrangements be left in the hands of the Inspector and Headmaster.

9th April 1906 Mr. C. Skerrett's legal opinion on the question whether the Education Act Amendment Act, 1905, terminated the positions of the teachers in the Blenheim Boys' and Blenheim Girls' Schools (now amalgamated), was laid upon the table at the Education Board's meeting this morning. In effect, it was an amplification of the verbal opinion given by Mr. Rogers, the Board's retained solicitor, at the last meeting.

10th April 1906 A deputation from the Blenheim School Committee waited on the Board re. the out-buildings, Mr. Penny (Chairman) voiced the -sentiments oi the Committee, which Were opposed to corrugated iron buildings, as suggested by the Board, after the' Committee had asked for brick. If economy was the motive of the Board, the Committee would prefer wood to iron. A letter from the Chairman of the. Committee on the;-same matter was also received. ; Mr. McCallum gave notice of motion that the Board's resolution to build in iron be rescinded, with the object of building in brick. The Boards had slighted its own Executive, which had, recommended brick. The Board must defer to Committees, who very often knew the circumstances better than Board members. It was resolved that, in the meantime, the architect be asked for an estimate in brick.

The Board decided, that applications be called for the position of second assistant teacher.

18th April 1906 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETING

AMALGAMATION OF CLASSES

The adjourned meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. In the absence of Mr. E. H. Penny, Mr. White was voted to the chair.

The following report for the year ending 31st March, for presentation to the annual meeting of householders, to be held on Monday evening next, was presented by the Chairman and Secretary, and approved. It contains the following:

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT,

" Your Committee beg to report that during the year 14 meetings have been held, all of which were well attended, the individual attendances being as follows:—Messrs. Penny 12, White 13, Pike 13, Jordan 13, Clung 13, Birch 12, Green 12, Griffin 10. "The business of the Committee during the year has been largely of a routine character, the teaching staff and Committee being in hearty co-operation, and the examination results on the whole were of a fairly satisfactory character. For some unexplained reason, while the population of the Borough is apparently increasing, the attendance at the schools remains at least stationary. "The incidence of the working of the Staff and Salaries Act has necessitated a re-arrangement of the salaries of the teachers, resulting in a reduction in salary, with the exception of the headmaster and first assistant. The salary being too small, we have lost the services of Mr. Nicoll, who had proved a thoroughly capable and painstaking teacher in the third and fourth standards. The Committee is pleased to hear that Mr. Nicoll has secured a suitable appointment in the Wanganui district.

"It has been suggested by the Inspector that to overcome a little difficulty in the working of the staff to the best advantage, the girls and boys should be taught in the same classrooms. This has long been objected to by a large proportion of the householders, and the Committee

is desirous of having a decided expression of opinion on the matter. The near approach of the election of the new Committee will be a suitable opportunity for the householders to express their views, and it is hoped that the new Committee will have a mandate sufficiently clear to guide them. The continued efforts of the Board and Inspector Strachan in the direction of technical instruction have resulted in the erection of a suitable building, which will shortly be finished and a commencement made with the classes. There- seems also a probability of the appointment of an instructor in rural science. Inspector Strachan is filled with an educational enthusiasm that should leave a marked impression in the Marlborough district. "A number of pupils secured free places at the Marlborough High School; and Irene Terrill; of the Blenheim Girls'; and Maximilian Gandar of the Blenheim Boys' School, were successful in gaining the M.H.R. medals for 1905."

19th April 1906 THE BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

An old and troublesome problem is to be referred to the Blenheim householders at the-meeting to be held on Monday evening next for the annual election of the School Committee. This is the question whether the boys and girls should be taught in the some clays-rooms; in other words, should the sexes be mixed? Technically, the Borough Schools are actually a single institution already; that is to say, the Education Department have absolutely and finally insisted on paying the teachers' salaries on that basis. The attendance at the Girls' School remains under 200, the number stipulated in the colonial scale of staff and salaries, and the Department declines to treat that section any longer as a separate institution. This position has been arrived at after a tedious series of communications between the Department and the Board extending over three years, and involving much legal argument and much poring over the complications of that fearful and wonderful legislation, the scales of staffs and salaries, which are the special purgatory of secretaries, Inspectors, and Board , members. The local authorities have resisted this amalgamation of the boys' and girls' divisions as long as they could, the chief ostensible reason being that the householders were opposed to the conjoining of the sexes. Not that the consequent readjustment of staff and redistribution of salaries make very much difference in the composition of the teaching staff—unless it is that the particular rearrangements decided upon have weakened the provision for the boys' division; but the local authorities have all along been acting "on principle," their assumption being (be it mistaken or otherwise) that the great bulk of the parents and guardians object to the association of the boys and -girls. 'So far, the two divisions of the school are amalgamated only in the legal sense; and the present point for the householder is: should the boys and girls be amalgamated in actual practice? We - understand that there is nothing to compel the teaching of the boys and girls in me same room. The option rests with the householder; and it is because the Inspector recommends amalgamation that the 'Committee-, in the report we published yesterday, invite householders to express their desire. The Inspector suggests this course so that the best possible results might be obtained from the teaching staff. The parents and guardians should clearly understand that under the present conditions there is much loss of teaching power, and that Mr. Strachan's recommendation, technically," is beyond argument. It is in accordance with well-established expert principles, and is calculated to considerably improve the efficiency of any school similarly circumstanced, whether in Blenheim or elsewhere. As a matter of fact, there have always. been dissipation and leakage of teaching power there it was the subject of remark by the Colonial Education Commission which visited Blenheim a few years ago; but the.-new developments -we have touched upon would accentuate this weakness.' Such conditions, of course, tell against both the teachers and the children, and if they are to be adhered to, they should, in fairness, be taken into account when the examination results are subjected to comparative analysis. A circumstance that helps to bring the question to a head today is the legal appointment of one headmaster responsible for the whole school at a higher salary. Advocates of amalgamation -will

probably argue that single responsibility should also entail a single system of control. In approaching this important question, the householder should also understand the exact meaning of the proposal to mix the sexes. They should rid their minds of the too common idea that it necessarily means the indiscriminate association of the boys and girls. What is proposed, we presume, is an arrangement under which the boys and girls would sit in the one room, but not together—they could, in fact, be divided by partition

Walls; they would have their separate entrances and exits, their own playgrounds and independent particular supervision. That is the practice in other places, and has worked out satisfactorily. It may be remarked that the resistance offered to amalgamation is peculiar to Blenheim among the towns of the colony; the system is accepted without demur in the large majority of cases similarly circumstanced. Whoever, the matter is one to which, the principle of local option may be very appropriately applied; it is a matter in which the conscience is involved to a certain extent, and the householders should certainly have the right to determine the conditions under which their children should be taught in this connection. Whether the opposition to amalgamation is as keen as it used to be we do not know; but it is likely enough that it has lessened in the meantime, and it is very desirable that a representative expression of the general wish should be given at the forthcoming householders' meeting, so that the Committee may be saved from a false position. There are not a few parents, we are aware, who would prefer the separation of the sexes to continue, whatever the sacrifice in any other direction; but, on the other hand, we believe that, if they were assured the practice of teaching the boys and girls together would be effectively safeguarded, a considerable number of parents who have favoured the existing system in past years would not be prepared to give continued support to a system which means a large waste of teaching power, and which is directly opposed to expert principle.

20th April 1906 At the meeting of the Blenheim School Committee on Tuesday night Inspector Strachan's report on the school was perused, and it was decided to ask the Headmaster to explain why a pupil teacher had not received instruction. Mr. Birch reported the purchase of an organ from Miss Home for £5. It was resolved to announce to householders by advertisement that the question of teaching the boys and girls in the same class-rooms would be put before them for discussion at the annual meeting on Monday.

24th April 1906 ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETING AT BLENHEIM

THE MIXING OF SEXES QUESTION.

It was a more than usually interested and determined section of the householders of Blenheim—which, to the number of about 70, assembled in, the Borough School last evening, for the purpose of electing the Committee for the ensuing year, and also giving that Committee a direction on the important question whether, the sexes: in the classes should be mixed, or the present separate system maintained. The ladies numbered about twenty. Mr. E. H. Penny having taken the chair, and the Committee's annual report (as already published) having been read, the meeting was declared open to discuss the amalgamation question, the time for receiving nominations having been extended till 8.15.

In reply to Mr. McNab, the Chairman said the statute did not specifically bind the Committee to mix the sexes.

Mr. McNab—It is a mixed schools

The Chairman said he understood that so long as they had the thing arranged on the present system they could maintain that system;

Mr. McNab, addressing the meeting, said he was pledged to vote for two men, owing to their reading of, the It was undoubtedly a mixed school. He claimed to be able to speak on the question with some authority. Although a Scotchman, he was educated in England, and could of thus regard Scottish education with the eye of a critic. In that country the sexes were

always mixed. The Scotch were the best educated people in the world, not even excepting the Germans, He reiterated that the separation of the sexes was against the statute. If the boy or girl of one of the parents present secured a scholarship and went to the High School, there; would be found mixed classes, because it was impossible to get the fullest benefit without it. When they went to the university it was the same, even to the teaching of sexual matters. And; what was carried out in the universities without harm they should not be afraid to carry out here. He urged the householders to treat the question not as a parity one. It appeared to him that teaching power was lost in the Blenheim school by separate classes.

Mr. W. Jordan moved: "That this meeting; of householders, are of the opinion that in the best interests of the school, it is desirable to keep the classes separate." – He spoke as a householder. Inspector Strachan's plea for the mixing of the school was because it was understaffed now the only difference was that they had one teacher less. The inspector said every teacher would be able to teach 60 pupils, whereas the average for each teacher at present was only 35—not much more than half. The mixing of the schools was tried here years ago, and was a failure. The householders rose up and put a stop to it. Since the separation the girls had got on wonderfully well and the boys too in some classes. The school as a whole would be found to be all right. He declared himself, if elected, for separate classes, as hitherto. There were plenty of teachers for all the school.

Mr. Griffin seconded

At this stage 8.15 o'clock having nearly arrived, the Chairman stopped the discussion for the purpose of taking nominations

Mr. L. A. Brownie proposed the members of the old: Committee.

On the motion of Mr. McNab, the time for nominations was further extended by 15 minutes.

Mr. Lord said that, as a stranger to Blenheim, he was rather surprised to find that the children were not associated in the school., He thought it was a pity and a shame that the children of Blenheim should be held up to the colony as not being morally fit to associate—a disgrace to* the town. Were the children not fit to associate? He thought that by mixing the children they would get better teaching power. The children need not be actually intermixed. In nearly every other, town in the colony the children were in joint classes.

Mr. W. H. Green disagreed with the motion right through. He proceeded to traverse Mr. Jordan's "facts and figures," and claimed to show that they were misleading. At the present time the Headmaster, was teaching three classes. The Inspector had said one teacher could teach 60 pupils but he had not said those pupils would be distributed over different standards and subjects. At present the Headmaster could not move about and do the same work that he would be able to do with a mixed school. By associating the children they would get the best teachers for the 'higher classes. 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 not intermixed; also, there, would be different exits and different playgrounds. Where the harm was to come from he did not see. The Inspector's only reason for recommending it was procuring of a more adequate staff, and he defied anyone to say they would not get it.

Mr. L. A. Browne said he wanted to know where was the good, not the harm, of mixing the classes.-; They had been getting on very well. His recollection of education in Blenheim extended over 20 years. Just that long ago the classes were, separated; If they went back to the position of 20 years ago it would be well-nigh impossible to again separate the classes; He said stick to the bridge that was carrying them safely

Mr. Birch declared himself to be in favour of mixing. The main advantage was the saving of Reaching power. By separating they had to duplicate their head teachers. When the boys and girls of a particular standard were all mixed they, would only make one good class Then, again, it had been pointed out by men of very high standing that the Blenheim School was an

ideal one, as to size, for a mixed school. When they got more than 200 girls, there was then sufficient to take the whole attention of a head teacher, that was the basis of the Teachers' Salaries Act. Where the school came under that standard it was too expensive to keep the sexes separate. He failed to see the harm. If they had a good master, nothing questionable would happen. He would not entertain the idea that Blenheim-children were not fit to be put together. Only thing that militated against the mixing of the sexes in Blenheim was that the record of the girls' department had been so good for a long time. He said he need not refer to ancient history.

Mr. McNab—Go back to Macklin.

Mr. Birch—That is the very thing. He used to go away, from the school and let the children do what they liked. If they kept good discipline they would have a good school.

Mr. Vail spoke as a Committee-man, and said he, disagreed with the idea that the committee members should be bound by the resolution of the meeting. He himself was in favour of the old system. One gentleman had said something about, the moral fitness or otherwise of the Blenheim children

That was so much claptrap. Mr. Lord rose to explain his remarks in that connection.

The Chairman—I can assure Mr. Lord that if anyone suggested such a thing to him, that person was talking claptrap. (Applause.)

The time for the receiving of nominations having nearly arrived, the Chairman was about to put the resolution. .

On the motion of Mr. Logan, it was decided to take the nominations firsts and defer the putting of the resolution" until, afterwards

In reply to Mr. McNab, Mr. Chung declared himself in favour of separate classes; while Mr. White placed himself in the hands of the meeting to obey its dictate.

Mr. McNab—Then you're only a Jellyfish. (Laughter.)

Mr. Brown declared himself a Jordanite.

While the householders were voting the discussion proceeded.

Mr. Logan moved as an amendment: "That, in the opinion of this meeting of householders, the spirit of the Education Act, 1905, should be conformed to." He pointed out that the Act provided for a mixed school, they were surely to pay some deference to the Education Committees of parliament when they decided that mixed schools should obtain. He went on to assume, for the sake of argument, that the Blenheim School, with separate classes, had to bear comparison at the end of the year with another school of the same number of pupils in the same district (say at Renwick) with mixed classes. Would it be fair compare results under such circumstances. He went on to compare the Sunday school system, where the boys and girls, although in separate classes, were practically intermixed; and contended that there should not be assumed to be any differentiation between the scholars of the Sunday and the day school, who were, in fact, largely the same children. Mr. McNab seconded the amendment. . . "

Mr. Craig urged the mixing of the classes, in order that the system in vogue in Scotland and other leading educational countries should be followed. If the girls were being better taught than the boys in Blenheim, that was all the more reason why the boys, who were to be the future breadwinners, and required the better education, should have the benefit of that better teaching. He also believed, with Ruskin, that the teaching of physiology should be made a more prominent feature of the school syllabus, in order that boys and girls should be saved from the pitfalls of ignorance.

Mr. R. Martin said the argument about moral unfitness was very, much to be regretted, as he did not think it should have entered into the discussion. ' There was no such dangerous element in Blenheim. As to the comparison of Sunday schools with day schools, he pointed

out that there were only a few scholars in the classes of the former, as against over 30 in the day schools, so that the larger, number would take a great deal more watching.

A voice—What do you want to watch them for? (Laughter.)

It was stated that the note-passing trouble was mostly feared. The Chairman declared himself in favour of the existing system. The record of the girls' school had been excellent, and it would not be wise to disturb matters. As to the universities and high schools, he could mention several which had the separate classes.

Mr. Jordan having replied to the discussion, the amendment was put and declared, upon a show of hands, to be lost by 18 to 38.

The motion was then carried by 42 to 18. The voting papers were then handed in, and Messrs. J. Greenfield and Jas. Fowler were appointed scrutineers.

The following is the detailed voting

Penny 52 .

Ching 49

Jordan 48

White 47

Griffin 43

Pike 39

J. Brown 36

Vail 34

Birch 29

Lord 20

Allan 19

Green 19

Mr. Penny was re-elected Chairman at a subsequent- meeting of the Committee.

24th April 1906 The newly-elected Blenheim School Committee last night agreed to the request of the St. George's Society that the children be given a half-holiday, on condition that free passes to the grounds be given to the children

9th May 1906 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. There were in attendance: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, Griffin, Jordan, Pike, and Ching. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. White, Brown, and Vail.

The Headmaster reported as follows:—Boys: Number on roll, 241; average attendance, 201.7. Girls: Number on roll, 203; average attendance, 170.2.

The Secretary of the Education Board forwarded the applications for the position of male assistant teacher. These were from James R. A. Gifford, Invercargill (partial E), and Chas. C. Me Adam, Dunedin (C 5). On the motion of Mr. Jordan, it was decided to recommend the Education Board to appoint Mr. Gifford.

The Secretary was instructed to forward to the Board the resolution passed at the householders' meeting re the intermingling of sexes, and to state the numbers of the voting. The matter of school holidays on May 24th and June 4th was left in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary.

The Visiting Committee reported on the necessity of petty repairs. — Mr. Birch was instructed to do the work.

Visiting Committees for the next few months were elected as follows:— May, Messrs. Penny and Pike; June, Messrs. Vail and Birch; July, Messrs. White and Griffin; August Messrs. Ching and Brown. It was resolved that the Borough Council be asked to grant permission for goal-posts to be erected on the vacant ground next Mr. Lummas's, for the school children's use

14th May 1906 BLENHEIM. The- motion standing in the name of Mr. McCallum, that the Board's previous resolution be rescinded, and the girls' lavatories built in brick, was carried. . Tenders were received as follow: — In wood, May, £16; in brick, V. Hodson, £27. The tender of Mr. Hodson was accepted.

The Secretary of the School Committee forwarded the applicants for the position of male assistant teacher, and recommended that Mr. A. R. Gifford be appointed. —

Recommendation agreed to. The Committee also forwarded the resolution of the householders' meeting in favour of not mixing the sexes. On the motion of Mr. Fell, it was resolved that the Board cordially agreed, but thought the management of schools was in the hands of the Committee

24th May 1906 The celebration of Empire Day in Blenheim to-day was confined to the closing of the Banks and Government Buildings, and the parade of school children at the Borough School, where the Imperial flag was saluted. . The favorable weather lent to the bigness and enjoyableness of the occasion, and the children, together with the School Cadets, mustered at 9.30 o'clock in full force. Having been marshalled by the Headmaster Mr. P. A. Sturrock , assisted by his staff of teachers, the children were addressed by Mr. E. H. Penny, Chairman of the School Committee, and Mayor of Blenheim. Mr. Penny surpassed his usual aptness in addressing children, and delivered a brief speech which at once interested and edified both juvenile and adult. In-explaining to the scholars why they were present on that occasion.....

26th May 1906 SEYMOUR SQUARE. The Blenheim Borough School Committee applied for permission to erect goal posts, at the Committee's expense, on the vacant piece of ground next Mr. Lummas's, for the use of the school children.—Cr. Wiffen suggested that this be held over until Cr. Mogridge's motion was dealt with.—The Mayor said that even if Cr. Mogridge's motion was carried en bloc the posts could be erected for a few months until the greater scheme could be carried out. Cr. Pike moved, and Cr. Brown seconded, that the request be granted. Cr. Wiffen said he would oppose the use of this splendid piece of ground as a dumping ground for any old "aunt sally show" which came along. If the posts were put up they would be likely to stop there. Cr. Carr said the best use they could put the ground to was as a recreation space for the children. Cr. Mogridge said the goal-posts would lead to the abuse of the paddock by larrikins. Cr. White said he sympathised with the school children, but he would like the motion postponed until the other was dismissed. Or. Pike agreeing, the motion was deferred. On the conclusion of the other business at a late hour, Cr. Mogridge agreed to merely give notice of his motion re the extension of Seymour Square to include the paddock in question, and adjourn the discussion till next meeting.

2nd June 1906 BLENHEIM'S LITTLE PARK.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH SEYMOUR SQUARE?

Cr. MOGRIDGE'S MOTION DISCUSSED

At the meeting of the Borough Council last night Cr Mogridge moved the motion standing in his name, and adjourned from last Friday's meeting, as follows:—'

"That the following

improvements be made to Seymour Square: (-1) Inclusion of Reserve opposite Marlborough Club; (2) removal*of Seymour Square to east side of reserve ; (3) removal of Band Rotunda nearer to High Street; (4) centre of square to be laid in good English grass; (5) that the square (including reserve) be put in good order for recreation purposes, such as hockey, etc. ; (6) that walks or asphalt paths be laid around inside of square." He said that Blenheim was

progressing, and public buildings were being erected in the place which tended to improve its appearance considerably. It was therefore only due to the Council's sense of propriety to be up-to-date, and endeavour to make the town's ornamental spots commensurate with other surroundings. It was with this object that he moved as he was doing. It was high time the Square was put into something like order, so that people would take a delight in strolling into the place, and so that games such as hockey could be played there. At present the Square was hardly fit for a dog to run across. If it were put into the shape he proposed, the Square would also serve, admirably for Volunteer and Band parades, school fetes, etc. There were now eight hockey teams in Blenheim, and the cricket ground would only accommodate two at one time. He was almost sure that these clubs would pay so much per year towards the up-keep of the Square, as was done in Ashburton and other places. He agreed with the Mayor's idea that the present live fence should be done away with, and that an iron railing fence be put in its place, such as was to be seen at Sydenham enclosing a square about the same size. The cutting of the present live fence cost about £8 per year, and this would be saved. The clause in his motion re the shifting of the road would not injure anyone, for there were no residences whose values would be depreciated. The removal of the rotunda to the side would only be following what was done in other places, thus leaving a space in the centre for recreation purposes.

The Mayor seconded the motion, pro forma.

Cr White said he thought the plan was unworkable. His idea was that Seymour Square should be left as a true rectangle, but kept in order. Why the street should be removed he could not understand. As to the smaller block, he thought it should be fenced, and made to look as if it belonged to the town. If the hockey teams desired to lease the new ground they could be accommodated just as well. He strongly urged leaving that reserve as an open space for some years to come. He also pointed out that if the schoolboys were denied the right to play on the reserve they would not have anywhere else to go. He was opposed to the motion.

Cr Ching said no doubt Cr Mogridge's intention was good, but his ideas were certainly crude. The idea of removing the rotunda and the trees was unworkable. If the hockey clubs desired a better ground, why should they not pay something to improve a portion of the Domain? That such a fine block of land available for such purposes, which Cr Mogridge appeared to have forgotten. Seymour Square was quite large enough for its purpose :—to grow shrubs and trees, and provide walks and garden plots. It would be far better to preserve the block near the Square until it became so valuable that its sale would bring in money enough to purchase a large ground not so near the centre of the town. He could not understand Cr Mogridge's motive in bringing the resolution, and suggested axe-grinding.

Cr Mogridge assured the Council that the movement was entirely of his own initiation. It had been forced upon his mind by seeing the Sydenham grounds a few weeks ago. Cr Patchett opposed the motion. Cr Brown would favour including the reserve in the Square if it could be done without great trouble and expense. But the passing of a resolution that night would not settle it, if property-owners, objected. He disagreed with Cr Ching when the latter said the Square should some day be sold. Places like Sydney and London even had breathing spaces in the very hearts of them.

Cr Wiffen said his general views about the need for beautifying the Square were well-known. But he was opposed to the removal of the band rotunda and the up-rooting of trees. What was wanted was a strong committee to deal with the whole matter. The surface of the Square should be raised, by depositing the valuable mullock off the roads. Then in the spring some definite and comprehensive planting operations should be carried out. As Cr Ching had said, there was the 14-acre Domain in which to play hockey. He hoped the Council were unanimous in the opinion that the Domain should be made an ornament and credit to the town. As to the reserve next the Seymour Square, he thought it should be enclosed with an

iron fence, and the children allowed to play in it until it was required for other purposes. The letting of the vacant ground to all the various questionable unedifying "shows" which liked to visit the town was not a credit to the Council. As to the School Committee's request for goal-posts, he urged the Council not to allow "hideous sticks" to be erected there. His fear was that the privilege would be abused. Although he was not a Puritan, he was against the present trend towards Continentalism, and would not like to think that goal-posts on that ground would be an encouragement to present-day youth to play football in the centre of the town on a Sunday.

Cr Pike also opposed the motion, principally on the score of expense.

The scheme propounded by Cr Mogridge would entail a cost of £1000. Cr Birch said the school children really required a football ground. The Mayor was of opinion that the reserve should be included in the Square. Cr Ching's idea he was totally opposed to. In many towns in the Old Country they were now buying breathing spaces right in the heart of the town. He had said two or three times, and would always be of the strong opinion, that that section should not be parted with. He thought the expenditure of £200 or so would cause to be removed the slur which was at present upon the town of having no safe and pleasant place for visitors to wander into. Many people had come to him during the past summer, and he had directed them to the only "park" in the place, but shamefacedly. The present macrocarpa hedge should be removed, and replaced with an open iron fence. This would be an improvement for hygienic, spectacular, social, and other reasons. He could see no reason why the street should not be removed. In the old days of frequent floods there was little encouragement to the Borough to do anything to the reserve, which was always soonest flooded; but now it was different, and the Council should do something.

Cr Wiffen moved an amendment that Crs Birch, Ching, Mogridge, the Mayor, and the mover be a committee to consider the whole matter and report; and interview a competent gardener.

Cr White seconded the amendment. Cr Mogridge, who said his object had been virtually served in having the question discussed, agreed to withdraw his motion.

Cr Wiffen's motion was carried

9th June 1906 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last evening. There were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, White, Pike, Jordan, Vail, and Brown. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Ching and Griffin. The Headmaster (Mr. Sturrock) reported that the number of pupils on the rolls were:—Boys, 237; girls, 208. The average attendances were: Boys, 191.6; girls, 164. f On the motion of Mr. Vail, the midwinter holidays were fixed to commence on 23rd June, the school to reopen on 9th July. It was resolved to request the Education Board to pay the account received for implements used in children's gardens but of the technical education grant. Miss Brewer (first assistant teacher) wrote stating that the Headmaster had removed one of her assistants to the Infants' Department without consulting her in the matter. She admitted the justice of the transfer, but strongly objected to the method. Miss Brewer claimed that instructions respecting transfers should come from the Committee or the Inspector, as when accepting her present position she was informed that the then existing arrangement would not be interfered with.—Considerable discussion took place, and eventually, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Vail, it was resolved that, on the arrival of the new second assistant, and in future, the Inspector be asked to arrange for the staff of the schools, and that Miss Brewer's letter be forwarded to him for perusal. Messrs. Birch and White were reappointed - delegates to the Marlborough School Committees' Association. Miss Brewer, (first assistant teacher) notified that a concert would be given by the girls of the school on June 20, and invited the co-operation of the Committee.

12th June 1906 Blenheim.—The Inspector intimated that Mr. Isaac had inspected the Infant school, and recommended that the gallery in the lowest room be altered to take desks. Mr.

Strachan" asked for authority to make the alteration. The cost would amount to £20.—The matter was left in the hands of the Town Committee and the Inspector

With regard to the Technical School, the Inspector recommended that Miss Tendall, 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 Tendall 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 Tendall was appointed

21st June 1906 An entertainment which may be looked upon as an earnest of the revival of school concerts of the high class which Blenheim people were pleased to attend in years gone by was given at St. Andrew's Hall last evening. Miss. Brewer, who trained the children for the various numbers, and her indefatigable assistant Miss Wanden, may take the large gathering which more than filled the little hall as concrete testimony of the general appreciation of their efforts. The programme was a long one, and included tableaux, action songs, drill, solos, and recitations. Nearly every time was encored, the most popular being the tableau "The Seasons,' f and the exhibitions of wand and dumb-bell drill. In the latter the children certainly excelled themselves, and did credit to their teacher. Dressed uniformly in simple white costumes, with, a coloured sash, the pupils performed the interesting exercises with precision and grace, keeping perfect time to the music played by Miss Mary Lucas. The stage had been very prettily decorated, some creditable work having been done in the way of artistic combination. The coloured lights, which a friend supplied, enhanced the spectacular appearance of the tableaux; and the ingenious lift-curtain was the subject of flattering remark. A most effective part-song was that entitled, "The Bells," the Freshness and tunefulness of the singing eliciting rounds of applause. Recitations were given with promising power by Misses C. Fraser ("The Fireman's Wedding ") and L. Binley (" Flo's Letter "), the latter being a little mite whose years could be counted almost on the fingers of one hand: "Please give me Heaven was sung by Miss R -Taylor and Miss Alexis Watson played a violin solo tunefully and with a degree of style surprising for her years- "Slumber -Sea " was sung by Miss H. Mathieson,; whose voice is of such a quality which should be carefully watched. The same remark is applicable to Misses Eileen Connolly and F. Wilkins, whose opportunities occurred and were made the most of in "Alice in Wonderland," a set of solos and concerted pieces. Miss Connolly sang "Queen Alice," Miss Wilkins "Oony Oony" (with chorus), and Miss Mathieson "Queen of, Hearts. Miss M. Lucas accompanied throughout in a most praiseworthy manner She also contributed the overture. Mr. F Birch, in the absence in Wellington of Mr. E H Penny Chairman of the School Committee, prefaced the entertainment with a few appropriate remarks. The whole concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

9th July 1906 Blenheim— Authority was granted to I the Committee to fill up the holes m | the grounds, also to get a plug in the 5 tank

11th July 1906 The weekly meeting of the management Committee of the Marlborough Hockey Association was held last evening. A request from the Blenheim Girls' School to be allowed to join the Association and compete in the junior championship was granted. The team will play its first round immediately, and the fixtures for the second round will then be completed, the new team being included. n It was decided that the Marlborough Association should apply for permission to join the New Zealand Hockey Association.

The seven-a-side tournament was fixed for next Saturday

8th August 1906 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night. All the members were present, Mr. E. H. Penny occupying the chair. The Headmaster (Mr. D. A. Sturrock) reported upon the attendance during the past month as follows:—infants, 112 on roll, average attendance 74; boys' department, roll 178, average 148.8; girls, roll 167, average 136.5; total roll, 457; average, 359. There were 20 more children in the infants' department than last year at the same date. The fence separating the play-ground ~ from the children's gardens had been blown down and the woodwork at the back of the infants' school required attending to, natural decay having set in. The Visiting "Committee reported upon the same matter.

It was decided, on the motion of the Chairman, that the Education Board be asked to get their architect to report on the state of the infant school; and to re-erect the fence with corrugated iron.

Miss Brewer, first assistant, wrote stating that the proceeds of the recent concert amounted to £18 10s. It was proposed to expend £5 on hockey sticks, and she asked that the Committee request the Board to grant the usual subsidy on the balance (£13 10s), to be expended upon books for the library.—Resolved to request the Board accordingly. Accounts were passed for payment, and the meeting adjourned.

8th August 1906 BLENHEIM CADETS TO ATTEND

The following was included in the report of the Headmaster (Mr. D. A. Sturrock) to the monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee last night: — "'There is a likelihood J-h-t the Cadets will have the chance of attending camp during the Exhibition (*To be held in Christchurch*). I have forwarded to the parents requisition forms, and I have at the present had only one objection. "It is understood that the Cadets will be well looked after, and they will be in charge of their captains. I shall also accompany the battalion, and will keep an eye on the lads. There is no cause for alarm, and the outing will be a splendid trip from the educationist's point of view". Many of the boys in the Cadets corps have not been further than Picton; in fact, their knowledge of outside is a blank. I have had no information when the camp will be held, but I shall inform you when I receive the information from Lieut.-Colonel Loveday."

13th August 1906 THE BLENHEIM SCHOOL

HEADMASTER'S AUTHORITY

A letter from the Truant Officer at the Education Board's meeting to-day brought out the fact that he had been able to get no information as to absentee pupils from the girls' department, because Mr. Sturrock, the headmaster, had forbidden him to procure them, from Miss Brewer, the first assistant. Mr. Penny said that Mr. Sturrock was evidently making the point that all such information should come through him, and not, as previously to the new arrangements, some months since, from the respective heads of the girls' and boys' departments. For the information of the new members of the Board, the Chairman explained that when the staffs were re-engaged a few months - ago the Board decided that Miss Brewer's department should be allowed to continue as before without interference ; and if pupils failed in the girls' division, it was not to be put down to the Headmaster. . The position being questioned, the minutes of the conference between the Committee and the Board and of the final re-appointment of the teachers were read, wherefrom no indication of any such condition could be gathered. Mr. Reader said it was evident that Mr. Sturrock was the only master, and he must be responsible for the supply of information as to absent pupils for the whole school.

The chairman said the principle was right, but in the case there was a difference. There were very good reasons why the decision of the conference should not have been recorded in the minutes. The unanimous spirit of the conference was that the old style should be continued. Mr. Sturrock was only appointed for one year. The unanimous decision was that Miss Brewer

should be left alone. Mr. Reader—Yes, but you should put unanimous decisions in the minutes. The Chairman: But this is out of the ordinary. He was put there for one year to observe how he carried on his duties. During that time he could lord it over Miss Brewer if he liked for that time, but it was the idea of the Board that if he annoyed her he would go at the end of that time. They had had several legal opinions, all agreeing that the tenure of the headmaster's position was broken at the question of paying upon a separate school" basis. Mr. Reader: But has he interfered in this matter with Miss Brewer? Chairman: Yes, apparently. -- Mr. Macey said Miss Brewer as first assistant had no right to give the names, that being the duty of the headmaster. Mr. Reader: If you do not stick to the minutes in the book what do you stick to? The word of the man in the street? It was a trifling matter; but it was quite clear it was the headmaster's place to supply the names.

The question of Mr. Sturrock's tenure and his relation to the girls' department was not being discussed, he thought. The Chairman said Mr. Sturrock was not under discussion now, but he would be at the end of the year.

Mr. Reader: There is no complaint from Miss Brewer. The Chairman: Mr. Penny has told us there is something beneath the surface. Mr. Penny said the position was that Mr. Reader did not know anything about it. He proceeded to recapitulate the arguments and opinions expressed at the conference in question, of which the minutes did not make a record. Mr. Conolly—But the minutes have been confirmed. Mr. Penny then proceeded to refer to an instance of the Inspector's action in connection with examination work at the school, which showed that Mr. Strachan, evidently in view of the legal-position, regarded Mr. Sturrock as the sole head of the school. Mr. Penny here asked the press not to report his remarks. Eventually, on Mr. Whites-motion, it was decided that the Secretary notify all head teachers of their obligation to supply the Truant Officer with information, the first assistant to be also notified in the case of Blenheim.

15th August 1906 HEADMASTER'S AUTHORITY

The following is a full report of the remarks of Mr. E. II: Penny at the Education Board's meeting' on the question of the headmaster's authority at the Blenheim Borough School:— Having explained what he considered was the mutual understanding of the recent conference between the Committee and the Board—that, under the new staffing of teachers for a "mixed" school, the girls' department should be kept separate, and Miss Brewer permitted to continue to exercise most of the prerogatives pertaining to her previous position as mistress— Mr. Penny went on to say it had transpired that Mr. Sturrock, the headmaster, had forbidden the Truant Officer to go to Miss Brewer for the names of absent pupils. Also, the Inspector (Mr. Strachan), no doubt wishing to do the right thing, had gone to Mr. Sturrock and reported to him upon the work of the pupil teachers in the girls' department, and Miss Brewer had been left out in the cold. He presumed that Mr. Strachan was acting upon the legal aspect of the matter; but Mr. Sturrock had been told that the girls' school should be left alone. The bottom idea of the Committee was that it should remain as it had been previously. . The Committee now found these things transpiring, and Miss Brewer took it as an indignity. The Committee would get rid of it if they could, and if Mr. Sturrock would only conform to their desire.

5th September 1906 Mr. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Blenheim School, reported to the Committee last night that there was now every probability that the cadets would journey to Christchurch in connection with the Exhibition, and that the boys would be housed in a wooden building instead of tents. Definite instructions had not yet been received.

10th September 1906 Blenheim—The Board's Architect reported upon various schools. He also advised that a new plinth at the Infant School building in Blenheim would cost £s.— Resolved to remove plinth and place battens along. The Committee applied for a refund for coal used by continuation classes. The refund for one ton was granted. The Committee also

forwarded the Headmasters report upon the necessity of desks in the Infants, School to replace the old gallery.—It was decided that an estimate be obtained.

26th September 1906 On Saturday, August 11, at St. John's. Church, Bulawayo, Miss Minnie Douslin, youngest daughter of Mr. W. Douslin. of Bulawayo, and formerly headmistress of the Blenheim Borough School, was married to Mr. F. C. Dugmore. The bride, who was given away by her .father, wore a dress of white, satin, of simple design, which well became her (reports the Bulawayo Chronicle). She wore a veil of Brussel's net, carrying also a shower bouquet orange blossoms and maidenhair fern. Her jewellery consisted of. a gold curb bracelet the gift of the bridegroom. She was attended by a bridesmaid, a flower-girl, and page. A-large number of the pupils of Miss Monnery's school, with which Miss Douslin was connected, were present in. the church, dressed in white, with blue sashes, and carrying tiny baskets of flowers. At the conclusion of the ceremony the children sang with pretty effect the hymn "The Threefold Blessing". A reception was afterwards held at the residence of the bride's father. A large number of congratulatory telegrams were received from England and different parts of South Africa. The bride's travelling dress was of blue faced cloth, with an Eton jacket of the same material, and a hat to match. The honeymoon was spent at the Victoria Falls. A large number of valuable presents were received, including gifts from the Bulawayo Golf Club and the Bulawayo High School.

3rd October 1906 The. monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last night. All the members were present and Mr. E. H. Penny presided. The headmaster's report showed that the roll number of boys at the end of September was 249, and the average attendance for the month had been 214. The roll number of the girls was 213, and the average attendance 185. The examinations would be held on the 15th October. The Marlborough School Committees' Association forwarded the Education Board's general resolution regarding holidays, and requested the Committee to enter it in the minutes. Messrs. Brown, Pike, Birch and White were appointed a sub-committee to inquire into the matter of substituting or the children's gallery in the infant school desks on the floor; to have-power to act. The same sub-committee was authorised to deal with the renewal of. the plinth on the school. Accounts for £6 5s were passed for payment. The Visiting Committee appointed for the month is Messrs. Birch and White

10th October 1906 Blenheim—The Architect submitted a report upon, the proposed removal of the gallery in the Infants' School. The cost would be £9.—Report adopted. It was stated the Architect was communicating with an Auckland firm for the. Supply of seats.

25th October 1906 The following scholars attending the Blenheim Borough Schools obtained proficiency certificates in the recent examinations:—Ella Braddock, Isabel Brayshaw, Dorothy Cheek, Toxa Clouston, Eileen Connolly, Eileen Day, Sadie Freeth, Agatha Foley, Madeline Hilliard, Maggie McDougall, Viva Patchett, Ruby Young, Ada Wooster, Ernest Armstrong, Joseph Day, Algy Duncley, D'Arcy lies, Ernest Lucas, Murray Penny. Competency certificates were granted to the following:— Maud Priddle, Evelyn Lucas, Beatrice Stevens, Frank Daniels, Arthur Fryer, Frank McCallum, Edward Pike, Eric Wanden, Murray Wemyss.

26th October 1906 Pupils of the Blenheim Borough School succeeded in locating the star Venus at about one o'clock this afternoon. They say it was almost as clear to the naked eye as at night. Many adults searched the heavens in vain.

7th November 1906 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night, there being present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), White, Griffin, Pike, Jordan, Vail, Brown, and Birch. The Headmaster's report stated that the average attendance of the boys had been 200.1 during the month, the roll number being 238; and that of the girls 184.4, the roll number being 214. Mr. Sturrock also forwarded a circular in reference to the Home Industries section of the Exhibition, dealing with the proposed housing of visiting school children. There was also, he added, a chance of the cadets still getting a trip to the Exhibition, per Government steamer. He asked the Committee for suggestions. On the motion of Mr. Brown, it was resolved that, in view of the situation of the district and the difficulties of transit, the Committee has no suggestion to offer. The Visiting Committee reported that the Infant School gardens were in good order. It was decided to ask the head teacher to see that the water supply is conserved. Messrs. Griffin and Ching were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

7th November 1906 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

The lists of the Sixth Standard candidates for certificates of proficiency at the Blenheim Borough Schools, with the marks awarded for the various subjects and the certificated granted, were presented to the School Committee last evening by the Head Master, Mr. D. A. Sturrock.

Twenty-one Sixth Standard boys were presented. Six proficiency certificates were awarded, and six competency certificates. The Inspector, (Mr. D. Strachan) remarks that the work of Ernest Armstrong, Algy Dunckley, and D'Arcy lies is good. In the girls' department twenty-one Sixth Standard candidates were presented. Thirteen were awarded -proficiency certificates, and three competency certificates. "Excellent" was the Inspector's remark in reference to the work of Ella Braddock, Toxa Clouston, Eileen Connolly, Sadie Freeth, and Viva Patchett; and "good" in reference to that of Isabel Brayshaw, Madeline Hilliard and Maggie McDougal. In reading two of the boys secured the maximum marks; in spelling one, and in writing two. In reading none of the girls received the maximum, in spelling three, in writing none. In composition neither boys nor girls received high marks, the best being: — Boys, 75 and 70 (out of 100); girls, 90, 85, and 75.

In arithmetic (maximum 200), one boy secured 190, and two others 150; whilst three girls received 200 marks, and two others 170.

In geography (maximum 100) three boys secured 90; whilst one girl gained 80, and two others 70.

In drawing (maximum 100), three boys received 80 marks, and one 75; whilst one girl gained 100, two others 90, and a fourth 80.

The organisation of the school was considered satisfactory. The average ages of the candidates in Standard VI awarded certificates were:—Girls, 13 yrs. 7m. ; boys, 13yr. 3m. -

Seven girls in the Seventh Standard were presented for examination, four sitting for the Junior Civil Service. The Inspector's comments on the various subjects are as follows:—History, moderate to fair; spelling, excellent; physiology, satisfactory to good; composition, fair; arithmetic, satisfactory. He remarks generally in regard to the girls' department that a genuine attempt has been made to carry Standard VII forward in their higher work.

8th November 1906 Among the names of those who gained "excellent" passes at the recent examination of the Borough School appear those of Eileen Connolly and Sadie Freeth. These should read Dorothy Cheek and Aileen Day, the former of whom received 725 marks out of a possible 800.

5th December 1906 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The ordinary meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last -evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (in the chair), Browne, White, Pike, Ching, Griffin, and Birch. 'HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The head teacher's report showed that out of 229 boys on the roll the average attendance for the past month had been 174, and out of 208 girls an average of 152.8 had been obtained. The low average, it was stated was due to the prevalence of influenza. Mr. Sturrock also wrote suggesting that the school break up for the midsummer on the 20th, that the. holidays be at least five weeks, and also stating that as Miss Macey's term as a pupil -teacher expires with the year, it would be necessary to call for applications to fill the vacancy. The Chairman moved that the holidays commence on Dec. 21st, the school to be re-opened on Monday, 28th of January, 1907.—Carried. On the motion of Mr. Birch, it was resolved to ask Mr. Sturrock to recommend someone suitable to fill the vacancy occasioned by Miss Macey's retirement.

RESIGNATION. Mr. J. K. Vail wrote tendering his resignation.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Chairman read the Inspector's report, and in the discussion which followed

Mr. Birch said that, as far as he could judge by former reports, the standards up to the fourth were more proficient than those in the fifth and sixth. The Chairman pointed out that such was not the case with regard to the present report, which was a great improvement, and the teachers were deserving of commendation. He moved that the Committee express satisfaction at the nature of the report presented by the Inspector, and that the teachers be informed to this effect. — Carried.

THE QUESTION OF ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS. The Chairman said that Mr. Scott had given notice of motion to rescind, at the next meeting of the Education Board, the resolution by which teachers are appointed from year to year, and he and his colleague would like an expression of opinion from the Committee on the matter, so that they might vote in accordance with its wishes. He doubted himself whether the resolution referred to could be sustained by law. Mr. White was convinced that no teacher could legally be discharged at the end of 12 months without three months' notice for the Act was clear on that point. The rule now followed was, in his opinion, too one-sided, and the teachers' interests were ignored. Young men should be encouraged to come into the teaching profession, and it could not be said that their manner of dealing with teachers would have that effect.

Mr. Birch thought that the present method of appointing teachers was satisfactory, and imposed no hardship upon teachers. He moved that teachers be appointed as usual, i.e., for 12 months. This was agreed to. Messrs. Penny and White refraining from voting.

MISCELLANEOUS. The Visiting Committee reported that a square of glass was wanted for the lavatory, and that two windows in the passage leading in from the main entrance to the infants' school required attention. The method adopted for gashing the lavatory was not satisfactory, and the grounds required cleaning up. Mr. Pike was asked to have the grass cut and grounds cleared during the holidays. Messrs. Birch and Jordan were requested to have the tank used for the lavatory altered satisfactorily. Some accounts were passed for payment, and the Committee adjourned.

1907

1907	359	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 300.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Brewer	Lottie M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 205.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Gifford	James R A	Licensed	Assistant Master	£ 135.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 135.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 110.00

1907	359	Blenheim	Harris	Annie M	E2	Assistant Female	£	90.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Morcom	Annie		FPT4	£	55.00
1907	359	Blenheim	Garnham	Grace		FPT4	£	55.00

9th January 1907 A meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (on the chair), Ching, J. White, Jordan, Brown and Birch. A letter was received from the Education Board forwarding amount of capitation grant (£20 4s 6d) for the quarter ending 31st. December. 1906.

The chairman said that he had, subject to the committee's approval, granted the caretaker leave of absence for one week owing to the illness of a relative The chairman's action was approved.

Mr. Brown reported that he had made a visit of inspection to the School. All the rooms had been well cleaned. A little dusting required to be done but that would have been attended to before. A pane of glass had been broken in the infants' room. He suggested that the wire-netting over the windows be altered so as to leave some space between the netting and the windows and so lessen the likelihood of the windows being broken. The platform in this room had also been removed, and consequent upon this the cords of the window blinds would require some adjustments, so that they might be able to be reached more easily The front gate was broken and required renewal, and some slight repairs were needed to the fence fronting Alfred Street. The school ground had not been cleaned up and some dry grass lying about should be removed Some discussion took place as to whether the Education Board would bear the cost of certain works, viz. new gates and repairs to the

Mr. Brown thought that the whole of the work could be done for £5

The Chairman said it would be a difficult matter for the Committee to bear the expense as their funds were very low, and they would have to spend very cautiously. The whole of the capitation grant received from the Board for the month would be consumed in paying expenses to date.

On the motion of Mr. Jordan, it was resolved to ask Messrs. Bythell and Co. to affect such repairs as were required and that the Education Board be asked to bear the cost of new gates and palings for the fence, - the cost not to exceed £5-

Mr. Birch complained that the blinds of the windows were sometimes left so as to endanger the windows when a high wind was blowing. One had already been broken in this way and further damage result if more care were not exercised. He had mentioned the matter to the caretaker who had shifted blame on to the teachers.

On the motion of Mr. Birch, seconded by Mr. White, the Secretary was instructed to notify Miss Brewer, first assistant, that care must be taken when a wind blowing not to leave the window blinds in such a way as to endanger the windows.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Pike and Griffin, and accounts amounting to £18 8s 4d having been passed for payment, the Committee rose.

15th January 1907 The Blenheim School Committee wrote suggesting a transfer of teachers whereby Miss Hilliard, who had been teaching for four-years, and was 18 years of age, would secure a salary.

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. Tenders for the supply of 30. desks for the Infant School were received from F. Birch, £1 11s 6d (oiled) and £1 14s (varnished); and J. Fawcett £1 12s 6d. The Secretary stated that the sample desks could be bought in Auckland at £1. With freight and the cost of putting together added, this would reach £1 10s. It was decided that Mr. Fawcett's tender be accepted, subject to varnishing. In the event of his declining, the Town Committee to deal with the matter

29th January 1907 When the Borough School opened yesterday morning there were 350 pupils present—183 boys and 167 girls. In the afternoon there were 354, the numbers of the boys and girls each having increased by two. Forty-three new scholars were admitted.

6th February 1907 Miss Josephine Hilliard, of the Blenheim Borough School, has been successful in passing, with credit, the junior Civil Service examination.

8th February 1906 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (in the chair); Griffin, Brown, Pike, Ching, Birch, and Jordan. ; The headmaster, Mr. Sturrock, reported that for the past two weeks, out of 238 boys on the roll, the average attendance had been 192.1, and an average of 180.1 but of 228 girls had been maintained; The attendance is the best since 1899. No fewer than .60 new children have been admitted. This increase is practically all in the infant department. Miss L. M. Brewer, for the girls' department, "furnished the names of scholars;-who had been successful in securing scholarships- and passing the Civil Service examination." On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Birch, it was resolved that the staff and scholars should be congratulated by the Committee: ~Mr. J. Hutcheson was appointed auditor for the Committee at the usual remuneration. Messrs. Penny and Pike were, appointed to act as Visiting Committee for the ensuing month; and accounts for £6 16s having been passed for payment, the Committee rose.

8th March 1906 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The regular monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, when there were present Messrs. Penny (chairman), Clung, Brown, White, and Birch. Mr. Sturrock reported that the number of pupils on the roll were: Boys 242, and girls 228, and the average attendance 192 and 186 respectively. He also reported that a tap was required for the school gardens, and it was resolved to leave this matter to Mr. Jordan. The head teacher also reported having received a communication from the captains of the cadet corps, in which a wish was expressed that the: cadets should go to Christchurch, and intimating that the expense would be 10s for each cadet.

It was moved by Mr. Penny, and seconded by Mr. Ching, that if Mr. Sturrock can make arrangements with the parents to pay the cost, and is prepared to accompany them himself the Committee is agreeable. On the motion of Mr. Birch, it was resolved that Mr. Penny be empowered to give the necessary leave to Mr. Sturrock to carry out the above resolution. Miss Brewer wrote forwarding balance-sheet for the school concert. On the motion of Mr. Penny, it was resolved that the account in the Bank of N. Z. be closed on or before the 31st March, and an account be opened at the Post Office.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Pike, Jordan, and Griffin. Accounts totaling £25 14 S ' were passed for payment, and the Committee rose,

3rd April 1906 The regular monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (in the chair), Griffin, White, Ching, Pike, Jordan, and Birch. The Head Master reported that the number on the roll was 454 and the average for the quarter 371; also stating that 98 new children have been admitted during the quarter, and that the cadets will leave on Friday for the Exhibition. The Inspector wrote respecting the testimonial to Mr. John Smith. Mr. Penny moved that the letter be acknowledged, and that the members of the Committee contribute to the fund, the Secretary to collect and forward the amount to Mr. Strachan. An abstract of the school funds duly audited was read, and it was resolved, on the motion of the Chairman, that the statement be adopted. It was further resolved that it be forwarded to the Education Board. It was resolved to request Mr. Birch to give the caretaker a few hints on the subject of the pump and procure a spanner if necessary. Messrs. Birch and White were appointed the Visiting Committee for

the ensuing month. The annual report for the householders' meeting was left in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary.

5th April 1906 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.

19th April 1907 It is understood that all the members of the Blenheim School Committee except Mr. J. T. Griffin, who is about to leave the district, intend offering for re-election, at the householders' meeting next Monday night

23rd April 1907 The statutory annual meeting of householders of the Blenheim School district was held in the Borough School buildings last evening. About thirty attended, and Mr. E. H. Penny was voted to the chair. The annual report which appears below and abstract of school funds were read and adopted. Mr. Birch read a circular received from the State Schools Bible Teachers' Association, inviting the meeting to approve the Nelson system of religious teaching in State schools. The circular stated that the Nelson method has been in operation since July 1897; the staff of Bible teachers Embraces ministers and members of all the Protestant churches .of. the town; the teaching is given within the usual school hours; a large majority of parents approve of their children attending, and 90 per cent of pupils do so. The scheme was made possible because, the local Schools Committee were prepared to act upon, and maintain their rights under the Education Act -, and the highest legal opinion has since then been obtained in support. School-time required by the Act is two hours forenoon, and two hours afternoon. The Committee have authority in fixing the legal school hours The Committee; have power to .give use of school buildings outside the legal school hours. The Board has no power to interfere; so long as the Committee keep within the Act.

Hence if only four hours' teaching is given there is no. room for the scheme. If more than four hours be given, then the Committee can resolve that on any desired morning of the week the legal hour for starting shall; be say, half an hour later than the usual hour, and the use of the building for the said half-hour can be given to those wishing to give religious instruction. , A returnable circular card be sent to parents, - asking "Do you wish your child.....to attend the Bible lesson in school? Answer. ...? Thus attendance is parental authority. The State teacher may be one of the Bible staff. This has been done in Nelson with great success. Our six schools are under one committee. The Bible half-hour is not on the same morning in each school. Positive religious instruction is given."

On the motion of Mr. Birch, the meeting unanimously recommended the new Committee to take; the system into their favourable consideration The election of the Committee was then proceeded with and resulted as follows, the nine securing the largest number of votes;, being declared elected .!—J. Brown 22, F. Birch 22, W Pike 22, J. White 22, E. H. Penny 21, M. Rudd 21, Mr. Chang 20, W Jordan 18, J. L. Lord 14, J. Vail 13. Messrs. Rudd and Lord are new members. Votes of thanks to the Chairman, the scrutineers, and to Mr. Carr for lending lamps concluded the proceedings.

The Committee met immediately -after the householders' meeting, and re-elected Mr. Penny Chairman, Mr. A. J. MacLaine Secretary, and Mr. J. White Treasurer,

THE REPORT. "Your Committee beg to report' that during that year 16 meetings have been held, all of which were well attended, the individual attendance being as follows~:Messrs. Birch 15 J. Brown 14, W Ching 15; J. T Griffin 13, W.-Jordan 14, W, D. Pike 14, E. H. Penny 15, J. J, White 13. Mr. Veil resigned, after making eight attendances. The business of the Committee has been largely of a routine character, the teaching staff. and Committee being in hearty cooperation. The examination results for the year are of. a satisfactory character. The attendance has considerably increased, and during the last quarter 98 new pupils were admitted. The roll number on 31st March was 454 This improvement in attendance is a matter for general congratulations. Early in the year Mr. J. R. Gifford was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Mr. Nicoll on his leaving to take up a position in Wanganui. .Later on Miss Macey retired at the end of her term as pupil teacher in the boys' department, and Miss J. Hilliard, was appointed to fill the position. In June last the girls, under the supervision of Misses Brewer and Wanden, gave a school concert in aid of the library and gymnastic funds. This was very successful, and realised £18 10s, and, with the Education Board's subsidy of the same amount, Miss Brewer was enabled to make a .valuable addition to the girls' library besides fitting them up with gymnastic apparatus. The boys belonging to the cadet corps have just returned from a trip to the New Zealand Exhibition at Christchurch, where, under the management of Major Sturrock and Captain Gifford, the boys have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, besides obtaining a valuable insight into the various resources of different part of the world. The thanks of parents are due to Mr. Sturrock for the able and energetic manner in which he looked after the interests of the boys under his command A number, of pupils secured free places at the Marlborough High School, and three obtained Education Board scholarships. E. H Penny Chairman; A, J. MacLaine, Secretary

8th May 1907 The regular monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held in the Borough School last evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (Chairman) Lord, Brown, Ching, White, Rudd, Pike, Jordan and birch.

The Headmaster reported that out of 229 boys on the roll an average attendance of 185.4 had been recorded and out of 215 girls on the roll the average for the month" was 173.4. He also reported that new desks had been .supplied in the infants' department, and forms in the school gardens had been provided out of the money earned- from the pear trees Mr. Penny moved that Messrs. Pike and Ching be appointed a Committee to inspect the fence and gates in front of the school, and instruct Messrs. Bythell and Co. to do the work required at a cost not to exceed £5; and that they also be the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. It was resolved, on the motion of the Chairman, that the following gentlemen be appointed to the Visiting Committee:—Messrs. Ching and Pike, Jordan and Birch,' Penny and Rudd, White and Lord, Messrs. Brown and Rudd to make the first visit of inspection.

On the motion of the Chairman, Messrs. Birch and White were re-elected as delegates to the School Committees' Association.

Mr. Penny moved that the resolution passed at the householders' meeting re religious instruction in school be forwarded to Archdeacon Grace, and that he be asked to confer with the clergymen and leaders of other denominations' with regard to the matter, and report to the next meeting of the Committee, to be held on June 2nd. Seconded by Mr. Rudd, and carried. Accounts totaling £4 3s were passed for payment, and the Committee rose.

24th May 1907 EMPIRE DAY LOCAL CELEBRATION

SALUTING THE FLAG

The children of the Blenheim State Schools were marshalled in force in front of the main buildings at 9.30 o'clock this morning, while both companies of cadets under the charges of

Captain Gifford and Lieut. Wanden, with Major Sturrock in- command, paraded in line: abreast the Imperial flag.

The School Committee was represented by Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Lord and Rudd, and Air Smith (Secretary), and Mr. Strachan (Inspector) represented the Education Board.

Mr. Penny; addressing the children, said they had met this morning at the behest of the Education authorities to once again remind themselves this was Empire Day. It was the day, too, on which good Queen Victoria was born. So the children had been asked to assemble for two purposes; first, to be reminded of a great and good queen, and, second, to remind them that, small as the smallest one there was, they were members of the great British Empire. When they grew up to be men and women and to realise what the Empire was, they would be exceedingly proud to be New Zealanders and to have a part in that Empire. The children had probably tried to realise what the Empire was like in extent. Now, the bright sun had not been long up this morning. They were the nearest children of the British Empire to the rising of the sun; so that they had almost the very first opportunity of saluting the flag on Empire Day. All day long—from that moment for the next eighteen hours at any rate children of the British Empire would be assembling to do what they were doing. In a few hours the Australian children would be doing it in a few hours later the children in the English schools next the Canadian children — : until two or three.' o'clock to-morrow morning the children in some part of the Empire would be saluting the Bag and learning what it stands for,

Mr. Penny then contrasted the state of society in the boyhood days of their grandfathers with that of the present day- the inventions that had made such a great difference in the world

They had opportunities and responsibilities their grandfathers had never thought of and a chairman of a school committee addressing children a hundred years hence would have still more wonderful progress to relate. Let them hope the rulers of the Empire would be well fitted for the great responsibility. Greatness brought with it responsibility. They did not wish the children of the British Empire to think that it meant only big warships and big guns. They wished I the children to understand that other nations are great as well as Britain and have also their own responsibilities —to be patriots, but at the same time to remember other nations possessed greatness as well. He would conclude by quoting a piece .of poetry, written by the late William

5th June 1907 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held last night, Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Ching, Brown, Birch, White, Rudd, Lord, Jordan, and Pike attending. The midwinter holidays were fixed to commence on 14th June, the school to re-open on 1st July. The Headmaster reported the total number of girls on the roll at 212, with, an average attendance of 176.8 for the month; boys, on roll 169, average 136.9. The third and fourth boys had been omitted. A cheque for £1 14s towards the Springlands treat was enclosed. The Visiting Committee presented a written report.—It was resolved that the Education Board be asked to provide two new clocks for the schools, at a cost of about £1 5s each. The caretaker was instructed to see that the windmill is in use more frequently.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. The following letter from Archdeacon Grace was read:—"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st ult., and to say that in accordance with the terms thereof myself and the I ministers of other denominations have conferred together regarding details for giving. Bible instruction in the local Borough" Schools. I have also conferred with the headmaster of the schools, who has kindly granted us half an hour on Thursday in each school week, from 11.30 a.m. to 12 noon, and with his consent, also, we purpose beginning the Bible lessons on the school resuming after the winter holidays." On the motion of Mr. Rudd, it was resolved that Messrs. Lord and White and the Chairman be a sub-committee to arrange details and put the matter in proper form, on the same lines as at Nelson.

3rd July 1907 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. There were present:—Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Ching, Lord, Pike, White, and Birch. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Jordan. Mr. M. Rudd wrote resigning from the Committee, owing to his transference to New Plymouth.—The resignation was accepted with regret, and it was decided to invite Mr. J. K. Vail, the highest unsuccessful candidate at the Committee election, to fill the position. The Education Board replied favourably to the Committee's requests regarding clocks and repairs to school. The Headmaster (Mr. Sturrock) reported that the average attendances for boys and girls during the month of June were 188.1 and 170.5 respectively, the roll numbers being 230 and 206 respectively. The total attendances for July 1st and 2nd were 370 and 382 respectively.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Inspectors-report upon the school was read. It showed that Mr. Sturrock was teaching 58 boys in Standards 5, 6, and 7, and Mr. Clifford 64 boys in Standards 3 and 4, and Miss Morcom 28 boys in Standard 2; Miss Brewer 63 girls in Standards 5, 6, and 7, Miss Wanden 56 girls in Standards 3 and 4, Miss Garnham 19 girls in Standard 2; Miss Harris 50 boys and girls (infants) in Standard 1, and Miss Brown (with Miss Hilliard) 108 infants in class P. The school is worked in departments, Mr. Sturrock supervising the boys and infants, and Miss Brewer the girls in Standards 2 to 7. In reference to the attendance, the Inspector pointed out that the percentage for the March quarter was only 79.4. Probably no other centre in New Zealand of equal importance to Blenheim had so poor a record of attendance. The record of the whole of the Wellington district last year was 87 per cent. The difference between these two percentages represented a loss of 13,440 half-days' instruction to the children in one year. The Board had instructed the Headmaster to supply the Truant Officer each week with the names of all absentees who have not made the statutory number of attendances, appending such notes as would help the Truant Officer in the discharge of his duties. The report stated that good progress appeared to have been made in the work in general. That in Standards 3 and 4 of both departments, however, was capable of improvement. More attention had been given to nature study. Woodwork needed to be supervised, at least once a week, by the Headmaster. In the boys' department schemes of work needed to be framed and followed. The order of discipline of the school was reported to be good. Supervision during the recess was fair; likewise manners and general behaviour of the children. The teaching of criticism lessons in pupil teachers' instruction appeared to be good, especially in respect to the pupil teacher attached to the boys' department. Miss Brewer deserved credit for the teaching in literary work afforded the pupil teachers. It was noted, in discussion, that the supervision during play-time is only fair, and it was resolved that the teachers be asked to provide a more active supervision during the recess. On the motion of Mr. Ching, seconded by Mr. Birch, it was resolved that the Committee express its hearty concurrence with the action of the Board with regard to truancy prevention. It was decided to call the attention of the Headmaster to the paragraph in the Inspector's report stating that there should be at least one "criticism lesson" per week in connection with the instruction of pupil teachers, at which all the pupil teachers should be present.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. Reply was received to the following circular, sent out to all the householders having children at the Blenheim schools, from 193 persons, 172 being favourable and 21 (including several Roman Catholic parents) not favourable: — "Do you consent to [allow your children to attend classes ' for Religious Instruction, once a week, on Thursdays from 11.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Please write "Yes" or "No," sign your name, and return the paper to Mr. Sturrock.—E. H. Penny, Chairman."

7th August 1907 Mr. Sydney A. Bull, who for the last eight years has been in the employment of the local branch of Levin and Co., is severing his connection with the firm at the end of the month to go into the land, estate and commission agency business in Napier. He is entering into partnership with Mr. T. A. Nicoll, who was for a time first assistant master at the Blenheim Borough School, but who left the teaching profession to take a partnership in Napier. Many friends in Blenheim will wish the new firm of Nicoll and Bull every success in their enterprise.

9th October 1907 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, when there were present: Messrs. Penny (in the chair), White, Lord, Birch, Brown, Pike, and Jordan. The Headmaster reported that out of 236 boys on the roll, the average attendance for the past month had been 200, and out of 204 girls the average attendance had been 166.3. As the Inspector's examination is in progress, the Headmaster did not deem it advisable to observe Labour Day as a school holiday, the usual examination holiday taking place on Friday, when the examination will be finished. It was stated that the attendance was steadily improving, the majority of those who were away with influenza and whooping cough having returned. Mention was made of two doors and a window at the girls' end being in need of repair, and it was also stated that in consequence of the cooking classes the water-supply had last times been deficient, but was at present good. It was resolved, on the motion of the Chairman, that Messrs. Bythell and Co. be instructed to have the doors and windows repaired. The Secretary of the Education Board wrote agreeing to the wish of the Committee with regard to a certain tree in the school ground.". Messrs. Brown and Ching were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month. Accounts totalling £20 5s 11^{<7} were passed for payment.

6th November 1907 Mr. W. J. Girling has been elected to the vacancy on the Blenheim Borough School Committee, caused by the departure from the district of Mr. J. K. Vail. Mr. D. A. Sturrock, Headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, intends organising a concert in aid of a fund for the purchase of attendance prizes. The School Committee last night approved the proposal, and undertook to assist in any way possible.

4th December 1907 **BLEMHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.**

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, when there were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (in the chair), J. Brown, W. Pike, W. J. Girling/ W. Ching, W. Jordan, F. Birch and J. J. White.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The Headmaster, Mr. Sturrock, reported that the average attendance for the past month, out of 225 boys on the roll, was 181, and from 198 girls on the roll there had been an average attendance of 163.2. He stated that on Friday next the Cadets would shoot for the Chaytor prizes and the Nosworthy Champion Belt, and before breaking up for the summer vacation the teams' matches for various cups and South Island Shield would have to be fired.

He suggested that the schools break up on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at midday. He had been unable to procure a suitable operetta or cantata for the school concert, but on his visit to Australia during the holidays he intended to endeavour to get specimens of suitable ones and produce one during the coming year.

The school staff joined with the Headmaster in wishing the Committee the compliments of the season. Mr. Pike moved, and Mr. White seconded, that the mid-summer holidays be six weeks, and that the school close on the 18th of December, and reopen on the first Monday in February; also that the mid-winter holidays be only one week. —This was carried.

THE WATER-SUPPLY. Mr. Jordan reported on behalf of the sub-committee appointed to go into the question of the water supply. He stated that an additional tank would be quite sufficient to cope with the shortage of water. It was resolved, on the motion, of Mr. Pike, that the Committee endorse the report sent to the Education Board by Mr. Jordan.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Inspector (Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A.) reported as follows:—Organisation: Satisfactory. Certificates of proficiency and competency : Held over till central examination.

BOYS' DEPARTMENT AND INFANTS.' Reading: Satisfactory to good ; Ss. 0 and 1 and Class P. good. Composition : Fair; S. 5 moderate; Ss. 3 and 4 much improved. "Writing: Excellent (much improved) ; general writing neat. Spelling: Satisfactory; S.1 excellent, S. 2 good to excellent, Class P. good. Recitation: Good; Class P. very good; Ss. 6 and 4 good to excellent. Arithmetic: Fair: Ss. 3 good Physical instruction: Excellent! - Geography: Satisfactory, .. History: Satisfactory. Additional subjects: Ss. 4-6, woodwork '—at the Technical School, S. 2, brush drawing, satisfactory; S.1brush drawing, good to excellent"; Class P., brush drawing, excellent (much improved); infants' gardens (girls),"excellent; infants' blackboards drawing, very good; infants' paper-folding and paper-cut-ting, <—excellent; infants' plasticine modelling much improved, excellent; needlework, S. 1 and P., excellent. Instruction of Class P: Good to excellent. Order, discipline and tone of Hub school: Good. ' . ; Efficiency of the school, etc.: Satisfactory to good:— With satisfactory arithmetic in Ss. 5 and 6, this department : would also be classified as "good." Nevertheless, in— these standards, as in the 'Others, there; are many indications of careful and skillful teaching.

GIRLS' DEPARTMENT. Reading: Good; S 3 good to excellent. Composition: Satisfactory; S. 2; ' excellent, S. 3 general writing still weak. Writing: Excellent. Spelling: Good (special merit); Ss. 6 and 2 excellent, S. 5 good to excellent. | Recitation: Good; S. 5 excellent, Ss. 3 and 2 excellent. ! Arithmetic: Fair; S. 2 good to excellent, S. 5 moderate to fair. | Drawing: Good to excellent. : Singing: Excellent (special merit). Physical instruction: Very good (wand, dumb-bell, breathing exercises). Geography: Fair. History: Satisfactory. Additional subjects: Ss. 4-7, cookery at the Technical School; brush drawing, Ss. 7-2, very good, more variety is shown this year; carbon work, S. 2, satisfactory; Ss. 5 and 6, nature study combined with drawing and experiment indicate improved relations to science; also, in S. 7, : physiology, good. Order, discipline and tone of the school: Very good. ! Efficiency of the school, etc.: Good. Mr. Penny moved, and Mr. Birch seconded, that the teaching staff be complimented on the very satisfactory report of the Inspector for the | past year. This was carried, and all the members of the Committee spoke in commendation of the progress of; the school, as evidenced by the report, ; which was considered the best that the school had obtained for many years past.

MISCELLANEOUS. The Visiting Committee reported on several matters of detail which needed attention. Messrs. Birch and Penny were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. I The Chairman was empowered to have cleared a drain reported by the Visiting Committee to be blocked.

7th December 1907 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, Wearn 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.

10th December 1907 Blenheim. —The Committee replied to the Board's suggestions in regard to a hot-air engine for pumping purposes. It would be better if merely a tank, as before suggested, be provided.—This was granted.—The Committee was given authority to have the walls of the school disinfected.

18th December 1907 MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

A SINGULAR CASE

At the Police Court this morning, before Messrs. J. Reid and R .H. Smale, J.P.s, David Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim public school, proceeded against Mrs. Cameron for wilfully disturbing the progress of the school. Mr. Sturrock stated that Mrs. Cameron had come to the school and stated that her little boy had been knocked down and ill-used by a boy named Farmar. Witness called Farmar out with the intention of investigating the case, when defendant told him (Farmar) to strike the boy now. Farmar replied: "If he wants to I will." Defendant then struck him a sharp blow on the face, and witness, who could not have the school interfered with in that manner, ordered her off the premises.

While giving his statement witness was frequently interrupted by defendant.

Mr. Hylton. Secretary of the Marlborough Education Board, gave corroborative evidence, and stated that he remembered seeing defendant strike the boy Farmar. Mrs. Cameron, who had been talking a great part of the time while the witnesses were giving their evidence, at first declined to go into the witness box, alleging that she had already given her evidence. Upon its being pointed out that the statement she had made could not be regarded as evidence, she went into the witness-box and gave her view of the case. She had sent her boy to school yesterday morning, she alleged, and sometime afterwards heard him come in at the back door screaming. He told her that the boy Farmar had knocked him against the fence. She denied having caused any disturbance at the school, and stated that she only gave young Farmar a very light slap. The 'Bench stated that under the circumstances, and it being the first time Mrs. Cameron had appeared before the Court, they would be lenient in this case, but if defendant ever came before the Court in a similar manner the fine would be very considerable. In this, case defendant would be fined 5s without costs. A prohibition order was granted against John Thomas Armstrong.

1908

1908	381	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 300.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Brewer	Lottie M	C1	Assistant Female	£ 205.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Gifford	James R A	D4	Assistant Master	£ 135.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 135.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Harris	Annie M	E2	Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Hilliard	Josephine		FPT3	£ 55.00
1908	381	Blenheim	Brewer	Faith		FPT2	£ 45.00
1908	381	Blenheim	McCallum	Margaret R		FPT2	£ 45.00

8th January 1908 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was attended last evening by Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Birch, White, Brown, and Ching. The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Johnston) forwarded, on behalf of the Health Department, an account for £1 10s 3d for formalin used in the disinfecting of the school. He complimented the Committee

on the very; satisfactory manner in which the work of disinfecting and cleansing had been carried out by Messrs. Andrews and Williams. The work had made the whole of the school premises sweet and wholesome and free from any germs of disease.—It was decided that the Health Department's account, also that of Messrs. Andrews and Williams (£3 4s) be forwarded to the Education Board, as agreed

14th January 1908 Notice has been given by Mr. Parker to move at the February meeting of the Education Board: "That the Government be approached with a view to ascertaining to what extent they will give assistance towards the establishment of a swimming bath in connection with the Blenheim Borough School."

23rd January 1908 PUPIL TEACHER. TWO PUPIL TEACHERS are required for the Blenheim School. Applications will be received up to WEDNESDAY, 29th January. E. HYLTON, Secretary

31st January 1908 BOROUGH SCHOOL. THE Blenheim Borough Schools will X re-open on- MONDAY NEXT, February 3rd, at 9.30 a.m. sharp, when a full attendance of scholars is requested.

3rd February 1908 The schools in the Marlborough! Education Board's district opened today. The total number enrolled at the Borough School was 363—boys 193, girls 170. The number enrolled for the first day of last year was 350.

7th February 1908 The Blenheim School Committee has •decided to confer, with the teachers as to the advisability of opening the school at 9 a.m. and closing at 3.30, instead of at; the present hours. The Chairman has authority to make the alteration if it should meet with the approval of the teachers.

A meeting of the Swimming Baths; Committee was held last night, and it was resolved that a deputation consisting of Messrs. McKinley (Chairman of the Committee), S. J. Heffer, and, W. T. Churchward, wait upon the Education Board on Monday next with a view to securing the Board's cooperation in the matter

At the monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee, held on Wednesday evening, a motion was passed felicitating Miss Brewer, first assistant teacher, on the fact that three pupils in the girls' division of the school had passed the Junior Civil Service examination. The names of the candidates were: Maggie McCallum, Martha McCallum and Eliza Gallop. '

2nd March 1908 TUA MARINA SCHOOL v. BOROUGH SCHOOL. These teams met on the Tua Marina Cricket Club's ground. The Tua Marina boys won the toss and sent the Borough in to bat. - The latter were disposed of for 22 runs, to which Tua. Marina responded with 52. Borough then went in, determined to make a better stand than they did in. their first innings, but their opponents were too strong, and the second innings closed for only 10 runs. Tua Marina thus won the match by an innings and 20 runs. One of the winning team succeeded in performing the 'hat trick:"

5th March 1908 The average attendances at the Blenheim Borough School for the month of February were as follows: — Boys' department, 193.8 (229 on roll); girls' department, 177.6 (207 on roll): Total, 371.4 (436 on roll); percentage 85.

It has been decided -that the Blenheim schools shall close for the winter holidays on April 13th and re-open on April 21st. It is hoped that all the schools in the province will close for the same period, in order to give the teachers an opportunity of attending the winter school to be held under the auspices of the Education Board.

8th April 1908 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the above was held last night, when the following members were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), Birch, Girling, Lord, Ching, Pike, Jordan, and

White. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The Headmaster reported that the number of children on the roll was, boys 237, girls 207, total 444. The average attendance for the past month was: Boys 202, girls 178, total 380. The Inspector had just paid his annual visit of inspection. CHASTISEMENT OF CHILDREN. Several complaints were received by the Committee about this matter; and it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Pike, seconded by Mr. Ching, that the Chairman and Mr. White be a Committee to see into it.'

ACCOUNTS. The Secretary of the Education Board wrote asking that the committee's account be forwarded as soon as possible for audit. The abstract of the accounts for the past year showing receipts £122 9s and expenditure £111 12s 3d and a balance of £10 16s 9d was laid before the Committee. It was resolved that all the Committee's accounts be forwarded to the Board for audit.

VISITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT. The Visiting Committee reported that some of the outbuildings were in a state of disrepair, and that the Headmaster's residence was in a very bad; state, T and? that nothing appeared to have been done in the way of painting or repairing for many years. The report also stated that the, fir tree in the house grounds should be removed as a good deal of damage was caused by the leaves lodging in the guttering. It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Ching that the Education Board's attention be called to the urgency, of effecting the repairs alluded to.

ANNUAL MEETING. It was resolved that the Chairman and Secretary draw up the- report to be presented, to the householders at the annual meeting, and that the meeting be duly advertised.

14th April 1908 THE BLENHEIM MASTER'S, RESIDENCE. - The Blenheim School Committee wrote calling attention to the fact that the teacher's residence, let by Mr. Sturrock to a tenant, was in need of repair.

In reply to the Chairman Mr. Penny said that no attention whatever had been paid to the school by the Committee for ten years at least. The Committee had not deemed the school-house under its care, having been handed over to Mr. Sturrock for the purpose of letting. Mr. Conolly said the building had not been painted since it was built, and "it certainly should have been painted twice.

The Inspector explained that the rent Mr. Sturrock got was in lieu of house allowance, which, in his case, would be £50 per year, The Board received a certain percentage for the maintenance of school residences, and if Mr. Sturrock had been occupying the house it would /have had to be maintained by the Board.

The Committee also asked permission to cut down trees. The permission was granted. It was decided that the architect report on the house at next meeting

25th April 1908 THE BOROUGH SCHOOL.

COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT,

The following is the report of the Blenheim Borough School Committee for the past year. The report will be presented at the meeting of householders on Monday night, when the Committee for the ensuing year will be elected:—

"Your Committee beg to report that during the year thirteen meetings have been held, all of which were well attended, the individual attendances being as follows: Messrs. Penny (chair) 12, White 12, Ching 12, Birch 12, Pike 11, Jordan 11, Lord 11, Rudd 3, Girling 3, and Vail 1. In July Mr. Rudd left the district, and Mr. Vail, the unsuccessful candidate with the most votes at the last annual meeting, was appointed by the Committee to fill the vacancy. In December, Mr. Vail leaving, Mr. W. J. Girling, on the invitation of the Committee, took the vacant position. "The work of the Committee during the year has been largely of a routine character, the teaching staff and the Committee being in hearty cooperation. The Inspector's annual report was a very satisfactory one, and the Committee desire to compliment the teaching staff on the marked improvement shown in all departments. There was also a

noticeable and welcome increase in the average attendance, but it is still necessary to impress upon parents the importance of regular and punctual attendance at school. The best efforts of the teachers were largely nullified by irregular and unpunctual attendance. "At the annual meeting of householders last year a resolution was passed recommending the incoming Committee to favourably consider the system of religious instruction in schools, as adopted in the Nelson district. This recommendation has been carried out with good results, half an hour being devoted to religious instruction every Thursday, from 11.30 to noon. The thanks of the Committee are due to those ladies and gentlemen (clergy and laity) who have undertaken the task, and the Committee is desirous that the excellent arrangement now so smoothly working should be still continued.

"During the week preceding Easter, classes of instruction for teachers were held in the Borough Schools, under the organisation of Inspector Strachan. These classes were well attended by the teachers from all parts of the district, who gave evidence of their desire to equip themselves more fully for their duties, and become better acquainted with modern methods of instruction and school management. The Committee consider the movement an entirely commendable one, and likely to be very beneficial in its results to the whole of the schools in the Marlborough district. "A number of pupils secured free places at the Marlborough High School, and Misses Margaret and Martha McCallum and Eliza Gallop were successful in passing the Junior Civil Service examination. During the year Misses Faith Brewer and Margaret McCallum were appointed pupil teachers to fill vacancies on the staff."

28th April 1908 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The annual meeting of the householders of Blenheim for the purpose of sleeting the School Committee for the >n suing year was held at the Borough school last evening. There was a good attendance, 55 householders being present, and considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. E. H. Penny was elected to the chair. The Secretary read the annual resort (which has been previously published in these columns), and the abstract of accounts. The statement of accounts showed that the receipts for the past year totalled £122 9s, and the expenditure £111 12s 3d. There was £10 in the Post Office Savings Bank and 10d cash in hand. Mr. White moved that the report md balance-sheet be adopted, and in doing so he mentioned that the religious instruction which was referred to in the report did not encroach on the syllabus in any way, and no child was compelled to take the course if the parents objected. Before proceeding on the lines set down, a circular had been sent round to the householders asking them to lodge any objections they had to religious instruction, and not half-a-dozen objections had been raised; The Nelson and Auckland people had adopted the same plan. Mr. Lord said £hat; Mr. White was not quite correct when he said that the circular was sent to householders; it was sent to the parents or guardians of all children attending the school. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Parker and carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. The Chairman intimated that he had received several nominations, and there were nomination papers to hand if any other gentlemen's names were proposed. In all 14 nominations were received for the nine places on the Committee. Before the ballot papers were handed in, Mr. J. L. Lord explained to the meeting the position in which he stood in regard to the question of amalgamation. He was greatly in favour of it, as he considered that under the present system the best was not being made of the teaching power of the staff. Miss Brewer, for example, had three classes to teach, in addition to which she had pupil teachers to look after. It was impossible for her to give the pupil teachers as much help as was desirable. Mr. Sturrock too was in the same position. He hoped to see the school run on the amalgamated plan before very long. After a short time had elapsed, Mr. Brewer suggested that, as Mr. Lord had given his views on the subject, the other, candidates should also speak on the matter. The Chairman explained that he did not want to stop discussion, but several of the people had by this time handed in their ballot papers, and he

thought it was rather late for anyone to move in the matter. A discussion on the question of amalgamation was the sort of thing that should be given notice of before the meeting.

Mr. L A Browne did not wish to inflict a speech on the meeting, but he would support the action of the last Committee in regard to the question.

No one else made any reference to the subject and the matter dropped.

Messrs. J. W. Kirby and W Marple were appointed scrutineers for the purpose of taking the necessary ballot. The Poll resulted as follows:—J. J. White 40 L A- Browne 37, W. Braddock 31, E H. Penny, 29, W. Pike 28, J. Hyndman 27 John, Brown 25, W J Girling 24, John Patchett 24, F Birch 22, W. Ching 21, W. Jordan 21, J L Lord 15, S Norgrove 5. The Chairman declared the first nine to be duly elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year. The members of the newly elected Committee thanked the meeting for the confidence reposed in them

It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Braddock, that the ballot papers be destroyed before the meeting was closed. This was accordingly done.

A vote of thanks accorded to the scrutineers and to the chair brought the proceedings to a close.

6th May 1908 The usual monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School- Committee was held last evening. Present: — Messrs. Penny (chair), White, Browne, Pike, Patchett, Hyndman, Braddock, Girling, and L. A. Browne. '

PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN. In regard to this question, a resolution was passed, on the motion of Mr. Pike, seconded by Mr. Hyndman, that the Chairman and Messrs. White and Girling be deputed to make further inquiries into the complaints brought before the Committee. REPAIRS REQUIRED. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Braddock, that the Education Board's attention be directed to repairs required to be done to the woodwork of the main school, and the fence between the school grounds and the residence, as reported on by the Inspector. ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £5 were passed for payment. AMALGAMATION It was resolved that the question of amalgamation be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Braddock moved that Mr. Strachan be invited to be present at the next meeting of the Committee with a view to explaining the method of working the mixed school.—Carried.

23rd May 1908 On Monday next (Empire Day) the Borough School children will assemble and will salute the flag in the usual way. The school cadets, under the, command 'of Major Sturrock, will be in-attendance. It is understood that brief addresses will be delivered by his Worship the Mayor, the Chairman of the School Committee and other members. After the addresses have been delivered the children will be dismissed for the day.

2nd June 1908 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, and was attended by Messrs. Penny (Chairman), Braddock, Patchett, Hyndman, Girling, Pike and J. Brown. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. J. J. White and L. A. Browne. The headmaster reported the number on the roll to be: Boys 238, girls 206; average attendance, boys 203.8, girls 176.3. Mr. Sturrock also suggested that the school close for the mid^ winter holidays on the 19th instant, and re-open on the 29th. It was proposed by Mr. Girling and seconded by Mr. Penny that the school be closed as suggested.—Carried.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Education Board, stating that during the absence of Miss Harris on sick leave Miss Hilliard would be classified as an assistant, and that Miss Gallop had been temporarily appointed to the position of pupil teacher. The Secretary of the New Plymouth Central District School Committee wrote asking for information in respect to religious instruction the school and the Secretary intimated that he had replied supplying the information.—The Secretary's action was endorsed. Mr. J. J. White was elected as delegate to the School Committee's Association. -

Accounts amounting to £15 3s 11d were passed for payment. Messrs. Patchett and Braddock were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month. .

. The discussion on Mr. Braddock's motion re amalgamation was held over until the next-monthly meeting. This concluded the' business. ..

9th June 1908 Tenders were received for repairs to the schoolmaster's house and the Borough School. The tender of Messrs. Bailey and Simmonds was accepted, the prices being £31 2s for the house, and £15 10s for the school repairs

29th June 1908 The book-keeping class continues to operate at the Borough School. The roll is larger this term than the last, but more students still are wanted. No one who contemplates entering business can afford to neglect his education in book-keeping. Bankruptcy is sometimes accidental, but the bankrupt who has not kept proper books is liable to have scant shrift. It is useless to fine a bankrupt, so imprisonment is the only alternative. Young men and young women and older people also who are in business have an opportunity provided in these classes that they cannot afford to miss. The class meets on Mondays and Fridays, and students may attend on one day or both according to choice. Mr. Harvey, the instructor, holds the highest qualification obtainable in Australasia, and has the rare faculty. of making hard things easy, and of making students like their work and anxious to know more. Mr. Marple's shorthand class also meets on Wednesdays.

8th July 1908 THE BOROUGH SCHOOL.

QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION

At the meeting of the Borough I School Committee last evening Mr. I Braddock's notice of motion "That the question of amalgamation be discussed," was brought on. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. J. White and carried. The discussion was then proceeded with. | Mr. D. A. Strachan, who was present at the invitation of the Committee^ was asked to give some idea of the method of working the school under the amalgamated system. He asked the mover, however, to give him a lead—to let him know in what direction the Committee, required an explanation. Mr. Braddock said that he would! like Mr. Strachan to give his opinion pf the working of amalgamated schools in regard to the question of morality. There had been a good deal of talk about that in the past, and _he knew that many who were objecting to amalgamation at present, did so on that score. Mr., Strachan said that he really did not think that the question of morality need crop up at all. He did not believe that Blenheim children any worse than any others, and there was no need whatever for alarm, upon that point. In fact in his report, in 1906, he had recommended the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' schools. In that report he had remarked that throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand, co-education was customary, it was customary in Marlborough and in the Universities, Under a system, of co-education, the school could be worked better.", Mr. Strachan quoted, some figure's from his report, showing-that the boys' and girls' schools, if combined, would not have classes beyond the recognised size for a single teacher. The school was just about the right size to enable it to be taught well, if the boys and girls could be taught in one room. He had in 1906 urged the amalgamation of the school, but shortly after the; householders' meeting fell due arid the townspeople decided against amalgamation. In answer to a question, Mr. Strachan said that the system was fully explained to, the meeting.

Mr. White said he had been at every householders' meeting for some years, but could not remember the question having been gone into,

Mr. Strachan; They voted on it, at any rate. Continuing, he said that in his report of 1906 he had said that the discipline was good—that was to allay the "immorality bogey?"; Mr. Strachan quoted statistics from the report of the Minister for Public Education in N.S.W., showing that co-education was a prominent feature of. the system there. All the district High Schools in New Zealand were coeducational, so were the Universities. Turning to the United

States of America we saw-by the report of the Commissioner for Education that 96 per cent, of the children attending primary schools were taught under coeducational conditions. In secondary public schools 95 per cent, were enrolled in schools attended by both sexes, and even in private schools 43 per cent, of the children were taught under the same conditions. Altogether, there were rather more than 16,000,000 children in the United States schools, of whom more than 15,000,000 were taught in "mixed" schools. Further figures could be quoted showing that the number of 'separate schools had fallen off during recent years, showing that the system of co-education was spreading.

Mr. Braddock: "And you think then, Mr. Strachan, that we would get better results under that system?"

Mr. Strachan was not prepared to say that they would do so at once, but after a time, when by a natural process the boys' and girls' school had been equalised in the matter of scholarships, then the way would be clear and there should be no obstruction. The question of morality need not trouble them. They would be quite safe in that matter. In all probability there would be a gain in educating the girls and boys together;

Mr. White said that so far as he knew, that was what he had learned from experience and observation, concentration was one of the chief factors in gaining knowledge. Now, if one teacher was teaching two standards, say a third and a fourth would not the fourth be somewhat likely to pay attention when the third was being taught, instead of attending to their own work?

Mr. Strachan said that even so there would be a compensating gain. The one might learn something from the other.

Mr. L. A. Browne said that he had always been strongly opposed to amalgamation. Perhaps one of the reasons was that he had a good memory. He could go as far back as 1881, and he remembered what had happened since then. Amalgamation was very good in theory, but did not work out so well in practice. He admitted that there was nothing in the immorality bogey, but it came on top of a lot of other things. In 1881 the school was worked just as it is now. In 1885 Mr. Lucas was placed in sole charge. In 1884 (the year previous) Miss Harding had had a specially good report, and in 1886 her report was very bad. Why? Immorality had nothing whatever to do with it. If they put a headmaster in charge, he might go on all right; but would it make the girls' school improve the boys'? Might it not take the heart out of Miss Brewer? Would she have the encouragement to win scholarships etc.? The last word would always rest with the Headmaster, and the mistresses might be thwarted and hindered, and prevent them carrying out their desire. He (the speaker) would say: "Let well alone." If they had a head mistress who was incompetent or inefficient, and the headmaster was a man who towered above her, then he would favour amalgamation, but he would ask Mr. Strachan a straight question: Had the boys' school ranked equal to the girls' school since he had been there?"

Mr. Strachan: No.

Mr. Pike spoke opposing the idea of amalgamation, and quoted a list of examination results for the purpose of comparison between the two schools. There was no comparison, he said, between them, and until it could be shown that the boys' school came up to the girls' he could not see his way clear to give his vote for amalgamation.

Mr. Girling said that there was no doubt it was quite clear that the boys' results were below those of the girls. He had previously been somewhat in favour of amalgamation, as he had been under the impression that Miss Brewer would then have full charge of the "mixed" sixth standard and Mr. Sturrock as Headmaster, [unreadable].... but since he had learned that that would not be the case, he must oppose it until it could be shown that it would be in the best interests of the school."

Mr. J. Brown said that he believed Mr. Strachan was doing the right thing in not pressing the question. The discussion that evening had put a different light on the whole matter, and the

time was not yet ripe to make a change, but it, might be so in a year or two. He however, would like to ask Mr. L. A. Browne what was the cause of Miss Harding's results going down the first examination after the schools had been amalgamated?

Mr. L. A. Browne said that he could, answer the question, but he did not think any good could be done by doing so. There were reasons but he did not think it would be good taste to bring them up

Mr. White said that in the face of Mr. Strachan's explanation, it would be better for the schools to go on, for a time at least, as they were doing.

The Chairman (Mr. E. H. Penny) said that if the schools were amalgamated, he thought it would mean the lowering of the girls' school to the standard of the boys'. , He; thought they had fully discussed the, matter, and he would therefore move: "That this Committee thanks Mr. Strachan for the information laid before them, and after carefully considering the question of amalgamation, are of opinion that, considering all the circumstances, it is advisable to defer the question for the present." Seconded by Mr. White and carried, This concluded the special business and the ordinary work was then proceeded with

5th August 1908 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The ordinary meeting of the Borough School Committee was, held last evening. Mr. Penny occupied the chair, and all the members were present.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The Headmaster reported that the attendance for the past month had been only fair, as many of the scholars had been suffering from the usual winter ailments. The numbers on the roll were, 241 boys and 211 girls, making a total of 452, and the average attendances were 194.6 boys and 176 girls, a total of 370.6. A lock required for standard I room, and a window which had been broken for some time was in urgent need of repair. The trees in the school garden required the usual winter dressing, and a slight pruning would be to their advantage.—The report was adopted, and it was resolved, on the motion or' Mr. Pike, that Messrs. Bythell and Co. be instructed to carry out the necessary repairs.

GENERAL. A circular was received from the Education Board asking the Committee if they were in need of a shelter shed and to give an estimated cost if one was desired.—It was resolved to inform the Board that the Committee did not require a shelter shed at present. Accounts amounting to £10 5s 9d were passed - for payment and the meeting then closed. ,

29th August 1908 A 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

9th September 1908 The usual monthly meeting of the Blenheim School' Committee was held in the Borough School last evening. There were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman),. W. Braddock, J. Hyndman, W Pike, J. White, W. Girling, J. Brown and L. A. Browne. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. J. Patchett. ,

The Headmaster 'reported that the number on the roll was as follows: — Boys 241, girls 212; total 453. Average attendance: Boys 201.9, Girls 172.25. A circular was received from the Marlborough Education Board in regard to the Dominion Day celebration and the distribution; of Dominion medals.

It was resolved that the Committee, lend its assistance to any proposal in, regard to the celebration of Dominion. Day.

The Visiting Committee reported, as instructed, on -the staffing of the. school. The infant department was; understaffed, and also the boys. The Committee's report was based -on a statement furnished by .the Headmaster, of which the following is an extract:—In order to arrive at a correct estimate of the average and the staff, it is necessary to go over a period, so I have carefully worked out the averages for the quarters June and September to date. They are as follows:— -Infants' department: June quarter 134, September to date 139. Boys' department: 127 and- 123.3. Girls' department: 117 and 116. The girls' department comes in

the ninth grade, and is entitled to head, assistant, and one pupil teacher; the boys' department is entitled to head, assistant, and two pupil teachers; the infant department is entitled to head, assistant and two pupil teachers., It will thus be seen that eleven teachers should be the staff if the school were run in departments, but as the Education Department has allocated a staff for a properly mixed school only nine teachers are allowed. To-day 116 were present in the infants' department, and the staff for that number is one assistant and one pupil teacher.

Mr. Braddock moved that Mr. Sturrock's statement and the report of the Visiting Committee be forwarded to the Education Board, with a statement that, in the Committee's opinion, the school is entitled to an addition to the staff.—Carried. ,

Messrs. W. J. Girling and L. A. Brown were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. Accounts amounting to £14 18. were passed for payment, and the meeting closed.

15th September 1908 The Committee of the Borough School wrote stating that the Visiting Committee had reported that the boys' and girls' departments were understaffed, and that additional assistance was needed.—The matter was held over till next meeting.

25th September 1908 The Dominion Day medals were presented to the children at the Borough School this afternoon by the teachers'. At three o'clock the pupils assembled in the playground, and the chairman and one or two members of the School Committee delivered brief addresses.

26th September 1908 DOMINION DAY.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AT THE BOROUGH SCHOOL

Yesterday afternoon, the presentation of the medals which had been struck in commemoration of the proclamation of New Zealand as a Dominion, took place at the Borough Schools. The medals were given to the children early in the afternoon by the teachers, and at three o'clock the school children, including the cadets, assembled in the playground, and short addresses were given by Messrs. Penny and White, of the School Committee, and by Inspector Strachan.

The cadets were under the command of Lieut. Gifford, and went through their various movements in a highly creditable fashion, quite a feature of the "parade" being the manner in which a couple of young buglers sounded several of the bugle calls.

The members of the Committee present were:—Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman), White, Girling, Patchett and Hindman. One or two other gentlemen were also present. Mr. E. H. Penny, in his address, said that in some places to-day, and more especially tomorrow, the first anniversary of the proclamation of New Zealand as a Dominion was being celebrated all over the country. He understood that, they had all been presented with small medals to help them to remember the occasion. The money value of the medals might not be much, but he wanted them to keep them, so that when they were grown-up to be men and women they would look back upon the time when New Zealand was first called a Dominion. We were one of the youngest countries in the world, and had all, our history in front of us. A country and an individual were very much the same in the way they gained experience. Sometimes a person had bright sunshine like to-day, and sometimes they had dark stormy weather to get through, and so it was with a country.

The boys and girls of to-day would be men and women of tomorrow, and it was the desire of their teachers and parents, that when they grew up they would make this one of the very greatest countries in the world. They would have their trials and troubles, and it was the wish of everyone that they should train their natures and intellects and hearts so that they would be able to do their part towards making a great nation in the future.

Mr. J. J. White commenced by referring to Dominion Day as the birthday of the Dominion." It had been proclaimed a Dominion on 26th September, last year. Previous to that it had been a Colony, but it had increased in importance and responsibilities until the title of Dominion

had been conferred upon it. We were part of one of the greatest Empires in the world, and while the Union Jack—the flag of the Empire—floated over them they would have perfect freedom. But if ever the day came to pass when they could no longer claim the protection of that flag, if ever enemies came and took their country their freedom would be gone. The speaker then made reference to Canada, being the only other part of the Empire which was called a Dominion, and to the probability of New Zealand's ultimately becoming the centre of Government, for the Pacific Islands. He concluded by exhorting the children to do everything in their power to protect their own freedom, for while they took the precaution to protect themselves enemies would keep away from their land. Mr. D. A. Strachan was another speaker who made use of the beautiful weather for a peg upon which to hang his opening remarks. After referring to the bright sunny day he said that he hoped the children would remember it, and that the country would enjoy the same share of prosperity and freedom in the years to come as it was doing now. Perhaps some of the older children had noticed by the papers that Australia was trying to get a Fleet of its own. Some people were saying that Australia was a little bit unpatriotic in this respect, when they had the protection of the Navy of the Mother Country, but he did not see in it any evidence whatever of their being unpatriotic. They might as well say that a man was unpatriotic, as it were, who left his parents and went out into the world to make a home of his own. But if his parents were in trouble in some other part of the country, the man would go to them at once. He hoped that if New Zealand ever had the idea of building a fleet for itself in time to come, it would not be said that they wished to do so for any unpatriotic reason.

Mr. Strachan then referred to the part the teachers played in building up a nation, and said that he hoped the principles of truth, patriotism and justice would be instilled into the pupils so that they would remember them when they grew up and become a credit to the Empire, and the Dominion. The proceedings terminated with the singing of "God Save the King," and three cheers for the Dominion and the Old Country. At St. Mary's schools the Dominion Day medals were distributed to the children by the teachers

9th October 1908 Part of a long article included:The sale of work in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, which is to be held shortly in the Orange Hall, premises to be very successful. Yesterday afternoon the Ladies' Committee and the senior girls of the Borough School met in Miss Brewer's class-room, Sister Marian presiding.....

13th October 1908 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

APPLICATION FOR TEACHING HELP

THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE BOYS

At the Education Board yesterday afternoon the application from the Blenheim Borough School Committee for increased teaching assistance, which was held over from last meeting, was dealt with. [The details of the application have already been published.] The Inspector explained that the schools had not the requisite number for separate boys', girls' and infants' departments. The only question was should the schools be amalgamated? The only part where there was any under-staffing at present was in the infants' department, and the school was so situated that there would be an under-staffing at some stage. He thought that the Board might very well consider the matter. The Department did not recognise it as a separate school. In answer to questions, the Inspector said that there was no reason why the school should not be amalgamated.

Mr. Penny (Chairman of the School Committee) said that there was no great hardship placed upon any of the teachers of the school; the only part where there was any under-staffing was in the infants' department, and there were a number of quite capable young teachers who would be willing to assist in that department. So far there had been a very decided antipathy on the part of the townspeople to having the school amalgamated, and, before anything was done he thought that the householders should be consulted. He felt quite positive that if the

school was amalgamated it would be a very bad thing for it. They could not teach boys and girls in the same room at the same desks without there being a distracting influence. Notice of motion had been given in the Committee to instruct the Headmaster to amalgamate the school, but before anything was done they (the Committee) would probably refer the matter to the householders.

Mr. Conolly made some stringent remarks concerning the conduct of the Borough School boys, during recess. The masters, he said, did not seem to take any interest in the boys outside the school work. A number of the boys played on the reserve opposite the Gentlemen's Club during the lunch hour, and he had frequently heard them making use of the most disgusting language. He thought that it would be a great shame if boys, who behaved, in this way, were brought into contact with the girls and were allowed to associate with them during school hours, as even when in the company of girls one could not tell how they would behave. He advised the Committee to be very careful before sanctioning any change in the control of the school unless the boys were better looked after during recess.

Mr. Reader said that in a school of more than one teacher some arrangement might be arrived at whereby one teacher could be always on the ground.

The Inspector said it was considered a part of the teacher's duty to supervise the pupils during school hours, and it was certainly a reflection on the school if such charges as had been mentioned could be laid against the pupils. Mr. White said that the Blenheim School Committee would go into the matter at its next meeting and duly report to the Board. With reference to "Mr. Conolly's remarks, he thought that the Board should pass a motion to the effect that they expected the teachers to be present during school hours.

Mr. Smith thought the matter should go to- the School Committee, but he dissented from the idea of amalgamation.

Mr. Conolly said that he thought that the Borough Council should be asked to inform the master of the school that unless the boys behave themselves they shall not be allowed to play on the reserve opposite the Gentlemen's Club. .

The application was referred back to the Committee, for a further report

At a later stage of the meeting Mr. White moved that the Secretary of the Board be instructed to circularise each teacher, pointing out the necessity of carrying out the duties of supervising the pupils during playtime and during the recess between morning and afternoon school.—Carried. ,

14th October 1908 THE BOROUGH SCHOOL.

A question occasionally agitating the minds of residents is whether the Borough School shall be continued as a separate school, or an " amalgamated" institution. For the information of those, if there be any, who do not understand the distinction, it may be explained that the difference consists in the separation or otherwise of the sexes. The separate school obviously requires a larger staff than an amalgamated school, and since the Education Department will not recognise the Borough School in this town as anything more than an amalgamated one, it is only staffed accordingly. The School Committee, for reasons which appear to its members to be sound, prefer to have the school worked on the separate plan, and this has to be done with the staff furnished for an amalgamated school. Since working short-handed is unsatisfactory, as it weakens the teaching power and tends to inefficiency, an application has been made to the Board for increased teaching assistance. The result, as will be seen by the report in yesterday's issue, was to refer the application back to the Committee for further report. According to the Chairman of the Committee, who is also a member of the Board, there is a very decided antipathy on the part of the- townspeople to having the school worked on the amalgamated plan. Whether there are sound reasons for that antipathy, or whether it arises merely from sentimental considerations, is difficult to determine, but it is clear that in declining to allow boys and girls to learn their lessons together, as is done in many other

towns, are indirectly pronouncing an adverse judgment upon their own children which they would, very naturally, strongly resent if made in direct terms. We do not suppose our boys are any worse here than anywhere else, though from what one member of the Board appears to have observed as to their behaviour they probably think the refining influence of association with girls. If kept apart from members of the gentler sex, and made to feel that they are an inferior order of being, it is not surprising if they act accordingly. However, the whole question will doubtless be fully thrashed out by the Committee, whose decision in the matter will be awaited with no small degree of interest. The question of adequate staffing is of the highest importance, as the efficiency or otherwise of the teaching staff determines the success of the scholars in school work, and upon the results of that work their future career in life very largely depends.

15th October 1908 SCHOOL-TEACHERS' DUTIES.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir, —Yes, by all means make the teachers supervise the boys during recess and during the time that both teachers and boys are supposed to be home getting their dinner; make them march the youngsters all home after school in the afternoon, watch them while they have their tea and do their lessons, and finally tuck them in their little beds. How many teachers does the Education Board think would be required to perform all these assorted tasks? How many male teachers are there in the Borough School to-day? Two. How many were there, say, fifteen years ago? Five; and, moreover, one of them did not have to supervise all three as I believe, the present headmaster does. Would there be any need, if the schools were amalgamated, for boys; and girls to sit at the same desk? I think not.

As you said last night, Sir, the presence of girls in the same room as the boys would tend to improve, the behaviour of the latter, while, the, presence of the teacher would effectually answer Mr. Conolly's complaint that even when in the company of girls one could not tell how they, would behave.

Would it not be much easier for a teacher to handle, say, a mixed class of fifty than three classes of the one sex aggregating the same number? I consider that with, the schools amalgamated, there will be a considerable saving of teaching power, and the teachers would, not be called upon to do more than is humanly possible, resulting; either in scamped work or the keeping in of the duller children for sometimes an hour after the regular closing time. Some months ago the Committee decided that the schools; should go, in at nine o'clock and come out at half past three, instead of the 9.30 to 4 rule which had hitherto prevailed. How many of the children get out punctually? If the one-teacher-one-class system could be followed there would be no need for thus depriving the children of the fresh air which is so essential to their healthy development. As to boys swearing, the teachers, cannot be blamed for that; the youngsters pick up oaths more quickly than anything else, and they have only to be within earshot when a number of our youths are congregated together to hear the most choice selection of obscene and blasphemous language that the toughest' old bullock-driver ever put tongue to. Supervision, yes! but supervision within reason!—I am, etc., .

ANTI-SWEATER

15th October 1908 SCHOOL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR. '

Sir, —I read with great satisfaction your leader in to-night's Express on the question of amalgamation for the Borough School. The subject must be of the greatest interest to all who are concerned in the future of our boys and girls and is also of very great importance to the town. The question appears to be a very burning one—but why? It appears to me that Mr. Penny's objection to the mixing of the sexes during school hours is a very grave reflection ,

not only upon our children themselves, but also upon the competency of the teachers to maintain discipline, and above all upon the moral training given by the parents in the home. In nearly every other primary school in the Dominion the boys and girls are associated during school hours, not necessarily being seated at the same desks, as Mr. Penny seems to think, but the boys at; one side of the schoolroom and the girls at the other, thus enabling one teacher, with perhaps the aid of an assistant or a pupil teacher, to cope with the whole of one standard, instead of, as under our present system having to worry unaided over two. This must be an advantage to both teacher and pupils, as all the energies of the former can be concentrated; on one subject at a time) instead of his or her nerves being strung to high tension by being obliged to teach two different classes at a time. I know from personal experience, that this latter is cruelly, terribly wearing to a teacher, and by no means beneficial to the children. And taking the question of morals What harm can be done under the eye of a capable teacher, and why should there be harm? Do the parents ever consider how gravely they are reflecting upon their own upbringing of their boys and girls by raising such a question?

Are our Blenheim boys and girls less pure-minded than the boys and girls of other cities and towns? Are we, as parents, more incapable in our training of our children? Of course not. Then why such an objection? Directly our children are through, their course at the Borough School and enter the High School, there the sexes are amalgamated. And is any question of impropriety raised then!?. No, none whatever. Surely, if harm there be it would be out of school beyond the eye of the teacher, and so long as there are separate playgrounds that difficulty is removed. Besides, the question of age. When our children are old enough to enter the High School, they have, as a rule arrived, at an age when the, question of morals might possibly give rise to some debate as to the advisory of mixing the sexes. Surely then, when they are young and immature, as our children are at the primary school, such an excuse for non-amalgamation is a very flimsy one. Under the present system it is quite impossible for the children to reap the advantages of the advanced syllabus, with its modern, refreshingly interesting, methods now adopted in all the upto date schools, in all the larger cities and towns of the Dominion, many of them being the latest methods from the best schools in America and the Mother Country. A teacher with two 'standards in one room has of necessity to drive the children to a great extent, in order to get in all the work expected of, him or her, by the end of the year. And what is the result? Shattered nerves for the teacher, and a hatred of school in the work of the children, which should. Not exist, If a teacher has only, one standard to teach, he or she has a much better chance of studying the individual dispositions and characters of the pupils, and in dealing with, them accordingly. I think that such, a, method must be much better for, both. I hope that the parents and the Committee will weigh this matter carefully, and realise what an insult it is to themselves and their children to allow such an absurd objection as the "moral aspect" to interfere with what must be a step in the right direction. I would suggest that the Committee call a public meeting of householders to thoroughly; discuss the question without further delay.--! am, etc., A \Mother

17th October 1908 At the Salvation Army Barracks on Monday evening next Mr. J. Knott will conduct an entertainment of "Music, Song, and Story." Lord Tennyson's beautiful poem entitled "Enoch Arden" will be recited and illustrated with appropriate songs and beautiful limelight pictures. A large number of other pictures (grave and gay) will also be shown, including photographs of the Blenheim schoolgirls with their dumb-bells and the Borough School footballers. Concerning the delivery of "Enoch Arden," the Timaru Herald says:—"The Oddfellows' Hall was crowded last night to hear Mr. Knott recite Lord Tennyson's 'Enoch Arden,' and we do not think anyone present would regret going, for the poem was recited in a most telling manner, and the limelight lantern and views were equal to anything ever seen in Timaru before."

19th October 1908 reminder is given of the musical and literary entertainment in the Salvation Army Hall to-night. The limelight story "Enoch Arden", will be interspersed with suitable music by Borough School children and a large number of miscellaneous pictures will be shown.

4th November 1908 School Committee at its meeting last night acted with a certain amount of discretion -in avoiding a difficulty by referring the question of amalgamation to the householders, who will be asked to meet on the 1st of December and discuss the subject. Several members who expressed themselves favourably to amalgamation advocated this course, though there were others who considered the Committee should have backbone enough to decide the matter itself. One point touched upon, but not sufficiently emphasised. last night was that the law requires the school to be conducted as an amalgamate one. This being so, there is really no question for the householders to decide, and all that the Committee has to do is to administer the law as it finds it, whether it agrees with it or not. It is obvious that if the regulations are against separation, the householders have no discretion in the matter, and the proposed meeting must of necessity be futile, for the householders cannot by resolution override the law. The most they can do is to instruct the Committee to do its duty. The arguments used in favour of amalgamation were chiefly based upon the better work being done by the girls, which it was felt the boys should share. The under-staffing of the school under the present attempt to work it on the separate basis was also a strong point with advocates for amalgamation. The morality "bogey" was referred to, but here we are pleased to observe there was less inclination manifested to make it appear that Blenheim boys and girls should not associate with each other. If our boys are rough, it may possibly be because of the absence of the refining influence of the girls, which has been denied them hitherto. There can be no sound-reason why the sexes should not be taught together, as they are at the High School, and the very fact of separation is likely to excite in the minds of the young people an undesirable feeling of curiosity as to the reason why. On the whole, both the law and commonsense appear to be in agreement upon' this matter, and if the householders make a pronouncement to the same effect the Committee will be able to see its duty more clearly, and will be expected to follow it faithfully. There can be no question of "disrating" any teacher, as was made to appear by one speaker. The rating of the highly capable teacher referred to is just what the law allots, "and no more, and if the Committee has placed any teacher in a false, position by the attempt to carry on a separate school, we reel sure the officer affected has too much good sense to take offence at any action of either the householders or the Committee which would do no more than leave' her' in the position to which she is 'by law entitled.

4th November 1908 the meeting pi the Borough School Committee last evening there were present: The Chairman (Mr. E. H. Penny), Messrs. W. Girling, Patchett, W. Braddock, Pike, Hyndman, J. White, J. Brown and L. A. Browne. The Headmaster forwarded the attendances for the past month: Boys, on the roll 232, average attendance 208.6; girls 212, average .attendance 180.6. The windows needed attention. The Education Board wrote stating that if no objection were raised, the Board, at its December meeting, would renew the appointment of a number of the Borough teachers for a further term of twelve months. The Inspector's annual report on the school was received. Members considered it a very good one, and Mr. . Braddock • moved that the Committee congratulate the teachers on its general excellence. This was seconded by Mr. Hyndman and carried unanimously. The" Visiting Committee reported that their attention, had been drawn to . the number, of windows that had been broken. They I thought it would be a good idea to cover them with a piece of wire-netting. There were also some leaks in the roof which required attention. It was resolved that Messrs. Bythell; and Co. be instructed to replace one windows: which it was absolutely necessary to-

replace. The . wire-netting proposal was not .entertained. , Accounts amounting to £5, 14s 8d were passed for payment

4th November 1908 AMALGAMATION QUESTION.

At the meeting of the Borough School Committee last evening Mr. W. Braddock, moved according to notice "That the headmaster be instructed to arrange the school in accordance with, the law" He moved it, believing it would be in the interests of the teachers and children of the school. He referred them to the Education Act, wherein a' proviso is made for the staffing of schools In accordance with its numbers the Blenheim School was a mixed school, and they were attempting to carry on two schools with one staff- Naturally, they were bound to become under-staffed at some time or other. The head master had emphasised this, saying that he was about two* teachers short. He submitted a report which was forwarded to the Board. The speaker referred -to Mr. Penny's action when the report came before the Board, saying that he did. not quite understand his attitude in assuring the Board that none of the teachers suffered any great hardship. The intention -in amalgamating the schools was ltd economise the teaching staff. The .speaker detailed his argument under this head, and proceeded to criticise Mr. Penny's statement (made at the Board meeting) that the householders were against the idea of amalgamation. If it had been stated. to the householders that it was the law that it should be amalgamated, the Committee would have been asked to do its duty. He did not see the slightest reason why the school should not be amalgamated—it was only justice to the headmaster that it should be so.

Mr. Patchett seconded the resolution.

Mr. Girling said that he had given it careful consideration, and he referred to numerous other schools 'in regard to their working. In some instances the results obtained by the Boys' departments was never equal to the girls, and the change of teacher produced no great change in the .comparative results. The speaker thought it was because boys' were more likely" to go in for sport, and <did not take the trouble that the girls did with their work. He would like to suggest that the girls, who were (in the Borough School) obtaining better results than the boys, be .amalgamated, with the boys, .and give the latter the same chance that the girls had. He thought that the boys' results would thereby improve. The Committee should work in the interests of the scholars as well as the teachers, and he was -quite sure, that while they went on as at present, the boys would not, no matter who their teacher might be, -obtain the same results as the girls. Mr. Girling also referred to the fact that Miss Brewer did not confine herself to the school "hours, and that the homework of the girls was ' far in excess of that usually given to children in those standards. Unless 'the children had misbehaved themselves in some way, he saw no reason why they. should be kept in for so long after hours. Perhaps she -was quite justified in doing so, and if Miss Brewer was such a capable teacher he would like to see the boys have the advantage of her skill and experience. He thought that they should comply with the Act, and amalgamate the school, ' more especially as at present the infants department was under-staffed. He would support the motion. Mr. J. Brown agreed with part, of' what had been said by the former; speakers, but before she- voted for it, she should like to have the matter I placed before a meeting of house- "holders, as the last meeting had been; very antagonistic to it. Mr. L. Brown moved an amendment, that the matter be referred to a meeting of the householders, to be held shortly, but he hoped not before the election. The feeling' of the last householders? meeting was decidedly hostile to amalgamation. The mover of the motion had said that in referring the matter to the Board it was practically unanimous. Well, it was so, but the matter bad been brought forward in different ways previously; Mr. Girling's remarks in reference to the under-staffing of the, infants' school were quite correct, but that trouble only cropped up at certain intervals. He thought that in regard to the legal aspect the Education Department was not likely to interfere, and he thought that they should go on as they were at present. Were they amalgamated, lie

thought that the girls would suffer. It would also be penalising a good teacher and lowering her status. If Miss Brewer coached children out of hours, it showed that her heart was in her work". He did not think it would improve the boys, and might possibly lower the girls' results. Besides, the population of Blenheim would grow, and the attendance of the girls' school was nearly sufficient to entitle them to a separate school, and would probably be quite sufficient in the near future. Mr. Pike seconded the amendment. He did not think the mover had given them any reasons for changing. If they were amalgamated, would the sixth-standard girls be improved while being taught under Mr. Sturrock? He thought that if the school was amalgamated it would lower the girls' standard, and not improve the boys. The speaker then quoted Mr. Strachan's opinion given at the Committee meeting two months ago, and said that he was quite convinced that in amalgamating the schools they were going the wrong way. Before they made any move they should consult the householders. It would be the disgrating of Miss Brewer, and perhaps she would not submit to it, and they might lose her services. Mr. Girling, in speaking to the amendment, had no objection to having it put to the householders, but the Committee were elected to carry out the work in connection with the school, and he did not see the necessity of putting it before the householders, but if the Committee wished to do it, he had no objection. Mr. Braddock thought that the Committee had more backbone than to refer the matter to the householders.

Mr. J. White had no doubt, from education in other places and from dealing with human nature, that educationists were of the opinion that mixed schools were preferable to separate ones. There was a greater refinement amongst boys, and there was a greater amount of emulation among them. They tried to

show their cleverness and to gain the appreciation of the girls, and that, of course, was only human nature! A family consisting of boys only was at a great disadvantage, as they missed the refining influences of the gentler sex. Mr. Strachan had said before the Education Board his opinion that there was no reason why amalgamation should not take place. The speaker dealt with the "morality question," and said it did not come in. He favoured co-education, the boys and girls being taught in one room, though they would sit in separate blocks of desks. When they left the class-room they went into different play-grounds, so that the only chance the boys and girls had of mixing together was outside the school grounds. The Committee had been elected on the understanding that the schools were separate, and he thought the householders should be consulted before any change was made. If the matter were officially brought before the department he thought that the department would "buck" at the school being run contrary to the spirit, of the law. Under all the circumstances it was only right to refer the matter to the householders. He would support the amendment. The Chairman still held that what he said at the Board meeting was quite right. There was no shade of hardship with any of the teachers in the school, with the possible exception of Miss Brown, and that was only at a certain period of the year. The head teacher of a boys' school could not have the same results as the teacher of a girls' school, given equal capacity. He would also say that they could not place big girls and boys in a room together without a distracting influence. It might not be bad or good, but there would be a distracting influence. He would also say that wherever it was possible the tendency was to Separate, the boys and girls. Personally, he should hesitate to send his girls to an amalgamated school if he could get them educated in another way. He quoted some magazine articles he had read which purported to show that in America secondary education was not carried on coordinately. It was the best rule to separate the sexes. He was perfectly content with the amendment as it was, and was a good enough democrat to submit to the will of the people. If the householders favoured amalgamation the Committee should carry it out, but otherwise he did not think it would be a good idea. Mr. Penny also referred to university education, and endeavoured to show that the general trend was towards separating the sexes.

' After further discussion, the amendment was carried by five to three. The minority were Messrs. Braddock, Hyndman and Patchett. The Secretary was instructed to advertise the householders' meeting to be held on Tuesday, 1st December, in the Orange Hall.

30th November 1908 BURNING AMALGAMATION QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—It seems pretty evident that householders are being pretty well canvassed in the endeavour to get a majority of them to "defy the law. Householders are being told that the first assistant holds a higher certificate than the headmaster, and therefore she threatens to resign if it is considered that she is placed, under him. I think this is altogether apart from the real question. As an honorable citizen I believe in maintaining the law, and should the law be repugnant endeavour to get an honorable repeal of it—not defy it. I must point out that this lady accepted the appointment of first assistant of the Borough mixed school, and has apparently remained satisfied with the salary attached. By the law being complied with the salary and position would remain exactly the same as before, so that the argument that this lady would be disgraced, or as a certain Education Board member put it, "degraded," has no foundation in fact, the only difference being that the lady would teach a class composed of boys (on one side of her room) and girls (on the other of her room), instead of, a class of girls only, thus conserving the teaching power, which at present is too limited as allowed by the Act for a school where boys' and girls' classes are taught separately. I am told that our girls are receiving a better education than our boys, and I ask: "Is this right?" for I consider the future husbands and breadwinners deserve a better fate. Dust is being thrown in the eyes of householders when the bogey questions of immorality, disgracing, etc., are brought forward—the real stumbling-block being animus existing between the partisans of either side. As regards the moral aspect, it is a ridiculous procedure to separate the sexes during tender years, and then during the pubescent stage to send them to the High School, where we know the classes are mixed. Then we are told that our Blenheim boys are worse than the boys of all other towns.... If this should be true, is it not due to the omission of the restraining influence of the girls, all other schools under the Marlborough Education Board being mixed schools. I would ask the householders eluded by false sentiment with crocodile tears of partisans. Really I think it is about time we had a clean sweep of the whole staff of the Borough schools and fresh appointments made.—I am, etc.,

PARENT.

30th November 1908 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

A meeting of householders is to be held to-morrow evening to consider the burning question of amalgamating the Borough School. We understand that a considerable amount of very unnecessary feeling has been created over this question, which is a most regrettable circumstance. The issues are very simple. The school is under the education scheme, a mixed one, its numbers being short of those required for carrying on a separate school. But though the school is officially recognised as but a mixed or amalgamated one, and is only staffed accordingly, the local Committee has been endeavouring to carry it on as a separate school, with the result that too much work is thrown upon the teachers. An application to the Board for additional assistance was very properly referred back to the Committee for further information, and the Committee decided to refer the matter to the householders, whose verdict is to be requested to-morrow evening. As we have already pointed out, the householders are really powerless in the matter, if the law is as stated. No number of resolutions by householders can compel the Committee to break the law. The Committee is no doubt acting wisely in calling the meeting so as to explain the position, but beyond this, it seems to be impossible to go. There is the law, and it is for the Committee to carry it out, or make way for others who will. As to the various other matters that are being imported into the

discussion, they really have no bearing upon the real point, and should not be allowed to carry any weight.

2nd December 1908 QUESTION SHELVED. Some 200 householders assembled at the Orange Hall last night to discuss the question of amalgamation of the Borough School. A great many ladies were amongst the audience, and very keen interest was taken in the proceedings. Shortly after eight o'clock Mr. E. H. Penny introduced, His Worship the Mayor (Mr. A. McCallum), who took the chair:

The Mayor explained what they were called together for. He thought they were not doing right by asking him to preside. Seeing that it was an educational matter they should have had as chairman the chairman of the Education Board or School Committee. He would ask them to confine their attention strictly to the question at issue and refrain from all personal allusions. He understood that amalgamation would alter the status of two of the teachers.

The chairman then spoke in high terms of the ability of Miss Brewer and Mr. Sturrock.

He (the Mayor) thought the question should have been decided at the last, annual meeting of householders. However, after they had discussed it and taken a vote on it he hoped the arrangement come to would be beneficial to Blenheim education,

Mr. George Patchett asked that the clauses in the Act bearing on the question should be read to the meeting, as it seemed by what they read in the papers that the Committee had no discretionary power. If that were so he would think they should just tell the Committee to go back and do their duty.

The Secretary read one clause bearing on separate schools, and was turning over the book to find another, when Mr. L. A. Browne objected to time being wasted. Those who had come there to favor amalgamation should be ready with the clauses of the Act which bore upon their arguments. The clause was then found; and read.

Mr. Braddock then moved: "That the matter be left in the hands of the Committee." He thought the Committee had a duty to perform, and should do that duty and; not shuffle their responsibility upon the householders. Other schools were mixed, and obtained good results, and why could not their school? When the school was put under the separate system it became understaffed. (Cries of No, no.). Yes, it did, for after the system came into operation, the headmaster applied for more assistance this plainly proving that the school was understaffed. They had not. Heard one single sound argument against amalgamation,

From the moral standpoint the separationists were practically saying their children, were worse than in other schools. The teacher would not be disrated by amalgamation; she would hold exactly the same position and the same salary as she held before. Another argument put forward against amalgamation was that the headmaster was not competent; that was nonsense. If he were competent to take charge of one side of the school he was competent to take charge of the other side. They had to carry out the school according to the law, and the law said they were a mixed school.

Mr. Hill seconded the motion pro forma.

Mr. F. Paine said that they knew Mr. E. H. Penny was a level-headed man, but Mr. Braddock was all over the shop. At the annual meeting of householders Mr. Braddock and others refused to state their views on this question before the election, took place.

Mr. Lord was an honorable man, and stated that he was in favor of amalgamation, and it cost him his seat on the Committee. They all respected Mr. Sturrock and Miss Brewer, and it was not democratic to say that the gentlemen should receive a better education than the ladies. If it was the law that they had no discretionary powers they were wasting their time there that night. It would be better to wait till the annual meeting

Mr. W. Jordan had gone to considerable trouble to get all the information he could on the matter. He would read the agreement which Miss Brewer had with the Education Board. The

Mayor said the agreement was 'not germane to the motion,-but he would put it to the meeting, who on a show of hands agreed to hear it read.

Mr. Jordan, continuing, said Miss Brewer had been appointed as second assistant for one year, the appointment to be renewed from time to time at the pleasure of the Board. The agreement also stated that no alteration would be made in the teaching of the girls in Standard II and upwards. Miss Brewer had accepted this agreement on the conditions laid down. She had faithfully carried out the work entrusted to her. If amalgamation were carried it would mean a class of boys here and a class of girls there all in one standard. How was a teacher to teach them better than under the present system? As to understanding, there were always a couple of probationers available — always girls, though, Miss Brewer took advantage of these probationers. If the teachers did not so take the advantage it was their own fault and not the fault of the separate systems that understaffing arose. For the past five years the girls' department, had been head and shoulders above the boys'. The Inspector always gave the - highest praise to the teachers of the girls' department. When they had a teacher like this what did they want, to interfere with her for? Just because the girls had got on so much better than the boys they wanted to drag Miss Brewer down to teach the boys. On the score of morality they were on the right track in keeping to the separate system. He remembered, before the separate system was in vogue, there had always been some scandal in the school, and there were continued bickering's between the headmaster and mistress. Since separating they heard nothing of the sort, The amalgamationists elected on the Committee had said nothing before the election, but once in had .tried to work their point. Last year's inspector's report, showed that the general efficiency of the school was good.

Mr. L. A. Browne went back to the last annual meeting of the householders. He had said then he. was in favour of leaving things as they were. He was still of that opinion. The; reason that he had moved that the matter be referred to the householders was the fact that five members were in favour of amalgamation, and he thought it was for them to obtain an expression of opinion from the householders as the Committee had no mandate to carry out amalgamation. : There was nothing in the Education Act that said they should amalgamate. The Act only applied to the staffing and salaries. If they carried, amalgamation they might have to retrace their steps as they did before. - They were only twenty short of the two-hundred required for two schools. If they were going against the Act it was for the Inspector and Board to put them right. By amalgamating competition would be barred. He remembered the time when they had a mixed school, and there were good reasons, which need not be repeated, for the change to the separate system.

Mr. Girling said that at the time of the election the question did crop up, and one or two questions were asked. At that time he (the speaker) could not exactly say what his mind was on the matter. He had since gone fully into the matter, and felt that amalgamation was in the best interests of the school. They had started as a mixed school and they should carry on as such. The Education Board should have given the Committee a clue, and told them what the position was in point of law. He understood that the power was in the hands of the head teacher. Two standards were now being taught by one teacher, and two .of them were pupil teachers. The speaker then went into the question of staffing, to show that under the present system one teacher was taken from the infant classes in order to strengthen the higher standards. The children would not be mixed in the classroom; they would sit on different sides. The boys and girls being together would tend towards a greater spirit of emulation; the boys would strive harder to bring their results nearer to the girls' results. He quoted Mr. Hardy, one of the finest teachers in New Zealand who had stated that it was impossible to get the same results from boys as from girls. Another teacher had said that the girls were more studious, and their minds not occupied so much in outdoor sports. They should get better results when a teacher gave his or her whole time to one standard, than by giving half time to

one and half time to another. He was sure that amalgamation would give better results to boys and equal, if not better results to the girls. Their second standard was under a pupil teacher, who was not able to manage the class as it should be managed. Under amalgamation an efficient teacher would take that class and the unruly spirit would disappear. He had nothing to say against Miss -Brewer : she had proved she was a capable teacher. But in the interests of the boys as well as the girls they should work under amalgamation. The boys were the future mainstay of the homes and ;that was one reason why he supported mixing the classes.

Mr. Lord said his views were pretty well known. He congratulated Mr. Girling on his speech. For an unmarried man he had made a splendid speech. His Worship: Mr. Lord, you are not speaking to the motion. The discussion is getting too lax. Mr. Lord went on to say that the school was understaffed. There were not two healthy lady teachers in their school. That showed that they were overworked. He maintained that the head master should not be bound to have one class to teach, but should have time-to teach the teachers and assistants, which he could not do now. If they were amalgamated they would get results second to none in the Dominion. He yielded to no one in admiration of the teachers, but the school was understaffed and the teachers over-worked. If they were going to set their children an example by breaking the laws of the country they were doing a wrong thing. If the law was not right, set about putting it right. He felt sure, according to the spirit of the Act, they should amalgamate. The reason why candidates did not express their views at the annual meeting was that Mr. Penny had said it would be better not to discuss the question.

Mr. W. Ching remembered the time when they had amalgamation, and it did not work at all.. He did not know what advantage they would get from it. . Every town he went to in the North Island there were separate schools.—Why was Nelson College not amalgamated? .(Mr. Girling: They have a proper teaching staff.) He (the speaker) was not in favour of amalgamation. They should leave things ;as they were until next annual meeting; Mr. White could not support the motion. He had supported the motion to refer the question to the .householders. He was there to take the householders' verdict. He was convinced they were going on illegally but as the Committee were elected by the householders the Committee should continue as they were or be elected on the ticket. There was a great deal of misunderstanding about the question of amalgamation. There was nothing whatever in the question of morality. .Co-education would lend itself to the uplifting of the moral tone of the school. The whole of the Board schools in Wellington, with the exception of one. were amalgamated. '

The Mayor then said, he would insist on speakers confining themselves to the question before the meeting. They would not get home before 8 o'clock next morning, if all spoke as long as Mr. White.

Mr. W. Pike said there were two classes in the Committee—one a law abiding class and the other a lawbreaking class. He happened to be on the law-breaking side. He would like to ask Mr. Girling if there would not be a pupil in charge of the second standard if amalgamation were carried.—(Mr. Girling:- A more efficient pupil teacher). If the fifth and sixth 'standards were taught in the same room the upper standards would have their memories refreshed by the teaching of the lower. The speaker then read the figures he had previously given at the meeting of the School Committee, which have been already been published.

Mr. Girling pointed out that under the new Act pupil teachers would have to go through a course of training before being allowed to teach at all, and this help would now be denied them. Mr. L. A. Browne then moved, as an amendment: "That the question be left to the next statutory meeting of the householders, matters in the meantime to remain as they are.

Mr. Paine seconded.

Mr. E. H. Penny wished to make his position in the matter clear. Mr. Browne had made a good challenge when he asked the other side to point out the clause in the Act which said that

amalgamation was compulsory; There was a marked tendency among educationists nowadays to ; separate the schools, They were not going to raise the boys by amalgamation, but they were going to pull the girls down. The girls were better mannered, and if they were brought into the same classroom as the boys it would tend to lower the standard of the girls' manners. : Under the previous teacher to Miss Brewer the pass was good in the girls' section. Were they going to allow it to remain good or drag it down to fair and satisfactory? Their teachers did not suffer hardships. To say they did was all moonshine. Did they mean to say that it was a hardship to take charge of 30 or 40 children? Mr. Browne had said why the meeting was held, but the suggestion to hold it came from Mr. J. Brown.

Mr. J. Brown said if they could only get another 20 girls to the school there would be no need to talk at all. They would have their two schools. Mr. Eyre, said that his boys were being taught all right, but not his girl. The present system in the girls' school was a system of perpetual cram

The Mayor said he must stop. The speaker must confine his remarks to the amendment, and not cast any reflections upon the teachers. Mr. Eyre said he did not mean to cast any reflection upon the teachers, but many people he knew of, sooner than send their children, to the Borough School, were sending them to the Roman Catholic School, in defiance of their religious principles.

Mr. J. S Kane thought the householders had been called together under false pretences. They were supposed to be there to give their opinions for or against amalgamation. The true position could easily be ascertained if the Committee wrote to the Minister for Education.

Sir J. Patchett said it appeared to him that they as a Committee' were being chained, up. Amalgamation was said to be immoral.

Mr. Penny rose to a point "of order Mr. Patchett was dragging in things that were not in the minds of the Committee at all.

Mr. Patchett said the Inspector favoured amalgamation, and why should they go beyond their Inspector?

The amendment was then put and carried by 64 to 10. On being put as the motion it was again carried. A vote of thanks to the Mayor concluded the meeting.

2nd December 1908 Several homely proverbs, will occur to those who take the trouble to peruse the report of last night's meeting of householders to discuss the school question. "Barking up the wrong tree" and "talking to Buncombe " are equally descriptive of the proceedings, but perhaps the most appropriate in view of, the impotent termination, is that "the mountain in labour brought forth a mouse." And the mouse was one of the smallest of the rodent tribe. As we are already pointed out, the issue was a very simple^ one. An attempt; is being made to carry on as a " separate " institution the Borough School, which is classified by the department as a mixed school, and is only staffed If this could be legally done the very first requirement would be more teachers, and at a recent meeting of the Board an application was made for additional teaching power. This was naturally referred back to the Committee for an explanation, and the Committee, upon, meeting, found themselves face to face with the problem of attempting to carry on, short-handed, a method of school arrangement at variance with the law, but presumably in accordance with the wishes of the householders. It was accordingly decided "to hold a meeting of householders and explain the position. It was of course reasonable to expect that, the law having been explained, as it was at the outset, and found, to be against the separate idea, the Committee would be told to do their duty. This at least would have been the commonsense outcome of the position. But a motion to that effect was lost after a long wordy contest, in which much that was to the point Was uttered, and a great deal that was quite beside the question also found expression. The usual amount of rubbish was talked about the moral danger of mixing

the sexes, a danger that appears to be more real—in the minds of a certain small party—in connection with the Borough school than any other primary school in Marlborough, or even than in the High School itself. The boys of Blenheim must be a specially bad lot if these people are right, but it is noteworthy that the objectors, or most of them, have no boys of their own attending the school, therefore they are the more free to express an adverse opinion concerning other people's boys! .The question of disrating a teacher and " dragging her down to teach boys " was also very unnecessarily imported into the discussion. Not only had it no bearing upon, the matter, but the suggestion has no foundation in fact. The very capable teacher.' referred to holds a certain appointment under the Board, at a certain salary, and no proposition to interfere with, that has ever been made, nor would the Board entertain it if a meeting of householders ever presumed to make it. It was merely introduced to cloud the issue, or to attempt to bolster up. an untenable position. A resolution was finally adopted to leave things as they are till next annual meeting for the election of Committee. The meeting thus apparently felt its impotence, and tacitly admitted that it could do nothing in face of the law. .But it would have materially strengthened the hands of the Committee and demonstrated a respect for the legal position, which is apparently lacking by the bulk of those who took part in the proceedings, if a resolution had been carried directing the Committee to administer the Education Act in its integrity. And this the Committee will do if they possess any backbone at all, notwithstanding any resolutions passed at a meeting that has no power; whatever to override the provisions 'of the Education Act. The Borough School is classified under that Act as a mixed school with a staff ample for its grade. Moreover, the head teacher has full discretion to arrange his pupils as he thinks fit, subject to the satisfaction of the .Inspector. By what right, then, do householders presume to interfere with this discretion, and dictate to the head teacher how he shall carry on his work ? The only safe ground that can be taken up is the. legal one. Any attempt to depart from that, and adopt a course in keeping with the idiosyncrasies of a few extremists or faddists, can only end in disaster

3rd December 1908 The Marlborough Express PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1908. THE SCHOOL IMBROGLIO.

The average individual will be wondering what all the row is about in connection with the Blenheim school. That there is -something behind the scenes may be taken for granted, and that there is woman in it may also be regarded with certainty._ But_ v.re prefer to ignore all considerations haying an ulterior—not to say a sinister—aspect, and to deal with the simple facts as they appear on the surface. To state the position clearly, the School Committee is, by the Education Act, given "the management of educational matters within the school district." These are general powers to be exercised in the light of the Act, the regulations, and commonsense. Under the regulations (part 4, section 3) the head teacher's powers of internal control are thus defined:—"The classification of a school shall be held by the head teacher, who shall have full discretion to arrange his pupils in different classes for different subjects according to their ability and proficiency with respect to the several subjects, and to group two or more classes for instruction in one subject. This discretion he must exercise to the satisfaction of the inspector, who will regard as a weakness any und ay complexity iii the. classification of pupils-" Committees in the past appear to have taken out of the head teacher's hands the power, of internal control, and the head teacher has weakly yielded to, this usurpation of his powers. The regulation is distinct—He shall have full discretion." Then how comes it that ho fails to exercise this, discretion, and ; allows the Committee to interfere in a .matter which is his peculiar , province P The Committee, having the management of education matters! Within the school district might very reasonably find fault with the head teacher if he failed to properly exercise his discretionary powers of arrangement, but *no committee has any right to take those powers into ; its own hands. If so all sorts of complications would ensue. Bad arrangements may be regarded by the ; inspector as a

weakness, but if these arrangements have been made, not by the teacher who should make them, but by the committee, who should not, how can the inspector properly ; exercise his power of criticism, or upon whom should his censure fall ? He has no power over the committee, and he cannot blame the teacher for what has been done by that body. ; All he can really do is to censure the teacher for permitting his functions \ to be usurped. By allowing this the head teacher appears to have, placed himself in a false position. He has a full staff for a, f mixed school, but by weakly yielding to the wish of faddists who have been on previous school committees, (and some of whom are there now) he is attempting to carry out two separate schools with the staff only designed for one; He is, in short attempting the impossible, and the education of the boys is suffering in consequence. In the interests of the boys this sort of thing must come to an end. The Committee should, in the exercise of its powers of general control, insist upon the head teacher making his arrangements of classes in accordance with the Act. The head teacher, for his part, should reassert himself, and do what the regulations require of him. And the inspector should insist that it is done. When once the head teacher asserts himself, and assumes the position, which is his right under the regulations, and which/ he should never have laid aside, the/whole difficulty will cease. Objectors to the law being carried out its integrity should endeavour to have it altered, but until they achieve that end they must be prepared to submit to it. And persons 'elected to responsible public positions should learn as of their first, lessons that they are not there to twist the law to suit their own prejudices or predilections, but to administer it as they find it, whether they like it or not. One Committeeman boasted at the recent meeting that he was a "law-breaker," which is nothing to his credit. If Committeemen are not prepared to administer the law, they have no business to seek the position, and should make way for those who will do so impartially, and fearlessly. The moral support of the entire community is always at the back of those who fearlessly do their duty, but nothing but contempt is meted out to those who fail in a trust reposed in them

3rd December 1908 SCHOOL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir, —I am anxious for the Blenheim householders to know- why the Mount Cook school, Wellington, with eleven hundred pupils, is not a mixed school. I have good authority for saying that the Board was desirous of making this a mixed school, but the building was not large enough to accommodate the increased number of pupils. The Wellington Board approached the Government for a new building to enable the change to be made, and the Government were willing to incur the expense. Endeavours were made to get a site large enough in a suitable position ; but they were unable to get a site, hence the project had to be abandoned. Mount Cook school is the only unmixed school in the Wellington Board's district. Both Newtown and Petone schools, one thousand pupils each, are mixed schools. These facts speak for themselves. Your reporter having omitted this from his report of what I said at the householders' meeting on Tuesday evening, I would ask you to kindly grant me the necessary space in to-day's Express.—I am, etc., JNO. WHITE. Blenheim, Dec. 3 1908

4th December 1908 The following pupils of Marlborough schools gained proficiency certificates at the recent examinations: — 'Blenheim: Charles Brayshaw, John Eyre, Eric Pike, Dick Penney, Be. b Wakelin, Russell . Wemyss, Merv Wanden, Percy Davis, Mabel Batt; , Doris Clarke, Marjorie Espie, Liz Falkner, Gwen Furness, Dorothy Harding, Aileen Hilliard, Margaret Innes, Emma Kirby, Lily Maurice, Gwenneth Reid, Rosina Thomson. Springlands: Wilfred Jackson, Ida Livingstone, Percy Prebble, Leonard Thompson, Norman Nairn. Grovetown: Lewis Cheesman, Charles Corder, Ada Jones, Emma Payne. Fairhall: Susie Avery. St. Joseph's Girls': Regis Murphy. St. Mary's Boys'; Hector Horton, David Union, John Onion., Okaramio: Alfred Hart, Flora Nees. Marlboroughtown: Phyllis Cresswell, Geraldine Dodson, Tinirau Phillips, Kenneth Robertson, Myrtle Sheridan.

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 SCHOOL CADETS.

BATTALION PARADE AT TUAMARINA

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 thee 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.

Another parade will be held on Monday next, at Blenheim.

14th December 1908 BOROUGH SCHOOL v. TUA MARINA SCHOOL.

The Borough School boys went to Tua Marina on Saturday and played a match with the Tua Marina School, and after an exciting game succeeded in winning by three runs, scoring 36 and 24 against 39 and 18. Bottrell, for the Borough School, captured 8 wickets in the first innings and 7 in the second, and for Tua Marina, McNabb and O'Connor did most of the bowling. This is the first time that Tua Marina has been beaten this season.

15th December 1908 BEFORE THE BOARD

'THE LAW TO BE OBSERVED

At the- Educations Board meeting Yesterday afternoon, the question of the amalgamation of the Borough School was again brought forward. The following letter was received from the School Committee:— By instruction of the Borough School Committee I am forwarding a letter to the Minister for Education through the Education Board. -Will you kindly give this your attention, and' oblige.—Yours, obediently, A. J. MACLAINE, Secretary.

This letter, covered one to the Minister for Education; which the Board were asked to forward. The letter was as follows

"Sir—I am directed to seek your opinion on the following circumstances in "with the Blenheim Borough Schools. The total roll number is 436; the average attendance, is, boys, 211, girls 183. This includes the infant department.

"For some reason, of which the present Committee is not cognisant, the Committee in office 18 or 20 years since separated the boys from the girls, and, constituted two schools under a head-master and a head-mistress. It is asserted that this was done, at the., request of the householders in the district. The question of reorganising this school with a view to mixed classes has on several occasions been discussed by the householders, and on each occasion the householders have expressed the opinion that the present system of organisation is best.

"When the staffs and salaries Act came into force at the beginning of last year- the staff was reorganised to come into line with that Act. The headmaster has since received the salary as for a school with the above average attendance; the head-mistress became first assistant with the properly allocated salary, and both teachers consented' to the continuation of the school under previous arrangements as to Boys and girls (from Standard II. to Standard VI.) being separately taught. This necessitates the teachers of the third and fourth standards and fifth 1 and sixth standards taking two classes. If the school were mixed each teacher would have only' one standard in charge, viz.: the head-master the 6th Standard boys' and girls'; 1st

assistant, the fifth Standard boys and girls; second assistant, fourth Standard boys and girls; third assistant, the third Standard boys and girls.

"The questions now at issue are: (1) Is it compulsory that the boys and girls shall be placed together for tuition; (2) has the head-master the discretionary power, with the inspector's approval, to mix the sexes for tuition so that in his opinion the best results may be obtained." Mr. Strachan said that it had been previously stated in another case of a somewhat similar character that the Board, should not act as an intermediary between the Committee and the Minister. Mr. Conolly quite agreed with Mr. Strachan, and upheld the views he expressed. Mr. Penny said that the Committee had done the thing in the way in which they thought was proper. They had written, as they thought, through the proper channel. Mr. White said the letter was sent to the Board because the Committee were under the impression that it was against departmental etiquette for the Minister to correspond with the School Committee. They therefore sent the letter, as they thought, through the proper channel. Mr. Reader said that the objections to amalgamation were largely imaginary, based on an idea that Miss Brewer would suffer in some way through it. He would move that the head-master be instructed to arrange the school as a mixed school after the holidays. If this were done Miss Brewer would then occupy her true position. He failed to see that the school was going to be any worse by the change than at present. If it were mixed, it would have a beneficial influence on the character of both the boys and girls. Mr. Smith supported the motion, saying that it simply amounted to the fact that the school must be conducted legally. He then mentioned the argument against amalgamation that the girls were doing so much better than the boys. But he thought that that was always so, and he quoted several instances of his own inspecting experiences showing that in a majority of cases (of mixed schools) the girls had gained higher results. Apart from that, he thought that the mixing of the boys and girls would be very beneficial, as for one thing a milder form of discipline was efficacious. He had always been in favor of having the boys and girls taught together. Mr. Smith then quoted some more of his inspection experiences in support of his argument. There was no more fear of anything in the shape of immorality. Mr. J. Conolly agreed with what had been said by the previous speakers, and he believed it would be in the best interest of the school to have it amalgamated. He also thought that with a mixed school it would be possible to manage with a less severe discipline. When he was at school at Eton, which was a boys' school of course, he got well thrashed, and after coming out to New Zealand he went to school at Picton, which was a separate school at first. When they first went in for a mixed school it was found to be a great advantage, and it was found that it was possible to manage with a much milder form of discipline. Moreover there never had at any time been any immorality. He believed that the girls had a moral influence over the boys. He agreed with Mr. Smith that wherever they did anything in the shape of amalgamation they improved the character of the schools. In mixed schools they would find that the masters and mistresses had to take the greatest care of their pupils, and would bring them on better than they would under the separate system. Mr. White pointed out that he was quite satisfied that it would be to the advantage of the school to have the children taught as the Act provided. It had been said that if the girls' school here were increased by an average attendance of 20, that would enable the boys' and girls' schools to be separate, but that was absolutely wrong. Mr. White here quoted figures to prove his contention. It was well-known that the infants' school could not be taken into account, as the Act provided for the consideration of the numbers above Standard I. Below the First Standard there were 61 infants in the boys' school, and 47 in the girls', and even if they included these, the figures for the last quarter were, boys 149, and girls 135, so that meant that before the school became a separate school according to the law they would have to make up 51 boys and 65 girls. But at any rate, in dealing with the question they had to consider, not what was good for the teachers, but what was advantageous to the

children, and he was quite sure that it would be better for the 'school to be amalgamated. The boys and girls would not actually be together, as the boys would be on one side of the room and the girls on the other, which was obviously a great advantage, so far as the teaching was concerned. He supported the motion, and thought that it was not open to question as to its being to the advantage of the children to have the boys and girls taught together. Mr. Penny said that the whole matter resolved itself into one of experience. He had had ten or twelve years' experience on the Blenheim School Committee, and during that time he had three times had the opportunity of gauging the wishes of the householders, and they had always expressed themselves in favour of the separate school. The gentlemen who brought up the moral question were fighting shadows. He was quite sure that the results obtained under the present system were much better than would have been obtained had the school been managed in another way. If they passed a motion such as Mr. Reader's without due notice or anything, they would create ; a great deal of discontent in the town, and would do a great deal of irreparable damage to the education !of the district. Before they did anything the Board should give notice and consider the School Committee a little further in the matter.. The Chairman said that the legal position was that the school was, according to the Act, a raised school. He also dealt with the ethical side of the question, saying that in the view of what had transpired many years ago the then Board had come to a sort of moral agreement apart from the law. There were only three members of the Board at that time who were still members (Messrs. 'McCallum, White . and Parker), and he considered that they were morally bound to vote against the .motion. The" Chairman then turned up the' agreements under which Miss Brewer and Mr. Sturrock were appointed, which' Stated that the conditions existing then would not be interfered with. .

Members of the Board drew attention to the fact that those agreements were framed some years ago, and the terms of the Board's appointments were from year to year. Continuing, the Chairman said that at the same time he did not think that the Board would do much harm if they passed the motion. He had always thought that they should have a mixed school but owing' to the complexity of the situation which had arisen in Blenheim in ancient times he would be forced to keep to his pledge and- vote against the motion.* , Mr. Parker agreed with what Mr. Penny had said. The school was going on very satisfactorily, and if they altered things, they would be mixing things up and have the teaching at "sixes and sevens." They would, if they carried the motion, make good bad, and land themselves "in the soup." Mr. Penny moved an amendment that the question be referred to the Inspector and the headmaster to report on at next meeting. The Board might take the bull by the horns and make a mess of it. When children became adolescent the leading educationists were in favour of separating the sexes. So long as the householders were of the opinion they were now, it was unfair for the Board to alter the existing conditions..

Mr. Strachan .read the regulation dealing with the matter, which stated that the headmaster had the full discretion (subject to the approval of the Inspector) to classify he school. Mr. Conolly said that first they had to ;,see whether the school was being classified according to the Act. The discretionary power came afterwards. There v/as a full meeting that day, and why not let it be settled at once ? The only thing that the amendment could be for was in the hope that at the next meeting there might be' a small meeting and the " other side" might win.

Mr. Penny warmly resented this insinuation, and spoke about it. .

No one seconded the amendment, and Mr. Reader replied criticising the "experience" alleged by Mr. Penny, stating that he (Mr. Penny) knew only of the divided school. Why not give the mixed school a chance? They should carry on the school according to the law, and never mind considering their friends in the matter.

The motion was carried on the following division:—Ayes, Messrs. Macey, Conolly, Smith, Reader, Storey and White. Noes, Messrs. Penny, Parker and McCallum.

17th December 1908 BREAKING-UP" DAY.

' CEREMONY AT THE BOROUGH ; SCHOOL

The Borough School broke up for the mid-summer vacation yesterday. In the morning the.; cadets fired for the South Island Shield, and scored an average of 52 per boy out of a possible 84. The work' during the afternoon was varied in character. The Rev. Mr. Penney visited the school at 2 o'clock, and put the scholars of his section of the Bible class through ail examination on the ; work of the year, and kindly allotted prizes to those who distinguished themselves. The headmaster gave prizes to the boys in the fifth and sixth standards who had never missed a half-day during the year, and three boys were successful in gaining one— Maurice Clarke, Robert Ham and Vernon Stapp. These boys also gained first class Government certificates for, good attendance. Mervyn Wanden gained a second-class certificate for not having been absent more than five half-days. After the presentation of the prizes Master Wanden, in behalf of the sixth standard, presented Mr. 'Sturrock with a silver matchbox as a mark of esteem, and wished him a pleasant holiday. Master Clarke, in behalf of the fifth standard boys, made Mr. Sturrock a gift of a pair of handsome toilet .brushes in case. Mr. Sturrock suitably replied, thanking the boys for their good wishes and gifts, and hoped that when school re-assembled the boys would return from their holiday I refreshed and vigorous for their next year's work. The third and fourth standard pupils gave Mr. Gifford, their teacher, a silver stud-box, as a token of the esteem in which he is held, and wished him a happy holiday. Misses Brown and Harris were also the recipients of gifts from the children in their classes. The children were dismissed at about 3.30 for their vacation. In the girls' department a " social afternoon" was held by the senior girls, the junior pupils haying bad ,an afternoon tea the previous day. Various indoor games were played, for prizes presented by Miss Brewer, who also gave out the attendance certificates to those who. had won them. Three presentations were made to Miss Brewer —a silver mounted hair-comb from the seventh standard, a silver-backed hand-mirror from the sixth; and a smelling salts bottle and scent-spray from the fifth. Miss Wanden received from the third standard girls a memento in the shape of a purse.

18th December 1908 Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, left last evening on a holiday visit to' Sydney

1909

1909	392	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 315.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Wedde	Albert A	D2	Assistant Master	£ 210.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 150.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 125.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Mortimore	Archer E		Assistant Master	£ 121.10
1909	392	Blenheim	Hilliard	Evelyn E	D4	Assistant Female	£ 95.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Hilliard	Josephine		FPT4	£ 55.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Brewer	Faith		FPT3	£ 45.00
1909	392	Blenheim	McCallum	Margaret R		FPT3	£ 45.00
1909	392	Blenheim	Gallop	Liley		Female Probationer 1	£ 20.00
1909	392	Blenheim	McCallum	Martha		Female Probationer 1	£ 20.00
1910	406	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 320.00

6th January 1909 AMALGAMATION AGAIN.
THE BOARD'S ACTION CRITICISED

The word "amalgamation"—like that blessed word Mesopotamia— seems to be a source of constant discussion and argument among the two Blenheim factions so particularly interested in the matter. At the meeting of the Borough School Committee last evening, Mr. L. A. Browne had another go at the subject, and a somewhat irrelevant argument, interspersed by occasional side remarks from one or other of the Committee, took place between him and Mr. W. J. Girling. The discussion arose through a letter being read from the Education Board, intimating that the Board had issued instructions to the headmaster to teach the boys and girls together (in the same classes) after the holidays.

Mr. L. A. Browne remarked: "Don't you think, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee has been treated very discourteously in regard to this matter?" .

The- Chairman agreed, and said that he had on more than one occasion expressed that opinion. Mr. L. A. Browne then said that it had been decided by a majority of the Committee to 'abide by the decision given at the householders meeting—that was, to defer the matter to the annual meeting of householders. Then on the top of that,

Mr. Girling came there and proposed the motion which resulted in the letter being sent to the Education Board to forward to the Minister. Mr. Girling: "Do you think that I had any idea what the Education Board was going to do?"

Mr. Browne: "No, I don't think that; but it was unfair of you to propose that resolution after the decision of the householders' meeting. Mr. Girling: "Do you think, Mr. Browne, that we should remain in the dark on the matter?" Mr. Browne said that they had not got any more light on the subject. The Committee had only let Mr. Girling's resolution go through in the interests of fair play. ' Mr. Girling hoped that Mr. Browne did not cast any reflection on his voracity. Mr. Brown did not, but " I don't think you should have brought the matter up again."

Mr. Girling thought that most of the householders' would be willing to abide by the law, whatever their personal wishes. Mr. Browne argued that the matter was left to be met by local requirements ; and the very fact that the Department had allowed it to go on from year to year as it had been was in favour of his contention. Mr. Girling traced the attitude taken up by the Chairman of the Education Board at the meeting, saying that he (the Chairman) had said that he felt morally bound to support amalgamation, though he would not otherwise have done so.

Mr. Penny said that had it not been for the ward system of representation on the Education Board things .would not have happened as they did. It was the members from the outside wards who had carried the resolution, and had it not been for this system he (the speaker) had no doubt that things would not have been decided as they had been. It really was, however, "the letting out of the waters," they were "out of the frying-pan into the fire," and were " crying peace when there was no peace." Many people were not prepared to accept the position, and he felt that the Board was doing an irreparable injury to the town, and were doing something which it would take some time to open again. Mr. J. Brown said that it would have satisfied the Committee more if the letter had been sent on to the Minister.

Mr. L. A. Browne said the present arrangement no doubt satisfied those who supported amalgamation. The discussion then fizzled out, no motion being moved and nothing being done

6th January 1909 When Miss Brewer's resignation was read at the Committee meeting of the Borough School last evening, one member expressed the hope that she had not resigned on the spur of the moment, the day after the Education Board had passed the fateful resolution. Reference to the date of the resignation, however, showed that the letter was not written until sometime after the Board meeting.

12th January 1909 At the Education Board meeting yesterday, some doubt was expressed by members as to whether a male or female assistant should be advertised for to fill Miss Brewer's place. The School Committee in their letter asking the Board to call for applications had not mentioned any preference, and the matter was one of choice so far as the Act was

concerned. It was decided to call for applications from either males or females for the position, an amendment by Mr. Smith, that a male teacher be advertised for, being lost.

22nd January 1909 SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION.

JUNIOR NATIONAL

The following are the names of the candidates who were successful in 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 (Marlborough) ... 508

Rosa M. Innes (Blenheim) ... 484

Leonard J. Bary (Renwick) ... 475

Emma Kirby (Blenheim) ... 459

Leonard Thompson (Springlands) 459

James Cresswell (Tua Marina) 453

John P. C. Sutton (Waitohi) ... 450

Eileen Hilliard (Blenheim) ... 445

Grwynneth M. M. Reid (Blenheim) 442

Agnes M. Pigou (Spring; Creek) 431

Alice R. Gane (Spring Creek) ... 407

The Junior National Scholarship is worth £10 per annum for three years, tenable at a secondary school, in addition to the tuition fees, and if obliged to live away from home, the holder is entitled to an additional £30 .per annum. The Education Board's scholarships are tenable for two year?. Candidates for these scholarships must have been not more than fourteen years of age on the 1st day of December, 1908.

29th January 1909 Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Borough Schools, returned to Blenheim last evening from his Holiday in Australia. The school will re-open on Monday.

3rd February 1909 The Borough School Committee have recommended the Education Board to appoint Mr. A. Wedde, of Waihakeke. Carterton, as first assistant at the Blenheim Borough School.

3rd February 1909 BOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the above was attended by Messrs. E. H. Penny' (Chairman), Pike, Girling, Braddock, Hyndman, L. A. Browne, J. J.. White, and J. Brown.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. J. Patchett.

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT. The report showed that the numbers on the roll on the opening day were 251 boys, and 197 girls. The infants' department had a larger roll number by 22.

Mr. Fisher, of Tua Marina, gave his services on the opening day, and Mrs. Fisher takes up the work as relieving teacher in place of Miss Brewer, resigned, pending the appointment of an assistant.

RESIGNATION. Miss A. M. Harris tendered her resignation as fifth assistant, and asked the Committee for a testimonial. It was resolved that the testimonial be given, and that Messrs. Penny, White, and Girling prepare the same, the Chairman to sign the document in behalf of the Committee. APPLICATIONS. There wore fourteen applications for the position of first assistant, seven males and seven females, and it was resolved that the selection be taken from the male applicants. After balloting, the Committee's choice fell upon Mr. A. A. Wedde, and it was resolved to recommend his appointment to the Board.

VISITING COMMITTEE. Messrs. L. A. Browne and J. Hyndman were appointed a Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

VOTE OF THANKS. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the considering of the applications for the first assistants concluded the business.

5th February 1909 MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD. APPLICATIONS are invited up to SATURDAY, 20th February, for the position of Assistant in the Blenheim School. Salary to commence £90. Appointment to be on Boards' usual terms. Secretary

9th February 1909 EDUCATION BOARD. SCHOLARSHIPS.

FIRST DUNCAN SCHOLARSHIP.) At the meeting yesterday afternoon the Education Board apportioned the following scholarships:—Lilian E. : Falkner, Blenheim, National Scholarship (subject to her complying with the conditions); Lilian A. Smith., Havelock. £25; Ivor G. Prichard, Marlboroughtown, £10; Rosa M Innes, Blenheim, £10; Leonard J., Bary, Renwick, £10; Emma E. Kirby, Blenheim, £2; Leonard Thompson, Springlands, £2; James K. Cresswell, Tua Marina. £2; John P. C. Sutton, Waitohi, £2; Aileen Hilliard. Blenheim, £2; Gwynneth M. M. Reid, Blenheim, £2; Agnes M. Pigou, Spring Creek. £2; Alice Gane, Spring Creek. £2; Alexander George Gunn, Duncan Scholarship. Total amount of Board's funds appropriated for scholarships, £73. The Board's scholarships are all tenable for two years, the National Scholarship for three years, and the Duncan Scholarship for one year at secondary schools. The Duncan' Scholarship is awarded only to pupils who would be obliged 'to live away, from home in order to attend a secondary school.

9th February 1909 Four applicants, all qualified, applied for the Board's four probationership. They were as follows: Miss A. Payne (Grovettown, Master G. Reader (Havelock), Miss M. McCallum (Blenheim) and Miss Lilian Gallop (Blenheim)! All four were appointed to serve in the various schools indicated

15th February 1909 *Re loss of Penguin Ship with loss of life.* Miss A. M. Harris was another intending passenger who missed the boat. She recently severed her connection with the Borough School in order to go to Wanganui, and was taking farewell on Friday afternoon of her fellow teachers and former pupils. The leave-taking occupied longer than was expected, and Miss Harris missed the train.

3rd March 1909 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held in the schoolhouse last evening, when the following, were in attendance: Messrs. J. J. White (chair), W. Shaddock, J. Patchett, J. Hyndman, T. Pike and J. Brown.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. L. A. Browne, E. H. Penny and W. Girling.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT,

The headmaster reported the attendances for the month at: On roll, boys 243, girls 199; average, boys 212.6, girls 176.7. Total number on roll, 442, average attendance 389.3. For the same period last year the total number on the roll was 436, and the average attendance 370.6. Mrs. Fisher has been appointed interim teacher in place of the, first assistant, and Miss Simson has taken Miss Harris's place. Mr. Wedde, the newly appointed first assistant, expects to take up his duties on April 1st. To enable more rapid assembly a small gate is required in the dividing fence in front of the main building. ,

APPOINTMENTS,

The Education' Board informed the Committee that Misses McCallum and Gallop had been appointed probationers to the school.

Notification was received of the appointment of Mr. Wedde to the position of first assistant.

The Education Board also notified that Mr. Gifford had been re-appointed second assistant.

VISITING COMMITTEE'S

REPORT.

The Visiting Committee reported that the attendance was very good. The staff had been, somewhat handicapped, but they would be all right when Mr. Wedde started work; In regard to the gates it would save some seven or eight minutes in assembling the school, and would be of great advantage to the staff. The Committee made some inquiries into the working of the school under the "mixed" system, and the general opinion was that the new system was working harmoniously and well. The teachers were all unanimous in praising the new system which made for better facility in teaching the classes. There was no indication of the epidemic prevalent in Picton. The headmaster was keeping a keen watch, and on the first indication of it the Health Department would be at once informed. The committee recommended the gate in the dividing fence be put in. It was decided that the Education Board be requested to have the gate put in

GENERAL.

Accounts amounting to £21 3s 9d were passed for payment. Messrs. J. Patchett and W. Braddock were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month. An account for school books amounting to £9 10s 8d was passed for payment as soon as the grant for the purpose came through the Board.

FIFTH ASSISTANT.

There were seven applications for the position of fifth assistant, and after going thoroughly into them it was decided, to recommend Miss Hilliard for the position.. Miss Hilliard was educated in the Blenheim Borough School. In 1900 she won a scholarship, and was entered' as a pupil in the Marlborough High School. _ She holds a credit pass in the Civil Service examination, and also a full D. certificate. For the past two years she has been first assistant in the Spring Creek school. A hearty vote of thanks to the. Acting chairman concluded meeting

8th March 1909 Miss L. M. Brewer, who resigned from the- teaching staff of the Blenheim Borough School at the end of last year, has gone to Wellington in order to study the latest methods of teaching in progress at the Training College.

9th March 1909 Blenheim.—Miss E. E. Hilliard, on the recommendation of the Inspector, was appointed fifth assistant. The sum of £2 16s was voted for the erection of a gate in the dividing fence between the boys' and girls' playgrounds

31st March 1909 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The members of the Blenheim School Committee met last night. Present: Messrs. Penny (chairman), Patchett, J. Hyndman, W. Pike, L. A. Browne, W. J. Girling, J. White, J. Brown, and Braddock. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The Headmaster reported the number of pupils on the roll to be 447, and the average attendance 387.6. He suggested that the Easter holidays commence on Good Friday and cease on April 13th, the school to open on Wednesday 14th. The report was received, and it was decided that the school close on April 13th and open on the 14th. The Secretary of the Education Board forwarded a voucher for the sum of £38 2s, being ordinary capitation for the quarter ended March 31st, and special capitation on the average attendance for the year 1908. It was proposed by Mr. Pike, and seconded by Mr. L. A. Browne, that Messrs. Bythell and Co. be instructed to place a gate, also other improvements, to the fence in front of the school.—Carried. The Secretary and Chairman were appointed to frame the annual report to be presented at the annual meeting of householders. It was decided that the householders' meeting be advertised in The Express on the Saturday preceding the meeting. The Visiting Committee reported that everything at the school was satisfactory. Messrs. White and Girling were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month. Accounts amounting to £15 16s were passed for payment, and the meeting terminated.

31st March 1909 The headmaster of the Blenheim public school in his report to the School Committee last night stated that the only case of sickness in connection, with the school during the past, month was one of measles

24th April 1909 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

The following is the report of the 'Borough School Committee, to be submitted at the forthcoming annual meeting of householders:—

"Your Committee beg to report that during the year thirteen meetings have been held, all of which have been v/ell attended, the individual attendance being as follows: Messrs. Penny (chair) 12. J. Brown 13, W. Braddock 13, J. White 12, W. Pike 12, W. J. Girling 11, J. Hyndman 11 L. A. Browne 11, and J. Patchett 10.

"The Inspector's annual report was a very satisfactory one, and the Committee desire ' to compliment the teaching staff on the continued improvement shown in all departments. There was again a noticeable increase in the attendance, the average roll number for the year being: Boys 244, girls 207.5, and the average attendance was boys 207, girls 177 ; total roll number 447.5, average attendance 384—85.8 per cent. But it is still necessary to impress upon parents the importance of regular and punctual attendance at school, the best efforts of the teachers are largely discounted by irregular and unpunctual attendance

The question of arranging the school in mixed classes has been before the Committee on several occasions during the year, and the Education Board at its December meeting, resolved to instruct the headmaster to commence the year's work on the system of mixed classes. When the schools opened in February, therefore, Mr. Sturrock, in accordance with the Board's instructions, rearranged both the staff and the classes, and the school is now working under the re-arrangement. It is as yet too early to estimate any results', of the changed conditions.

"During the year Miss L. M. Brewer, first assistant, and Miss A. M. Harris, fifth assistant; resigned their positions in the school, and the appreciation of the Committee of the work done by each of these teachers, was recorded in the minutes of the Committee, and conveyed to them..

Mr. A. A. Wedde and Miss E. E. Hilliard have been appointed first assistant and fifth assistant respectively, and commenced their duties at the beginning of the present month. Miss L. Gallop and Miss M. McCallum were appointed to the Blenheim Borough School as probationers for two' years, in terms of the Education Department's regulations, and entered upon their duties at the opening of the school year. "Twenty pupils secured certificates of proficiency, which entitles the holders to two years free tuition at the Marlborough High School. Miss Lilian E. Falconer, gained the National Scholarship, also' the M.P. medal for 1908, and Misses Rosa M. Innes, Emma E. Kirby. Aileen, Hilliard, and Gwynneth Reid, gained Education Board Scholarships."

27th April 1909 The statutory meeting of householders of the Borough School district was held in the school last evening. Mr. E. H. Penny (Chairman of the outgoing Committee) occupied the chair, and a large and representative attendance of householders was present, including a number of ladies. REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The annual report and balance-sheet-were read. The report has already been published, and the balance sheet showed a small credit balance of £1 7s 9d on the year's working.

Mr. J. J. White moved that the report and balance-sheet be adopted, and Mr. J. Williams seconded.

Mr. Ching, referring to the amalgamation- of the schools, (correctly speaking the "mixing" of the schools) pointed out that at the last meeting the householders were not in favour of having any change, and at a public meeting held later on the feeling was ten to one against any change. In face of this the Committee had approached the Board and the change was made.

The Chairman said that a certain point was sent to the Board for decision, and when that came before the Board, the Board decided to order the master to mix the classes.

Mr. L. A. Browne asked if it were not a fact that the Board were tired of the agitation on behalf of some of the members of the School Committee.

Mr. Girling explained that after the Orange Hall meeting it was his intention to apply to the Minister, through the Board, to see if the Committee were acting in conformity with the Act. When the matter came before the Board, the Chairman gave his opinion that they were not acting in conformity with the Act, and a member of the Board immediately moved that the headmaster be ordered to conduct the school in conformity with the Act. The question had not been brought up by agitation as suggested by Mr. Browne. Mr. Browne said it was understood after the Orange Hall meeting that things would be left as they were until that night. Then Mr. Girling moved his resolution and the matter was sent on to the Board.

Mr. Girling said he never went outside the resolution passed at the Orange Hall. He acted perfectly fairly. He wanted to get their legal position before the next meeting of householders. The matter then dropped and the report and "balance-sheet as read were adopted

'COMMITTEE

The election of Committee was then proceeded with. Messrs. E. H. Penny, J. Hyndman, W. J. Girling, J. Patchett, W. Braddock, W. Ching, F. Birch, J. J. White, L. A. Browne, and S. Norgrove were nominated. There being ten nominations for nine seats an election took place, in which 97 votes were cast. The ballot resulted as follows: —

Girling ... 72

White 69

Patchett 63

Braddock 59

Hyndman 58

Ching 53

Birch 51

Penny 50

Norgrove 44

Browne 31

The first-named nine were declared elected, and returned thanks for their election.

THANKS Votes of thanks were accorded the secretaries (Messrs. Hylton and MacLaine), to Mr. W. Carr (for the loan of the lamps), and to the Chair. The newly-elected Committee met immediately afterwards, and elected Mr. J. J. White chairman.

24th May 1909 EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

SALUTING THE FLAG

A LESSON IN PATRIOTISM

The children of the Borough School were assembled this morning for the purpose of saluting the Union : Jack. In addition to the main body of the school children, the cadets were present in uniform, and they were lined up in front of the school, and saluted the flag

The Chairman of the School Committee, Mr. J. J. White, addressed the children. He urged them to observe loyalty to the good old flag under which they lived, and to King Edward VII. The boys should be ready and willing to fight? if necessary.' They would be fighting for their fathers and mothers and for the freedom of which they were all so proud when they were assisting to keep any foreign Power from invading Great Britain. .

He impressed upon them the necessity for taking an interest in their drilling and shooting so that they might be prepared to fight at any time and be able to save the country and ' themselves. They had no doubt heard a good deal about "Dreadnoughts" of late, and also that New Zealand's offer of one "Dreadnought," and probably two, had been accepted by the Home authorities. It was not only the duty of the dependencies of England to help her' by

contributing towards her Army, but also to support the Navy, for they would' have to depend largely upon the Navy to keep out their foes. They had been told about a two - Power standard, which meant that England's defence should be equal to combating an attack by two foreign Powers at the same time. He trusted that the children would' always' remember their duty to their King and country, and also that they would enjoy their holiday.' Mr. Strachan addressed the children upon discipline, their early training, and the close observance of a strictly moral character, so that they would be fitted to take their part in the great but little nation of which they formed a part. He mentioned that they belonged to New Zealand, the population of which was a million, and that it was steadily increasing., The population of Canada was seven millions, and there were over four million people in Australia. At the time of the Black Death there were only four million people in Great Britain, and after its ravages had subsided there remained only 2 million.

In 1750 that number had increased to six millions ; and after Trafalgar and the Napoleonic campaign it had risen to nine millions in 1815. That showed that they belonged to a comparatively young nation, small in numbers, but one that was developing rapidly. When America broke away from England there were only three people in the country, but it had progressed, and was now in every respect the greatest nation in the world. ~

Mr. E. H. Penny said they had assembled to commemorate the memory of a great and good woman, perhaps the .greatest Queen that England ever had. It was during the reign of Queen Victoria that the Empire of which they had been hearing had developed and expanded until it was the dominating factor of the world's Powers. He impressed upon the children to remember the privileges they enjoyed in, being members of the 'Empire. A great statesman had said that Englishmen should be like the Romans were in their time. They were proud of the power they enjoyed, but the Englishmen, while feeling proudly, the privileges extended to them, should live down vice arrogance that dominated the Roman Empire.. He recognised how necessary it was to be ready for war if they were to defend their possessions and liberty. They should cultivate friendship towards other nations and good all-round fellowship to their neighbours. They did not want to fight if it could be averted.. Life was a fight real :and earnest, and they all had to fight to help to forward the interests of the new country of which they all formed a part. He hoped the British Empire would continue to be great, and that the feeling which characterised the British nation, in which they had the honour to live, would still be theirs.

Mr. W Girling said he would not detain the children long, as they were no doubt anxious to have their holiday. They noticed the flag they had saluted had three colours, red, white and blue. The red denoted war, for which England was always prepared. The white colour stood for the right of the Empire they should ever defend, and blue represented the liberty of the British nation. He thought they all should do- their utmost to maintain the principles of the British nation. He said the cadets should honour the uniform they wore, so that in time of war they would be able to come forward and assist the Mother Country in keeping the enemy off and preserve their King and Empire. "God Save the King" having been sung,' cheers were given for their Majesties the King and Queen and the Union Jack, and the children were dismissed.

31st May 1909 MATCH.

BOROUGH v. SPRING CREEK

The final game for the schools championship (ordered to be replayed from last year) took place on the Snow Grounds on Saturday prior to the Central-Awatere senior fixture, and resulted in a win for the Borough boys by 6 points (tries by Brown and Penny) to nil. Mr. D. McCallum was referee (*Rugby*)

8th June 1909 MONTHLY MEETING. The Blenheim School Committee met last night, when there were present : Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. Ching, E. H. Penny, J.

Hyndman, F. Birch, W. Braddock, W. J. Girling, J. Patchett and S. Norgrove. THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the number on the roll was: Boys 251, Girls 201; and the average attendance: Boys 216.2, girls 176. Total 452; total average 392.

FINANCE. Accounts amounting to £11 18s were passed for payment.

VISITING COMMITTEE. The Visiting Committee reported that everything was working smoothly at the school.

A TEACHERS' ROLL. Mr. Braddock proposed, and Mr. Norgrove seconded, that the headmaster be asked to keep a teachers' roll, recording their attendance at the school, and to report any absences and the cause to the Committee in his monthly report.—Carried.

MR NORGROVE'S RESIGNATION. Mr. S. Norgrove tendered his resignation as a member of the Committee. Mr. White proposed, and Mr. Birch seconded, that Mr. Norgrove's resignation be accepted.—Carried. Mr. White proposed, and Mr. Hyndman seconded, that Mr. Norgrove be appointed secretary. at a salary of £7 10s per annum.—Carried. Mr. Ching moved, and Mr. Birch seconded, that Mr. L. A. Browne, the unsuccessful candidate at the late election, be offered the vacant position on the Committee. Messrs. Penny, Girling, Birch and Ching spoke in support of the motion, and Messrs. Braddock, Hyndman, Patchett and the Chairman opposed it. The motion was defeated by the casting vote of the Chairman. Mr. Braddock moved, and Mr. Hyndman seconded, that Mr. A. J. MacLaine be elected to fill the vacancy.—Carried. Messrs. Birch and Patchett were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month, and the meeting adjourned.

7th July 1909 The usual months meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last night, Mr. J. J. W. White in the chair and there were also present: Messrs.-W. Braddock, F Birch, W, Ching, E H. -Penny. J. Girling and John Patchett. The headmaster reported the attendance for the month of June as follows: : Number on roll, boys 248; girls 211: average, boys 212.3; girls 177.5. The average for the June quarter was 389.2, the highest for this quarter for some years past. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Braddock, that the Borough Council be asked to supply some flowering shrubs to be planted in Seymour Square on Arbor Day (July 21) by the school children, under the supervision of the teachers and the Council. It was decided to obtain an estimate of the cost of reinstating a portion of the fence in front of the school. Mr. White tendered his /thanks to the members of the Committee for re-electing him on the Education Board.

17th July 1909 Blenheim Borough Council ARBOR DAY. The Secretary of the Blenheim School Committee wrote asking the Council to supply 100 flowering shrubs to be planted by the children in Seymour Square on Arbor Day, July 21, under the supervision of the teachers. ' Councillor Parker asked why . the children should not plant the trees in the vacant section close to the gasworks. Councillor Carr said there were too many trees in the Square. Councillor Birch moved, and Councillor Adams seconded, that the request be granted. Councillor v Girling asked if it was intended to plant the trees on the I section opposite the police station. The Mayor thought so. Councillor Birch said he would not confine his resolution to the site proposed by other members. Councillor Adams said he would like Councillor Birch to specify the site opposite the police station. The motion was carried.

6th August 1909 A meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held on Tuesday. Present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), Braddock, Birch, Ching, Hyndman, J. Patchett and Girling. The headmaster reported the number of children on the roll as follows: Boys 249, girls 209; average boys 208.4, girls 170.1. The percentage of attendance of those on the roll was 82.5. Mr. J. R. Gifford, second assistant teacher, forwarded his resignation, having been appointed headmaster of ,the Burnett's Face school, Nelson. (*Burnett's Face was up on the Denniston Plateau out of Westport. There was also the Denniston District High School showing how many lived on the Hill. The researcher was the last teacher at*

Denniston) It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Girling, that the Committee learns[^] with regret that Mr. Gifford has tendered his resignation, and wishes him every success in his new position. Miss M. M L. Brown, third assistant teacher, applied to be appointed to the position of second assistant, vacated by Mr. Gifford. The Committee unanimously resolved that Miss Brown be recommended to the Board for the appointment, Miss Brown to remain in charge of the infant department. The Committee also recommended the Board to call for applications for a male teacher as third assistant if they promote Miss Brown

2nd September 1909 On Friday afternoon last Mr. J. R. A. Gifford, who has accepted a position under the Nelson Education Board (*The Nelson Board went as far south as Charleston*), severed his connection with the Blenheim Borough School. Previously to the scholars departing, Mr. Gifford was the recipient of a set of studs and sleeve links from his late pupils, and a handsome toilet set : from the other members of the teaching staff. The latter presentation was made by Mr. Sturrock, who expressed his regret at losing the services of Mr. Gifford. He also referred to the pleasant relations that had existed between the recipient and the other teachers, and wished him success in his new sphere. Mr. Gifford feelingly returned thanks for the gifts and the sentiments expressed.

8th September 1909 The Blenheim Borough School' Committee met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), Ching, Birch, Braddock, Girling, Hyndman, A. J. Maclaine, E. H. Penny, J. Patchett,

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported the attendance for the past month as being good, considering the amount of wet weather experienced. The average attendance was: Boys 219, girls 179, and the number on the roll, boys 248, girls 211, the total average being 398. The attendance banner had been the means of keeping up the average. Mr. Gifford, second assistant, left Blenheim on August 28th to take up his new appointment, and Mr. Thompson had been appointed temporarily to fill the vacancy.

THE SCHOOL GROUND. Mr. Birch reported that the school ground had been prepared for tree planting, and it was decided that, weather permitting, the planting should be done on Wednesday, September 15th at 2 p.m., the scholars to be granted a half-holiday on that date.

SCHOOL LIBRARY. Messrs. Girling and Hyndman reported having examined the school library, which contained over 500 volumes. The books were in good order, but the scholars did not appear to make the use of them they should.

THIRD ASSISTANT. The position-regarding the appointment of a third assistant was that there were four applications for the vacancy, and the Committee decided to recommend the Education Board to appoint Mr. Gordon McIntosh to the position.

MINIATURE RIFLE RANGES. A circular was received regarding the miniature rifle ranges for the cadets, and was referred to Major Sturrock for a report. The meeting then terminated.

7th October 1909 The Blenheim School Committee met on Tuesday evening, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. Braddock, W. J. Girling, W. Ching, E. H. Penny, J. Patchett, F. Birch, J. Hyndman and A. J. Maclaine. Mr. Wedde, in the absence of Mr. Sturrock, reported that the average attendance for the month was: Boys 225, girls 186. On September 28 there was a record attendance, only 13 scholars being absent, which was attributed to the influence of the attendance banner. Inspector Strachan forwarded his supplementary report on the school, which was considered satisfactory. Messrs. Ching and Braddock were appointed a sub-committee to supervise the putting of the school grounds in order.

12th October 1909 The Blenheim Borough School Committee wrote recommending that Mr. Mortimer of the Grovetown School, be appointed third assistant, at the Borough School, such appointment to be temporary, Mr. Mortimer to sit for the necessary certificate in January, 1910.—The appointment was made.

28th October 1909 Miss Grace Garnham, formerly of the Blenheim Borough School, has been appointed assistant mistress at the Clyde Quay School, Wellington. There were 80 applicants.
16th November 1909 Miss L. M. Brewer, late first assistant mistress at the Blenheim Borough School, has been appointed head teacher at the Dalefield school, in the Wellington Education District.

8th December 1909 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night, when there were present: — Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. Braddock, P. Bitchy A~ J, Madame, Hyndman. J. Patchett, E. H. Penny, and W. J. Girling. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the average attendance for the month was boys 218, girls 182, and the number on the roll, boys 251 and girls 212. He also reported that an operetta [entitled "The Holiday Concert" and action songs by the junior pupils would be given in the Town Hall on the evenings of December 14 and 15, the object of which was to supplement the cadet fund with the receipts. Mr. Sturrock asked if the members of the Committee would assist at the concert in the way of taking, charge of the doors, etc. Having made the necessary 420 attendances as required by the Education Board regulations, he suggested that the school close for the summer holidays on December 15, and re-open on January 31st, 1910. It was decided that all the members who could possibly get away, should assist at the concert. The headmaster's recommendations relative to the closing down of the school for the summer holidays were adopted.

IMPROVEMENTS. Several improvements applied for were authorised to be carried out, to be ready in time for the re-opening of the school,

CAPITATION. Mr. Penny stated that he had noticed that no provision had been made for the 9d per head capitation extra which had been paid to school committees.' Unless the Education Board were prepared to meet the Committee in the matter the Committee would be considerably behind at the end of the year. . The amount received annually from that source totalled between £9 and £10. Mr. Fowlds had cut the extra capitation down because the credit balances of the Education Boards had been steadily creeping up until last year they had reached £29,000, and he thought that the Board should pay. The amount be moved, and Mr. Birch seconded, that the attention of the Education Board be called to an intimation appearing in the newspapers to the effect that the Education Department; this year was making no provision for the payment of the extra capitation, money (9d per head) and that the Committee would be unable to meet current expenses unless that capitation were available. The other members, present concurred with the motion, which was carried unanimously.

GENERAL. The question of Mr. Mortimer's appointment was discussed, and 'it was decided, that he continue in office pending the result of his examination in January. Mr. Penny moved, and Mr. Girling seconded, that the Board be requested to; have the school thoroughly disinfected during the holidays. Chairman said that since the disinfectant was first introduced there had not been many cases of diphtheria in the school.

8th December 1909 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night, when there were present: — Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. Braddock, F. Birch, Mr. Hyndman, J. Patchett, E. H. Penny, and W. J. Girling.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the average attendance for the month was boys 218, girls 182, and the number on the roll, boys 251 and girls 212. He also reported that an operetta entitled "The Holiday Concert" and action songs by the junior pupils would be given in the Town Hall on the evenings of December 14 and 15, the object of which was to supplement the cadet fund with the receipts. Mr. Sturrock asked if the members of the Committee would assist at the concert in the way of taking, charge of the doors, etc. Having made the necessary 420 attendances as required by the Education Board regulations, he suggested that the school close for the summer holidays on December 15, and re-open on

January 31st, 1910. It was decided that all the members who could possibly get away, should assist at the concert. The headmaster's recommendations relative to the closing down of the school for the summer holidays were adopted. IMPROVEMENTS. Several improvements applied for were authorised to be carried out, to be ready in time for the re-opening of the school,

CAPITATION. Mr. Penny stated that he had noticed that no provision had been made for the 9d per head capitation extra which had been paid to school committees. Unless the Education Board were prepared to meet the Committee in the matter the Committee would be considerably behind at the end of the year. The amount received annually from that source totalled between £9 and £10. Mr. Fowlds had cut the extra capitation down because the credit balances of the Education Boards had been steadily creeping up until last year they had reached £29,000, and he thought that the Board should pay. The amount be moved, and Mr. Birch seconded, that the attention of the Education Board be called to an intimation appearing in the newspapers to the effect that the Education Department this year was making no provision for the payment of the extra capitation, money (9d per head) and that the Committee would be unable to meet current expenses unless that capitation were available. The other members, present concurred with the motion, which was carried unanimously. GENERAL. The question of Mr. Mortimer's appointment was discussed, and it was decided, that he continue in office pending the result of his examination in January. Mr. Penny moved, and Mr. Girling seconded, that the Board be requested to have the school thoroughly disinfected during the holidays. Chairman said that since the disinfectant was first introduced there had not been many cases of diphtheria in the school.

13th December 1909

Town Hall
BLENHEIM
Borough School Concert
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.
In Aid of Cadet and School Funds—
Action Songs (Junior Scholars).
Presentation of Prizes WEDNESDAY.
Operetta: "THE HOLIDAY CONCERT." –
(Senior Scholars.)
Prices, 2s and 1s. Doors Open 7.30

13th December 1909 The Borough School children have been busy rehearsing for the school entertainment which takes place in the Town Hall to-morrow and Wednesday evenings. The junior scholars are contributing a series of action songs. Miss Brown has arranged an attractive programme. The senior scholars are giving as their part "The Holiday Concert." This is a very tuneful operetta. The solos and choruses have been going very smoothly. A full orchestra will accompany. The presentation of prizes will take place on the second evening—Wednesday.

14th December 1909 SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS. The Blenheim' School Committee applied to have the school disinfected during the Summer holidays. It was decided to grant the same sum as was voted last year towards the cost of the work.

The Blenheim School Committee wrote forwarding the following resolution, passed at its last meeting. That the attention of the Education Board be called to an Intimation appearing in the newspapers that the Education Department is this year not making provision for the payment of extra capitation money (9d per head), and that the committee will be unable to meet current expenses unless this capitation is granted." The Chairman said it raised a big question,

and he moved that it be referred to a select committee consisting of the Chairman and Messrs. Smith and Penny.

Mr. Conolly seconded the motion, which was carried.

15th December 1909 At the school concert last evening ladies' large hats were much in evidence, and in some cases quite obstructed the view of persons seated behind them

15th December 1909 CONCERT AND OPERETTA

"Splendid" and "very good" were remarks which fell from the large audience which attended the Borough School children's concert and operetta; in the Town Hall last night, and those remarks were- justified in every respect. To go further and say that it was an excellent performance would by no means be exaggerating. There have been many surprises sprung upon the Blenheim public, pleasant and unpleasant, but it is doubtful whether, at any time previously in the history of the town, there has been such a pleasant surprise sprung upon them as that given at the Town Hall last night. When it was first announced that the school children were to perform in an operetta, specially arranged as a "breaking up" function, a great many _were inclined to the opinion that it would be the ordinary kind of .school concert, with the title of "operetta" bestowed upon it in order that the attention of the public might be attracted by it. Little did those who were prepared for the "ordinary thing" think that they would receive such an agreeable surprise, and coming so unexpectedly they enjoyed it and the applause meted out to the various "stars"—for there were many —demonstrated in an unmistakable manner the genuineness of their surprise and their appreciation of the various parts of the performance. The first part of the programme was devoted to action songs such as "The Old Black Cat," "Shoemaker. John, "The Little Stars," "The Old Wooden Rocker," "The Ducklings" and "Cock Robin," and handkerchief drill and dance by the juniors. The little mites seated on the stage clad in white, some with blue ribbons and others with red. forming "The Red, White and Blue," gave the scene a decidedly pretty and patriotic appearance. Combine with these the artistic actions of the little girls as they sang each song, and there is a picture presented which must be seen to be appreciated. The different songs of the juniors were thoroughly enjoyed, and it was plainly seen that they had received: a highly creditable training by the precision with which they went through the actions incidental to every song and also the capital way, in which each one was sung. By the time that the first part of the programme Had concluded the audience began to realise that they were in for a treat, and many were the complimentary remarks made concerning the teaching staff of the Borough School, and they waited almost breathlessly for the second part of the programme, which was to reveal to them the operetta "The Holiday Concert;" to begin.

The piece was introduced by the chorus singing "We're a Group of Merry Children," and "Who are These?" The last-mentioned number was in reference to three fairies in the persons of Misses Brayshaw, Tindlle and Pike, each of whom sang a solo. Master Edinger, who was introduced by the chorus singing "Oh, Here Comes a Merry Little Man," scored a distinct success with his singing of "They Call me Cherry Tommy." Master K. Maurice, although not having a very strong voice, was very amusing in the role of "Tom Tickletooth," his acting being perfect. Miss M. Ball _ was ; welcomed by the chorus singing "Come Gather Again" and "Here Comes One," in which she responded with the song "Flowers, Flowers," and received an enthusiastic and well deserved encore and four bouquets. Master Clarke was very successful with his song "I'm an Archer," and received an encore. Miss E. Ball ,received an ovation for her solo "I've Haddies for Sale," and was presented with some bouquets "A Sailor's Life is Bold and Free" was sung by Master G. Vance. His "get-up" was excellent, but his voice was hardly for such a rollicking song. The "Blue Jackets," who followed at a given signal from Master Vance, sang "We're Some of the Crew." Miss F. Brewer's impersonation of the "Old Woman who Lived in the Shoe" was excellent, and she deserved the encore accorded her. Miss Cheek sang "I'm a Little Servant Maid" pleasingly, arid Miss M.

McKinley A Fruit Girl am I," the latter receiving two pretty bouquets and an .encore for her number. Master R. Vance brought down the house with his solo "Oh! I'm a Little Newsboy," and he too was presented with some flowers. Each of the soloists was dressed in a manner representing the role he or she filled, the effect of all the children on the stage at the end of the operetta being very pretty. One of the prettiest scenes was the chorus and game "Riding on the See-Saw," while another which was amusing was the chorus and game of "Skipping." The most popular choruses were "Come Gather Again" and "Then Come and have Another Game." The final chorus "Raise Your Voices was a splendid number, and the audience were loath to leave the hall when the singing of the National Anthem signalled the conclusion of one of the finest performances ever held in Blenheim. Too much praise cannot be given the teaching staff for the excellent manner in which the children performed, and also the cast of the operetta, especially Mr. Sturrock, upon whom fell the bulk of the work. That gentleman, in addition to supervising the performance, conducted the orchestra which supplied the music incidental to the performance. The entertainment will be reproduced to-night, when the Mayor (Mr. A., McCallum) will present the prizes won during the year

1910

1910	406	Blenheim	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 320.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Wedde	Albert A	D2	Assistant Master	£ 215.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 150.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 130.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Mortimore	Archer E		Assistant Master	£ 121.10
1910	408	Blenheim	Hilliard	Evelyn E	D4	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Hilliard	Josephine		FPT5	£ 55.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Brewer	Faith		FPT4	£ 55.00
1910	408	Blenheim	McCallum	Margaret R		FPT4	£ 55.00
1910	408	Blenheim	Gallop	Elizabeth		Female Probationer 2	£ 25.00
1910	408	Blenheim	McCallum	Martha		Female Probationer 2	£ 25.00

2nd February 1910 The attendance at the Borough School yesterday reached 222 boys and 187 girls, or a total of 409. About forty new scholars have been enrolled.

2nd February 1910 SMALL MATTER

we look back along the lane of time and see the Borough School as it was in its early days, and then cast our eyes upon the present building and environment, we say that we have progressed in a wonderful manner But what is, is not so good as what might be, and there might be considerable improvement made in the outside conditions of the school even now. Monday was the re-opening day of the school, and it was a wet day. The road, alongside the school fence lay as under water, and many children must have sat wet-foot in school. At one time a water trap mid-way along the channel served to carry the water away; but this was stopped up, and the channel was supposed to conduct the water along to the Alfred Street corner. The fall to Alfred Street is not enough to do what is expected, and thus the road banks the flood up to the school fence. The .School Committee would be doing well to remedy this before the winter sets in. The approach to the school ground is also in a very sorry state in wet weather, and would be all the better for a few loads of gravel. The cost would not be great, and if the Committee's funds are at a low ebb the work is necessitous enough to make an appeal to the Education Board within reason. It may seem a small thing to make a song about, but it is from the neglect of small things that greater trouble comes.

9th February 1910 BLENHEIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MONTHLY METING

The Borough School Committee- met last night, when there were presents The Chairman (Mr. J. J. White) and Messrs. W. Braddock. E. H. Penny, W. Ching, and A. J. Maclaine. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster (Mr. Sturrock) reported that the number on the roll for the month was 473, 251 boys and 222 girls, which was a record for the first quarter in the year. There had been 56 new scholars admitted, and the highest attendance was 423. The school secured two national scholarships at the examinations, and the marks obtained were considerably, higher than those registered in any previous year. The report was received, the Chairman remarking that the school had done very well.

FREE BOOKS. The secretary of the Education Board wrote that there were available £7 10s worth of school books which were to be used by the scholars free or charge. The Chairman said that he had made inquiries concerning the use of these books, and was informed that the children could not take them home. He thought that the offer should, be accepted. Mr. Braddock moved, and Mr. Ching seconded, that the offer be accepted.

The Chairman said it seemed to him that the Education Department was not altogether in favour of home lessons, or it would not have prohibited the children from taking the books home; and it meant that if the children wanted books to study at home they would have to buy them.

Mr. Penny said that the Department was supplying only two books, the more expensive having still to be supplied by the parents., Mr. Ching understood that the books would not belong to any particular child, but that they would be used by the whole of the children.

Mr. Braddock thought that it would not be in the best interest of the children's health for so many to handle, the same book, and he considered that it would positively endanger their health. "The children put their fingers in their mouths before turning over the page of a book, and in that way disease might be transmitted from one child to another." The motion was carried.

SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION;. Mr. S. Norgrove wrote resigning his position as secretary, stating that he would be leaving the district before the next meeting of the Committee was held. Mr. Penny moved, and Mr. Maclaine seconded, that Mr. Norgrove's resignation be accepted with regret, and that the Committee place on record the high appreciation of his services to the Committee, and wish him success in his new sphere.—Carried.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Hyndman, Patchett and Girling, who had been unable to attend. A GRANT. It was decided to apply to the Education Board for a grant of £5 for improvements to the school.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £31 were passed for payment, and the meeting terminated.

9th March 1910 MEETING OF COMMITTEE

The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present:—The chairman (Mr. J. J. White), Messrs. W. Ching, F. Birch, J. Patchett, J. Hyndman, and W. Braddock,. Leave of-absence was granted to Messrs. E. H. Penny, W. B. Girling, and A J. Maclaine-.

SECRETARY. An application, for the position of secretary was received from Mr. G. T. Corbett. It was .decided to inform Mr. Corbett that the Committee had arranged for the duties of secretary to be carried out until the annual meeting of householders took place, when the secretary for the ensuing year would be appointed.

DISINFECTING. It was decided to inform the secretary of the Education Board that the school had been disinfected .under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and also to apply for the £4 voted for that purpose.

EXPENSES. The Committees instructed the secretary to thank the Education Board for the grant of £5 to cover expenses in lieu of usual grant of £10, extra capitation which was not available this year.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS. It was decided to accept the Board's offer of £7 10s for the purpose of providing standard III pupils with free school books.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. . The Headmaster reported that the total roll number was 476, 254 boys and 222 girls, the average since the opening of the school being 412. The report was received.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £10 6s 6d were passed for payment.

ABSENCE OF TEACHERS. Mr. Ching proposed, and the Chairman seconded, that the attention of the Headmaster be directed to a resolution of the Committee passed in June last, that he should report any absences of teachers and the cause thereof, to the Committee in his monthly report.—Carried. The meeting then terminated.

6th April 1910 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present: . Messrs. J. J. W. White (chairman) and W. Ching, F. Birch, W. Girling, A. J. MacLaine, J. Hyndman, W. Braddock, and E. H. Penny.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Patchett on account of illness.

* THE SCHOOL TANKS. Mr. Birch reported that he had attended to the tanks as instructed by the Committee, and that the headmaster had run the water out several times, and was satisfied that it was clean.

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS. The secretary of the "Education Board wrote stating that Mr. Bruce, the instructor in agriculture, had pointed out the advantage to be gained, especially in the teaching of elementary sciences, agriculture, etc., from the possession of scientific apparatus suitable for physical and chemical experiments, and intimating that a very suitable stock for a school could be obtained for about £6, and that if the school could raise half that sum by donation, etc., a £ for £ subsidy from the Education Department could be obtained for the balance. On the motion of Messrs. Birch and Ching, the matter was referred to the headmaster for an opinion as to the advisability of having the same in the technical school.

POSITION OF SECRETARY. Mr. W. Nosworthy wrote applying for the position of secretary. It was resolved that Mr. Nosworthy be informed that the appointment of secretary for the ensuing year would rest with the incoming Committee, to be elected on the 25th inst.

PUPIL TEACHER. The secretary of the Education Board wrote intimating the Board's approval of Miss J; Hilliard's term of service as pupil teacher, as recommended.—Received.

CAPITATION. The Education Board forwarded a cheque for £29 10s, being capitation for the March quarter—£24 10s, and extra grant of £5.

RAILWAY RESERVE. The Education Board intimated that the supervision of the Railway Reserve had been placed, during the pleasure of the Board, in the hands of the Committee.—Received. —

PROBATIONER'S TERM. The secretary of the Education Board advised the Committee that the Board had decided to give Mr. Mortimore 12 months' further probation as assistant in the Blenheim school, as recommended by the Inspector.

HEADMASTER'S APPLICATION. The headmaster wrote asking for leave of absence for one day in order that he might visit Wellington. The chairman stated that permission had already been granted.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY. The headmaster wrote regarding the partial holiday on St. Patrick's Day. The chairman reported that after consultation with Messrs. Penny and Braddock they' had granted a half holiday. On the motion of Mr. MacLaine, the chairman's action was confirmed.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY. On the motion of the chairman, it was resolved that a half-holiday be granted on St. George's Day, 20th inst.

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster's monthly report showed the average attendance to be: Boys 225.9; girls 190.5; the month's average being 416. Standard V.

succeeded in holding the banner for the past month, the weekly averages being 99.1, 96.3, 95, 98 and 87.7. Mr. Sturrock suggested that in order to encourage better attendance amongst smaller children the Board be asked to supply hyloplate boards in the baby room.

He also complained that the water supply in the technical school had been giving some trouble, and said that the cause and remedy would be explained by Mr. Birch. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the headmaster expressing the Committee's appreciation of the attendances, which they regarded as very satisfactory. After some discussion it was resolved that the Board be asked to supply the hyloplate boards for the infants' room, and also that the Board be made acquainted with all particulars regarding the complaint of the water supply at the technical school and the estimated cost of remedy.

SATISFACTORY. The Visiting Committee reported that they had found everything at the school in order and the attendance very good.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Inspector's report was read and received, and on the motion of Mr. Girling, it was resolved that a special committee, consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Birch and Ching should go into the matter of repairs suggested in the report. Mr. White moved, and Mr. Braddock seconded, that the headmaster's attention be called to the Inspector's report, especially clause 15, and that the Committee expect that the headmaster will have the defects, remedied.—Carried. Mr. Girling proposed, and Mr. Hyndman seconded, that the headmaster be requested to place on the office table for each Committee meeting the register referred to in Regulation 9, Schedule A.—Carried.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting, to £1 8s 6d were passed for payment.

ANNUAL REPORT. It was resolved that the annual report be drawn up by the chairman and Messrs. Penny and Maclaine. The meeting then adjourned till 7 p.m. on Monday, April 25th. 23rd April 1910 BOROUGH SCHOOL. ANNUAL REPORT

The following report for the year ended March 31st is to be submitted to the annual meeting of householders by the Blenheim Borough School Committee on Monday evening:— Your Committee beg to report that during the year 13 meetings have been held, all of which have been well attended, the individual attendances being as follows: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman) 12, W. Braddock 11, F. Birch 11, E. H. Penny 10, W. Ching 10, A. J. Maclaine 8, J. Patchett 8, W. J. Girling 8, J. Hyndman 8, S. Norgrove 3. The last named gentleman resigned his place on the Committee in June to take up the duties of secretary, and Mr. A. J. Maclaine was elected by the Committee to the vacant seat.

The Inspector's annual report was a satisfactory one, and the Committee desire to express to the teaching staff their appreciation of the sustained improvement in all departments, whilst the attendance has been most gratifying. An attendance banner has been procured, and the attendance has been very much higher than in former years. Standards 3 and 5 each won the banner during seven consecutive weeks, the average per cent, being considerably over 90.

The system of mixed classes has been quite satisfactory to the Committee.

During the year Mr. J. R. A. Gifford resigned as second assistant, and Miss M. M. Brown was appointed to the vacant position and Mr. A. E. Mortimer was appointed third assistant.

Twenty-four pupils secured certificates of proficiency, which entitle the holders to two years' free tuition at the Marlborough High School whilst the following gained the Education Board scholarships: Marjorie Innes, Eileen Hilliard, Doris Simson, Geoffrey Revell, and Walter Penny. Walter Penny was successful with his Jubilee Exhibition essay, Rina Dodson with her Jubilee Show essay, and Geoffrey Revell with his map of Marlborough. Marjorie Innes secured first prize at the Jubilee Fine Arts Exhibition for best map in the open class, and the two Chaytor prizes for shooting were won by Walter Penny and Edward Lucas. During the year the Committee collected subscriptions and prizes were presented to the best boy and girl in each class. The Government capitation grant

was not available this year, and finances were somewhat contracted until] the Education Board straightened them up with the special grant of £5.

26th April 1910 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION

The annual meeting of householders in the Blenheim school district was held in the schoolroom last evening. Mr. J J. White was voted to the chair, and there were about 90 householders present.

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET. The annual report and balance-sheet (already published) was read, and adopted without comment.

WANTED—CAPITATION. A letter was received from the president of the West Coast and Wanganui Schools Association, enclosing a copy of a petition and tele-o-gram which it was requested would be signed and sent to the Government protesting against the withdrawal of the capitation from School Committees, and the special building and maintenance grants to Education Boards. Mr. White said that the Committee had decided to refer the letter to the householders for their favorable consideration. The Committee found they could not have carried on without the capitation, and they had to appeal to the Education Board for help, otherwise they would have had to appear before the meeting with a debit balance. He moved: "That this meeting of householders wish to protest against the action, of the Government in reducing the building maintenance grant of Education Boards, and also the special Capitation grant of 9d per head to School Committees." Mr. W. Stevens seconded the motion, which was carried.

COMMITTEE. The nomination and election for School Committee members was then taken, with the following result:— J. J. White ... 53 E. H. Penny 49 W. J. Girling ... 45 F. Birch ... 44 A. J. MacLaine 43 W. Ching 42 S. J. Heffer ... 38 C. Lucas 37 T. A. Revell 36 J. Patchett ... 35 W. Jordan ... 35 W. Braddock 33 L.A. Browne., 33 The first nine gentlemen were declared elected as committeemen for the ensuing year. Messrs. E. S. Hylton, - A. Jellyman, and E. J. Hill were appointed scrutineers, and received a vote of thanks. The usual return of thanks was given by the successful candidates. Votes of thanks were also passed to Mr. W. Carr for the use of the lamps, and to the chairman for presiding.

COMMITTEE MEETING. After the election the new Committee met and elected Mr. J. J. White as chairman, and Mr. R. H Espie as secretary. '

4th May 1910 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The meeting of the Blenheim School Committee held last evening, was attended by Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), C. Lucas, T. A. Revell, S. J. Heffer, E. H. Penny, W. J. Girling, F. Birch, and W. Ching. On the motion of Mr. White, leave of absence was granted to Mr. A. J. MacLaine. Three pictures were presented by the Education Board, and on the motion of Mr. Girling, seconded by Mr. Birch, it was resolved that the committee have them framed, and then after consultation with the headmaster they would decide how they were to be distributed in the school. The headmaster's report was read, and showed—Boys on the roll, 250; girls, 215; with an average attendance of boys 225.1, girls 187.7, Standard III having won the attendance banner for the week ending 22nd April with a percentage of 93, and Standard 5 having won for the week ending 29th April with a percentage of 96.7. The headmaster enclosed a cheque for £1 8s, subscribed by Standards 5 and 6, towards the science apparatus, and on the motion of Mr. Girling, the committee privately made, up the balance of 12s to enable them to claim the subsidy of £3 from the Education Board; and on the motion of Mr. Girling, seconded by Mr. White, the secretary was instructed to apply to the Board for the subsidy. The sub-committee's report on the repairs suggested by the Inspector was considered, and on the motion of the chairman it was resolved that all the windows on the west side be frosted in accordance with the subcommittee's recommendation. It was also resolved that the committee recommend to the Board that an architect be asked to examine the fences and report to the Board upon the advisability of having them repaired and

put in good order. On the motion of Mr. Ching, it was resolved that the door of Miss Wanden's room and the pedal of the organ be attended to, and Mr. Birch was requested to give these matters his attention.

Mr. Ching moved, and Mr. White seconded, that four loads of gravel be procured and placed in a convenient place for future requirements,- and Mr. Ching and the secretary were-- requested to have this ; carried into effect.

On the motion of Mr. White, the chairman and secretary were requested to employ Mr. Leslie to attend, to the requirements of the lavatory. Mr. Girling reported on behalf of the Visiting Committee that the hyloplates had been fixed on the infants room; and that the Visiting Committee had inspected Mr. Wedde's dwelling, and Mr. Girling moved that; the Board be requested, to have a range and copper (with washing tubs and other washing appliances) set in the dwelling, and that the Board be asked to instruct the architect when reporting upon the fences to also report upon other requirements in Mr. Wedde's dwelling, which would be pointed out by the Visiting Committee when the architect was inspecting.

Accounts were passed for payment, subject to funds being in hand, totalling £5 11s.

6th May 1910 Miss J. C. Brown, who has just returned to her home at Blenheim, had a hearty send-off at Napier upon resigning after twenty-one years' service as teacher in the Main School, The Napier School Committee presented her with an engraved silver mounted snake-skin purse of sovereigns, the teachers gave an inscribed silver manicure set, and the ex-pupil teachers who had been trained under Miss Brown presented her with an ebony-backed hair-brush and inscribed mirror

8th June 1910 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE,

The Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), W.-J. Girling, W. Ching, T. A. Revell, S. J. Heffer, F. Birch, and C. W. Lucas. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Penny and MacLaine.

THE TEACHER'S RESIDENCE. The chairman reported that the Education Board had had specifications prepared for alterations to Mr. Wedde's residence, that the contract for effecting these had been let to Messrs. Ward and Sons, and that the work would soon be completed. CAPITATION. The Education Department advised the Committee that its telegram of April 26th relative to the capitation question would receive attention in due course.

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT., The headmaster reported that the average attendance for the month was 223.6 boys and 187.5 girls. The total roll number was boys 259, girls 215. There had been a good deal of sickness among the children which had lowered the attendance. The banner had been won by standards 3, 4, 2 and 5 for the past four weeks. Referring -to the subject of term holidays, Mr. Sturrock stated that in nearly all the education districts term holidays were in force. The holidays fitted in with the High Schools, and consequently families were able to get a few days together. At present the holidays were at different periods, and inconvenience was caused. He recommended that the holidays remain as arranged, but that next year term holidays should be recommended for the Education Board's sanction. None of the teachers had been absent during the month. The winter holidays would take place during the first two weeks in July.

TERM HOLIDAYS. The Chairman said that he had read the report before Mr. Revell's motion was taken, in order that members might hear what Mr. Sturrock thought of the proposed term holidays. Mr. Ching said that the headmaster had been asked for an opinion on that question. The Chairman said it seemed to him that Mr. Sturrock was of the opinion that it was too late to do anything in connection with the holidays this year. There was no reason why this new system should not be put into effect this year.

Mr. Revell said that he had brought this matter forward in order to bring the Marlborough schools into line with the schools in the Wellington, Wanganui, and Hawke's Bay, where the term system had proved a success. He then moved, in accordance with notice given previously, that the present winter holidays be altered from two weeks at midwinter to one week at the end of each term, the term holidays to be held on the second week in May and the first week in September; this year the term holidays to commence on June 20th for one week.

Mr. Ching seconded the motion.

Mr. Heffer said that he had spoken to several parents, and they seemed to think that the old system was best. He considered that the term holidays would be good.

Mr. Birch said, that he, too, had spoken to a number of parents, and they were opposed to it, and did not like the holidays being interfered with and he would vote against the motion.

Mr. Lucas thought that the Committee should not suit the majority for the minority.

Mr. Girling said that the holidays would not affect the majority, and he pointed out that, it would suit families where there were children attending both schools. He thought the proposal a good one.

Mr. Revell said that he had not brought this matter forward solely on his own opinion. The matter had been brought under his notice soon after he came to Blenheim, when he had been told that the present holiday system was inconvenient.

Mr. Ching said that when he seconded the motion he had not thought it necessary to say anything about it, as he considered that all the members were of the opinion that it was a good step. It was no argument to say that because a thing had not been done years ago the Committee should not do so now. He was greatly in favor of it, and thought that it should be given a trial. The Chairman thought a week's spell would give the teachers a great impetus to work. He did not think it would mean much to the young children, who would not derive much benefit from it. He thought it would be well to give it a trial.

The motion was carried, the voting being: For, Messrs. White, Ching, Revell, Heffer, and Girling; against, Messrs. Birch and Lucas. The secretary was instructed to advise the Board of the Committee's action.

A LOAD OF GRAVEL. Mr. Ching reported that he had had a load of gravel left in the school yard, and the secretary was instructed to have it spread as required.

VISITING COMMITTEE. Mr. Birch said that he had been very remiss in carrying out the duties of the Visiting Committee, and he had also led Mr. Heffer astray, and they had not been near the school. They would, however, visit the school next week, and see that all things were in order. Mr. Heffer agreed to this, and the report was accepted.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £4 0s 5d were passed for payment.

VISITING COMMITTEE. Messrs. Penny and Revell were appointed a visiting committee for the month. The meeting then terminated.

13th June 1910 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—The Blenheim Borough School Committee has decided to ask the Education Board to institute term holidays of one week in May and September instead of the usual two weeks' holiday in midwinter. I trust that the Education Board, before considering the suggestion, will obtain the views of country school committees and country teachers on the matter, when I feel assured that their views will be strongly antagonistic to the proposed change. The two weeks' vacation in midwinter has given thorough satisfaction, and with the exception of a few interested people in Blenheim there is not the least desire in the community to have any alteration

SATISFIED

2nd June 1910 ASSOCIATION MATCH.

An. association football match will be played on the Domain to-morrow at 2 p.m. between the Boy Scouts and the Borough School. The following will represent the Scouts: — Maurice, Binley, Stapp, Wakelin, Edinger, Crook^ Gallop, Hilliard, Elliott, Watson, Jackson; emergencies, Berry, Thompson, Loudon. Referee, Mr. Teuton: (*Soccer Football*)

1st July 1910 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL. CONVENT SCHOOL v. BOROUGH,

This, match took place at the Domain on Thursday before a fair number of spectators. Elliott started the ball rolling for Borough, and play was immediately carried to the Convent, goal, where after some hard, play Bottrell narrowly missed scoring for Borough. From the goal kick the Convent forwards made a beautiful rush, and Fitzgerald sent in a hot shot which the Borough goal just managed to save. As the ball rebounded into the field, O'Brien, who was always on the alert, obtained possession and scored with a well-placed shot. . Stung by this reverse, the Borough forwards came away in great style, Bottrell, Lucas and Mason doing great work. Several good chances were here missed by the Borough forwards through over-eagerness, Elliott especially, whose play is generally a treat to watch, failing at the critical moment time after time. Both ends were constantly visited, each team working splendidly a feature of the game being the splendid defence put up by the Convent backs, among whom the Fitzgerald brothers were very conspicuous. At half-time there had been no alteration in the score. On resuming it was easily seen that the Boroughs intended to equalise at all costs. It was also evident that the Convent lads intended to retain their lead, and they put up a, magnificent defence. G. Fitzgerald, whose play is up to Football Association Clip style, gave the spectators an. exhibition of the real play of a soccer half-back. He tackled cleanly and coldly, his heading was an eye opener, and when he obtained the ball he knew where to place it. Play continually shifted from one side to the other each side attacking in turn. Then the Convent, led by Healy, who had been playing a splendid game, came on in great style at the Borough goals. After same hard play Bottrell, who was playing a hard game, handled, and a penalty was awarded. Branton took the kick and scored with a nice shot. Convent 2, Borough 0. Straight from the kick-off Borough assailed the Convent, goal; Brunette doing some good work. After a scramble Patchett sent in a hot shot which was handled by one of the Convent, backs. Borough was awarded a penalty, and Bottrell scored with a beautiful shot. Convent 2, Borough 1. Soon after this Bottrell equalised for Borough, but was given off-side and the game ended: Convent 2, Borough 1.

6th July 1910 The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), W. Ching, C. Lucas, A. J. MacLaine, F. Birch, S. J. Heffer, and T A. Revell. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Penny and Girling. 'HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the attendance for the month was: Boys 217.2, girls 182.4, and the number on the roll was: Boys 256.2, girls 214.2. The average attendance for the month was 399.6, or 85 per cent of the roll number. The average for ' the June quarter was 410.9, or a 1 percentage of 87.8. The report was received.

TERM HOLIDAYS. The Education. Board wrote advising the Committee that it approved of the alteration in the holidays.

BIBLE-IN-SCHOOLS. : The Wellington Householders' League forwarded a circular asking the Committee if it was in favor of a referendum being taken throughout the Dominion on the question of Bible-reading in schools. The Chairman advised the members that he had informed the League that the Committee was in favor of the referendum, and his action was endorsed: SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS. Mr. Revell, in behalf of last month's Visiting Committee, - reported having visited the school, and recommended certain minor improvements to the door-locks. The school ground required gravelling, but before this was done it would be necessary to grade the ground. He considered that the estimate of the cost of this work should be obtained, and the Education Board requested to carry it out. He suggested, also, that some boxes be procured and placed in the grounds, into which the

children could deposit the paper in which their lunches were wrapped. If this were done the teachers would be able to insist upon the ground being kept free from paper, which at present gave it a very untidy appearance. The Chairman and Secretary were appointed to obtain an estimate of the cost of repairing, the school ground, and Mr. Birch to attend to the locks, etc., in the school. The report was adopted. VISITING COMMITTEE. The Chairman and Mr. Ching were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month. ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £4 14s were passed for payment, and the meeting terminated.

19th July 1910 Rugby Union: SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS. Mr. Morrison reported that Mr. Hylton and himself had decided upon a number of school fixtures, which would commence on Wednesday next divisions had; been arranged, viz., Blenheim, Picton, and Pelorus, and the winning teams in each would have to play off for the cup offered for competition. Awatere would play in the Blenheim division

3rd August 1910 Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. J. Girling, W. Ching, A. J. MacLaine, W. Lucas, S. J. Heffer, and F. Birch.

THANKS. Mr. R. McCallum wrote thanking the Committee for electing him unopposed as their representative on the Marlborough Education Board and the High School Board of Governors.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster (Mr. D. A. Sturrock) reported that the average attendance at the school during the past month was: Girls 172.9, boys 210.1. The average for the month was 383. There had been a good deal of sickness during the month, which had been especially noticeable in the lower standards. Standard VI won the banner for the week ended July 22nd, with an attendance of 94 per cent., and last week Standards III and VI tied with 90 per cent. The months of July and August were generally noted for sore throats and colds among the children. Mr. Mortimore was absent a day and a-half during the month through illness. The report was received.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £28 8s 2d were passed for payment.

SCHOOL WINDOWS. The Chairman said that something would have to be done to prevent the school windows from being broken by the school children when playing football in the school ground. Mr. Ching proposed that Mr. Sturrock's attention be directed to the fact that the school windows were broken in consequence of the children playing football in the school ground, and that he be asked to stop them from playing close to the school. The Chairman seconded the motion. Mr. Girling asked if the boys were not in the habit of playing in the Railway Reserve, and Mr. Birch explained that the little boys played in one ground and the bigger boys in another. The motion was carried, and it was decided that the protection of the windows be attended to.

THE HEDGE. Mr. Birch brought up the matter of having the hedge cut, and it was decided that tenders be invited for this work,

26th September 1910 There was a large muster of school children at the Blenheim Borough School this morning, the occasion being the saluting of the flag in honor of the anniversary of the proclamation of New Zealand as a Dominion. The school cadets were present in full force, and Messrs. J. J. White- (Chairman), E. H. Penny, W. J. Girling, and S. J. Heffer, members of the School Committee, were in attendance. Mr. White, in addressing the children, explained that they had a duty to perform. They had been assembled by the order of the Prime - Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, to salute the flag. Three years ago the late King Edward VII. proclaimed that New Zealand should be ranked with the great Oversea Dominions. The title given to New Zealand of "Dominion" meant increased rank, and that represented increased duties and responsibilities. One of the responsibilities of this Dominion was its local defences, the military defences of the country. For the other defences the Mother Country was relied upon for protection. Sir Joseph Ward had organised the local

forces under the heading of Territorials, and he had planned to bring their numbers tip to 35,000. It was the duty of every man and boy in this Dominion to help to defend this country. It was important that they should learn to be good shots and to know their drill, so as to be prepared; for any emergency. A good many boys would no doubt join the British Navy, as there was a training ship provided for the teaching of young men to understand what was required of them for the defence of the country. They should never forget that Great Britain had a great rival, which was making leaps arid bounds in the direction of gaining the supremacy of the sea, and the time would probably come when, the boys assembled would be called' upon to defend the honor of Great Britain. The people of Holland were being urged by Germany to spend £3,000,000 in the construction of a naval base to secure them against Great Britain. Unless something were done he was afraid that one day the-British nation would lose its control of the sea. He trusted that it would not be so. He urged upon the 'boys to learn their drill, and to prepare for any emergency which might arise.

Mr. B. Benny endorsed Mr. White's remarks, and pointed out to the children the need for patriotism. He explained that he had had experience of many countries, and he was certain that there was none which could come up to New Zealand. He also mentioned that the-Dominion belonged to an Empire upon which the sun never set, and impressed upon the children the necessity for being loyal to their home and country.

Mr. Heffer congratulated the teaching staff upon the fine muster of scholars, expressing the hope that they would enjoy their holiday.

Mr. Girling complimented the cadets upon their appearance, adding that he hoped they would join senior corps when they left school. He paid a tribute to the buglers, who performed creditably at the unfurling of the Bag. . At the instance of Mr. White, three hearty cheers were given by the boys for Major Sturrock. A similar compliment was also paid to Mr. White and the gathering dispersed.

5th October 1910 A supplementary report was received by the Borough School Committee last night from Inspector Strachan. The report dealt with the general, standard of the school, and was of a very satisfactory nature.

An application was made to the Borough School Committee last night by Mr. R. Sowman for permission to graze his horse in the Railway ; Reserve. As the ground was specially needed for the children to play in the Committee refused the application.

The, Marlborough Education Board has issued a circular letter advising all School Committees that in future all fireplaces, will have to be provided with fire-screens. This is in order to prevent, as much as possible, school buildings from being destroyed by fire.

The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, the members present being Messrs.-J.J. White (chairman), W. Ching, S. J. Heffer, E H Penny, F. Birch, and \V. J. Girling. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. A. J. Madame and W. Lucas. The headmaster reported that the attendance for the past month averaged as follows: — Boys 192.8, girls 192.2, the roll number being respectively 249 and 214. Mr. Sturrock intimated that the attendance had improved during the month. The report was received. The Visiting Committee reported that everything was in good order at the school. Messrs. Heffer and Revell were appointed the Visiting Committee for the month.

9th November 1910 The Borough School Committee met last night, Messrs. J. J, White (chairman), E.H. Penny, S. J. Heffer, A. J. Maclaine, F. Birch, and T. A. Revell being present. The headmaster reported the number on the roll to be, boys 255, girls 217; and the average attendance, boys 226.4, girls 192.7. The average attendance at the school was 86 per cent, of the roll number. The report was adopted

At the 'Borough' School Committee meeting last night Messrs. White and Penny were appointed the visiting committee for the month

The Borough School Committee last night decided to assist the headmaster in every way possible to make the annual concert a success. It was reported that great preparations had been made for this concert, and it promised to eclipse all previous concerts given by the pupils.

The Borough School Committee have received a letter from the Marlborough Education Board, authorising them to have the hedge round the school trimmed at the expense of the Board. , Messrs. Ching and White have' been appointed to get the work done

17th November 1910 This evening the Borough School children will repeat their; unique entertainment at the Town Hall. "Queen Flora's. Garden Party" and Miss Brown's dots scored a distinct success on Tuesday evening, and with the greater confidence engendered by practice should give even a better performance this evening. There should be a large house.

7th December 1910 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, the members present being: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), W. J. Girling, E. H. Penny, C. W. Lucas. S. J. Heffer, F. Birch, and T. A. Revell. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. W. Ching. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster, reported the average attendance to be: Boys 224.8, girls 217.25, and the total average attendance 412. He recommended that December 19th be chosen as prize distribution day, and that the annual school holidays commence on December 16th, and the school reopen on the last Monday in January. On the subject of pupil teachers and probationers, Mr. Sturrock stated that it would be necessary for the Committee to appoint three at its next meeting, to fill the vacancies at the school.

The report concluded with thanks to the Committee for the assistance they had given the master during the year and with the season's greetings from the staff.

The recommendations made were approved, and it was decided to forward the Committee's best wishes to the staff for an enjoyable time during the festive season.

In connection with the prize distribution, the Chairman suggested that Mr. Sturrock be asked to reproduce the operetta produced recently on that night. This was agreed to, as was also the statement made by the Chairman that the entertainment could not be equalled by school children, and it was doubtful if it could be surpassed by adults in Marlborough.

VISITING COMMITTEE. The Visiting Committee appointed for the month comprised Messrs. W. Ching and C. W. Lucas. FINANCE. Accounts amounting to £6 11s 6d were passed for payment. The Secretary stated that after the paying of accounts the Committee would have a credit in the bank of £14.

The meeting then terminated

20th December 1910 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF PRIZES. Notwithstanding the fact that "Queen Flora's Garden Party" had been rendered twice in public previously, there was a good' attendance at the Town Hall last night to witness the third rendition of this piece, and incidentally to see the> successful pupils receive their prizes. The performance was as good as either of the other performances given, and those present greatly appreciated it.

The chairman of the School Committee, Mr. J. J. White, in a few remarks befitting the occasion, congratulated the teaching staff upon the excellent results achieved during the year. He pointed out from the school statistics that the attendance had been better than it had been for many preceding years. Referring to the concert, which, he stated, was specially arranged for this function, Mr. White said it was a musical treat, and the parents might be proud of their children. The receipts from the concert held were to be used in beautifying the school grounds. The headmaster Mr. Sturrock, at the request of the committee had worked up this

entertainment in order that funds might be obtained with which the committee would be able to improve the appearance of the school grounds. In regard to the work, done by the children during the year, Mr. White mentioned that Lewis Eyre- had won high honors, being not only, the head of this school, but having obtained the highest marks in the Province. During the year 26 proficiency certificates were obtained —13 girls and 13 boys. These passes entitled the successful pupils to free tuition at the High School, if they were under 15 years of age.' Twelve children had secured competency passes, which meant that they had passed the sixth standard. The, difference between proficiency and competency passes was that 66 per cent, of marks were necessary to obtain the former, while 50 per cent. , secured the latter. Lewis Eyre (Dux), George Broughton, Kathleen Lenehan, Irene Pike, and Eva Brayshaw all secured excellent passes. Mr. White concluded his remarks with eulogistic references to the teachers, and congratulated the parents upon the results obtained.

Mr. E. H. Penny said that it gave him pleasure to be present; both in the capacity of a member of the Education 'Board and as a member of the School Committee. He commented favorably upon, the work done during the year, and stated that the result of the examinations entitled the school to another assistant teacher, and also to another pupil teacher.

The chairman apologised for Mr. R. McCallum's' absence owing to urgent business.

Mr. Sturrock read out the names of the prize-winners, and Mr. White presented the prizes to the following children:

PRIZE-LIST.

Standard VII James Marshall, Berenice Mills.

Standard VI.—Lewis Eyre, Irene Pike.

Standard V.—Douglas Marshall; Kathleen Paul.

Standard IV.—Howard Mills, Laura Grace.

Standard III.—Arthur Richards, Irene Tovey.

Standard II.—Roy McCallum, 'Lily Strickland

Standard I.-Douglas Patchett, Dorothy Oben, Harry Marshall (rapid progress).

P2 —John Aberhart, Robert Herd, Irene Lane, Irene Patchett.

Pl.—Selwyn Vercoe, Jack Aston,. Fred Aston, Kenneth Holdaway, Florence Lawson, Jean Workman, Alfreda Gosling, Dulcie Terrill.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES (never absent.) ,;

Standard VII.—Maurice Clarke, Berenice Mills.

Standard VI.—Vernon Gamble, Edward Lucas, Kenneth Maurice, William Thomson, Eva Brayshaw, Constance Goslin, Alice Marple.

Standard V.—Douglas Marshall, James Greig, Percy Brunette, Ray Crook, Emmelyne Henriksen.

Standard IV.—George Fawcett; Philip Lucas. Stephen Lucas, Howard Mills, Roake McKinley.

Standard III.—Walter Gallop, George Gamble, Fred Lucas, Baden Saunders, Fred Ward, Leonard Thomson, Irene Tovey, Marjorie Clarke.

Standard II.—Jack Corry, Beryl Goslin. Maria Herd, Cora Wooster.

Standard I.—Harry Marshall.

P—Donald Stewart, ' Francis Teeney. Vernon Murray.

1911

1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 325.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D2	Assistant Master	£ 220.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 155.00

1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 135.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mortimore	Archer E		Assistant Master	£ 125.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Evelyn E	D3	Assistant Female	£ 105.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	O'Sullivan	Agnes E		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Coward	Maude		FPT2	£ 55.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Nevison	Isabella		FPT2	£ 35.00
1911	408	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Ensor	Dorothy E		Female Probationer 1	£ 25.00

5th January 1911 Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, the members present being: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman). C. Lucas, W. Ching, T. A. Revell, F. Birch, S. J. Heffer, and A. J. Maclaine

REPAIRS AND FUMIGATION. The Education Board wrote advising the Committee that a grant of £4 had been made for the fumigation of the school, and also an additional £2 for repairing and painting the school. - : The Chairman, Mr. Birch, and Mr. Maclaine were appointed to have done the work for which the money was voted.

ASPHALTING. An estimate of £12 was received from Mr. Brimer for asphaltting the school ground in front of the school. The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Brimer that no action was to be taken in regard to this work at present. ,

SCHOOL SHOOTING. Mr. Wedde forwarded plans of the proposed rifle range for the school cadets for the Committee's approval. The Committee approved of the plans, provided that the range was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Defence Department. It was (also decided' to forward the plans to the Education Board for its approval.

MORAL INSTRUCTION. Mr. Revell moved, and Mr. Ching seconded, that the resolution passed at a previous meeting of the Committee giving the Rev. H. Braddock permission to give instruction to the pupils in the school on morals be rescinded.-Carried. It was further resolved that the Secretary's action in not informing Mr. Braddock of the Committee's resolution be approved. ,

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. Messrs. Lucas and Ching the Visiting Committee for the past month, reported that the grounds were not in good order owing to a large number of weeds having grown up. These required removing. The fumigation of the school was being carried out. The Committee issued the necessary instructions for ,the eradication of the weeds in the grounds, under Mr. Ching's supervision. Messrs. Maclaine and Girling were appointed the Visiting Committee for the ensuing month.

TEACHING VACANCIES. In order to consider applications for the positions of pupil teachers and assistants at the school, the Committee decided to hold a special meeting on Friday evening next.

SCHOOL HEDGE. The sum of £3 12s for cutting the school hedge was passed for payment, and the meeting terminated. '

11th January 1911 The Blenheim School Committee forwarded Mr. Wedde's application for a miniature rifle range, together with a "plan, for the Board's approval. The town, members and Mr. Chaytor were authorised to inspect the proposed site, and to sanction an application for a grant going forward to the Government

10th January 1911 Last night the Blenheim School Committee accepted the tender of Mr. "H. Osgood, at £3 8s, for painting the new board fence between Mr. Wedde's residence and the play-ground

2nd February 1911 The drain which runs along Seymour Street would be all the better for a little attention from the sanitary inspector just now. A most objectionable smell comes from it, which is a menace to the health of those people who are compelled to pass that way, more especially the Borough School children.

8th February 1911 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Borough School Committee met last night, the members present being: Messrs. J. 3. White (chairman), E. H. Penny, W. Lucas, F. Birch. S. J. Heffer, W. Ching, T. A. Revell, and Patchett.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the attendance since the school opened had been most satisfactory. The attendance banner had been won by Standard 111 with an average attendance of 98.2. The pupils in the other standards had also attended well. A number of children were reported as not having attended the required number of times. It was pointed out that the children, under the new Education' Act, would have to attend ten times a week. It was decided- to acquaint the parents with, the requirements of the new Act.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

The Rev. H. Braddock wrote pointing out that a paragraph had appeared to be missing. The Express some time ago to the effect that the permission previously given him to give religious instruction at the school had been revoked. He asked for an explanation for this action on the part of the Committee. It was decided to inform Mr. Braddock that his co-operation with the other clergy in the town in the matter of religious instruction for the children once a week would be welcomed, and that he be asked to arrange matters with them.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

The Visiting Committee reported that everything at the school was in <rood order, and that the children appeared healthy after their Holidays. The recently-appointed assistants and probationers had taken up their duties, and were giving satisfaction. Messrs. Birch and Heffer were appointed the Visiting Committee for .the ensuing month, -and the meeting - terminated..

28th February 1911 FOOTBALL. THE ASSOCIATION GAME

The Borough School will open their season on Wednesday, March 1st with a match against Grovetown, at Grovetown. The following will represent Borough:—Satherley, Agar, Wanden, Greig, Brunette, Maxted, March, Elliott, Crook, H. McCallum, Spittal; emergencies, P. Lucas, Marple, Clouston.

2nd March 1911 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 for 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.

8th March 1911 COMMITTEE.

The Borough School Committee met last night, the' members present being:--Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), S. J. Heffer, W. Ching, C. W. Lucas, T. A. Revell, W. J. Girling, F. Birch and -S. A. Edinger (secretary). Leave of absence was granted to Mr. A. J. MacLaine.

A MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE

The Education Board wrote stating that the school ground was too small to permit of a miniature rifle (range being erected in it, and suggested that" the committee apply for permission to establish a range in the Drill Shed. '

The Chairman said that if the committee adhered to the original site the Board would not put anything in the way of the range being erected there.

Messrs. Birch, Heffer and Ching favoured the Drill Hall suggestion.

Mr. Girling said that as far as the Drill Shed was concerned it would mean that it be used only during the day/, and' there would be practically little expense.

Mr. Edinger said that the Drill Shed would require to be lighted, as a bright light was necessary on the target. Mr. Girling asked if the Education Board had stated why the school ground was unsuitable.

The Chairman: The Board thought the school-ground too small.

It was decided to ask the Education Board to follow up its suggestion, and in addition to get Lieut.-Colonel Hawkins' opinion in regard to the suitability of the original site selected and the Drill Shed for this purpose. The Secretary was also deputed to accompany Lieut.-Colonel Hawkins on his visit of inspection.

SCHOOL BOOKS. The Education Department wrote stating that it proposed allowing the committee £13 2s 6d for the purpose of providing the Standard IV pupils with free books under similar conditions to those that accompanied the grant for the supply of free books to I the lower classes. It was decided to forward this letter to Mr. Sturrock, and to draw his attention to it and ask him to act upon it.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the average roll number was 449, and the average attendance 420. The attendance banner last month was won as follows:— February 10th, Standard 2 with 99.4 attendance; February 17th, Standard 4, with an attendance of 99.2; February 24th, Standard 5, with an average attendance of 99; March 3rd, Standard 4 with an attendance of 99.2.

This banner is awarded each week to the standard having the highest average attendance.

ST. PATRICK AND ST. GEORGE

It' was decided to grant the children a half-holiday on St. Patrick's and St. George's Days.

APPRECIATION

Mr. Birch moved, and Mr. Girling seconded, "That this, committee learns with satisfaction that Misses Brewer, Gallop, and McCallum (2) have entered the Wellington Teachers' Training, College for instruction,^ and' expresses the hope ,that they will have a successful career. —

Carried

VISITING COMMITTEE

The visiting committee for the past month, Messrs. Birch and Heffer, reported that everything was going on satisfactorily at the school. Messrs. Penny ; and Revell were appointing the visiting committee for the ensuing month. The meeting then terminated.

30th March 1911 MARLBOROUGH BOYS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the above was held last night at the Borough School. The report was read and adopted. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: — President, Mr. W T. Churchward; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Smith, Sturrock, Cook, Oldham, Fisher, Rev. H. De Lambert, Howard, and E. H. Penny; Secretary, Mr. A. E. Mortimer. Everything points to a very successful season this year. The secretary informed the executive that already five new clubs had entered the League, bringing the total up to ' nine. Already negotiations had closed

successfully for the visit this season from Wellington of two strong elevens, one of which would be a Wellington representative eleven. A team of boys from this district will also visit Wellington now that this League has affiliated with the New Zealand Football Association. Several new rules have been adopted for the coming season, which commences on April 12th, one of which allows boys to play who have not, reached their 16th birthday before June 1st. It is very gratifying to all "soccer" enthusiasts to notice that boys who have left school, and are working in to play are forming themselves into clubs and entering the League. This proves that "soccer" has got its grip on the younger section of this community, and that those who prophesied that "soccer" would soon be here to stay will not have long to wait to see their predictions fulfilled.

5th April 1911 Borough School Committee last night decided to grant the children the usual holidays at Easter.

The Borough School Committee last night decided to ask the Education Board to construct a miniature rifle range on the site originally suggested in the play-ground.

Previously to the termination of, the Borough School Committee meeting last night, "the members expressed themselves as well pleased with the high rate of attendance maintained since the coming into operation of the new Education Act. It was pointed out that the attendance during the month was a record for the school. '

24th April 1911 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

At the annual meeting of Blenheim householders, to be held tonight, the following report of the outgoing committee will be read: — Your committee beg to report that during their term of office 12 regular and 3 special meetings were held, the attendance being Mr. White 13, Mr. Penny 9, Mr. Girling 12, Mr. Birch 15, Mr. MacLaine 10, Mr. Ching 13, Mr. Heffer 15, Mr. Lucas 12, Mr. Revell 12.

Mr. Espie having resigned the office of secretary, your committee have now secured the services of Mr. S. A. Edinger in that capacity. The head teacher presented to the schools an attendance banner, which is temporarily held by the standard having the highest percentage of attendance during the previous week, and it is an incentive to emulation in the classes.

At the October meeting the committee expressed their appreciation of the satisfactory report of the inspector, and complimented the teaching staff on the previous year's work. The committee accepted the Education Board's offer of wall placards on the subject of temperance for the several rooms in the schools.

A most successful concert was given at the Town Hall in November by the school children under the direction of the headmaster and other members of the teaching staff of the schools. This was repeated in December, when the prizes were presented to pupils who had distinguished themselves during the year. The net proceeds of the concerts were applied to paying off an old debt for uniforms, part of cost of prizes 3 and providing for a rifle range for the school cadets. The committee tendered their congratulations to Mr. Sturrock, Mr. Wedde, Miss Brown, and Miss Brewer, and the members of the Marlborough Orchestra on the results. Owing to increased attendance the schools were entitled to a larger staff. The committee recommended the Education Board to appoint two additional assistants and two pupil teachers. Appointments were accordingly made, and the schools have now an efficient staff.

Special mention must be made of the success of our schools this year. On the Inspector's results for the year Lewis Eyre came out top for the district, and will be awarded the gold and silver medal presented by the chairman of the Board to the premier boy of 1910. Out of 12 candidates presented from our schools at the -Government Scholarship Examination, December, 1910, seven won scholarships. Six were awarded as follows: —Cecil Thompson, Junior National, tenable for 3 years; Eva Brayshaw, Education Board, tenable for 2 years;

Margaret Gallop, Scholarship, tenable for 2 years; Bernice Mills, Scholarship, tenable for 2 years; Lewis Eyre, Scholarship, tenable for 2 years; George Broughton, Scholarship, tenable for 2 years. Maurice Clarke also passed the examination, but unfortunately no scholarship was available. This is a record result, being the best ever before obtained by any school in the Marlborough district.

A miniature rifle range on up-to-date models, approved by the military authorities, in the school grounds will be an accomplished fact during the year. The provision in the Education Amendment Act which came into force on 1st January last, requiring the attendance of every pupil every time the schools open, has improved the school attendances. By judicious administration this should prove an advantage. The committee commenced with a cash balance of £4 7s 9d, and end with £3 10s 4d to their credit. The capitation grant received during the year amounted to £97 15s, which was £3 3s 9d less than the grant for the previous year.

25th April 1911 SCHOOL COMMITTEES. MEETINGS OF HOUSEHOLDERS, BLENHEIM SCHOOL

The annual meeting of the Blenheim householders was held in the Borough. School last night, when, in addition to the members or the outgoing Committee, there were 16 householders present. Mr. J. S White presided.

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The report, as published in yesterday's issue of The Express, was adopted as also was the balance-sheet, which showed a credit balance of £3 10s 4d.

Mr. Penny moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and expressed pleasure in doing so. The school work was going on excellent lines, and as they would see from the report there had been more scholarships won during the past year than during any previous year in the history of the school. The whole staff and the Committee had worked amicably together, and altogether they had need to be proud of the Blenheim school this year. The attendance had been excellent, and the last report of the headmaster showed a percentage of 93, which was a most excellent percentage.

Mr. Elliot seconded the motion.

The Chairman said that the householders should be proud of the results at the school, as indicated by the report. He thought that the staff were to be congratulated upon the splendid results, achieved.

Mr. Birch said: that he had very much pleasure in presenting such a report to the householders. He had always contended that this should be the best primary school; in the district, and although they had attained that position, it had taken them a number of years to 'do it. They should, however, be proud that they had got up to that premier position. They now had the best school in the Province. It was something to be thankful for to have, children going to a school where they could get the best primary education that was able in the Province. In regard to the attendance question, the new Education Act had helped the Committee in, bringing up the attendance. It was a great pity that a number of parents did not take the interest in their children that they should. The attendance had gradually increased since the coming into operation, of the new; Act until the wonderful average of 93 per cent, had been reached. This spoke volumes for the manner, in which, parents were being made responsible for their children's education.

Mr. Girling expressed satisfaction at the report placed before the householders. Referring to the average attendance of 93.3 he said that this was very satisfactory, and was almost as good as the attendance at schools where the children lived on the premises; Taking into consideration the scattered district he thought that the attendance here had been remarkable, and no doubt: the fine attendance was one; of the reasons why such fine results had been shown during the year - They had won several scholarships, and one boy had proved himself

to be very good. This year under stricter supervision, he believed they would achieve better results than hitherto. The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. The Chairman announced that all the members of the old Committee, with the exception of Mr. Maclaine, offered themselves for re-election. The members "of the old Committee, with Mr. Braddock, who, succeeds Mr. Maclaine, were elected as follows without a ballot:—E. H. Penny, W. C. Braddock, T. A. Revell, W. J. Girling, J. J. White, F. Birch, W. Ching, C. Lucas, S. J. Heffer.

VOTES OF THANKS. : Votes of thanks were accorded the teaching Staff for the splendid results achieved during the year and to Mr. White for presiding, and the meeting terminated; **THE NEW COMMITTEE.** The Committee met subsequently to the householders' meeting, and Messrs. J. J. White and S. A. Edinger were appointed to the respective positions of Chairman and Secretary, and Mr. Penny was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

25th April 1911 Yesterday afternoon the Borough School "soccer" team defeated Springlands by 7 goals to nil. Elliott (2), Crook and Spittal were the goal scorers while three goals off Spittal were miskicked by the Springlands team who nevertheless played very well for a new club.

3rd June 1911 Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, is at present on a visit to Dunedin.

3rd June 1911 **FOOTBALL.**

The following will represent the Borough School in the seven-a-side "soccer" tournament on Monday, play to commence at 2 o'clock sharp: A team: Elliott, Spittal, W. Wanden, Agar, Gamble, Thomas, and Brunette.

B team: McCallum, P. Lucas, Crook, C. Wanden, S. Lucas, Maxted, and Greig. . Emergencies: F. Lucas and McKinley. The following team will represent the Scouts:—Thomson, Penny, Marshall, Wakelin, Sowman, Mogridge, Clarke; emergencies, Gallop and Broughton.

7th June 1911 The usual meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), C. Lucas, W. Braddock, T. A. Revell, W. Jordan, and F. Birch. Mr. Jordan attended his first meeting, having accepted the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. J. Girling.

. Mr. Ching tendered his resignation from the Committee, which, was accepted. The Chairman's action in closing the school until June 26 owing to the prevalence of measles was confirmed. It was decided that the Committee act in conjunction with the Borough Council in entertaining the school children on Coronation Day.

8th June 1911 There is cause for serious alarm in Rugby circles at the growing popularity .of Association football among the schoolboy fraternity, and this was the subject of some concern at the meeting of the Rugby Union on Monday night. - Mr. Healy, who prefaced the discussion with, a few home "truths," stated that the large hold the Scotch game had over the 'boys was due solely to the energy and enterprise of a few young men, who, at considerable expense to themselves, formed clubs, and showed so much enthusiasm in the coaching of the boys that many were now highly proficient in. "playing the game." "These enthusiasts formed the Schools Football- League, and bi-weekly contests were arranged for a handsome cup presented by Mr. W. T Churchward. Six teams have entered this year from the Town Scouts, and Borough. Convent, Renwick, and Grovetown schools. The first-named team is composed of boys 'just left school,' and under, a certain age.....

19th June 1911 The Borough School Cadets will parade to-morrow afternoon to receive uniforms, and all the children attending the school will assemble on Wednesday morning to .receive their Coronation medals.

24th June 1911 The chairman of the Borough School Committee, Mr. J. J. White, informed an Express representative this morning that the school would re-open on Monday next. ',

26th June 1911 THE BOROUGH SCHOOL AGAIN CLOSED DOWN.

After a month's spell from work, owing to the prevalence of measles, the pupils at the Borough School returned to work this morning; but it was not to be for long. Out of the 444 pupils on the roll, 166 were absent. This non-attendance was manifest mainly in the infant department, which at the time of the closing, was almost immune from the disease. Several children were sent home on account of measles in the family, and some showing signs of chicken pox were also turned away. The chairman of the School Committee (Mr. J. White), the Visiting Committee, Mr. Revell, and the health officer (Mr. Johnston) were in attendance, and in view of, a probable epidemic of chicken-pox as well as other epidemics, it was decided on the motion of Messrs. Revell and Penny, to close the school for a further period of three weeks. This decision was very reluctantly arrived at, but the exigencies of the epidemic deemed this course necessary.,

5th July 1911 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), T. A. Revell, S. J. Heffer, Adams, W. Jordan, and W. Braddock. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Penny.; CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL. 'The Visiting Committee reported that as 160 scholars were absent from the schools, and the attendance at the infants' school was decimated owing to the exigencies of measles, from which epidemic the death rate was highest, it had been deemed necessary to close the school for a period.

The Chairman pointed out that, if the schools had not been closed the falling off in attendance would, have affected the teaching staff at the end of the year and would also affect the question of capitation, as both were based on the attendance.

Mr. Heffer moved, and Mr. Jordan seconded that the action of the Visiting Committee in closing the schools from June 26th be confirmed. —Carried

THE RE-OPENING. : Mr. Jordan moved that the schools be reopened on July 24th. .

Mr. Heffer seconded the motion, which was carried.

It was decided that the Committee have a special meeting on Friday, July 21st.

It was decided that the schools be thoroughly disinfected before the pupils reassemble, the work to be done at once under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DRILL. A memorandum from the Education Board with regard to drill instruction was deferred until next meeting. ;

VISITING COMMITTEE. Messrs. Jordan and White were appointed the Visiting Committee. NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS. The Chairman intimated to the members that the new Act fixed the age limit for National Scholarships at: 15 years, and he understood that the Education Board, proposed to retain the former age-limit of 14 years. Thus the Marlborough Candidates would be at a big disadvantage with other New Zealand candidates.

Mr. Wedde; who was present by invitation. explained that the scholarship in question was limited to children, whose parents were not in receipt of more than £225 per annum.

It was resolved that as the printed report of the Education Board were before the Committee, they noted that they were at variance with Section 68, part 2, of the Act dealing with age-limit, and: they considered 'that the regulations should be altered to conform with the Act,

FINANCE. An account from F. W. Adams was passed on to the Education Board for payment. This concluded the business, and the meeting, adjourned.

22nd July 1911 SCHOOLS TO OPEN ON MONDAY

A special meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee, to consider the advisability of resuming work at the Blenheim Borough Schools on Monday, was held last evening, the following members being in attendance:—Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), S. J. Heffer, W. Jordan and P. Birch. Owing to there not being a quorum present it was resolved that those

present consider the point at issue. ' The Health Officer, Mr. Johnson, reported that after consultation with all the medical practitioners in Blenheim he was .of opinion that the epidemic had almost run its course, and he thought it would be advisable to re-open the schools on Monday. Several of the medical profession were of the opinion that measles should be made a compulsorily-notifiable disease by legislation, as a great number of the cases in the present outbreak had been of a virulent type, and the various complications which usually set in through lack of proper attention were far-reaching and liable to affect patients for the rest of their lives. He was pleased to note that the Health Department were interesting themselves to a much greater extent in dealing with, infectious diseases as- affecting schools and school-children. During the vacation the schools had been thoroughly and efficiently disinfected by Mr. Williams and his assistant under the writer's personal supervision. All the members present concurred with the report, and the previous motion to open the schools on Monday was allowed to stand.

DRILL INSTRUCTION. The secretary read a recommendation from the .Education Board relative to the question of drill instruction for teachers. _ After a short discussion the chairman stated that he would put the views of the Committee before the Education Board at next meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS. A memorandum was received from the Education Board to the effect that the .Board would re-consider at next meeting the question of an age limit for scholarships. The Chairman stated that the Board was almost unanimous in favor of the

9th August 1911 The Borough School Committee met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), Jill. Penny, S. J. Heffer, Adams, F Birch, C. Lucas, T. A. Revell, and E. S. Edinger (secretary). An account received' for cleaning up the school ground was referred to the Education Board for payment. The headmaster's report stated that the attendance was not quite normal, and that there was still sickness in the school. The committee approved of the eligible age for children to sit for scholarships being extended to 15 years, and also of the period of military training being divided between 'the "teachers' holidays and a week of the school work. ,

15th August 1911 The Borough School Committee applied for £6 16s 6d, the cost of fumigation of the school. In connection with this matter Mr. Ferguson asked if any authority had been, given to use formaline (*Formalin*) for this disinfection. He thought sulphur -would be effective enough. The Chairman said that formaline was recommended by the Health Inspector. Mr. White said formaline was used at the Hospital, and Mr. Johnston had procured it from the Health Department. It was considered that sulphur was just as effective, but the account was passed, for payment

29th August 1911 Miss Brown, one of the teachers at the Borough School, is suffering from the after-effects of the flood, and was unable to attend school today

10th October 1911 The Blenheim School Committee applied for a, grant for a gate to be erected in the fence surrounding the, railway reserve. Mr. Fulton moved, and Mr. Reader seconded, that the Committee, be granted permission to erect a gate, to be approved by the chairman and secretary

8th November 1911 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough. School Committee, held last night, was attended by Messrs. J. J White (chairman), J. Patchett, O. Lucas, W. Braddock, E. H. Penny, and Adams. The Inspector's report of the school was received and discussed by the members, who considered that it was not very satisfactory, which is accounted for by the school being closed through sickness arid the flood; but a better one under the circumstances could not be expected. The large number of children in the preparatory classes as compared

with that of Standard 1 was noted, and it was decided to ask the Headmaster if the children could not be moved up more rapidly and at more frequent intervals.

1st December 1911 Fishing in the Omaka River near the Borough School last night, Mr. D. A. Sturrock landed a beautiful eight pound trout

6th December 1911 COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), S. J. Heffer, W. Jordan. Patchett, C. Lucas, W. Braddock, and Adams. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Penny and Birch. HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster reported that the attendance during the month, had been good, but had been slightly marred owing to bad weather. Out of 239 boys on the roll there had been an average attendance of 221.4 and there had been an average attendance of 188 girls out of a total of 224 on the roll. The attendance banner was won by Standard 5 on three occasions and by Standard 3 last week. The progress examinations were under way, and would shortly be finished. The lavatory in the west end of the main building required attention, and several panes of glass were needed to give the room a tidy appearance. The verandah in the infant school was leaking, probably owing to some deficiency in the spouting. As requested, he forwarded the qualifications of teachers, none of whom had been absent during the month. There had been one case of chicken pox during the month. The report was adopted, but the question of effecting the repairs was held over until the New Year.

REDWOODTOWN SCHOOL

A petition from several Redwoodtown residents praying for the establishment of a school in the neighborhood of Upper Weld Street was forwarded by the Education Board for consideration of the Committee. According to a statement submitted, 85 scholars were assured if a school were established.

The Chairman said that if a side school were established at Redwoodtown it would be an advantage to the main school, in that it would provide a supply of small children for it. But if they did not fix a reasonable limit to the standards, they would have such a drain on the attendance of the main school that there might be a reduction in the teaching staff, while a greater teaching staff would be needed, at the side school. Reconsidered that it was most desirable to have the school established, but the question of the building was the "bete noir." He considered that the Education Board should be asked to provide a site, and to limit the standard of education. It was agreed by the members that it was desirable that the side school should be established in the vicinity of Redwoodtown, and it was decided that in the opinion of the Committee it should be limited: to Standard I. A resolution recommending the Education Board to establish a side school in terms of the foregoing resolution, and on a suitable site of at least half an acre, at Redwoodtown, was carried.

POLLING BOOTH. The Chairman notified: that he had reserved information from the Returning Officer that the infant school had been appointed the main polling booth on Thursday, the day of the general election. According to the Legislature, Act, 1908, the schoolchildren were entitled to a half-holiday on any election day; but the question was, should they grant a whole holiday or not. Mr. Jordan moved, and Mr. Heffer seconded, that a whole holiday be granted.—Carried. The Secretary was instructed to collect the rent up to date for the merry-go-round in the Education Reserve.' The arrangements previously made for the Christmas vacation were approved.

Accounts totalling £1 8s were passed for payment and the meeting terminated.

6th December 1911 At last night's meeting, of the Borough School ' Committee, # the Headmaster, in the course/of his report, stated that their Majesties King George and Queen Mary had forwarded to him, through Lord Islington, Governor of New Zealand, a photograph of themselves and family, and desired that he should have it framed and placed in a

prominent part of the school. This he had done, and the photograph was placed before the Committee for their inspection. The following resolution was passed: That the Committee noted with great pleasure the handsome photograph of their Majesties King George and Queen Mary, forwarded through his Excellency the Governor, and framed at his request.

16th December 1911 Mr. H. J. Howard, headmaster of the Springlands school, and Mr. D. 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	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Sturrock	David A	D1	Head Master	£ 330.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D2	Assistant Master	£ 225.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mortimore	Archer E		Assistant Master	£ 180.10
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 160.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 135.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Evelyn E	D3	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	O'Sullivan	Agnes E		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Huddleston	Octavia		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Coward	Maude		FPT3	£ 55.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Nevison	Isabella		FPT3	£ 55.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Ensor	Dorothy E		Female Probationer 2`	£ 25.00
1912	439	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Cheek	Dorothy E		Female Probationer 1	£ 20.00

10th January 1912 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), S. J. Heffer, W. Jordan, J Patchett, Adams, F. Birch, and E. H. Penny. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Braddock and Lucas. Owing to illness, Mr. J. H. Williams resigned his position as caretaker of the school. After accepting the resignation, the Committee instructed the secretary to advertise for applications, to be in by 20th inst., for the office of caretaker, a special meeting to b© held on 23rd inst. to consider them. The secretary of the Education Board advised that the Board had approved of the Committee's recommendation concerning the establishment of a school at Redwoodtown, and had also decided to ask the Government for a grant for the erection of a suitable building. It was decided that no cattle be allowed on the Railway Reserve, and that the secretary take steps to have sheep put on the ground to graze at times. This concluded the business

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 of-Monday

7th February 1912 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), C. Lucas, J. Patchett, V. Braddock and Adams. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Penny, Jordan, Birch, and Heffer. The secretary was authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the grazing of sheep on the Borough Reserve when the opportunity arises. The secretary reported that at the special meeting, held towards the end of last month, Mr. Handcock had been appointed caretaker of the school and grounds, vice Mr. Williams, who had resigned.

The chairman moved, and Mr. Braddock seconded, that a letter of appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Williams during their term of offices be forwarded to them. A report from the Headmaster stated that 25 new pupils had been-admitted on the opening day, the total attendance then being 403, 219 boys and 184 girls. All the teachers were present at the re-opening. Accounts totalling £5 0s 2d were passed for payment, and the meeting terminated

13th February 1912 SCHOLARSHIPS.

"JUNIOR NATIONALS."

MARLBOROUGH RESULTS

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:—Irene 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; Nora' Denton. Canvastown, 480; William J Cameron. St. Mary's, 473; Douglas Tregurtha, High School, 466; Harold Handcock, River lands, 449; Stanley H., Morrison, Canvastown, 446; Leslie W. Scadden, Blenheim, 443; Edmond H. Noes, Okaramio, 432; Charles Sneider, Okaramio, 428; Elsie Matthews, Picton, 425; Harold Falkner, Blenheim, 422; Aloha Crump, Ocean Bay; 420; Nina Dick. Marshlands. 415; John Williams, Seddon, 412; Gertrude O'Sullivan, Omaka, 411. A scholarship or £33 (including boarding allowance of £30) was awarded to Aloha Crump; A national scholarship of the value of £10 to Irene Pike; a scholarship of the value of £8 (including £5 travelling allowance.) to Digby Perrett; and scholarships of the value of £3 to Charles Burns., Muriel Innes, William Cameron, Douglas Tregurtha, Harold Handcock, Leslie Scadden, Elsie Matthews, Harold Falkner, Nina Dick, and John Williams.

A national scholarship is tenable at the High School for three years and all the other scholarships for two years.

The Inspector-General mentions that the other candidates were over age according to the Department's regulations, and no award could be made in these cases.

13th February 1912 The Blenheim Committee wrote representing the need for several repairs to the school buildings and' in the grounds.—It was resolved that the committee be allowed to spend a sum not to exceed £30, under the supervision of the chairman, Mr. Conolly, the inspector and secretary

6th March 1912 It was decided at last night's meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee' to give the children) half. holidays on the. days on which the St. Patrick's and St. George's Sports are being hold.

'Apropos to the application of Mr. A; A. Wedde : for leave of absence from school for three days.to participate in the representative cricket match, Wellington v Marlborough, the chairman of the Borough School Committee said: I do not think that school teachers Should be considered available for selection in any team of athletes to tour;" This view was not hold, by a member, who said that where a man was master, not only in his profession but also in some branch, of sport, his skill counted for much with his pupils.

6th March 1912 monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), S. J. Heffer, W Jordan, F. Birch, Patchett, Adams, and W.. Braddock.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE. . Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Lucas and Penny.

REPAIRS. 'The action of the secretary in having the taps in the school lavatory repaired was indorsed. As an outcome of the Visiting Committee's comprehensive report of repairs needed in connection with the school, the secretary of the Education Board, to which body the Committee had appealed for assistance, notified that £30 been granted for the carrying out of

the repairs enumerated in the report, subject to the approval of a sub-committee of the Board.

A sub-committee comprising Messrs. Birch, Heffer, Adams, Jordan, and the chairman was drawn up to make arrangements for the expenditure of the grant, although the opinion was expressed by members that the grant would be quite insufficient for the important repairs needed. However, it was an instruction to the subcommittee to give urgently needed sanitary repairs prominence.

MENTION. The Chairman intimated that [Severn] years ago Mr. J. G. Bacon, dentist, had examined the teeth of all the children attending the school, his services being given gratis. The arrangement was that as each child was examined he or she was given a card showing the teeth which needed attention, this was to be given to the dentist treating the child, if the parent considered it necessary. Mr. Bacon had kindly offered to make another examination. He asked the opinion of the members on the matter. The offer was accepted on the motion of Messrs. Adams and Jordan.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. Numerous recommendations for repairs needed at the school were made in the headmaster's report, and were referred to a subcommittee. The headmaster also recommended that the Committee procure new desks, of a size suitable for infants, for the Infant School, as those at present used were suitable only for senior scholars. The matter was referred to the attention of the Inspector for opinion on the subject. Swimming classes had been established for both boys and girls of Standards IV., V and VI. Mr. Walker had presented a silver cup for competition, and it would be competed for shortly. - A vote of thanks to Mr. Walker for his donation, was passed. '

TEACHER'S APPLICATION. : The chairman intimated that Mr. 'A. A. Wedde had forwarded to him an application for leave of absence from his duties on March. 18th, 19th, and 20th, to participate in a representative cricket match with Wellington. As an urgent reply was needed he had consulted the members of the Committee, the majority of whom were favorable to the granting of the application, and had acquiesced. The chairman's action in granting permission was confirmed, with the addition to the resolution to the effect that the Committee desires it to be understood that they do not favor any similar applications from teachers

FREE BOOKS

The secretary reported that £16 0s 9d of the £20 grant for the purchase of free books had been expended.

After passing the caretaker's account of £4 6s 8d, the Committee rose.

3rd April 1912 The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, the members present being Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), Penny, Jordan, Birch, Patchett, Heffer and Adams. A report on his dental examination of the school children was received from Mr. J. G. Bacon and handed to the press for publication. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon. The visiting committee reported the presence in the school of more than one child of weak intellect, whose inclusion in the Classes was manifestly detrimental to the progress of the scholars as a whole, -and expressed the opinion that such children should be sent to some institution specially providing for cases of the kind. The committee took no action on this occasion. The offer of medical gentleman to make an examination of the children attending the school, subject to the approval of the Board and the parents, was accepted with thanks. The application of Miss Agatha Foley to be included, in the teaching staff as a probationer without salary, was referred to the Headmaster for his recommendation. The required attention was ordered to be given to broken window, a defective clock, and the infants' desks. The chairman reported that a cheque for £24 5s capitation had been received. Accounts were passed for payment, subject to any rectification required. The Education Board forwarded printed directions in regard to the elections of School Committees, to be

held on Monday, April 22nd. Mr. Sturrock, Headmaster, reported that the attendance had been good, the percentage being 92.6. The roll numbers were: Boys 217.3; girls 216.2. The average attendance was: Boys, 205.7; girls 195.8. The report stated that a considerable number of the pupils had gained swimming certificates. At the swimming carnival the Borough School team carried off both relay races, and its representatives won the junior championship.

LOCAL EXAMINATION REPORT RECEIVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The following report was received by the Blenheim Borough School Committee on Tuesday night from Mr. G. Bacon, dentist:— "With permission from your Committee, I recently examined the teeth of the children attending the Borough School. I enclose full particulars, on that examination, and below please find a few recommendations which I should urge your Committee to adopt. In my opinion the best way to improve the teeth of the school children is (1) To have their teeth examined by a dentist every six months;

(2) to have oral hygiene taught in the Blenheim Borough School. "With regard to the examination of teeth, I believe that this could be carried out with no expense to the School Committee or to anyone else. Personally, I would be only too pleased to give my Services for the benefit of the children. I believe the best way would be for all the local dentists to take it in turn to examine the school children's teeth every six months entirely free of cost. One has only to see the mouths of a few of the children to know that this is urgently needed. If children have decayed teeth they must sooner or later have bad health, and health comes before most things. The advantages of an examination of the children's teeth are these:—

(1) The children have pointed out to them decayed permanent teeth, which they believe to be temporary or milk teeth.

(2) The children are advised to have particles of temporary teeth extracted, which are the means of decaying numerous permanent teeth. I noticed eighty children during my recent examination with decayed permanent teeth caused by small particles of temporary teeth.

(3) The children are advised to have certain teeth extracted, which if retained, would be the cause of an irregular and crowded jaw. Irregular and crowded teeth are one of the helps to decay of the teeth.

(4) The children have pointed out to them-teeth just commencing to decay. As a rule a child does not know or care as to the state of its teeth until they commence to ache. The teeth are then more expensive, painful, and difficult to save.

(5) The parents are advised as to the state of their children's teeth per medium of a chart giver, to each child with decayed teeth. I could point out many more reasons why this examination should be carried out; but I trust the above will be quite sufficient to warrant this recommendation.

"With regard to having oral hygiene taught in the Blenheim Borough School ' free of cost, the teachers could learn sufficient oral, hygiene in about an hour, either from a lecture by one or more dentists, or from a suitable book. I believe a quarter of an hour's tuition a week would be all the children would require. Oral hygiene really means the care of the teeth and mouth, and includes: (1) The proper use of the tooth brush; (2) the reason why the teeth should be brushed, and when; (3) the bad effects on the general health resulting from decayed teeth. I give you the following example (one of many, by the way) why the teeth should be properly brushed. Suppose the teeth are not cleaned. Certain particles of foodstuff become wedged in between the teeth, and if allowed to remain putrefaction and fermentation sets in. The resulting acid given off from this mass- dissolves certain parts of the teeth and leaves a rough surface on the teeth. By and bye another particle of food becomes jammed in the same place, and the same thing occurs until the enamel is penetrated. Once the enamel is penetrated decay goes on rapidly, and the resulting cavity forms a depot for the lodgment of decomposing particles. By keeping the teeth clean the stomach is kept clean. "If you wish for any further

information as to the great necessity "of my recommendations being approved of by your Committee, I will be only too happy to supply it." The accompanying report of the examination of the teeth of the children attending the Blenheim Borough School was as follows:—

"I examined 256 children from the 1st to the 6th Standard. -Of this number 45 had sound teeth, the remaining 211 children having 536 cavities in their teeth, or an average of 2.9 decayed teeth per child. I examined 77 infants from six years of age. Of this number 58 had sound teeth, the remaining 19 children having 39 Cavities in their teeth, or an average of 2.9 decayed teeth per child. I think this compares very favorably with other schools in and out of the Dominion, which have an average of 5 and 6 decayed teeth per child. If you wish for a detailed report showing the result as far as each Standard is concerned, boys and girls separately, I can supply it at a moment's notice. I may say that the examination took about five hours, so that each class was not disturbed for more than three-quarters of an hour, '-The children were thoroughly well behaved, and enjoyed the examination, one little tot crying because she was too young, to be included." »

4th April 1912 The- average attendance at the Blenheim Borough School during 1911 having been 408, the number of members to be elected to the School Committee on April 22nd will be nine. Only householders resident within the school district are eligible for election, though for voting purposes parents and guardians of children may vote. All votes must be personally recorded at the meeting. Should less than the required number be appointed those duly nominated shall be declared elected, and the Board shall make appointments to complete the Committee.

22nd April 1912 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The following report will be submitted to the annual meeting of householders at the Borough School this evening. Your Committee beg to report that during the year 15 meetings have been held, - the individual attendances being as follows: — Messrs. J. J. White (chairman) 14, Birch 11, Braddock 12. Heffer 12, Lucas 9, Penny 8, Girling Ching 2, Revell. 4, Jordan 9, Patchett 6 and Adams 9. The work of the Committee has been a good deal routine character during the year, but they are pleased to state thanks to the teaching staff and your committee have been in hearty cooperation.

In June last, through the outbreak of an epidemic of measles your committee were called upon to close the schools (acting under medical advice) and again in July and early in August, owing to the phenomenal flood for several Weeks. This had the effect of considerably reducing the period of tuition, with the result that it not only affected the attendance when the school reopened, but militated against a. successful examination, the inspector's report as a result not being as favorable as previously. The Committee wish to draw attention to the special efforts of the teaching staff to overcome the drawback thus occasioned, and, to express appreciation of, the good work earned out under considerable difficulties.

During the last week of the summer vacation and the first week of the new term classes instruction were held at the High School building in Blenheim, at which a large number of teachers from all parts of the district were present, some work of a very instructive and beneficial Character; being got through; and your Committee note with pleasure the good attendances at this Summer School of our local teachers' staff, and are satisfied that much good will ensue to the pupils therefrom

The necessity for a side school for young children in. the, vicinity, of Redwoodtown and Weld. Street was brought under notice by a requisition from a number of local residents. Your committee recommended the Education Board to comply with the request. As no suitable building was available, the Board has applied to the. Education Department for a

grant to provide the necessary site and building which, it is understood, has been .acceded to, within the last few days.

Our schools gained the junior national scholarship for the district, also three other scholarships, twenty proficiency certificates (carrying free places at the High School) and the Board's medal for the best girl pass to standard six.

The following are the names of the Winners.

Scholarships. Junior National; Irene Pike. Board Scholarship Muriel Innes, Leslie Scadden, Harold Falkner.

Free Places at the High School. — ..John Agar, Percy Brunette, Harold Falkner, Noel Farnar, Harry .Ferguson. James Greig, Clarence Hammond, Cedric Marple, Hamilton McCallum, Rex McCallum, Archibald Thomas, Erie Thompson, "Rex Tovey, Elsie Ball. Maud Cottrell, Kate Grace. Muriel Innes, Alice Marple, Lucy Trischler, Dorothy Revell.

23rd April 1912 ANNUAL ELECTIONS. THE BLENHEIM HOUSEHOLDERS

The annual meeting of householders for the election of the Blenheim School Committee was held in the Borough Schools last night. About twenty persons, including a few ladies, were present. Mr. J. J. White, Chairman of the retiring Committee, occupied the chair.

THE REPORT. The annual report, as published in these columns, yesterday, was read. The balance-sheet showed that the year commenced with a credit balance of £3 10s id. The receipts amounted to £135 10s, and the expenditure was £116 12s 4d, leaving a credit balance of £22 8s.

Mr. F. Birch moved, and Mr. Braddock seconded, that the report and balance-sheet be adopted.—Carried.

THE FREE BOOKS. Mr. Birch suggested that the meaning of the free-book system be explained. The Chairman gave the information that recently the Government made provision for the supply of free books," which, however, could only be used in the schools, and could not be taken home. He had no doubt that behind the stipulation limiting the use of the books to the school was the idea of discouraging homework, which had almost .fallen into desuetude. His own opinion for some time had been that the system was little short of a farce. Mr. R. Rhodes remarked that he had never been given the advantage of the free supply, and probably other parents could say the same thing.

Mr. J. W. Humphreys did not think it was in the interests of public health to supply free books. They were, he believed, a means of spreading disease—skin diseases particularly.

Mr. Hylton, Secretary of the Education Board explained that the free books were distributed in accordance .with a Government grant made some three years ago. He did not think there had been any distribution in the meantime. Doubtless that was why many parents had not participated in the privilege, In. the last annual report of the Education Board the opinion was expressed that the free book was to supply copybooks and other such material free, In preference to reading books. He quite agreed with the view of, Mr. Humphreys that the passing of books from hand to hand was a dangerous practice from a sanitary point of view.

Mr. Humphreys moved that, in the interests of public health, the Committee be asked to bring under the notice of the Education Board, for transmission to; the Department, the desirableness of applying the grant for free books to the purchase of materials for individual use in the schools. My Penny seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE NEW COMMITTEE. The following nominations for the Committed were received,; Messrs. J. Patchett, J. W. Humphreys, E. H. Penny, F Birch, H. Braddock, J. J. White, S. J. Heffer, L. A. White, and Adams, The number, of nominations not ex-., the number of members required these gentlemen were declared duly elected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Mr. S. E. Hulbert moved, and the Ven. Archdeacon Grace seconded, that a vote of thanks be accorded to the outgoing Committee for their able management of the schools during the past year.

Archdeacon Grace, in speaking to the motion, expressed his appreciation of the courtesy of the Committee and the teachers in facilitating the operation of the system of religious instruction carried on in the schools. A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the proceedings.

3rd May 1912 The Blenheim Borough School broke up this afternoon for a week's vacation and the High School also for the usual three weeks' term holiday

8th May 1912 The Borough School Committee met last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), Humphreys, L. A. White, Adams, Braddock, and Birch. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Heffer and Penny.

NOTICE OF MOTION. Mr. Birch gave notice to move at the next meeting. —That, with regard to the vacations, the old system be reverted to for the year 1913, namely that the midwinter holidays be two weeks in June or July, and a period of six weeks constitute the summer holidays.

The Chairman explained that the school had broken up on Friday last for one week's vacation, the usual term holiday. It was decided that this vacation be approved.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. The Inspector's report of the work of the school for last year was received, and it was resolved that the Headmaster's attention be drawn to the report, and that he be requested to follow up the recommendations contained therein.

TECHNICAL CLASSES. The question of the attendance of school children at the Technical School to receive instruction during school hours came up for consideration, and it was decided that in the opinion of this Committee it is inadvisable for the children under Standard VII. to attend classes of instruction at the Technical School during school hours, and that the time previously devoted to these classes be given to compulsory subjects.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The Headmaster reported on the attendance during the month, which averaged 209.3 boys out of 225.5, and 196.5 girls out of 221.1. This was a slight decrease, owing to the prevalence of mumps. Several repairs were authorised to be effected, and after passing accounts for payment, the Committee rose,

14th May 1912 Miss Edith M. Brydon, Blenheim, granted three weeks' and Messrs. I M Browne, Tetley Brook, one month's leave of absence on account, of sickness

14th May 1912 The Education Board medals, the annual trophies awarded to the boy and girl with the best Sixth; Standard records for the year throughout the district, were presented to the Winners by the Chairman at yesterday's meeting. The successful pupils were Thomas Murphy, of the Convent School, with 655 marks, and Muriel Innes, of the Borough School, with 665

1st June 1912 The pupils of the Borough School will be assembled at 9.30 o'clock on the morning of Monday, the King's Birthday, for the ceremony of saluting the flag. Addresses will be delivered by Mr. J. J. White, chairman of the School Committee, Mr. E. H. Penny, and other members of the committee.

4th June 1912 EMPIRE AND KING.

SCHOOL CHILDREN SALUTE THE FLAG-

The combined observances of Empire Day and the King's Birthday were carried out at the Borough Schools yesterday morning. There was a large attendance of the pupils; the full teaching staff was in attendance and the School Committee and the Education Board were Represented.

Major Sturrock was in charge of the cadets.

The flag having been saluted in due form, the children were assembled in the inner ground; the cadets being lined up in front, and appropriate addresses were delivered by several speakers.

Mr. J. J. White, Chairman of the Committee, made the principal speech, and dwelt on the significance of the occasion. King George whose 47th. birthday they were celebrating, worthily reigned over, 425 millions of people, and he was the first reigning British monarch to visit India, where he was crowned Emperor, and Queen Mary Empress. Having impressed upon the children their duty to King and Empire, Mr. White, said, that he could not conclude without alluding to a wicked thing that was said recently to a Minister of the Government at a deputation that it does not matter which one of Queen Victoria's grandsons George or William, sends a Governor to New Zealand. If the treason-monger who said that had reflected a few minutes he would see that if he had addressed the same words to a Minister under the German rule, he would have been shot or hanged. If New Zealand were ever taken by the German Emperor—which, God forbid!—we should lose the freedom to govern ourselves, and would, have to pay heavy taxes for the upkeep of the big navy and army with which Germany was financially embarrassing herself. No; we must support with all our energy and power the thorough training of New Zealand boys and men to defend that flag which had just been saluted. Let them depend upon this: if ever that flag were taken down and a foreign one hoisted in its place, the freedom, peace, and happiness we now enjoyed would have gone, not to return for very many years. And he was sure they would all spurn with contempt and disgust the wicked and treasonable suggestion which he had just mentioned. .

Mr. R. McCallum, M.P., Chairman of the Education Board, and Mr. E. H. Penny, a member, delivered addresses in Imperial and loyal strains, after which the flag was saluted, and the National Anthem sung.

Mr. White then called on several gentlemen present, who also delivered speeches. Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A., Inspector of Schools, added a few appropriate words, on the invitation of Mr. White.

Hearty cheers were given for King George and Queen Mary, and the proceedings, which were of an enthusiastic description, then terminated.

5th June 1912 The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, the following members being present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman), Adams, Patchett, Birch, L. A. White, and Humphreys. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Braddock, Heffer, J. J. White, and the Secretary- It was reported that £34 16s had been received on account for free school books, and £30 17s 5d had been expended. From the Headmaster's report it appeared that the attendance had been good, notwithstanding the prevalence of mumps and other ailments. Mr. Birch reported that the Special Committee had met, and had inspected the school and outbuildings, and made recommendations concerning fencing, lavatory basins, urinals, and a verandah glass. Mr. Birch's notice of motion inspecting the holidays was held over. It was decided to ask Inspector Strachan to be present at the next meeting and give information regarding the syllabus.

27th June 1912 The attendance at the Borough School this-morning, numbered 335— 173 boys and 162 girls. The mumps epidemic has not yet subsided

1st July 1912 Mr. D. E. Leslie has been appointed first assistant of the Masterton School, in succession to Mr. V Haslam, now in charge at Island Bay. Mr. Leslie, who has been for some years a member of the Borough School-staff at Gisborne, was at one time headmaster of the Renwicktown school, and was subsequently first assistant teacher at "the Blenheim Borough School

3rd July 1912 The monthly meeting of the Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following members being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), S. J. Heffer, Patchett, J. W. Humphreys, W. Braddock, Adams, and L. A. White. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Penny and F. Birch.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT. The headmaster, in the course of his report, referred to the prevailing epidemic of mumps, notwithstanding which the average attendance, for the quarter

ended June 31st had been very good. The average attendance among 223.3 boys was 187.3, and that among 224 girls was 170.5. The necessity of warming two of the schoolrooms was re-presented[^] by the headmaster, and it was decided that the Education Board be asked to supply some heating apparatus as recommended. A recommendation by Mr. Sturrock that the girls' playground be levelled drew the suggestion from Mr. Humphreys that the boys of the school should do the work. It was explained in the report that the last flood had resulted in layers of silt being formed into hillocks, which Mr. Humphreys considered could easily be levelled by the boys. It was decided to convey the suggestion to the headmaster.

COMPENSATION.

The secretary explained that, having noticed that the contractor of the Union Bank was trespassing upon the Borough Reserve, he made overtures to him with regard to compensation. Consequently a letter was before the meeting, the contractor offering £1 1s to be donated towards the school prize fund for permission to use a strip of the land for the purpose of giving access for material, etc. A motion that the offer be accepted was met by an amendment that the contractor be charged one guinea per month for the time he was utilising the land.

The motion was finally carried

THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL. At the invitation of the committee, the Inspector (Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A.) was present, and delivered a somewhat lengthy address on the history and development of education since prehistoric times, and strongly advocated the continuance of classes for the Borough school children at the Technical School.

A short time ago the Committee passed a resolution that it was of opinion that all children under the 7th Standard should devote the time spent in attendance at the Technical School in study of compulsory subjects. Mr. Strachan was questioned by the members, and afterwards withdrew, after being accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his lucid and interesting address.

A short discussion on the question took place, after which Mr. Braddock moved that, having heard 'Mr. Strachan's opinion on the matter, the' Committee still adheres to its former opinion that the time now allotted to children under the 7th Standard for work in the Technical School could be better spent in the study of compulsory subjects. Mr. Patchett seconded the motion.

Mr. Humphreys said that after hearing Mr. Strachan's remarks he was in favor of the continuance of attendance at the Technical School, but he emphasised the fact that the supervision must be strict.

Mr. L. A. White supported the adherence to the system which included attendance at the Technical School.

The motion was lost,

GENERAL

Owing to his absence, Mr. Birch's notice of motion regarding the alteration of the vacations was allowed to stand over.

A recommendation by Mr. L. A. White that certain improvements be effected in front of the school to facilitate drainage was left in the hands of the chairman and Mr. L. A. White to take steps to have the work done.

Messrs. J. White and Adams were appointed the representatives of the Committee on the School Committees' Association.

The action of the secretary in procuring a supply of gravel for the purpose of filling up hollows in the playgrounds was approved. Accounts amounting to £8 17s 6d were authorised for payment.

A motion that it be a recommendation that physical drill take a more prominent place than it does at present in the primary schools was carried. '

It was reported that the sum of £24 5s, capitation for the month of June, had been lodged to the Committee's account at the bank.

The secretary of the Education Board notified that the large desks in the Infant School would be replaced by dual desks as soon as possible. The meeting terminated at 10.30 p.m.

3rd July 1912 Notice to move the following motion was given at the Borough School Committee meeting last night: ' That all scholars at the Springlands and Riverlands schools in the fifth and Sixth Standards be concentrated at the Borough School

4th July 1912 In regard to the assertion which is sometimes made that the Blenheim Borough School does not obtain its fair proportion of scholarships, it is interesting to compare last year's results with those of other districts. Notwithstanding the fact that the local school was closed for a good many weeks in the middle of the year, owing to the flood and to epidemics, it gained four scholarships, the roll number being about 450. Taking the schools of the Otago and Wanganui districts for purposes of comparison, it is found that by far the greater number of them did not do so well as Blenheim. In one or two cases schools with an average attendance of from 500 to 700 gained no scholarships at all!

With regard to the decision of the Borough School-Committee on Tuesday night respecting the amount of compensation to be paid by the contractor of the Union Bank for the use of a strip of the Railway Reserve the report published in last night's issue was slightly in error. It was stated that a motion accepting the contractor's offer of £1 1s was carried but in reality an amendment, which, being carried, became the substantive motion, was carried. The result of this is that the contractor is to be charged £1 per month for the use of the strip of land in question.

9th July 1912 AUTHORITY OF TEACHERS.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I notice in The Express of the 3rd inst. that the Borough School Committee directed the-, Headmaster of the school to make, the .boys clear the silt off the girls' playground. Does that mean that if any parent begins legal proceedings against the Headmaster the members of the School Committee will pay all costs and damages? This is an important question for teachers, so I feel grateful if someone will supply me with the information.

A COUNTRY' TEACHER

7th August 1912 The young minds cannot be taught to shoot satisfactorily if" they are Associated with cold hands and feet. The Blenheim School Committee resolved last night that the caretaker be instructed to light the fires in the school not later than seven o'clock In the mornings, so that the rooms might be properly warmed.

7th August 1912 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night. There were present: Messrs. J. J. White (Chairman), Heffer, Birch, Patchett, L. A. White, Adams,-and Braddock. The action of the Chairman in granting a holiday to the school on the day substituted for Arbor Day was confirmed. The Headmaster's report stated that the low average attendance of 358 for the month was due to the prevalence of mumps, and the continuance of the wet weather. The secretary was instructed to see the secretary of the Education Board with a view to obtaining scientific apparatus required for the school. According to notice, Mr. Birch moved that, with regard to vacations, the old system, be reverted to for the year 1913—namely, that the midwinter holidays be two weeks in June or July and the midsummer holidays extend over six weeks. The motion was carried. A motion, previously notified, representing that it was inadvisable that children under the Seventh Standard should attend the Technical School classes during school; hours was withdrawn. Mr. Patchett in behalf of the Visiting Committee reported that there, were no representations of importance to make. Some small repairs were provided for; and it was resolved. that the Secretary of the Board be asked for information as to the progress of. the work of erecting-

the Redwoodtown school. Messrs. Penny and L. A. White were appointed Visiting Committee for the ensuing month

4th September SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee, held last night, was attended by Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), Humphreys, L. A. White, Patchett, Adams, Heffer, and! Braddock. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Birch.

REDWOODTOWN SCHOOL

The secretary reported having made overtures to the Education Board in reference to .scientific apparatus and repairs to the Redwoodtown School. Mr. Penny stated' that a formal; opening was to take place in a short time, probably in the course of a week. It was decided that the Education Board be requested to advertise the opening, and that all members of the committee and parents of intending scholars be asked to attend. The Headmaster was instructed to procure an organ for this school, provided that no expense was entailed 'to the Committee.

HEADMASTERS- REPORT.

The Headmaster reported that the percentage of attendances for the month was only 80 per cent., which was very unsatisfactory, considering the proximity of the examinations. Although the attendance was gradually recovering, there were still many absent through mumps and chicken pox. The report was adopted, and the paucity of attendance rioted. Several requirements recommended were authorised, and the Committee rose.

19th September 1912 REDWOODTOWN SCHOOL.

OPENING CEREMONY

As the making of Blenheim's suburbs proceeds apace, those- which have been established for sometime are gradually meeting the demands of a progressive and increasing community. This applies to Redwoodtown, where the population has increased so much of recent years that the establishment oi: a church and just lately a State school has been found necessary. It was for the purpose of witnessing the opening ceremony of the new institution that a fairly large number of residents of the locality foregathered in the school ground yesterday afternoon. Several members of the Borough School Committee were present, and the proceedings passed off most auspiciously. The formal ceremony was performed by Mr. J. J. White (chairman of the Borough School Committee). In his remarks Mr. White mentioned that it was not because- of any incompetence on the part of the Borough School staff that the school was erected—far from it, in fact—but because of the large number of small children who were not offered the best inducement to attend the central school. The erection of the institution marked still another step in the progress of the locality, and he trusted that the school would be accorded the mode of support that was desired.

Mr. D. A. Sturrock (headmaster pi the Borough School) gave some interesting advice to the parents to assist the school and the teacher, by doing which they would be assisting themselves.

Messrs. E. H. Penny, J. W. Humphreys, Patchett, and Adams (members of the Borough School Committee), and E. S. Hylton (secretary to the Education Board) also spoke in & congratulatory vein. Previously to the opening of the school, Mrs. R. McCallum (wife of the chairman of the Education Board) and Mrs. J. J. White (wife of the chairman of the Borough School Committee) were each presented with' a floral tribute by two wee girls (Misses Priddle and Dempsey). A delectable afternoon tea was afterwards provided in the schoolroom, after which pupils were enrolled by the school-mistress (Miss Huddleston). The school was opened this morning for instruction. Built upon modern and hygienic lines, the school will doubtless effectively fill for a time at least a. need which has long been felt. The building comprises; one room 26 foot by 22 foot and a corridor extends over the full length. It is now capable of accommodating 50 children; but as soon as the average attendance reaches

about 40 the Board will no doubt make additions. The building has been constructed so as to allow of similar rooms being added. The style of windows provides for the maximum of fresh air, and also an abundance of light. The funds for the erection of the school were provided by the Education Department. Messrs. Ward and Sons were the builders, and Mr. E. S. Hylton was the architect. There is nearly an acre of playground available. -

20th September 1912 The new school at Redwoodtown promises to be an educational unit of some consequence. Thirty children attended on the opening day, yesterday, and it is probable that the number will be increased. A considerable proportion of the pupils are children who had been waiting for the new school to commence their school career, and others are drawn from the Borough and Riverlands schools.

9th October 1912 the course of his report to the Borough School Committee last night, the headmaster (Mr. I. A. Sturrock) Seated that preparations were being made for the production of an operetta by the scholars in November. The Committee noted with appreciation Mr. Sturrock's efforts in the preparation of the function.

14th October 1912 The boys attending the Redwoodtown side school won the attendance banner for last week, making a percentage of 99.

15th October 1912 Miss Evelyn E. Hilliard was granted one month's leave of absence from her teaching duties in the Borough School on account of ill-health.—The action of the inspector and secretary in arranging for a relieving teacher was approved.

6th November 1912 Embodied in the Headmaster's report to the Borough School Committee last night were details regarding the school concert. It was stated that the date had been fixed for December 17th, and the name of the operetta was "Princess in Poppyland," by C. King Proctor.

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening. It Was reported that the ground at the Redwoodtown school had been prepared arid some plants and seeds had been put in, and that arrangements had been made with a charwoman for the cleaning out of the school. Several minor re^e pairs were arranged to be effected at both the Borough and Redwoodtown schools. The headmaster (Mr. D A Sturrock) reported that the attendance had improved, which was probably due to the fact that he had for-, warded a circular to every guardian, urging more regular attendance The average attendance at the main "school had been 437.9 out of 473.7, and 31 1' out of 34 at Redwoodtown, the boys of which school had won the banner As requested he forwarded the percentage of attendances for the standards for the nine months of this year The report was discussed and adopted" and after transacting other routine business the Committee rose.

10th December 1912 BLENHEIM. The Blenheim School Committee recommended that when temporary teachers were required the vacant positions be advertised for at least three days (where practicable), and that the Committee have the opportunity of selection. The Inspector said that the process suggested would hardly be practicable in the majority of cases. Quick action was required in a great many instances. After some discussion it was resolved that the letter be received. The chairman pointed out that the temporary appointments could be made an excellent means of opening up opportunities for young teachers. Some minor repairs asked for by the Committee were authorised. The request to have the whole of the, schools disinfected with formalin during the holidays was discussed. The chairman pointed out that the regulations threw the cost of disinfecting on to the Committee. Mr. Penny urged that the work was very necessary, in the interests of the public health; but the Committee's funds were not sufficient for the purpose. The chairman said that the regulations were insuperable, .and to ignore them in one case would be to invite a host of similar applications. It was resolved that the- .attention of the Committee be directed to the regulations. The Committee's request to have the western boundary of the Redwoodtown school property securely fenced Was acceded to

12th November 1912 BLENHEIM. The action of the Secretary in temporarily improving the drainage of the Blenheim Infant School, pending the carrying out of the municipal drainage scheme, was approved

13th December 1912 PRINCESS OF POPPYLAND."

This operetta is the latest work of C King Proctor, who has made his name famous by his "Mystic Mirror, "Blue Bell," "Princess Chrysanthemum and others. The children or. the Borough School have been rehearsing this fanciful operetta, which abounds with amusing libretto, beautiful songs, duets, and stirring choruses. The work stands far ahead of the usual class of work written for schools, and has quite an operatic flavor about it. The following is the argument:; Act 1. The curtain rises disclosing a garden scene in the dreamy and; , peaceful realm of Poppyland. The Court Chamberlain, Fizzletop, attended by two pages, enters in a great state of nervous excitement and announces that the King wishes to celebrate his daughter the Princess of Poppyland's debut by throwing open the country to representatives of all nations. To this end he has invited the Baron Insomnia to visit him, in the hope that, he may prove a suitable consort for the Princess, whose views are altogether different from those of her august parent. J Prince Wideawake, who is visiting I the country in the guise of a humble student, has seen the Princess, and becomes enamored of her, his admiration being, apparently, by no means distasteful to the lady herself. . The Baron Insomnia, attended by his attendants Pip-pip and Honk-honk, now arrives by motor-car, and resolves to steal the magic casket "Beauty Sleep," which contains the fortune and welfare of Poppyland, in order that he may get the Princess into his power. His plan succeeds, - but Prince Wideawake overhears his design and resolves to recover the casket as a stepping-stone by which to mount to the King's favor. k Act 2.—At the courtyard of the castle, the King's arrival is being anxiously awaited. The Baron Insomnia has become possessed of the -casket,. and its disappearance, although unsuspected, is felt by everybody in the strange loss of the power to sleep which is most strikingly developed in the Honorable. Dozey Fizzletop, who, on ordinary occasions, is very rarely found to be awake. The inconvenience felt in Poppyland by the strange symptoms' of general sleeplessness causes the Court -Chamberlain some anxiety, and by the King's desire he departs to see if the magic casket is in safe keeping as usual. He returns with the news that it is missing, and everyone is filled with consternation and dismay. Act 3.—No news has been received of the missing casket, but the King is hopeful of its speedy recovery, and has given orders that its loss is in no way to affect the festivities which are to take place in honor of .his guests. In the reception hall of the castle, Britannia with England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as her attendants, arrives in state, and a band of Spanish gipsies beguile the time with dance and song. Prince Wideawake appears with the Baron's servants, Pip-pip and Honk-honk, whom he has detected in the act of stealing the magic casket, "Beauty Sleep," which he now restores. The King begging him to name his own reward, he discloses his rank, and claims the hand of the fair Princess of Poppyland, who is by no means averse to such a proposal. The King consents, to the delight of the Prince and the discomfiture of the Baron, and the curtain descends to the merry pealing of golden wedding bells. The orchestral parts have been imported from London, and new scenery painted by "Beck" will be used for the first time. The prices are popular, and the object is to provide the girls with an asphalt tennis court in their playground.

David Addison Sturrock was born in London in 1862, to Scottish parents. He grew up in Arbroath and Dundee, afterwards entering and leaving Edinburgh University, having entered as a Queens Scholar. Whether or not he graduated is unclear. What is clear is that by 1882 he was teaching at Ferry Hill School in Aberdeen.

In 1884 he married Mary Stephen Watt, daughter of a tailor. In January 1885 they emigrated to New Zealand, arriving first in Christchurch, before David was appointed 3rd Master at Napier School soon after arrival.

In 1888 one Joseph Mayo brought a case against Mr Sturrock, claiming that he had boxed the ears of Gertrude Mayo, his daughter, so hard that he burst her eardrums. He escaped prosecution and it appears the Mayo's had ulterior motives for prosecuting, as they needed the money it would provide.

In 1892 Sturrock applied for the Headmaster job at Gisborne but was declined. By this point he had risen to 2nd Master at Napier. Whilst at Napier he and his wife had had 3 sons: Ronald Douglas Addison, Clyde Montgomery and George Henderson Watt, and in 1893 his wife and the children departed for Scotland, ostensibly on "family business" or for the children's education, but more likely because she had left him.

The following year however he was appointed Headmaster of Blenheim school, having received universal recommendation. During his time at Napier he had been very prominent in musical and theatre circles but not much else. Obviously a very proficient educator, all of his students passed their exams in his first year in charge at Blenheim. Throughout 1896 he also served as a director of a gold mining company in the Wairau but doesn't appear to have made his fortune.

Whilst his professional life was going well, his personal was not. By 1901 his wife and children were still in Scotland. His wife had taken up with a baker named Greig and she had an illegitimate child, Sydney, by him. On his birth certificate she claimed that her husband, David, was deceased! Her children with him had been sent out to live as farm servants, a shocking change for the sons of a university educated man.

In 1903 David was fired from his position at Blenheim. He took the Board to court to overturn this. The board argued that his results had been unimpressive for the past few years and that as the boys and girls schools were merging, they could obtain a better teacher on a higher salary. They also argued that a man living apart from his wife was unfit to teach girls. It appears this was the Blenheim committee striking again,

Sturrock proposed that it was more of a personal vendetta against him from the committee and that half their evidence and reasons were fabricated. The court found in favour of Sturrock and he was to be reinstated. However the Education Board refused to reinstate him, going so far as to sue him for trespass for continuing to teach at the school. Eventually it was resolved, after about a year of litigation, with Sturrock being fully reinstated, the Education Board having run out of Appeal Courts.

He remained in Blenheim, spending much of his time in Poultry circles. In 1913, still Headmaster of Blenheim, the Board promoted him to Inspector of the Marlborough Schools, quite a change considering 10 years earlier the Board tried their hardest to sack him.

He remained in this role until 1920, when he was transferred as Inspector to Wellington. But by this time one major change had occurred. His wife had returned. Why she came back after so long is a mystery, she had probably been in Canada as her partner and her three sons by David had all emigrated there. Perhaps David's promotion and subsequent move to Wellington had enticed her back. Whatever the reason it's rather shocking.

Later that year the couple travelled together to Canada, David having retired, they appear to have split their time subsequently between Canada and Scotland, settling permanently in Victoria, British Columbia, a long way away from their children who had taken land grants out on the Great Plains of Alberta/Saskatchewan. There must have been (some well-earned) bad blood there.

Mary passed away in 1932 in Victoria and David subsequently returned to NZ, settling in Wellington where he appears to have lead quite a solitary existence. He died in Napier in

1941, leaving his meagre personal belongings to only one son, Ronald. He gave his household goods to a Miss Marie Kate Harrison, who declined them whilst David Wilmot, another old Marlborough teacher was the only other person mentioned, and was responsible for administrating his estate. A rather sad end.

Researched and written by Grandson Sam.

1913

1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Low B A BSc	Benjamin H	B1	Head Master	£ 310.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D1	Assistant Master	£ 230.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 180.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden Wilkinson	Elizabeth W	E2	Assistant Female	£ 150.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mrs	Mary	E2	Assistant Female	£ 120.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis		Assistant Master	£ 108.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C4	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	D4	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brewer	Gertrude Faith		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mason	Eva		Assistant Female	£ 90.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Coward	Maude		FPT4	£ 55.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Nevison	Isabella		FPT4	£ 55.00
1913	460	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Cheek	Dorothy		Female Probationer 2'	£ 25.00

8th January 1913 In the course of his report to the Borough School Committee last night, Mr. D. A. Sturrock (headmaster) stated that the school concert given recently resulted in a credit balance of £40. The object was to provide a tennis court for the girls in their playground. Arrangements for the laying-down of the court will be made when the .school-children re-assemble

The Blenheim Borough School Committee met last night, routine business being transacted. The Education Board forwarded a cheque for £30 5s, being capitation allowance for the quarter ending December, plus the amount on account- of the caretaker's salary. The headmaster (Mr. D. A Sturrock) reported that the average attendance for the quarter was 463, and should this be maintained during the-coming year the school would advance a grade. The question of the utility of the Technical School -was discussed, and it was decided that in the opinion of the Committee the time devoted to instruction at the Technical School could be better utilised in grounding-the scholars in more useful subjects, and that the results accruing from this class of instruction did not warrant the expense incurred. It was further decided to notify the Committee's desire that the children attending the Borough School should be exempt from attending this school, owing to the time taken up during the ordinary school hours. The Drawing up of a resolution concerning this matter for conveyance to the Education Board was left in the hands of several members.

13th January 1913 Wairau Hospital Board Several disinfections of left off wearing apparel in parcels and packages from abroad, sent through the Post Office and Customs agent, had been carried out before being assessed for Customs duty and in accordance with the Customs Department's regulations a supply of formalin had been obtained for the Borough School Committee.

14th January 1913 The following resignations of teacherships were accepted Miss E. Hilliard, fifth assistant in Borough School

The Blenheim School Committee forwarded the following resolution— That in the opinion of this Committee, the results accruing from the instruction given at the Technical School do not warrant the expense increased in maintaining the same, and further this Committee respectfully submit that the time given to the subjects taught in this school could be much better utilised by being devoted to those subjects which have a more important bearing on the future life of the scholars. This Committee also desires that the scholars of the Borough School be exempted from attending these classes, owing to the time taken up, taking the children from the ordinary course of instruction."

On the motion of Mr. Storey it was resolved that the question be deferred until next meeting, and that the Inspector and the School Committees' Association be asked to present their views to the Board on that occasion.

RAILWAY RESERVE. The Town Clerk, writing in behalf of the Borough Council, called attention to the damage done to the railway reserve by the circus which recently visited Blenheim. The Board, as lessees, would be expected to repair the damage.—It was resolved to have the broken fencing repaired. :

4th February 1913 Recognising the merit of the Borough School production of "Princess in Poppyland" many residents advised Mr. Sturrock, the headmaster, to repeat the performance. This, however, is impossible, owing to the fact that the musical parts have been returned to England.

5th February 1913 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last evening, the following being present: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman!);- Hoffer, Penny, Birch, Adams, Humphreys, and Braddock. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. L. A. White and Patchett. It was decided to recommend the appointment of Miss F. Brewer for the position of one assistant, with Miss J. Hilliard as second selection. For the latter position there was a ballot between Misses Hilliard and E. Duggan; the voting being 4 to 3 in favor of Miss Hilliard. The headmaster reported that the total attendance yesterday was 459 out of a roll number of 503. The Education Board advised that consideration of the Committee's recommendation regarding the discontinuance of technical classes had been deferred until next meeting of the Board. In the meantime the School Committee's Association and the Inspector were to be asked to state their views on the question. A motion that it be a suggestion to the delegates from the Committee to the Association to support the resolution passed by the Committee recently was carried.

11th February 1913 The following appointments were made: — Assistants, Blenheim: Misses F. Brewer and J. Hilliard

BLENHEIM. An account of £1 for replacing a broken window in Mr. Wedde's residence was forwarded from the committee for payment.—The account was passed for payment. In consequence of an application from the Headmaster, the committee wrote strongly recommending the installation of hot and cold water in Mr. Wedde's residence.—The committee was authorised to have the work carried out

25th February 1913 A foolish rumor has been, circulated is that all the children at the Borough Schools are to be vaccinated. This is absolutely false and has no foundation in fact. The statement is affecting the attendance

8th March 1913 In view of the probable discontinuance of attendance at the Technical School by the pupils of the Blenheim Borough School, the School Committee has decided to confer with the headmaster on the question of substitution of new classes instead of woodwork and cookery. At the last meeting of the School Committee Mr. Sturrock recommended first aid

The. Borough School is proving a valuable nursery for the teaching and sustaining of interest in swimming. Attending the school now are some very creditable swimmers, notably G. Fawcett and P. Rothwell, who were placed first and second respectively in the School Championship at the carnival on Wednesday, evening. Besides these there are 'several other lads who should be heard of in the swimming arena at some later date. The school has now won Dr. Walker's Cup for the best school team twice in succession, and with the material available there is every prospect of the Cup being won outright next year. A carnival is to be held in the course of a week or two.

26th March 1913 SWIMMING SPORTS

BLLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL

Before closing for the Easter vacation the pupils of the Blenheim Borough School held their annual swimming sports at the municipal baths, before a large gathering of spectators. There were some very exciting finishes, dead heats being the result in several cases. The principal events—the school championships

300 yds boys' and 50 yds' girls', were carried off by Fawcett and Marjory Dunckley respectively. ,

The following, is a list of the races:

50 yds Maiden Handicap: Simmonds 1, Thomson 2. Time, 47 sees.

50 yds Maiden Handicap (girls): M. Clarke 1, E. Parsons 2. Time, 62 sees.

200 yds Championship: Fawcett 1, -Simmonds 2. Time, 3 min 23 2-5 secs.

50 yds Championship (girls): M. Dunckley 1, M. Clarke 2. Time, 61 :secs.

50 yds Open Handicap: Clouston 1, Fawcett 2. Time, 54 2-secs.

15 yds Handicap (boys' first year's swimmers): Bentley 1, Simson 2.

15 yds Handicap (girls): M. Horton : Dorothy Parsons 2. ,

50 yds Breaststroke Handicap: N. Clouston 1, Fawcett 2. Time, 51 secs

25 yds Handicap (boys under 12) J: Corry 1, Simson 2, Penny 3. Time, 27 '2-5 secs.

50 yds Handicap (boys under 14): A. Patchett 1, Simmonds 2.

Novelty Event Clouston. Object Diving;: Fawcett. Neatest Header (boys): Payton 1, Hodson 2. Neatest Header (girls) :-M. Dunckley 1, D. Hill 2.

5th April 1913 One of the most enjoyable evenings spent for some time at Koromiko was held on Monday night, when a farewell social was tendered to Miss Hilliard, who has been transferred to the Blenheim Borough School. Dancing and games, and selections on the delaphone, comprised the programme, Mr. Haughey presiding at the piano. Supper was provided by the ladies, and was T Of - the occasion. After supper Miss Hilliard was presented by the residents with a beautiful solid silver manicure set in morocco case. Mr. C. Simmonds, in making the presentation, spoke of Miss Hilliard's qualifications as a teacher in the way she had carried out her duties, in having such good results after the examination. Mrs. Hilliard responded in; behalf of her daughter, thanking all for the kindness they had shown in presenting her with such handsome presents.. The children of the school presented Miss Hilliard with a solid silver-buckled mirror. From Mr. and Mrs. G. Freeth Miss Hilliard received a solid silver watch in case, as a token of the kind regard they had for her during her stay with them at Korimako. Mr. Gomez, of Marton, made the Presentation in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Freeth. Afterwards dancing was carried on till the early hours.

7th April 1913 The municipal baths on Friday last the pupils of the Blenheim school swam for the certificates issued by the New Zealand Swimming Association. There were quite a number of candidates, and in spite of the fact that the water was very cold very creditable performances were put up by some of the boys. All the competitors qualified, as follows: — First year's swimmers-necessary distance to qualify for certificate, 100, Jack Corry 100 yds,

Arthur Adams 100 yards, Alex Patchett 150 yards, Max. Murray 500 yds, William Agar 500 yards

Other certificates gained were: York Penny 225 yds, Ridgway 250 yds, A Von Rotter 350 yds Jack Lewis 425 yds, Fred. Adams 500 yds L Thomson 600 yds, Clarence Day 600 yds, C. Gear 700 yds Gordon Thompson 775 yds, Percy Rothwell 775 yds,

Pool was 25 yards long. No heated water 100 Yards = 91.44 meters

9th April 1913 A motion expressing appreciation of the interest taken in the scholars of the Borough School by the teachers was passed at last night's meeting of the committee, particular reference being made to the way in which the boys had acquitted themselves in the recent swimming carnival. In the headmaster's report gratitude was expressed at the liberality of the public in contributing to the prize-list of the swimming sports

12th April 1913 Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough Schools, has | been advised by the Department that the medical examination of the schools will take place on or about the 28th inst.

26th April 1913 The prizes won in connection with the recent Blenheim Borough School swimming sports were presented to the winners yesterday. The prize list has already been published

29th April 1913 The; Blenheim elections.

There was. not a great deal of interest- taken in the statutory meeting of householders last night, when the annual election of School Committee took place in the Borough School-room: Mr. J. J. White presided over an attendance of some 25 ; householders. The annual report was read, as follows:—

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET

School Roll.—During the last quarter the total roll number was 497, with an average of 451, while the total roll number during the present month has further increased to 509, with an average attendance of 465, of which the side: school; contributes to the roll 45; and the average attendance 40. If this can be maintained the schools will be raised to a higher, grade. School Holidays.—Owing to the prevalence of mumps and wet weather, the total average attendance fell from 388 in June to 358 in July. The Committee deemed it advisable for the future to revert to the former practice of closing the schools at about the end of June, and unanimously resolved upon two weeks' holiday in June or July and at: midsummer a vacation of six weeks. For the comfort of the pupils in the winter, the Committee ordered that the fires be lighted not later than seven a.m., so that the rooms might be warm when the schools opened. _ Free Books.—The Committee has heard nothing as to the abolition of the supply of free school books for use in the schools, but the -School Journals, issued monthly to the schools without charge are received with favor by the teachers, as containing interesting lessons on important events of the day as they occur. New desks of up-to-date pattern have been substituted at the Infant School for those without backs. The change is much appreciated and adds to the, comfort of the children, The Redwoodtown Side School was opened on the 12th September, 1912, with an average attendance up to the 5th October of 28 out of 32 on .the roll. This little school has proved a boon to the locality. As children up to the Second Standard only are admitted, the attendance at the main school is not affected. For the useful gift to this school of an organ by Mrs. Thomas Carter (which gift is greatly appreciated), that lady is entitled to the thanks of the householders. Operetta.—The Headmaster (Mr. D. A. Sturrock) and his staff of teachers prepared the school children for an operetta, which was performed in His Majesty's Theatre on the 17th, December, 1912. This was. most successful, and in addition to the practical instruction of the. children concerted music, and giving them, their parents, and the public pleasure, a sum of £39 17s 6d was realised for the purpose of providing an asphalt tennis court on, the school grounds for the girls. This work is

progressing, and the court will soon, it is expected, be ready for use. The contract price is £42 15s. Technical " School.—In lieu of attending the wood-work classes at the Technical School, the Headmaster has substituted instruction in swimming and first-aid to the injured. This accords with the expressed views of the majority of the Committee and of the Education Board.

Swimming.—The Committee expressed its appreciation and congratulations through the Headmaster to himself and his staff, and to the boys and girls on our school securing first place at the recent, swimming carnival, and desires now to record its thanks to Dr. Walker for his handsome trophy for which the Borough Schools this year successfully competed New Zealand Association Proficiency Certificates in swimming have been received by fifteen of our school boys for the distance of from 220 yards to one mile. George Fawcett, of our school, won the one mile handicap race in the Opawa river against all comers. Proficiency and Competency Certificates.—Twenty proficiency certificates were gained, entitling the holders to free places in the, High School. Five pupils of Standard 6 and six of Standard 5 received competency certificates. Inspector's Reports.—The reports of the Inspector as to the general efficiency and progress of the schools are good. Government Medical Inspection. — Dr. Elizabeth Gunn inspected the children, and where she deemed it necessary notices have been given to the parents. Finance.—The audited balance sheet shows a debit balance of £1 3s 9d on the year's transactions. In the discussion on the report, Mr. E. H. Penny stated that the subsidy for the Board was insufficient for a school of the size of the Borough, and he hoped, the Board would see its way to increase the grants, so that the Committee need not go cap in. hand for grants in aid. Mr. Humphreys sounded a note of objection to the abolition of the woodwork classes at the Technical School, and he moved that in the opinion of the meeting woodwork should be reintroduced as part of the school course. He thought the Committee had gone beyond its duties in abolishing the class. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. He thought a mistake had been made in /abolishing the subject. He thought it more important than the two subjects which had taken its place. Mr. Hill put in a plea for the swimming lessons, which he considered a very important subject— more important, in his opinion, than a course in woodwork. If one had to go, the latter should be the subject eliminated. Mr. J. J. White also spoke strongly in favor of keeping on with the swimming lessons. The ability, to swim had saved his life on one occasion, and he thought every child should learn to swim. The first-aid course was also a necessary equipment to a child's education. The amendment was put and lost, and the report and balance-sheet were adopted. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Thomas Carter, for the gift of an organ to the Redwoodtown Side School.

29th April 1916 THE NEW COMMITTEE

The following gentlemen were elected as School Committee for the ensuing year:— Messrs. W. Jordan, F. Birch, C. F. A. Whiteford, L. A. White, J. J. White, J. Patchett, W. Braddock, E. H. Penny, and Adams. Mr. Penny moved that the meeting places on record the services rendered to education in Marlborough by Inspector Strachan, and hopes

13th May 1913 BLENHEIM. An application from the Committee that a shelter shed and coal shed be erected at the Redwoodtown side school was granted.

The Committee was granted £10 as a subsidy on £40, the amount spent on the tennis court at the main school.

The caretaker of the Blenheim School asked that shed accommodation be provided the rear of his residence.—The Secretary was instructed to report

14th May 1913 INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

THE NEW APPOINTMENT,

MR. D. A. STURROCK'S CAREER

Mr. David A. Sturrock, who has been appointed to the position of Inspector of Schools in the Marlborough district, in succession to Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A., resigned, has been headmaster of the Blenheim Borough Schools for the last nineteen years. Mr. Sturrock served his apprenticeship in one of the large schools under the control of the Dundee Education Board, and at all his examinations was placed in the first class, gaining special prizes for all-round work. At the entrance examination to the framing Colleges he was classified first class, with special merit in mathematics. He won a Queen's Scholarship which carried with it two years training at the Normal School, and two sessions at the Edinburgh University. He attended classes in Latin, English, Logic, Psychology, Mathematics, and Education, and he was awarded certificates of distinction in Mathematics and Education. Mr. Sturrock had the full coupe of two years, and at the examination for certificates in 1882 he was in the first class, Dr. Currie, the Principal, and Dr. Wilson, Inspector-General, gave him highest mark, "excellent," for skill in teaching. He was at the college assistant lecturer in perspective, and 's a Queen's prizeman in that subject. Towards the end of the second year the Aberdeen Education Board requested the Principal to appoint the most suitable student as assistant to their secondary school at Aberdeen, and he was selected from the whole list of students for the position. In this school he taught for two years, the required period of probation for his parchment, and, after giving special lessons before his Majesty's inspectors, he was awarded the highest possible certificate.

For nine years Mr. Sturrock was first assistant in the Napier District School, and vacated that position- to take up the headmastership at Blenheim.

The new Inspector has made a close study of physical and military training. In 1888, at an examination held by the Central Board of Examination for officers, at Wellington, he was first on the list of successful candidates. The examination embraced written papers on a variety of subjects. He has been on several occasions selected as judge of the military competitions. The winning team at the military review held some years ago at Spring Creek was trained by Major Sturrock, and his company of cadets has always received the highest commendation from the Inspector-General of the Forces.

Mr. Sturrock is a musician of merit. He was first on the list at an examination conducted by Professor Hullah, and at the Training College at Edinburgh he gained the highest mark, "excellent." He is an associate of the Tonic Sol-fa College, London, and a registered examiner for certificates. He possesses the certificates in the following branches — Chord-naming, musical form, harmony analysis, musical and verbal expression, staff notation, highest stages, etc., and, besides theory, has had a long experience in the training of choirs and in conducting here and elsewhere cantatas, operettas, and operas. ; He has a full, Drawing certificate from South Kensington, London, and he has with success conducted in Scotland and New Zealand classes for teachers.

In Edinburgh, Mr. Sturrock attended under Dr. Wilson a course of lectures in Home Science (physiology) and first aid, and in Blenheim courses with local doctors. He holds a St. Johns Ambulance and first-aid certificate.

His acquirements in the South Kensington science courses include magnetism, electricity, acoustics, and light and heat.

4th June 1916 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee was held last night, Mr. J. J. White presiding over a full attendance of members. Mr. Wedde, acting-headmaster, reported that he had examined the School during the month, and found that the scholars were doing good work,' although there were some defects which required special attention. The average attendance had been over 500. The report was adopted: At Mr. Wedde's suggestion, the Committee decided to accompany-the scholars to Picton on the occasion of the visit of H.M.S. New Zealand on Tuesday next. A letter was received from Mr. D. A. Sturrock with a cheque for £40, being proceeds from the recent school concert. Mr.

Birch was appointed to inspect the tennis court, and if satisfied that the work had been satisfactorily carried out to pass the account of Mr. Blackburn for payment.

4th June 1913 Mr. F. Gibson has received! an appointment as additional teacher at the Blenheim Borough School, and took up his duties to-day.

Congratulatory reference was made to Mr. D. A. Sturrock's appointment as inspector to the Marlborough Education Board at last night's meeting of the Borough School Committee. The chairman and Mr. Penny were appointed to draft a motion expressing the committee's regret at the severance of Mr. Sturrock's connection with, the Borough School and congratulation on his preferment.

10th June 1913 accordance with the request of the committee, it was resolved to advertise in the four principal centres and again at Blenheim for applications for the position of third master to the Borough School, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Mortimore. '

In the above connection, My Ferguson made a" plea in behalf of the principle of promoting local teachers whenever the opportunity offered. The Board had done a Very good thing in appointing the Headmaster at Blenheim to the Inspectorship, and now that the field had been »opened out the principle should be followed up.

The members generally agreed with the sentiment.

Twenty-eight applications were received for the position of Headmaster at Blenheim, rendered vacant by the appointment of Mr. D. A. Sturrock to the Inspectorship. It was mentioned that ten applicants were university graduates. The list was ordered to be forwarded to the committee for a selection.

Mr. Mackay moved that it be a recommendation to the committee to give preferential consideration to the Marlborough applicants who had creditably served the Board for lengthy periods.

Mr. White seconded the motion, which was carried.

BLENHEIM.

The architect was instructed to report on) the condition of two rooms of the school, the ventilation of which was represented by the committee to be defective.

The chairman of the committee wrote asking that about--twelve-new deal desks be supplied. Under present conditions the younger children were forced to write in a cramped position.

It was resolved to call for tenders for twelve desks

13th June 1913 Rather a pretty compliment was paid to Marlborough on the occasion of the visit of the school children to the big warship at Picton. A Blenheim school committeeman, _ proud of his charges, remarked' to an interested sailorman: "These are the future men and women of New Zealand." "Yes," replied the son of the sea; "and they are the finest lot of youngsters put aboard the warship yet, and I have been with her round the coast." He also added that the "weediest lot were from Wellington."

13th June 1913 After consideration of 27 applications for the position of headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, the School Committee last night decided to recommend the appointment of Mr. B. H. Low. of Newtown, Wellington, to the Marlborough. Education Board. Mr. Low, who is a Bachelor of Arts and a -Bachelor of Science, is at present acting as first assistant at the Newtown primary school, and assists Professor Kirk in his science classes at Victoria College. He has had a lengthy experience of primary school teaching. It is understood that Mrs. Low is an M.A., and is a lady of distinction in her sphere.

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 in 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 to receive promotion. It is well known that nearly all the controlling authorities in other parts of New Zealand select men and women from their own districts to fill vacancies in their schools, thus giving the teachers every encouragement to do good work and keep themselves abreast of the times in matters educational. If the practice adopted in Blenheim and Renwick is to become general in Marlborough, the only way in which the teachers will be able to obtain increased salaries will be by the growth of their schools; and, as the number of pupils is increasing very slowly, advancement in pay must necessarily also be a very slow process. Thus, while teachers in other parts of the Dominion are frequently receiving better positions and larger emoluments, their contemporaries in Marlborough are practically stagnant. We have nothing to say against the gentleman upon whom the Blenheim Committee's choice has fallen; he is unquestionably a very able teacher, and in every way, as far as we are able to judge, fitted to occupy the position of headmaster at Blenheim. But there are teachers already in the district who would also acquit themselves with every credit in this responsible position; and we consider that the Committee has not done justice to the local teachers in ignoring the recommendation of the Education Board to give preferential consideration to the cases of Marlborough applicants with substantial claims to promotion. Whether the Board will take any action in the matter remains, of course, to be seen

14th June 1913 THE HEADMASTER.

[to the editor.]

Sir,—I notice with considerable surprise the attitude the Borough School Committee took up on Thursday night in ignoring the recommendation, which was practically a direction, of the Education Board, and recommending the appointment of an outside applicant for the headmastership of the Blenheim Borough School. The Board in inviting applications by advertisement might just as well have notified that no local teachers need apply. There are men qualified for promotion to this higher position, and they have been in their present positions for perhaps many years, doing good work which will compare favorably with that in any other district in the Dominion.; But one avenue of promotion has been closed, to them by the Blenheim Committee. In view of the fact that all other Boards in the Dominion confine their selections for the principal positions to their own teachers, the Marlborough teachers have no chance of preferment at all, seeing that the local channels of promotion are closed, judging by the actions of the Blenheim and Renwick Committees, and outside employment is so uncertain. I noted with a great deal of satisfaction that the Education Board gave such an excellent lead to the School Committees in the matter by appointing Mr. D. A. Sturrock to the Marlborough inspectorate, a position for which he had become amply qualified by years of faithful and successful service; and it is to be sincerely hoped that they will see their way clear to refer the recommendation back, for further consideration. Such treatment of local teachers as has been meted out will doubtless have a far-reaching influence on the teachers of this district. Knowing the qualifications and records of some of Marlborough's principal teachers, there can be no doubt whatever that they are eminently suitable for the position. It would be interesting to know how the chairman of the School Committee voted when the selection was being made, especially in view of the fact that he seconded Mr. Mackay's resolution that it be suggested to the Committee that Marlborough teachers be given preference, a resolution which was carried unanimously.

Observer;

17th June 1913 HEADMASTERSHIP.

[to the editor.]

Sir,—The Marlborough teachers, and I doubt not at least four members of the Blenheim Borough School Committee, are indebted to you for Your sub-leader, and also to your correspondent "Observer," for dealing with the above subject in the able manner in which it was placed before the public in Saturday's issue. The conviction that an injustice has been done to the Marlborough teachers by the Blenheim School Committee has met with the approval of a great many fair-minded people in the education district. The Marlborough Education Board first examined the applications, as they always do, before passing them on to the School Committee. So sure were they that a suitable man for the position existed among the Marlborough teachers that the Board sent a letter to the School Committee, asking them to give the Marlborough applicants full consideration. Most of the members of the Education Board have been sitting on the Board many years, and know all there is to know about the qualifications of the Marlborough teachers. As the outcome of the knowledge they possessed the Board unanimously sent the letter to the School Committee referred to above.

It may be well to let the

public know that Messrs. J. J. White, E. H. Penny, F. Birch, W. Jordan. John Patchett. senr., W. C. Braddock, C F. A. Whiteford, L. A. White, and Dr. Adams, comprise the Blenheim School Committee. Mr. J. J. White is the chairman, and Mr. L. A. White the secretary. Several of these gentlemen are new members, and what I wonder is, if their judgement is as sound as that of the "old hands" on the Education Board. The matter is open to question. Whether so or not do not pretend to say rumor has it that one member of the School Committee who is also a member of the Education Board supported the selection of Mr. Low. I know both men, and appreciate both, and also know that they are both good teachers; but for the position to be filled I believe that the appointment of the acting-headmaster would have been a wiser choice. I am informed (from the right source) that the voting was: Mr. Low 5, Mr. Wedde 4. The suggestion of both your correspondent and yourself that the Board should again request the committee to consider between the local and the outside man, is one that should commend itself to the mind and sympathy of every fair minded man. I can claim to be unbiased in the matter, and I am not a school teacher, nor a member of the Education Board, my family do not go to the Borough School, and I am not a clergyman.

24th June 1913 The pupils of the Blenheim I Borough School are now actively engaged in rehearsing C. King Proctor's fanciful operetta "The Mystic Mirror," which will be produced in His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, July 3rd.

4th July 1913 MYSTIC MIRROR."

CHILDREN IN OPERA. With each succeeding year the young people of the Borough School ascend the scale of excellence in the matter of fairy operas. Last night's performance at His Majesty's Theatre puts the cap upon the efforts of the teachers. It is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Sturrock's increasing duties as inspector of schools will not debar him from taking an executive part in future productions. It is a pity that so much good work should be exercised upon a single production, and it might prove advantageous to the school funds to repeat the performance at an early date. There would not be much fear of a want of public support, as the merit of last night's entertainment will prove a splendid advertisement, and there were many who were unable to attend owing to prior engagements and the wet weather who would welcome a repetition. Most of those who attended last night would also like to make a second acquaintance with the fanciful opera. That there was a very large audience was to be expected, as anything in the shape of a children's "turn-out" never fails to "catch on" in Blenheim; but apart from this factor the operetta itself, as played last night, was well worthy of spending a night away from home.

C. King-Proctor has written quite a number of fanciful operettas, but "The Mystic Mirror" is regarded as one of the best if not the best of his compositions. The music, while not too

difficult for young voices is bright and sparkling, and contains some exquisite solo gems, while the dialogue with which the story is connected up gives ample scope for the display of juvenile wit.

The opening chorus, as soon as the youngsters got into their stride, was nicely sung, giving promise of something better to come, and this promise was kept in the finale to the first act, which was sung with all the requisite spirit and strength. In fact, the chorus work all through was excellent, helped materially by an orchestra under Mr. Sturrock. The grand finale was well worked up to the curtain climax, and throughout the whole opera, the children deputed themselves well. A feature of the performance was the dancing. The fairies gavotte, the hornpipe, flag drill, and, best of all, the imps' revels were well-stepped, the coloring and grouping showing up brilliantly under the limelight. For the success of the dancing the credit is in large measure due to Misses Brown and Elbeck; but the children themselves showed the application of the training.

A word or two as to the principals. Miss T. Townshend was cast as Pearl, the belle of the fishing village, and although she was a little stiff at times she kept well to the lines of her part. Her best effort was "Home of My Childhood's Days," in which she caught the spirit of the song. Miss R. Hammond had not a great deal to do as Violet, and she sang very nicely. The pick of the girls was undoubtedly Miss D. Parsons, as the fairy Seafoam. All her spoken lines were clearly heard, a necessary requisite for the understanding of the story, and her voice rang true and sweet. She got a great reception after her solo—"Love Lives for Aye."

Master H. Mills, as King Torpedo, made a great hit. He sang well, his action was not stilted, and he knew and spoke his lines clearly and distinctly. He made a distinct success of "I've Travelled over the Universe." Master Agar, as Jack Rattlin, made the most of his opportunities, and was of considerable help in unfolding the plot. Master W. Whittaker brought down the house in the comedy part of "Billy." He is a pocket comedian of rare parts, and he was quite at home on the stage. His solo, "Just a Little Bit," was uproariously encored, and "Billy" seemed thoroughly to enjoy himself in his part. One of the best of the items was a duet "Do you my Vengeance Dare," between Pearl and King Torpedo. Mr. A. A. Wedde, who had put in a great deal of hard work in training the children, lent weight to the cast in the character of Prince Submarine. His music and general work were confidently done, but he had not the opportunities he had in last year's production. A gentleman who hid, under the cognomen of Paul Jones; the personality of one of our well-known citizens, "had a breezy part in "Bill Barnacle." Bill has a couple of rollicking sailor songs to sing, with a chorus to each which went with great vim, and to him and Billy the comic element was entrusted. Master Whittaker entered into the spirit of the game, and his bun scene especially was very funny. The setting of the scenes—the beach at Silversea and the cave of King Torpedo—was from the brush of Mr. E. B. Paine, who may be complimented on his debut as a scenic artist, and the whole of the ladies on the teaching staff have to be thanked for the work put into the pretty dresses, which were a feature of the production.

5th July 1913 MARLBOROUGH TEACHERS.

THE BLENHEIM HEADMASTERSHIP: ;..

DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED

It is understood that new developments have arisen in connection with the appointment of a headmaster for the Blenheim Borough School. It is stated, and recent events have borne out the assertion, that the Marlborough Education Board has not been in the habit of consulting school committees in reference to the appointment of teachers in the manner prescribed by law, and, it is believed, this delinquency has recently been the subject of discussion at meetings of the Marlborough Teachers' Institute in fact, rumor has it that there is a possibility of legal action being taken to have the Act enforced. It may be mentioned that the Teachers'

Institute is a body formed to safeguard the interests of teachers, and the main body has a large contingent fund to provide for legal expenses incurred by its branches in the ventilation of grievances and the betterment of conditions. Inquiry proved that there is foundation in the rumors which have been prevalent, but those who might be presumed to shed light on the matter have been reticent; nevertheless, it can be anticipated that developments of an important nature will ultimately occur. Regarding the irregularities alleged to have been committed in the past by the Education Board, reference to the Education Amendment Act, 1908, bears out these allegations. Subsection ii, section 14a, dealing with the rules to be observed in consultation of school committees regarding the appointment of teachers, reads as follows :—

"The Board shall send to the committee a list containing not more than four names (in order of merit, as determined by the Board) of teachers whom the Board considers best fitted for the appointment, stating length of service, and other qualifications of each such teacher; provided that if applications have been invited the Board shall send also the names of those teachers who are applicants for the appointment., together with applications and testimonials of each teacher whose name appears in the above-mentioned list; and provided further that if no applications for appointment have been invited, it shall be sufficient for the Board to send such list. Sub-section E of the same section, dealing with the subject, reads as follows:—

"Before making any transfer the Board shall be taken into consideration the fitness for the vacant position of all those teachers in the employment of the Board; who have signified to the Board their desire for transfer; and before, making any appointment otherwise than by way of transfer the Board shall take into consideration the fitness for the vacant position of the teachers' last mentioned, and also of all the teachers who have applied for the appointment, whether they are resident or employed in the district of that Board or not."

It is obvious, therefore, that the Marlborough Board has violated the Act in connection with the appointments to the headmasterships of the Blenheim and Renwick schools. In the former case, the Board forwarded the full list of 27 applicants for the consideration of and selection by the Borough School Committee. Reference of the question to the Board's secretary elicited the information, that this was the usual manner of dealing with applications.

9th July 1913 FOOTBALL.

A team of Rugby players from the Borough School visited Seddon on Monday, and defeated the Seddon school team by a substantial majority. '

15th July 1913 TEACHERS' APPOINTMENTS.

BLenheim HEADMASTERSHIP.

MR B. H. LOW APPOINTED.

Prior to the commencement of the general business at yesterday's meeting of the Marlborough Education Board Mr. S. McCallum (chairman) mentioned that the Board's honor was at stake through the circulation of rumors that it had been responsible for irregularities in connection with the appointment of teachers for the last eight years. He deemed it advisable, and his duty, to make a public statement regarding the Board's policy in this respect for many years. At the outset, he stated that about nineteen years ago, a legal dispute occurred between the Blenheim School Committee and the Board, and as the result of this he was elected to the Board as a delegate of the Committee, it being felt desirable that the Committee should have representation by which means its wishes could be carried out. At that time the Board was very antagonistic to Committees, the position "being accentuated by a Supreme Court decision at Dunedin which stated in effect that Boards were bound to consult Committees but not to act on their advice. This decision did not appear to him to be a good one, -as he felt that the Board should always act in consonance with Committees. Since that time however, the Board's attitude towards Committees had changed, and harmonious relations had existed ever since he had been a member of the Board.

Regarding the charges made against the Board that certain provisions of the Act had not been complied with in the appointment of teachers, especially in the case of Renwick and Blenheim, Mr. McCallum maintained that sub-section 4, section 54, Education Amendment Act, 1908, which, reads as follows, was a complete refutation of any charges of maladministration of the Act: "Notwithstanding anything in subsection 2 hereof, the Board may, on the recommendation or with the consent of the Committee, appoint any teacher, although the Committee has not been consulted in the manner prescribed." This clause had been put on the Statute to engender cordial relations between Committees and Boards. He stated that it was considered advisable to obtain a legal opinion on the matter, and the Board's solicitor also maintained that the Board's actions had not been contrary to the Act. He was surprised that the matter had been stirred up, and assured the Board that it need not fear any results from past actions, as he felt sure that the highest legal authorities in the Dominion would back up the Board's actions. He had considered it necessary to make this statement in vindication of the Board's honor.

Mr. A. Mackay held that the question was whether the Board had done the proper thing in inviting applications for the Renwick and Blenheim positions by advertisement. A general discussion was about to ensue, when Mr. J. Conolly suggested that correspondence dealing with the question under consideration be read. The Board had no motion before it.

A letter was then read from the Blenheim Committee stating that after considering the applications for the position of headmaster at the Blenheim School, it had been decided to recommend Mr. B. H. Low, B.A., B.Sc., of Wellington, for the position.

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."

Mr. Ferguson moved that the choice of the Committee be ratified by the Board, and the appointment of Mr. Low be made. The choice made by the Committee was evidently the best, although he would have preferred that a local candidate had been selected, as suggested by the Board. The Chairman seconded the motion.

Mr. Conolly stated that a perusal of the Act and reputable legal opinions had convinced him that the Board had not violated the Act. It might have committed a venial sin under one section of the Act, but what more could the public desire than the manner in which appointments had been made in the past? What more could the law desire? He was entirely in

accord with the- motion. He knew several local teachers, and thought that some of them who applied for the headmastership were capable, of discharging the duties of the position. But the Committee had chosen Mr. Low; and as they bore all the responsibility in the matter, he thought their selection should be confirmed by the Board.

The Board then went into committee to hear a legal opinion on the question.

Resuming the discussion, Mr. Mackay stated that the opinion was very clear as to the Board's position. He hoped that in future the Board would take into consideration the claims of teachers in its employment. It appeared to him to be a cruel thing that after years of faithful service the teachers of the Board's staff were neglected when there was a chance of promotion, and the "plums" of the profession awarded to outsiders. He supported the motion.

Regarding the meeting held by the Blenheim Committee to consider the [applications, Mr. Penny stated that he honestly believed that the majority went with the intention of giving preferential consideration to the claims "of local "candidates; but there had never been a more honestly arrived at conclusion as there was that night." The twenty-seven applications had been carefully perused and a thinning-out process adopted, and towards the close the chairman (Mr. White) had invited each member to express his opinion on the respective merits of the candidates. He had been concerned with the appointment of most of the prominent officials locally during the last 12 or 15 years, but not in one case was there the same responsibility as in this.

Mr. Mackay asked if, in the event of the applications being referred back to the Committee for reconsideration, they would arrive at the same decision.

Mr. Penny replied that he believed the result would be the same.

Mr. J., J. White supported the motion, because he felt that the Committee had chosen wisely in recommending an appointment which would have a far-reaching influence on education in this district for many years to come. Regarding the claims of local teachers, Mr. White stated that if the precedent established in this case were followed it meant that qualified teachers in the service of the Board had no chance of promotion, as it was a matter of common knowledge that the outside Boards adopted a parochial policy and promoted their own teachers. This would have a wide effect, and would induce the teacher, knowing that he had little chance of promotion, to perform his duties in a perfunctory manner, to the detriment of the scholars.

Mr. Nees supported the motion. He agreed that the Board should confirm the selections of Committees, and not take notice of what outside organisations said.

The motion was carried unanimously

Mr. Conolly thereupon moved that the action of several members, of the Board in obtaining a legal opinion be confirmed.

The motion was carried

The Chairman pointed out that it would be in future for Committees to refrain from giving publicity to their recommendations of appointments, as peculiar positions might possibly occur.

15th July 1913 WANTED: A SIDE-SCHOOL. . A deputation from the Borough School Committee, comprising Messrs. C. F. A. Whiteford and W. Braddock, waited upon the Board in support of a recommendation from the Committee that a side-school be established in the Beaver Road district, preferably in the vicinity of the junction of Beaver Road and Dillon Street. Several residents had expressed the desirability of the establishment of a side-school in this locality by signing a petition which was presented to the Board. It was represented that the proposed school would be, a decided convenience to, young children, and would cater for about 45 young children, 17 of whom, although of an eligible age, were not yet attending school. The Chairman reminded the deputation that the Board would not, of course,

entertain any proposal to erect a side-school which would seriously minimise the attendance at the main school.

Mr. Whiteford stated that the desire was to ' establish an institution similar to the Redwoodtown school, the idea being to cater merely for the young children.

Mr. Braddock suggested that the Board, with an eye to the future, should erect a building sufficiently large to accommodate about 100 children if it were felt desirable to establish a school at all. The Chairman mentioned that the matter would have to be referred to the Education Department. After the deputation had withdrawn, it was decided that the Inspector furnish a report on the proposal at the next meeting.

TEACHERS' APPOINTMENTS. The recommendations of the School Committees in respect to the following appointments were confirmed: — Sole teacher at Tetley Brook, Miss Snowden. Headmaster at Blenheim School, Mr. B. H. Low, B.A., B.Sc.

APPLICATIONS 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. Ten applications were- received for the position of third assistant at the Blenheim school, and the secretary was authorised to forward to-the Committee a full list of applicants; together with a list denoting the Board's choice. Only one application was recommended for the position of junior assistant at the Blenheim School, and as the applicant was qualified her name was ordered to be forwarded to the Committee

The secretary was ,instructed to approach the Department with a view to obtaining a grant of £20 for the erection of a wash-house at the rear of the caretaker's residence at Blenheim.

17th July 1913 MR B. H. LOW.

HIS CAREER AND QUALIFICATIONS.

The vacancy in the Blenheim Borough. School teaching staff caused through the appointment of Mr. D. A. Sturrock as inspector to the Marlborough Education Board "has been filled by the appointment of Mr. B. H. Low, B.A., B. Sc, to this important position, for which 27 applications were received. Mr. Low is 42 years of age, and comes of teaching stock, his parents having been master and mistress at the Willowby School in North Canterbury for over 20 years. Under their tuition he gained a Board scholarship when 11 years of age, and received secondary education at the Ashburton High School for three years. In 1885 he joined the staff of the Ashburton Borough School as a pupil teacher, and as such obtained experience in every branch of school work from the infant classes upwards.

Before he had completed his pupil teacher's course he received appointment as assistant master in the Ashburton High School, and during the succeeding 17 years he filled various secondary school appointments at the Normal College' (Christchurch), Temuka, Timaru, Prince Albert College (Auckland), Thames, Hokitika, and Newtown. Owing to the lack of openings for teachers on the "West Coast," Mr. Low endeavored to obtain a position in a larger district, and in 1906 was appointed senior secondary assistant at Newtown (*Wellington*) District High School. After nearly three years of successful work in that capacity, the first assistantship in the primary department of the school became vacant, and the Wellington Board gave Mr. Low the position (which he now holds) by transfer. He is at present on the staff of Victoria University College as a Laboratory Assistant (anatomist) to Professor H. B. Kirk. In all Mr. Low has had over 26 years' experience as a teacher, and holds the B1 teacher's certificate and the University degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science.

Mr. Low is a cadet officer of long standing, and is also a firm believer in rational recreation.. He is still a keen tennis player, and this year was runner-up in the Newtown championship and winner of the handicap singles. He represented Canterbury College twice in inter-University football matches with Otago, and played for Westland against Lord Hawke's touring cricket team.

Mr. Low holds a Christchurch School of Art certificate for freehand drawing, and is qualified to teach model perspective, and geometrical drawing, staff and tonic-sol-fa singing, military and physical drill, chemistry, physics (all branches), biology, zoology, physiology, agriculture, and book-keeping. As a teacher,

Mr. Low is considered to be thorough, exact, and painstaking, and his qualifications indicate that he is fully equipped intellectually for his work.

22nd July 1913 In connection with the repetition of the operetta "The Mystic Mirror" by the pupils of the Borough School on Thursday evening, arrangements have been made for palace cars to run to Springlands after the performance

24th July 1913 A special meeting of the Blenheim Borough School Committee held last evening was attended by the following members: Messrs. J. J. White (chairman), W. Jordan, W. Braddock, C. F. Whiteford, Adams, Patchett, F. Birch, E. EL Penny and L. A. White. The meeting was convened for the purpose 'of considering applications for the third and fourth., assistantships at the Borough School, and it was decided to recommend Miss B. Wanden and Mrs. Wilkinson for the respective positions. The resignation of Mr. L. A. White as honorary secretary having been received, a resolution of appreciation of Mr. White's services was passed, and Mr. W. Jordan was appointed to the position.

Tonight there will be gay goings on at His Majesty's Theatre, when the children of the Borough School, assisted by one or two adults, will repeat the fanciful opera "The Mystic Mirror," which proved such an enjoyable event three weeks ago. Many who attended on that occasion expressed a desire to see the piece repeated, and others who were prevented by the wet weather from being present made representations to the same effect; hence these fairies, imps, sailor-girls sailor-boys, and the greater, lights round which they twinkle dance, and sing. The cast of characters has undergone some important changes, and it is confidently expected that to-night's performance will be even more successful than the recent one — which is saying a great deal.

26th July 1913 INSPECTOR STURROCK. AND THE BOROUGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION FROM SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS

A ceremony of a pleasurable nature took place at the Borough. School yesterday afternoon, when Mr. D. A. Sturrock, Inspector of Schools, who for nineteen years was headmaster of the school, Was presented with a substantial token of the affection and esteem in which he is held by past and present pupils and teachers alike. Over four hundred children gathered in the Sixth Standard room the teachers of the school, representatives of the "old boys," the secretary of the Education Board (Mr., E. S. Hylton), and the truant inspector (Mr. E. Thomas) were also present. The room was attractively decorated | with flags and greenery in honor of the occasion., Mr. A. A. Wedde, acting-head-master, in presenting to Mr. Sturrock a handsome roll-top writing-desk, made of oak and bearing an inscription in silver referred to the harmonious relations which had always existed between Mr. Sturrock and the teachers. To the children their late headmaster had been more than merely a teacher; he had gained their friendship and their love, and had .always taken v very keen interest in everything connected with' the school and the scholars. He had been, in fact. an ideal headmaster, and he wished him every success in his new .sphere as Inspector.

Mr. R. P. Furness, in behalf of the past pupils said that he had been a pupil at the school when Mr. Sturrock first came to Blenheim, and could fully endorse Mr. Wedde's remarks regarding the affectionate, interest which the late headmaster had always taken in the scholars and their welfare, both in-and out of school. He was pleased to know that while the Borough School had lost Mr. Sturrock's services as headmaster, it would still possess them as Inspector.

Mr. Sturrock, who was received with loud applause, thanked the pupils, both present and past, and the teachers for their 'handsome gift, which he thoroughly appreciated, and which would always remind him of his pleasant associations with the school. He spoke some words

of advice and encouragement to the children, and stated that, as a reward for the diligence which they, had shown in connection with the recent concert, he would not expect the senior pupils to devote any more time to concerts this year. He would not, he said, prove a hard Inspector; but he could not guarantee them all a pass, and he urged them to work hard and earn promotion in their classes. In conclusion, Mr. Sturrock said that he would ask Mr. Wedde to give the children a half-holiday on some future occasion.

At the call of one of "the senior hoys, three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Sturrock. The desk, which was manufactured locally by Mr. A. J. Dowling, will be on view in the window of Mr. Dowling's shop, for a few days. This will afford old pupils who have not seen it an opportunity of doing so.

28th July 1913 Mr. B. H. Low, who has been appointed headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, is on a visit to Blenheim. Mr. Low will take up his duties on September 1st

31st July 1913 Owing to the successful nature of the repetition of Mystic Mirror by the Borough School pupils recently, a large sum of money has been; handed over to the local Plunket nurse fund.

12th August 1913 BLENHEIM. The Committee forwarded an account of £5 for repairs to the water-supply system, and asked the Board to pay it.—After some discussion, it was resolved to apply to the tradesman for the items of the account. -A number of small articles of furniture* were granted

TEACHERSHIPS. The following appointments were approved: —Miss E. W. Wanden, third assistant, at Blenheim; Mrs. M. J. Wilkinson, junior assistant, at Blenheim

12th August 1913 BEAVER ROAD DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR A SIDE SCHOOL

AN ADVERSE REPORT,

In a report presented to the Education Board yesterday, the Inspector (Mr. D. A. Sturrock) stated that he had gone carefully into the question of establishing a side school for the Beaver Road district. Mr. Sturrock said that on the petition there were the names of 96 children, made up as follows: — 2 under school age, and 29 of these were three years and under; 13 attending the Blenheim Infant School; 19 attending the main school; 3 attending the Redwoodtown side school; 2 -attending the Springlands school. Taking the 79 from 96 left 15 children of school age, but under 7 years, and these did not come under the compulsory clauses of the Act. Should a side school be established find the 32 children at present attending the Borough School be transferred to the side school, the average of the Blenheim school would fall under 400, and a loss of two teachers would be the result. Then, assuming that the average of the side school fell

under 36, the two schools combined would have to be run with one teacher less than at present in the Borough School. Again, should the average be over 36, the two schools' would; Were no more staff than at present in the Borough School. It would make no difference in the salaries, but the teaching efficiency would be weakened, and probably in that part of the school where efficient teaching was most required, re the Infant School. He failed to see that the new school was required, as the district was not too great. Besides, it opened the door to all the suburbs now springing up, and this, in his opinion, should, be avoided at this stage of Blenheim's growth. It was resolved that a copy of the report, be forwarded to the Blenheim School Committee for the information of the petitioners

23rd August 1913 H. Low has resigned his position as lecturer in the biological division of Victoria College to take up the position of headmaster at the Blenheim Borough School- At its meeting on Wednesday evening the College Council accepted the resignation, and' decided to write to Mr. Low congratulating him on his promotion. Mr. and Mrs. Low were entertained at dinner on Wednesday night by the executive of the New Zealand Alliance on

the eve of their departure for Blenheim. Eulogistic reference was made to Mr. Low's work during his seven years' service in the executive. Mr. and Mrs. Low made suitable replies.

1st September 1913 Mr. B. H. Low, M.A., the new headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, arrived on Friday evening, and commenced his duties today. Before leaving Newtown. Mr. Low was presented with a handsome Morris chair, in token of the esteem in which he was held by the teaching staff and pupils of the school:

3rd September 1913 Prior to relinquishing his position as third assistant at the Blenheim Borough School, Mr. A. E. Mortimore was entertained at afternoon tea by the pupils of the fourth standard. Members of the teaching staff were also present. After tea Miss Elsie Lewis, one of the pupils, in behalf of the class, presented Mr. Mortimore with a silver shaving mug and brush, inscribed: . "Presented to A. E. Mortimore by his pupils. 29/8/13." The young lady, in making the presentation, expressed the appreciation of the pupils for Mr. Mortimore's work and of his genial good-fellowship, which had endeared him to those under his charge. Mr. Wedde, acting headmaster also spoke of the good feeling existing between Mr. Mortimore and the other members of the staff- and expressed regret at the severance of his connection with the school. Mr. Mortimore, in reply, hoped that the pupils would treat their next teacher with as much consideration as they had done him. If they did so the fourth standard would be bound to close the year with a successful record. He thanked them very much for their present memento for the kind feelings which had prompted the giving of it. Three hearty cheers for Mr. Mortimore closed the proceedings.

9th September 1913 The Blenheim Committee wrote asking that four new desks and a mat be supplied to the Redwoodtown school, and that piping at the Borough school be repaired, and that a ditch in the same locality be filled in.—The secretary reported that the desks had been ordered. The committee was authorised to incur expenditure with regard to 'the other requests.

9th September 1913 Mr. A. E. Mortimore, lately third assistant at the Borough School, has received intimation that his application for the position of assistant master at Ashburton School has been sent forward by the South Canterbury Education Board to the School Committee for selection.

22nd September 1913 Dominion Day was not generally observed in Blenheim to-day, but the Government offices (with the exception of the Post and Telegraph Departments), and the legal, banking, and mercantile institutions were closed in honor of the event. The schools throughout the district were also closed. The Borough School pupils were assembled in front of the school at 9 o'clock for the purpose of saluting the flag and hearing addresses by members of the Education Board and School Committee. Messrs. J. J. White (chairman of the Education Board and School Committee), E. H. Penny (a member of the Education Board and School Committee), F. Birch, C'-.F. A. Whiteford, and J. Patchett (members of the School Committee) addressed the children and teachers.. The speakers dealt with the events which had led up to the institution of Dominion Day and the creation of New Zealand as a Dominion, and generally spoke in a patriotic vein. At the conclusion of the addresses Mr. White announced that the children were free for the day. At his instance cheers were called for King George, Queen Mary, and Mr. B. H. Low (headmaster). The children then saluted the flag, and after cheers had been given for the teachers and the Education Board and School Committee the gathering dispersed

9th October 1913 The Blenheim School Committee "has decided to grant the pupils a half-holiday on the second day of the A. and P. Show this month. Arrangements for the appointment of a caretaker of the Redwoodtown school have been left in the hands of the chairman (Mr. E. H. Penny)

At the conclusion of the business of the Blenheim School Committee on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. J. White tendered his resignation as chairman in consequence of his recent

appointment to the chairmanship of the Marlborough Education Board. The resignation was accepted with regret, and a resolution was passed congratulating Mr. White on his appointment. Mr. E. H. Penny was unanimously elected chairman for the remainder of the term

14th October 1913 Messrs. "W. Jordan, F. Birch, and J. Hodson, representing the Blenheim Committee, waited on the Board and asked for a number of improvements. They urged that provision be made for the installation of a septic tank with artesian supply and rams, for better drainage and water-supply systems, and new sanitary conveniences, and they emphasised the need for the uprooting of the old macrocarpa hedge and the erection of a fence. The deputation further explained the need for hyloplates, the frosting of certain windows, and the extension of the gas service into the headmaster's room.

In regard to the request for a subsidy on £40 raised for a new tennis court, it was explained that the Board had already made a grant of £10 for this purpose. The deputation roughly estimated that the improvements asked for would cost about £300.. This estimate, however, was probably well over the mark. In appealing to the Board to give their representations sympathetic consideration, the deputation remarked that the Blenheim schools were attended by 450 children, or one-fourth of the number of school children in the whole of the Board's district, and the attendance was increasing steadily. The present surroundings of the school were quite out of date, and in some respects, in fact, were the reverse of creditable to a community such as that of Blenheim.

Mr. McCallum asked the deputation whether the Committee had ever considered the question of exchanging the present school site for a more suitable locality. Would it not be wise to thrash that question, out before contemplating any considerable expenditure? Mr. Jordan said that the proposition had been mentioned, but the Committee had not seriously discussed it. It was rather a big order. Following up a suggestion made by the deputation, it was decided that the members of the Board meet the Committee on the grounds at 2.30 p.m. on the next meeting day and discuss the details of the various requirements.

The amount of the account, £5, incurred by the Committee for repairs to the windmill was refunded.

14th October 1913 The boys attending the Borough school have not relished their exclusion from the railway reserve. At the meeting of the Education Board yesterday, Mr. E. H. Penny, who remarked that the area immediately attached to the school was inadequate for the purposes of a playground, asked that the position in regard to the reserve be defined. It was understood that the Board still held a lease of the reserve, though the Beautifying Society had practically taken possession of the property. Mr. C. Ferguson said that he fully recognised the excellence of the work done and being done by the Society; but the Board could hardly be expected to go on paying £10 a year for the rights of the reserve if it could not enjoy them. The secretary was instructed to write to the Borough Council with a view to having the position elucidated.

15th October 1913 BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The suggestion made at the meeting of the Education Board that the Blenheim School Committee should consider the question of exchanging its present site for a more suitable locality before pressing for a considerable expenditure on sanitary and other improvements is not a new idea, I though it has not been seriously entertained by the responsible authorities. : What the Committee is now asking the Board for is a plan of works that would cost about £300. and it was put to the deputation of Monday last that, it would, be wise to decide in the first place whether the property on which the principal educational building of the district now stands should be regarded as a permanent establishment, or as a means of acquiring a site, or two sites, that would enable the Committee to make better provision for the building accommodation and recreation facilities of the young generation of Blenheim.

The number of children attending the Borough School is steadily increasing, and) already the grounds attached to the institution are undeniably inadequate. The difficulty regarding the playground has been accentuated by the fact that the railway reserve in the neighborhood has been appropriated by the Beautifying Society, though the Education Board holds a lease of the property for the purposes of the town school children. Whatever be the merits of the Society's claim to the reserve at the present time, it is palpable that sooner or later there will be no possibility of finding in this or the immediate vicinity the larger outlet required for the borough schools. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, there is a good deal of significance in the suggestion made to the School Committees deputation.

18th October 1913 The North Canterbury Education Board has appointed Mr. A. E. Mortimore, late of the Blenheim Borough School teaching staff, an assistant master of the Ashburton school.

31st October 1913 The swimming certificates gained by the boys of the Borough School last season have just come to hand. One of these is an Order of Merit gained by George Fawcett for having swum a mile, and" is the first Order of Merit gained in the Marlborough district

11th November 1913 BLENHEIM. The Chairman referred to the visit of inspection paid to the Borough Schools early in the afternoon, prior to the meeting of the Board. ("The members agreed as -to the absolute need for an improved sanitary scheme. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by .-Mr. Penny, it was resolved that the architect draw up a report on the sanitary arrangements with a view to the calling of tenders for the necessary improvements at an early date,; and the accomplishment of the work during the Christmas holidays It was resolved that the ventilation system of this school be improved in certain particulars. Mr. W. Jordan representing the committee waited on-the Board and furnished the information that the cost of removing the nightsoil from the Blenheim main school and the Redwoodtown side-school amounted.. to £20 per annum.

REDWOODTOWN. Mr. Penny said that an immediate enlargement of the Redwoodtown school was very necessary. The roll number was 52, and the average attendance was 46. He moved that the Department be approached for a grant. ,

The motion was carried.

When the necessity of enlarging the Riverlands school was under the consideration, of the Education Board yesterday, a member remarked that perhaps if the building were restricted in size the children would be forced towards the borough schools. Mr. E.. H. Penny said that the real reason why the borough school was not more largely attended was that parents were terrified by the dangers of the street traffic in the town. Young children were really, not safe among the motor-cars, bicycles, and traps that had to be encountered on the way to school. A hundred more children at least would be going to/. the main institution if it were established in a more accessible locality

13th November 1913 BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

AN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

SUGGESTION AS TO SIDE

SCHOOLS

With the steady growth of the town, the environment of the borough schools comes -more and more into question. , The Education Board has. realised, for sonic time. past that. for one thing the sanitary arrangements of the principal scholastic institutions of the district are far from satisfactory, arid indeed that they urgently demand immediate improvement on thorough lines.: This week the members of the Board after viewing., the. property in company with the School Committee,^ instructed the architect to draw up plans for the installation of a septic system, the cost of which will be considerable. It was admitted that the present conditions are not only out of date, but also a. source of danger from hygienic and moral points of view, and in a civic sense discreditable' to the town.

But the discussion as to the surroundings of the borough schools has not been confined to" the sanitation methods. The question of site, which has been in the background for some years, is steadily coming to the front, though it has not yet been officially dealt with. - At this week's meeting of the Board for instance, Mr. E. H. -Penny emphasised the fact that the attendance of the school would be materially/larger but for the unwillingness of parents to make, young 'children thread their way through the traffic of the town to the danger of life and limb. The risks of dodging motor-cars, bicycles, and traps are serious enough for adults, to say- nothing of little boys and girls.

Mr. .Penny, who is the chairman of the Blenheim School Committee, has since explained to an Express representative that he did not desire his published remarks to be interpreted as meaning that he was an advocate of the idea of vacating the v present property and establishing -two main schools—one to the north and the other to the south of the town. There might be something in the argument that the symmetry of-the town would be assisted if the educational block were thrown into the business area; ,but this might be a costly enterprise, and. certainly-the present site of the school had the advantage of centrality. His views as to the most desirable reforms were recently placed before his Committee, and may be summed lip as follows: — (1) Removal of Board's office, caretaker's house, and headmaster's house. (2) Removal of infant school to an alignment along York Terrace similar to Technical school. (3) Better still than '(2): Pursue the policy initiated! at Weld Street, and build side schools for children, to Third Standard, pass, contiguous to the homes of the children—say Grove Road, Manse Road, and Beaver Road (removing present infant school to one of these sites). (4) Reserve present school for all' standards ' above the third standard, giving ample ground for. recreation, and-permitting better concentration of teachers' efforts. (5) The Committee should not be sidetracked re provision of sanitary arrangements. It is imperatively necessary iii the interests of the- health of the children.

Mr. Penny 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 for grants 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 6 and 7 years who are not row 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. Again, the tendency of tuitional science is to reach the intelligence of young children through their many-sided natural interests than, by means of coldly mechanical methods, and the side-schools, as step-ping-places to the main institution, lend themselves admirably to this principle.

15th November 1913 RAILWAY RESERVE.

BEAUTIFYING SOCIETY'S POSITION.

As some misapprehension appears

to exist as to the position of the Blenheim Beautifying Society in regard to the railway reserve in High Street, which is leased by the Marlborough Education Board and has been used by the Borough School pupils as a playing area, the Society's secretary has written to the Education Board and pointed out the following facts "First, the Society has never, directly or, indirectly .sought to keep the school children off. the reserve, and does not now desire to do so. ' "Secondly, before any work was done on' the reserve tile .Borough Council was approached by the Society for permission, which was granted, to its being taken in hand, subject to arrangement with the Board. Subsequently it was stated by the then chairman (Mr. R. McCallum) that no objection would be taken to their utilising portion of the reserve, On this assurance the Society proceeded with its work "Thirdly, the 50 feet strip fronting High Street is all that the Society proposes to cultivate at present, and the remainder of the reserve

will be available for school children or whatever other use the Board requires it to be put to " The border which the Society has taken in hand has already been fenced and planted with heavy shrubbery.

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

BLLENHEIM. The application of the Committee to have the- school disinfected with formalin was not granted, as the new regulations provided that the Committee should bear the cost of this work. It was decided to install gas in the headmaster's office and to carry out improvements Which would ensure the protection of the school windows. Repairs to the desks in the fourth room were also authorised

9th December 1913 SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS. The architect presented an estimate and a plan of the proposed installation of an up-to-date sanitary system at the Blenheim school. The chairman moved that subject to the Health Department's approval, tenders be called for the work. He considered that the installation of the system would be an extremely beneficial and economical one. He stated that the Committee understood that they had to pay annually a sum of £15 towards the cost of the work.

Mr. Mackay seconded the motion, and commended the scheme from a sanitary point of view. The motion was carried, and it was further decided that the Town Committee be empowered to deal with the tenders. Members considered that it was desirable to have the work in progress as soon as possible, so that it could be completed before the school commenced early in February

1914

1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Low B A Bsc	Benjamin H	B1	Head Master	£ 340.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D1	Assistant Master	£ 240.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 180.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E1	Assistant Female	£ 150.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis		Assistant Master	£ 126.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C3	Assistant Female	£ 120.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wilkinson Mrs	Mary	E1	Assistant Female	£ 120.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brewer	Gertrude F	C5	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Rothwell	Leah E	C4	Assistant Female	£ 100.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Higgs	Gladys		FPT3	£ 45.00
1914	505	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Pritchard	Ivor		MPT3	£ 45.00

13th January 1914 Blenheim, Miss Leah Elizabeth Rothwell, assistant teacher;

BLLENHEIM. Dr. Chesson, district health officer, wrote advising as to the right methods of construction to adopt for new out-offices and a septic tank at the Blenheim school. He pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the Borough Council and the Harbor Board, the- former body for the installation of a septic tank in the borough and the latter for the discharge of the effluent into the river. Considering, too, the number of-wells in existence in' Blenheim, every care would have to be exercised. that the effluent pipes from the tank, the filter bed itself, and the discharge pipe into the river would have to be so constructed that there no possibility whatever of leakage into the soil.—

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.

10th February 1914 The secretary of the committee wrote forwarding the headmaster's representations "that, although the school had gone up a grade, the staffing was less than it used to be. In Standard IV. there were 75 pupils, and in Standard 11. over 60. Each standard was under one teacher. It was asked that two probationers be appointed. . It was pointed out that the school had reached that difficult stage at which its grade did not permit of increased staffing, though in actual practice an addition to the number of teachers was warranted. The appointment of probationer, who were not teachers and. could not be so. employed to real advantage, would not meet the case. It was resolved that the- Department be informed of the special circumstances and asked if immediate appointments to the staff, would be permitted. Having visited Wellington and made inquiries in reference to the flushing systems in use in the schools there, and also consulted with the Health Department, the secretary (Mr. E. S. Hylton) made, certain recommendations regarding the proposed installation of an up-to-date sanitary system at the Blenheim main. school. He was convinced that the separate pan system was the best. The report was approved, and the secretary was instructed to order the necessary material for the work.

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-

11th March 1914. Prime Minister's Visit: Mr. J. J. White asked, on behalf of the Education Board, for a small side school at Redwoodtown. They had opened a small school there and the roll number was nearly 62. The school had not been built for a roll like that, and a large section of the pupils had to be taught outside. This was feasible only in fine weather. He would ask . the Prime Minister to recommend the application for assistance for a larger school to his colleague

17th March 1914 BLENHEIM. It was left in the hands of the secretary to have the seats for the first and second standards in the Blenheim school converted from the 'positive" to the "negative" type. It was explained that with the present desks the children had to bend too far forward/to write. The Committee was given permission to use the Board's room for its meetings.

18th March 1914 SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP
Marlborough Primary Schools Challenge Shield.

First distance, 100 yds.— Nicholas (Blenheim Borough) and Gallop (Blenheim Borough) dead heat 1, H. Linstrom (Convent) 3. Several other schools were represented. Time, 12 2-sec. Second distance, 220 yds: R. Wilson (Blenheim Borough) 1, C. Saul (Springlands) 2, A. Cummings (Blenheim Borough) 3. Won easily in 31 2-5 sec.

High Jump D- Nees (Okaramio), 3 foot. 11 inches., 1; Stewart (Blenheim Borough) and Saul (Springlands) dead heat 2

Broad Jump Saul (Springlands), 13 ft. 7 inches- Nicholas (Blenheim Borough), 13 ft. 6 in., 2; " Patchett (Blenheim Borough), 12 ft. 5 in.. 3.

Hop, Step, and Jump: A. Cummings (Blenheim Borough), 27 ft. 10 ½ inch., 1 Nicholas (Blenheim Borough) 27 ft. 9 in. 2; Saul (Springlands), 27 ft. 6 in., 3.

Points: Blenheim Borough (29) 1 Springlands (10) 2; Okaramio (5) 3. Convent scored one point.

9th April 1914 Wairau River Board: Permission was given to the Education Board to sink a pipe on the bank of the Omaka River for an artesian supply for the Blenheim Borough School. : _

21st April 1914 In the month of May Mr. D. A. Strachan resigned his position as our Inspector of Schools to take up a position as Assistant Inspector under the Hawke's Bay Education Board. The Board appointed Mr. D. A. Sturrock, headmaster of the Blenheim school, to fill the vacancy.

25th April 1914 BLENHEIM SCHOOLS.

COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

The following report for the year ended 31st March last will be submitted by the School Committee at the annual meeting of householders to be held on Monday evening:—

The members elected at the last annual meeting were Messrs. J. J. White, E. H. Penny, John Patchett, L. A. White, F. Birch, C. F. A. Whiteford, W.-Braddock, W. Jordan, and R. G. Adams. The attendance of members, at the meetings of the Committee has been uniformly good, and is as under: J. J. White 10, J. Patchett 15, E. H. Penny 14, C. F. A. Whiteford 14, F. Birch 13, L. A. White 13, W.-Braddock 10, R. G. Adams 9.

Mr. J. J. White was re-elected chairman, and the committee felt honored when Mr. White was (in August) elected chairman, of the Education Board. Mr. White resigned his chairmanship of the committee on his assuming chairmanship of the Board, and, Mr. E. H. Penny was unanimously chosen to fill the position.

Mr. L. A. White was elected secretary, but, owing to other engagements in June, since which time Mr. W. Jordan has efficiently acted in that capacity.

In May after nearly Twenty years of excellent service, Mr. D. A. Sturrock resigned the headmastership of the school on assuming the Inspectorship of the Education Board, and the appreciation of his work in the school was recorded on the Committee's minutes, with congratulations on his new appointment. Applications for the vacant position being advertised, the response was good and after full and careful consideration Mr. B. H. Low B. A. B. Sc. was chosen to fill the appointment.

Mr. A. A. Wedde temporarily acted as Head Master during the vacancy, and the committee have to thank Mr. Wedde for the efficient and careful work done during that time.

The opening of the side school at Weld Street has fully justified the claim that it was needed, and has helped materially to increase the total and average roll number of the school; The committee is pleased to note that the average attendance, in the main and side schools for the quarter ended March 31st was slightly over 500 and if this can be maintained during the year the school will be entitled to enter another subgrade and to extra teachers.

The committee and staff have worked in complete amity, and we desire to record, our high appreciation of the efforts of all the teachers.

28th April 1914 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of householders of the Blenheim Borough School district was held in the schoolroom last evening, Mr. E. H. Penny (chairman of the School Committee) in the chair. Seemingly interest in the affairs of the school had received a fillip 'this year, for the attendance showed a marked improvement on the previous year's, some 130 being present. "

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET. The report (already published) was read and adopted. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of £41 2s. This was also adopted.- ' Mr. J. W. Humphreys brought up the question that woodwork should be reintroduced into the syllabus of the schoolwork. In doing so he spoke of the benefits of woodwork in inculcating habits of neatness and in helping in the drawing. He would move in the matter later on. In the speaker's opinion the parents of the children in the upper classes had not received justice from the

headmaster. He meant by this that Mr. Wedde had been put to teach the fourth standard, and the sixth and seventh had been put under a female teacher. This should be altered, and he suggested this to the committee. He thought it a retrograde step to put Mr. Wedde to teach the fourth standard. He moved that the following suggestions be made to the incoming committee: that woodwork be reintroduced, and that the upper classes be taught by the first assistant. Mr. G. Lane seconded pro forma. Mr. Low (headmaster) said in explanation that woodwork classes were being taken, and so there was no necessity for the first part of Mr. Humphrey's motion. As to Mr. Wedde, he explained that there was a large class, between 70 and 80, in Class IV., and only half that number in Classes VI. and VII. The fourth class was behind, and was that year the most important in the school. Therefore, he thought it better to meet the problem by putting Mr. Wedde in the fourth class. As to Miss Wanden, she was a very capable teacher, and he was confident that the children of Standards VI. and VII. would not suffer very much, if at all, under Miss Wanden's teachership. He, was glad of the opportunity of explaining why he had so staffed the schools. In reply to Mr. Birch, Mr. Low said that Standards VI. and VII. were always under his personal supervision. In reply to the chairman, Mr. Humphreys withdrew his motion. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. The following were nominated for election as members of committee:— Messrs. E. H. Penny, J. J. White, L. A. White. W. Jordan, F. Birch, J. Patched S. J. Heffer, H. W. Horton, A. Sowman, J. W. Humphreys, W. Braddock, O. F. A. Whiteford, R. D. Martin, W. 13. Gascoigne, F. W. Smith, and S. H. Agar. The election resulted as follows:— J. J. White 91 J. Patchett (83 W. Jordan , ... 82 F. Birch"77 C. F. A. Whiteford ... 73 E. H. Penny 70 W. Braddock' ... 70 L. A. White 62 ' H. W. Horton 61 The above were declared elected. ' ; The successful candidates returned thanks for their election, and the usual vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business. At a subsequent meeting of the new committee Mr. E. H. Penny was elected chairman, and Mr. W. Jordan secretary.

12th May 1914 The committee accepted with thanks the offer, and terms of the Board of the use of the office for their, monthly meetings. The secretary's action in authorising repairs to the chimney and grate in the headmaster's residence was approved; A request for three clocks was left in the hands of the chairman, the inspector, and Mr. Penny. The Board decided to grant a subsidy of 5s in the £ on the price of a piano, costing £37, recently purchased out of funds realised by. means of. concerts last' year. The tender of Adam Gibson for ,the sinking of a. well in connection with the sanitary improvements at the Blenheim school at £19 18s 6d was accepted. On the architect's suggestion, ,Mr. Penny undertook to recommend to the committee that the gutters on the roof of the school be cleared of leaves regularly every autumn

12th May 1914 The energy of the Borough School pupils, under the direction Mr. D. A. Sturrock, in promoting concerts last year has resulted in several additions, to the school appointments, notably in the laying down of a tennis court, and the purchase of a piano, uniforms for the Cadets, and jerseys for the boys'; football team. At yesterday's .meeting of the Education Board Mr. Sturrock pointed out that there ought to be £15 12s. 6d still in hand, and he did riot want to see the money spent by. the Committee in carrying out works for which they were liable for the cost; For instance, he would like to see a certain amount conserved for the annual tuning of the piano. Mr. Penny explained that the money in hand was vested in the headmaster for school improvement purposes. It is considered that the balance of the money could well be expended iii improvements to the tennis court, or even in the purchase of a microscope or additions for the school library.

9th June 1914 The committee appointed to examine the clocks of the Blenheim Borough School reported that the nine timepieces were all in tolerably good going order.—It was

resolved to reply to the School Committee that : ! the Board did not consider a supply of new clocks to be needed

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

10th June 1914 Mr. E. H. Penny inquired at the meeting of the Education Board this week whether any stops were being taken for the enlargement of the Redwoodtown side-school. The secretary stated that the Department had written asking for the ground plan of the borough school, apparently' with, a view to ascertaining whether the additional accommodation that was necessary could be provided for in that building.

26th June 1914 HOCKEY.

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.

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

14th July 1914 BLENHEIM. The Committee was authorised to procure ten loads of gravel for the : play-grounds. On the motion of Mr. Penny, It was resolved that the Board's town executive and the School Committee confer and report as to the desirableness and cost of new fencing round the school block.

23rd July 1914 The following team has been picked to play for the Borough School against Grovetown on the Cricket Ground at 3.30 p.m. to-morrow in the Bottrell Cup competition:— B. Goblin, N. Lucas, M. Simson, F. Horton, D. Hill D. Hunter, I. King, E. Lewis, E. Fredricks, M. Shaw, and H. Watson; emergencies, D. Vannini, A. Trischler .

11th August 1914 MARLBOROUGH TEACHERS.

PREPARED TO GO TO THE FRONT, LEAVE OF ABSENCE,

At 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. At the personal request of Dr. J. Innes, the principal. Captain J. H. Goulding, of the Marlborough, High School Cadets-, was granted leave of absence by the Board of Governors. Mr. Goulding is first assistant master at the school.

7th September 1914 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. The team is as follows:— B. Gosling B), E. Holt (G), R. Register (S), M. Simson (B), I. Bagby (C), L. Rose (G), G. Smith (S), I. King (B), H. Watson (B), R. Hale (S), O. Thomas /S) Emergencies; Forwards, R. Hilliard (G), M. McCasker (C); backs, G. Andrell (B), M. Bothwell (S). 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

6th November 1914 The collection by the pupils of the Borough School in their "Guy ' Kaiser effort yesterday afternoon 1 gave a net return of £6 15s 3d. The money is to be devoted to the Poor of Britain and Belgium Fund. Last night several pupils of the Marlborough High School celebrated the Guy Fawkes anniversary, and collected 14s 4d for the Poor of Britain and Belgium Relief Fund

16th December 1914 Mr. A. E. Mortimore, assistant master at the Ashburton Borough School, -who is leaving for the military training camp at Trentham, has been presented with a, pair of field -glasses by the teachers and pupils of the school. The girls of Standard V. presented Mr. Mortimore with a handsome crocodile--skin pocket-book

1915

1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Low B A	Benjamin H	B1	Head Master	£ 410.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D1	Assitant Master	£ 310.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D1	Assistant Female	£ 230.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E1	Assistant Female	£ 230.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Millar	Olga J	D3	Assistant Female	£ 210.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wilkinson	Mary	E1	Assistant Female	£ 190.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis		Ex Forces	£ 171.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C3	Assistant Female	£ 150.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brewer	Gertrude Faith	C4	Assistant Female	£ 120.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	C3	Assistant Female	£ 120.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Storey	Elsie		Assistant Female	£ 117.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Rothwell	Leah E	C4	Assistant Female	£ 110.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Higgs	Gladys		FPT4	£ 55.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Pritchard	Ivor		MPT4	£ 55.00
1915	510	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Irene		FPr2	£ 30.00

5th January 1915 EDUCATION.

THE NEW SYSTEM

NOW IN OPERATION

The Education Act came into force at the New Year. The most important feature of. the amended law is the increased salaries to be paid to teachers but, of course, the salaries for January will not be payable until the end of January. The Act makes very important changes in the administration of the national system of education. First of. all there is to be set up a General Council of Education, composed of representatives of the experts in the Department, the education Boards, the teachers of primary and secondary schools; and the University of/New Zealand. There will also be three members' appointed by the Minister. It is also enacted that there shall be mot less than seven, nor more than nine education districts. This must mean the extinction of several districts, and a commission is to be appointed to determine what districts must go and what the boundaries of the new districts must be. The report of this commission will be presented to Parliament not later than June 30. The control of all inspectors is taken from the boards and vested in the Department. Certain changes in the Constitution of education boards, incidental to the enlarging of districts, here made by the Act. A most important change made is in the election of school committees in urban areas. In these areas the election of school committees is to be on the municipal franchise, and it will be held at the same time and place as the elections for members of Borough Councils. This entails the combination of all. schools in an "urban" district, under the control of one committee

12th January 1915 The Picton Committee wrote in regard to the reduction of the teaching staff by one assistant teacher, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, the average attendance, for the last year having fallen below the 200 mark.—It was decided that Miss Macalister take Miss Storey's place at Picton, and that Miss Storey be attached to the Blenheim staff.

23rd January 1915 It is noteworthy that the number of successful candidates was fewer than usual, and that none of the pupils of the Blenheim, Borough School who sat for examination gained the required number of marks.

9th February 1915 Miss L. Falkner wrote regretting that she would be unable to take up her position as probationer at the Blenheim school.

Blenheim Committee that the macrocarpa hedge around the school be eradicated and substituted by an iron fence was held over pending the receipt of particulars as to the cost of a new fence. Mr. Conolly explained that when the matter was considered by the Town Committee it was agreed that the removal of the macrocarpa hedge was very desirable. It was decided to supply two extra tanks for use at the school. The payment of an account for repairs to the bell-tower was authorised.

Tenders: Blenheim: Ward and Co., £151/ 16; J. A. Moreland and Co., £152 Nicol Bros., £152 16s; Leslie and Costello £158 19s 6d.

1st March 1915 On Friday morning the good attendance certificates gained by the pupils of the Borough schools were presented to the winners by Mr. J. J. White, chairman of the Education Board. The number of certificates awarded was 54 first class and 42 second-class. Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman of the School Committee) and W. Braddock were also present, and each of the visiting gentlemen addressed the pupils in a few well-chosen words of commendation and advice.

1st May 1915 The Blenheim Borough School is busy just now preparing an operetta, "The Magic Ruby," the proceeds of which are to be largely devoted to the Belgian Relief Fund. The scene of the operetta is laid in an Indian Rajah's palace, the Rajah being the owner of the magic ruby which gives the name to the piece. The music is very tuneful, and the children will be assisted by a capable orchestra led by Mr. Hardin. It is intended to produce "The Magic Ruby" on May 20 and 21.

15th April 1915 Tenders are invited for scrimming and papering the Borough School caretaker's cottage.

4th May 1915 SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

ANNUAL ELECTION. VOTING OF BLENHEIM HOUSEHOLDERS.

The business at the annual meeting of Blenheim householders last night was transacted, so expeditiously that the attention of those present was engaged for but little over half-an-hour. Mr. E. H. Penny presided.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following report submitted by the chairman was adapted. The Committee elected at the last annual meeting has worked together in a spirit of harmonious cooperation, and the year has been one of consistent progress. The attendance of members at committee meetings has been: Messrs. E. H. Penny (Chairman) 11, J. J. White 10, J. Patchett 8, P. Birch 9, W. Jordan 12, C. F. Whiteford 9, W. Braddock 11, L. A. White 11, H. W. Horton 11. The total and average attendance at the schools continues to increase satisfactorily, and there is urgent need of increased accommodation at Redwoodtown side school. The attention of the Education Department has been repeatedly called to the matter, and the Committee and Board are still pressing the necessities of the case. Mrs. Carter generously donated the sum of £25 towards the supply of a bell, and the erection of a tower; for the common use of this school.

and the; Anglican Sunday school in Weld Street. Early in the year the death of Mr. E. Thomas, who for a number of years had faithfully and efficiently acted as truant inspector, necessitated a new appointment, which was conferred upon Mr. J. Bird

The teaching staff has throughout the year shown a fine spirit of emulation in effort, and the standard of work has been consistently good. Entirely satisfactory relationship between the - Committee, the head master, and the whole staff has been a characteristic feature of the year's work. The total roll number at the end of March was 554, and the percentage of average attendance has been nearly 91 the gain in the-average as compared with; April, 1914, is 5.3.. With the exception of a minor epidemic of measles, the health of the children has been uniformly good, possibly as a result of the continued favorable weather, and the attendance in the infant department has been well sustained. The increased average entitled the school at the commencement of this year to two additional assistants who are now at work, thus relieving a considerable strain on the staff during the last year. The work of reconstructing the sanitary appliances at the school is in process. The supply of perfectly up-to-date fittings and the installation of a septic tank will remove any fear of insanitary surroundings and menace to the health of the children. tenders have also been invited: for the erection of a new fence along the front of the school and along Seymour Street to the Board's offices. When finished this will be a work of permanent and effective usefulness, and will replace the present unsightly hedge of dead *Macrocarpa*. Under the energetic guidance of the headmaster the pupils at the school have collected very substantial contributions to the fund for the relief of the poor of Britain, and Belgium, and under the tuition of Mr. Wedde and Miss Brown are now preparing an entertainment for like purposes. The school has again distinguished itself by annexing the principal school events at both the Hibernian and St. George's sports meetings. "The Committee highly appreciates the assistance rendered by the Education Board in the various applications made for school improvements, and sincerely regrets that the operation of the new Education Act seems likely to make the duties of school committees in Marlborough much more ineffective by the impossibility of proper coordination and co-operation with a Board in Wellington or Nelson, which must lack the "personal touch" which has been characteristic of the Marlborough Board: 'We consider that the School Committees' Association should seriously consider the "position of committees in this respect. A very large number of those who have been pupils at the school in past years are now serving at the front or in training at Trentham, and the Committee feels assured' that the honor of the school will be worthily upheld by them.

In reply to a question from Mr. J. W. Humphreys, the headmaster (Mr. H. Low) stated that, #f 31 senior pupils presented for examination last year, 17 had gained proficiency certificates, 9 were graded as being competent, and 5 failed.

The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. B. F. Rothwell, who expressed satisfaction at the fact that, the school was not only holding its own, but was also improving its position. From time to time he had the opportunity of seeing a number of classes, and he could testify to the good conduct which generally obtained.

Mr. J. J. White seconded the motion, and in doing so accentuated the fact that the abolition of the Education Board would be detrimental to the interests of education in this district. It had been pointed out to the Minister for Education and the Education Committee that the ends of economy would be defeated by such a revolutionary scheme, but the only answer received to this and other representations was that the matter would be relegated to a Commission. The Board had extended an invitation to the Commission to visit Marlborough in the hope of impressing upon the members the isolated nature of the school district and the fact that, unlike other districts, it was at a considerable disadvantage on account of the lack of railway communication. The chairman endorsed Mr. White's views, and said that the introduction of the new scheme would practically, not theoretically, mean taxation without representation.

School Committee Messrs. H Dobson, W Braddock, J J White. E H Penny, W Jordan, John Patchett, F Birch, F H Southgate, and C F A Whiteford

11th May 1915 The committee represented that the appointment of a truant officer with ' full statutory powers was advisable. Mr. E. H. Penny explained that the committee had come to* the, conclusion that the interests of the school would . be served by a reversion, tit the old , school-attendance system. Considerable discussion ensued. It was resolved that the Board appoint & truant officer with full powers, his 'functions to be determined by the executive committee. Mr. Mackay, who favored the retention and further trial of the present district system, dissented. A new cupboard, seven, loads of gravel, and, improved ventilation facilities were granted. The committee expressed disappointment that the new outbuildings were constructed of wood instead-of brick or concrete.

22nd May 1915 The committee represented that the appointment of a truant officer with 'full statutory powers was advisable. Mr. E. H. Penny explained that the committee had come to the conclusion that the interests of the school would . be served by a reversion, to the old , school-attendance system. Considerable discussion ensued. It was resolved that the Board appoint a truant officer with full powers, his 'functions to be determined by the executive committee.

Mr. Mackay, who favored the retention and further trial of the present district system, dissented. A new cupboard, some loads of gravel, and, improved ventilation facilities were granted. The committee expressed disappointment that the new outbuildings were constructed of wood instead-of brick or concrete.

24th May 1915 The performances of "The Magic Ruby" by the Borough School pupils last week resulted in a profit of close on £100, -the gross takings being £138 13s.. The operetta will be repeated in His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, June 8th., in aid of the funds of the Tenth Mounted Regimental Band

26th May 1915 Out of the proceeds of the entertainments held last week the Blenheim Borough School has contributed £25 to the Belgian Relief Fund and £25 to the Hospital Ship Fund, while the balance of profit has been retained for school requirements. The school children were being very active in assisting patriotic funds, and they have already realised over £115 for this purpose

15th June 1915 A deputation from the Blenheim Borough. School 'Waited mv the Board in connection with the. erection of a fence. Mr. Birch considered that a concrete and pipe fence would be preferable to tile post and wire fence which it was proposed should be erected. Ho pointed out that such a fence, would be a business-like and paying proposition. The present fence was an eyesore, but it would be just as well to leave it as to put up a post and wire fence. The deputation also asked' that the 'truant officer be empowered to proceed to the full extent of his powers in regard to the attendance of children. As it was, there, was a failing off in the infant room.

Mr. Sturrock pointed out that for the past five years the attendance had been going up and not down. He did not see how the expenditure of another £20 on a truant officer would be of any benefit under the circumstances.

Mr. Penny said that the improvement was due' to the side school at Redwoodtown, mid to the work done in the past by Mr. Thomas, the late truant inspector.

Mr. Jordan said that the Committee wanted something permanent in the natter of .a fence before the Board went out of existence. . The proposed concrete fence would become for all time, ' and something worth looking at. In regards to the truant officer, he said that 451 scholars, were required to keep the present, staffing. The first quarter did not .average that. There were 50 scholars absent, and there was no way of compelling them to come; It was not the headmaster's work to act as truant officer. He had gone to a lot of trouble, however, in the way of personally interviewing parents. The previous year they only kept up to the average

by what he would call a fluke. He quoted figures to show that the attendance was going back, obtained from the headmaster. The staff at present was worked hard, and it would be worse if they had to lose teachers owing to the average of attendance going down.

Mr. Sturrock did not dispute the figures. He asked what Mr. Jordan would consider a fair percentage in a school where there were over 340 children under seven years in the infant school. Would he call 90 per cent good?~ "The best in New Zealand was 91.8: In Blenheim they had up to 91 per cent. The attendance was not bad, and would come second for the Dominion.

Mr. Jordan said that he did not know why 50 children, (about one-tenth) were allowed to stop away from school and risk the loss of staffing and he thought that the Board should supply the Committee with, a truant officer. Material taken, flown in clearing up for the new fence could be sold and the amount put towards the new fence.

Messrs. Patchett and Southgate also pressed the views of the Committee in regard to the requests, the latter bating that the point was not the percentage, but: Were they going to lose their teachers for want of a truant officer?

The architect stated that the old iron would have to be used for a fuel shed and to repair the fence between the residence and the school.

The Inspector stated that, the truant officer would be of no avail in the matter of forcing children under seven to go to school. It was with the children of the upper classes that the percentage was always good- The trouble was always in the infant school, and there the truant officer had no control. There were 27 on the roll less than last year. That meant an extra average of 13, and every year there were sixth standard children who left school. They could not make up for these losses if the people of Blenheim did not continue to have big families.

The chairman said that the truant officer was appointed and would be instructed to pay particular attention to the Blenheim school. Their point so far as that was concerned was gained. When the deputation withdrew, Mr. E. H. Penny moved a motion that the resolution accepting the tender for a post and wire fence be rescinded. He asked for careful consideration of the matter. The amount of the higher tender was only about £10. above the estimate. Mr. Penny pointed out the disadvantages of a wire fence where children were concerned, and the advantages of a concrete and pipe fence. The latter would be practically everlasting.

Mr. Nees seconded the motion. Mr. Conolly opposed the resolution. Funds were exceedingly short, and they could not afford the higher priced fence. The post and wire fence would last for 40 or 50 years, and that was good enough for them. It was a disgrace for the deputation to say that they would rather have the present disreputable fence than a new post and rail fence. They had other schools to consider besides the Borough School. If the Board was going to die next year, they should do what they could now for the smaller schools and only give the larger schools what was absolutely necessary.

Mr. McCallum said that he resented Mr. Conolly's remark to do only bare justice to the town schools-for the benefit of the country schools. A bare majority of the Board came and dared to flout the will of the Board. There were ample funds to put up the £80 fence. He did not understand the parsimony over this school. Blenheim and Picton earned the capitation for the Board, and the Board always did well by the country districts. He also hoped that the disgraceful fence would remain—a monument to Mr. Conolly.

30th June 1915 A boy named Vernon Murray, a pupil, met with an accident on the playground of the Blenheim Borough School on Monday. He was wrestling with another boy, when he fell in such a manner that he dislocated his shoulder

6th July 1915 The following is the team to represent the Borough School against Picton tomorrow:—Nicoll, Buck, Wilson, Scadden, Leslie, F. Hodson, Greig, Maxted, Tombs, B. Hodson, Stewart, Hey ward, Webster, Mowat, Simson; emergencies, C. Hogg, and S. King. The team will leave Blenheim by the 10.45 a.m. train.

13th July 1913 Miss Wilkinson (Borough School) was granted sick leave for two months on the usual terms

The secretary was authorised to sell by auction old fencing and other material at the Blenheim Borough school. . Nicoll Bros, wrote stating that owing to a rise in the price of material they could not go on with the Borough School fence at the price sent in the estimate, but were willing to take the work at an increase of ;LIU. The School Committee notified that they would find the balance of the money.—It was decided that the Board pay the increase.

28th August 1915 Sergeant A. E. Mortimore, ,of the Canterbury Battalion, who has been killed in action at the Dardanelles, was for some-years an assistant master at the Blenheim Borough School, He left Blenheim to take up a position at the Ashburton school.

14th September 1915 War Effort donations Borough School: Housewives, laces, soap, handkerchiefs, pencils, ink, tobacco, cigarette papers, toffee, socks, shaving soap, mufflers, Balaclavas, note books, stationery, magazines, pins. '

12th October 1915 The Blenheim Borough School Committee applied for a septic tank at the Redwoodtown school.—Granted

12th October 1915 At the Borough School on Friday afternoon the whole school assembled to bid farewell to Mr. F. Gibson, a member of the staff. Several members of the School Committee were also present. After the ceremony of saluting the Flag had been performed, Mr. J. J. White, in behalf of the children of the school, presented Mr. Gibson, with a wristlet watch as a token of the esteem and affection in which he was held by them. Messrs. Penny and Birch joined with Mr. White in wishing Mr. Gibson Godspeed and a safe return. Mr. Low then, in behalf of the staff, presented their departing colleague with an Autostrop safety razor in a case, and, as an extra present from all concerned, with a leather waistcoat, which should be of the utmost service in winter warfare. Cheers for Mr. Gibson and for the visiting members of the Committee brought the gathering in a close

4th November 1915 The Borough School children will celebrate Guy Fawkes Day in good style to-morrow afternoon. Their effort will have for its object the material increase of the Wounded. I Soldiers Fund. The school has raised in various ways for various patriotic purposes about £150, but the young | people are eager to make this effort their most successful one.

4th November 1915 Mr. D. H. Wilmot, head teacher of the Stoke school, has been appointed first assistant at the Napier West School under the Hawke's Bay Education Board. Mr. Wilmot was far some \ears on the staff of the Blenheim Borough School.

9th November 1915 A tender for grading the Blenheim school ground was considered too much shove the estimate, and it was decided that the secretary be empowered to have the work done by day labor

14th December 1915 The Blenheim Borough School Committee wrote asking that the headmaster's house be sold, owing to its. bad state, of repair, and! the area included in the school grounds; that in the event of the house being extensively repaired the headmaster be allowed house allowance during repairs, that a new easel be procured, and that the Board call for applications for an assistant teacher, in place of two pupil-teachers who are severing their connection with the school at - the end of the year. , The secretary announced that the school had already one assistant in place of two pupil-teachers, and he did not think they could do it a second time. At all events the -matter should be referred to the inspector. The members were of opinion that if the house were, repaired the Board should have the assurance that the headmaster would live in the residence and not rent it.

Mr. Penny said that the house was not fit to live in, and the locality was not what it used to be. It was decided that the Board's Executive and the architect investigate and report, and that Mr. Low be asked if he was going to live in the residence if repaired. The matter of the assistant teacher in place of pupil-teachers was left to the inspector for a report.

1916-1917

1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Low BA BSC	Benjamin H	B-13	Head	£430.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wedde	Albert A	D-44	Assistant	£330.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brown	Mary M	D-44	Assistant	£250.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E-64	Assistant	£250.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wilkinson	Mary Mrs.	E-60	Assistant	£210.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis		Assistant	£189.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C-81	Assistant	£170.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Storey	Elsie E		Assistant	£126.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Brewer	Gertrude F	C-83	Assistant	£120.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	C-93	Assistant	£120.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Rothwell	Leah E	C-98	Assistant	£120.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Jennings	Adelaide C M		PT2	£60.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Stratford	Clarence F		Pupil Probationer 2	£60.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Murphy	Bernadette		PT3	£55.00
1917	489/46	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Cresswell	Phyllis M		Pupil Probationer 2	£35.00

3rd January 1916 Mr. Ivor Pritchard, of the staff of the Blenheim Borough School, leaves for Trentham on 'January 13th as a non-com, for the 14th .Reinforcements

7th January 1916 At its monthly meeting this week the Blenheim School Committee passed a resolution expressing sympathy with the Koromiko School Committee on the: defeat in the Supreme Court, of: its recommendation in connection with the appointment of the head teacher

11th January 1916 'The following appointments were made:—Pupil teachers: Blenheim, Miss Marjorie M. McCallum and Miss Bernadette M. Murphy. Probationers:

BLEMHEIM RESIDENCE

Mr. B. H. Low, headmaster of the Blenheim School, wrote as follows: "I am prepared to reside in the schoolhouse on the following conditions:— That the Board cannot induce the Department' to' remove the buildings and throw the- section in with the school grounds— which are far too small for a school of over 500 children —and grant me house allowance; that the house and outbuildings are thoroughly renovated and put into a condition compatible with the position I hold as headmaster of a school of the highest grade. The Board will of course safeguard my interests in the matter of house allowance during the time the house remains unoccupied or be removed." The chairman reported that the Executive with other members of the Board inspected the dwelling, and had come to the conclusion that some repairs were urgently necessary. He detailed some of the work that was absolutely necessary. The school attendance had increased . and the grounds were not large enough. It. would be to the interests of the children if the building could be sold and the site thrown into the grounds. House allowance to the amount of £60 a year-would then have to be paid to the headmaster. If the Department would not agree to this the necessary repairs, would have to be - undertaken.'

The architect's report on the necessary repairs was read, showing that the cost not including alterations and additions to the outhouses, would be £92

In answer to Mr. Ferguson, the architect said that the timber in the house was as good as the day it was put in. The "foundations were also sound. His estimate was largely for new work. Mr. Penny said that it was wrong to ask any woman to live and work in the place as at present. It was 'merely a shed, and a bad shed at that. The scullery needed rebuilding and one room at least enlarged.

Mr. Ferguson would have liked to have seen the place condemned and the site thrown into the school grounds. He also thought that the piece fenced off for a school garden, should be thrown into the playgrounds again. He moved that, in view of the cost of the improvements necessary to place the residence in a fit state for living in the Department be approached' - with a view to having the place sold and the site thrown into the school grounds, the house allowance to be allowed the head teacher. The chairman seconded the motion.

Mr. Storey asked why they should ask the Department to condemn a building which their architect had reported to be sound. He thought that necessary repairs should be done. The chairman pointed out that that was not the only point. They wanted the ground for the playground. It would be as well, he thought to get the views of the Department on the matter. Certainly, the house was a sound, good building.

Mr. Penny asked if Mr. Storey would be prepared to ask his wife to live and work in, the place as it now was. It was an abominable place, and he thought they should not ask Mr. Low to do what they would not do themselves. He wanted to be fair to a master who had done, such good work;

Mr. Mackay opposed the motion., If they carried out the work they should make the place comfortable. The alterations proposed by the architect should make it a building that would last for many years. As for the playground, in his opinion the ground was a king to what they had at other schools.

Mr. Fulton also opposed the motion. They were asking the Department to throw away £40 a year. , He would prefer that the motion be held over until they had a full meeting. It was decided to hold the motion over pending the arrival of members who were then away. , On the discussion being resumed Mr. Fulton- said that he was dead against parting with the building under any circumstances.

Mr. Mackay moved an amendment that the architect's report be adopted and the work carried out. It seemed a fair estimate, and it would save the Department an annual recurring expenditure of £50. In answer to

Mr. Nees the architect thought that, the playground was. totally inadequate for the size of the school. A playground to be of any use should be five acres in area, but it was a different thing to remove a building that was already there. The sites would make a difference of about a quarter of an acre.

After Mr. Ferguson had replied, stressing the importance of adding the area to the playground and deprecating the necessity of the children playing in the unsafety of the streets,

Mr. McCallum said he was not in favor of spending the Government's money needlessly. He thought that the estimate might be cut down. He did not want to waste money on an old building. They wanted a bigger ground for the school then they could get by throwing the residence area in. They should get a fair sized piece of ground further away from the centre of the town and remove the school there.

The chairman pointed out that they were expecting; a, visit from the Minister for Education shortly, and the matter might very well be gone into with him. He wanted to get the feeling on the Department as to whether it was willing to sell the building and give the children the area it occupied.

The amendment on being put was declared carried.

15th February 1916 The Department wrote stating that it would not authorise the removal of the Blenheim school residence.

The chairman said that the Assistant-Director of Education, when in Blenheim, had had a good look round the building. Mr. Fulton's motion—that repairs be undertaken at the school residence not to exceed £50 —was then taken. Mr. Fulton thought that the building was too good to throw on one side, and he thought it good business to spend £50 on it. It ought to make it good for a further ten years. They would also be saving the money in a year by saving the house allowance to the teacher.

Mr. Fulton, in reply to the chairman said that he did not feel inclined to spend £90 on it. They did not want to throw money away in lavish expenditure. The chairman: There was only £80 on the building, and the rest was on the fence.

The architect said that the cost was only a little over £60 on the building. Mr. Fulton agreed that his motion should read that tenders be called for the whole work as recommended by the architect.

Mr. Storey thought that £50 would be well within the limit. He was surprised to hear that the building was condemned. In his opinion it was a good sound building. Mr. Penny said that he was content to take the architect's recommendation and do the best with it. He had not said that the building should be condemned, but, in his opinion, the outhouses were not in a fit state by any means. He thought that the playground was too restricted, but if the sanitary arrangements were dealt with he would be content.

Mr. Ferguson thought that to spend £90 on the present building was not good business. The building was too old. He thought that it would be better to remove the building and take the area for the playground. Under the circumstances, however, they would have to put the building in proper order for the teacher. In reply to Mr. Mackay, the chairman said that the architect would prepare specifications on the basis of his report. Mr. Mackay: Are the architect's specifications to be based on Mr. Fulton's limit of £50 or his own estimate of last month?

The Chairman: The architect's estimate.

The Secretary: If the architect's specifications are considered too high they can be cut down.

The motion was carried

Miss Phyllis M. Cresswell to be probationer at Blenheim

The secretary stated that out of 52 on the roll of the Riverlands school 23 lived within one mile of the Blenheim school.

23rd February 1916 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The following obtained good attendance certificates at the Blenheim schools during the year 1915: — Full Attendance: D. Oben, W. Low, B. Osgood, E. Shaw, R. Jellyman, V. Patchett, C. Webster, W. Cleator, G. Cox, A. Gascoigne, R. Kinzett, L. Mowat, J. Schwass, R. Lane, A. Neal, Huia. Patchett; F.-McFadden, E. Wallwork, L. King, A. Schwass, E. Priddle, A., Chuck, H. Neal, J. Coward, A. Gosling, I. T. Bell, K. Mills, I., Low, A. Binley, J. Stratford.

Absent not more than five holidays: Hazel Patchett, G. Crook, A. Daines, R. Grace, K. Nicholas, T. O'Brien, L. Penny, G. Stedman, L. Waterhouse, O. Webster, R. Agar, F. Aston, L. Copp, I. Hatton; E. Marks, A. Nicholas, S. Vercoe, M. Bartlett, J. Beattie, H. Day, R. Parsons, E. Rhodes, M. Sowman, M. Taylor, W. Summerfield, F. Wedde, G. Satherley, S. Wareham, F. Wright, J. de Castro, G. Graydon, M. Innes, N. Stewart, H. Connolly, R. Patchett, D. Hodson, R. Hodson, W. Bartlett, H. Hatton, I. Connolly, Amos Nicholas, M. Doyle, V. Ross, A. Blythe, A. Wareham, A. Bell, M. Hendra, M. McFadden, E. Webster, W. Walker, R. Stewart, R. Coward, T. Chong Lee, R. Pope, J. Lucas.

14th March 1916 The Blenheim Committee asked that applications be called to fill the vacancy caused by the enlistment for active service of Mr. F. Gibson.

The chairman moved that applications be called for the temporary appointment. Mr. Mackay seconded pro forma. He said that it was not necessary to remove Mrs. Miller, who was filling

the position. She was a capable teacher. He thought the matter should be deferred until it was known that Mr. Gibson had proceeded to the front.

Mr. Penny said that he was certain that Mr. Gibson was now on his way or had landed in Egypt. Mr. Ferguson said that no matter who was appointed, the Board would have to find a place for Mr. Gibson on his return. He saw no reason, for advertising for applicants, when they already had a thoroughly competent teacher temporarily filling the position.

Mr. Penny pointed out that the 'committees' rights were being whittled away, and the Blenheim Committee asked that the applications be called for in order to uphold those rights that were left to them.

The committee were perfectly satisfied with Mrs. Miller. It was only a question of sticking up for their rights. Mr. Mackay pointed out that Mrs. Miller was not appointed to the position, but simply had been transferred temporarily in Mr. Gibson's absence. Mr. Penny said that temporary appointments were made only for three months and the lady had been in the position for that period. The appointment should be made in her interest.

The notion that a temporary teacher be advertised for was put and carried, on the chairman's casting vote.

A PROTEST.

Two teachers in the Blenheim Borough School wrote protesting against the placing, of an uncertificated teacher above them on the school staff and asking for redress. The committee wrote asking that the matter be inquired into. Mr. Storey said that he understood his daughter was connected with the protest, and he would leave the room while the matter was being discussed. Mr. Storey then left the room. Mr. Penny said that the point was that these two teachers were properly qualified, and because they were teachers in another branch of the school—a subsidiary school—they had reached their maximum salary. The secretary explained the salary grading of the teachers in the side schools. The chairman proposed that the matter be deferred, pending a report from the inspector. He was sure that there was no personal element in the matter. Mr. Mackay said that Miss Storey had been eleven years teaching and she had been transferred to Blenheim. It was another case of transfer. Mr. Penny said that it was a departmental affair. Were these two teachers, because they were in a side school, to be placed in the iniquitous position of having their career stopped, when they were two of the Board's best teachers? They were doing such good work that, it would be unwise to allow them to leave the side school. The secretary said that there were two uncertificated teachers at the Blenheim school. The protesters had not mentioned which teacher they objected to. The motion proposed by the chairman was carried.

14th March 1916 Over 70 pupils of the Borough School have learned to swim this season, a fact which indicates the great value of the swimming classes that have been held. Through the help of the School Committee and swimming enthusiasts the school staff has been enabled to draw up for Thursday afternoon next an excellent programme, including a number of races for the learners; A diving competition and a school championship race will also be held, and outsiders will be catered for by an open championship for primary schools throughout Marlborough, and a couple of novelty races for adults.

23rd March 1916 BOROUGH SCHOOL

SWIMMING SPORTS,

The Borough school children had an ideal afternoon for their swimming competitions on Thursday last at the Municipal baths. Local swimming enthusiasts, among whom may be counted every member of The School Committee, had by their generosity made it possible to put on 16 events, and the?? were for the most part well contested. The thanks of the staff and pupils are especially due to Messrs. Maclaine and Mitchell for their assistance as starters, judges, and handicappers

The prizes were presented to the successful competitors yesterday afternoon by Mrs. J. J. White at very pleasant little function. Messrs. D A. Sturrock. Inspector of Schools, and E .H. Penny, chairman of the committee, in happy and pertinent speeches, advocated the encouragement of .swimming as a healthy and useful recreation, and urged all the children to learn the art.

The results were as follows:—"Goa far as you can" competitions for learners: St. 1 and 2 girls, M. Hunt 1. P. Wedde 2; St. 3 and 4 boys, W. Black 1. G. Jackson 2; St. 3 and 4 girls. N. Hylton 1, I. Greig 2, V. O'Brien 3. 30 yds: St. 5 and 6 beginners, boys, N. Priddle 1 T. Horton 2 D Stewart 3. 25 yds: St. 5, 6, and 7, beginners, girls B Goslin 1, L. Penny 2. 75 yds championship of school: Boys. L. Maxted 1, L. Mowat 2. B. Simson 3. 75 yds championship of school: Girls, M. Horton 1, D. Ensor- 2. Diving competition: Boys, B. Simson 1. R Wright 2, L. Maxted 3. 25 yards championship lower school : Girls, L Burden 1, N. Hylton 2, V. O'Brien 3. 25 yds championship lower school- Boys. G. Jackson 1, W. Aberhart 2. Diving competition: Girls,

D. Ensor 1, M. Whelan 2. 50 yds handicap- Girls, D. Ensor (3 sec.) 1, M Horton (scr.) 2, M. Whelan (3 sec.) 3. 60 yds handicap: Boys. L. Mowat scr) 1, W. Satherley (,4 secs) 2, L.. Maxted 3 sec.) 3. 50 yds championship of Marlborough Primary Girls, Rene Lane (Convent) 1, M. Horton 2, E. O'Brien 3. 50 yds championship of Marlborough Primary Schools: Boys, L, Mowat 1, W. Satherley 2, L. Maxted 3. Old boys race 50 yds handicap: H. Simmons 1, Y. Penny 2.

9th May 1916 A deputation from the Blenheim Borough School Committee waited on the Board to report what had been done in reference to disinfecting the school and other work,- and asking for assistance in respect to the same. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Birch asked for financial assistance for the putting up of new drinking fountains .and disinfection of the school- The cost ! amounted to £17. The committee could not bear the extra expense. The disinfection ,was done owing to -the outbreak of infantile paralysis. The health inspector had said that it !; was necessary. In the new drinking taps here was no need for the children to touch the taps with their lips. Mr. Birch pointed out that it was an unusual and pressing charge on their finances, a charge which they felt that they should not be called upon to pay. The work had to be done, and they had done it, and now they asked for generous treatment. The committee had no funds to meet the charges. A clean certificate from the health inspector was also handed in. Mr. Nees moved that the cost of disinfection of the school be paid (£10 6s).

Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. In reference to the drinking taps some difference of opinion was expressed regarding the efficacy of the spring fountains, some members thinking the spouters were against the health and cleanliness of the children. Mr. Nees said that he would not express an opinion till he had seen the taps. The architect said that the whole arrangement would have to be altered. The technical school service pipe had been tapped, for the spouters.; Had the committee consulted him before having, the fountains installed they would have saved money and s had them in a- better position. They were very good taps, but should have, beau installed inside.

' The Board viewed' the taps, and Mr. Penny moved that the cost of the instalment of the taps be paid. It was the system ordered throughout the schools of America, and he was certain that it was good and efficient.

Mr. Ferguson seconded on condition that in future committees should consult the architect before interfering with the water services.

It was decided to pay the bare cost of the taps, and, on the architect's suggestion, it was decided to recommend to the committee to have the taps fitted inside the lavatories.

BLLENHEIM RESIDENCE

Mr. Storey moved that the resolution in reference to the school residence at Blenheim be rescinded. He thought that Mr. Low should maintain the agreement that he should live in the

residence since the Board had paid the cost of repairs. If Mr. Low did not wish to live in the house he should pay for the alterations

Mr. Fulton seconded the motion.

Mr. Low's letter was read agreeing to live in the residence, provided that the house was put in proper repair and upon which the Board undertook the repairs and alterations.

Mr. Mackay said that he supported the motion for the reason that the Board was the custodian of public money. The house and grounds had been put in proper order and "Mr. Low should carry out his contract

He (Mr. Mackay) had no bias against Mr. Low.

The motion was carried on the chairman's casting vote, the voting being: Ayes: Messrs. Mackay, Storey, Fulton; Noes: Messrs. Penny, Ferguson, and Nees. The effect of the motion is that permission to allow Mr. Low to at the residence has been recalled.

Mr. Penny then moved that Mr. Low be allowed to let the house provided that he let it to a teacher on the staff of the school, and that he insure the house..

Mr. Nees seconded the motion pro forma.

Mr. Ferguson supported the motion. It was a pity that the money had been spent on the building, and that it had not been done away with and the ground thrown into the school area. He thought that if a teacher were living in the residence it would meet the case. They could not say to Mr. Low that he must live there.

Mr. Storey said that he would not support the motion unless Mr. Low carried out rule 47, which stated that a teacher must keep the place in repair, and insure it. If they agreed to this for Mr. Low they would have to do the same all over the country, They had their regulations before them, and should work under them.

The Chairman opposed the motion on the ground that £100 of public money had been spent to put Mr. Low in a better position- as a landlord. He (Mr. Mackay) would agree if Mr. Low paid what the Board had paid for the repairs to the residence. The motion was then put and defeated on the casting vote of the chairman, with the same division as the previous motion.

Misses Hilliard and Brewer wrote declining the offer of promotion, as they did not wish to leave Blenheim and did not seek promotion through, a country school.—Received. Mrs. Wilkinson, Blenheim school, was granted one month's leave of absence on the usual terms.

13th June 1916 BLENHEIM SCHOOL.

BATTLE OF THE RESIDENCE

At the meeting of the Marlborough Board on May 8th last Mr. J. S. Storey moved, according to notice, that the Board rescind the following resolution passed at the meeting: "That the Board of Mr. Low's letting the school residence at Blenheim, but cannot agree to pay for the installation of the gas service.

The notice was seconded by Mr. Fulton and carried on the casting vote of the chairman (Mr. A. Mackay).

At yesterday's meeting of the Board, after the confirmation of the minutes Mr. Ferguson objected to the motion, alleging that it had been illegally put and carried, seeing that the notice of motion had not been put in at the Board's meeting in writing.

After some discussion as to the legality of the motion and the proper course to pursue, Mr. Penny moved that, seeing that the motion had been illegally passed; it should have no effect. Mr. Ferguson seconded.

The chairman said that the motion had been illegally put and carried; -contrary to the provisions of the Education Act and did not conform to the provisions of Clause 39 of the Act. He therefore ruled that the motion as carried was invalid.

Mr. Penny said that the slate was now washed clean, and he claimed the right to move another motion on the matter.

Mr. Storey: I shall expect a notice of motion.

Mr. Mackay: Mr. Chairman, you rule -that the" motion was illegal because the notice was in twelve hours after the Board rose. It is splitting straws to say that it's illegal, when Mr. Storey gave verbal notice at the meeting, and next morning gave it in writing.

The Chairman adhered, to his ruling that Mr. Storey's motion had been illegally put and carried. (Mr. White was absent' from the meeting at which 'the motion was carried).

The secretary said that sifter Mr. Storey's rescinding motion, Mr. Penny moved a subsequent, motion that Mr. Low be allowed to let the house provided that it were let to a teacher on the staff. This was not carried.

Mr. Nees: What is the position?

The secretary: Mr. Low cannot let the premises, because Mr. Penny's motion was lost.

The chairman I think notice of motion should be given for any further motion. A special meeting might be held

Mr. Storey objected to- bringing, members so many miles for so little a thing. '

The matter was left in the position that notice of motion must be given on any motion on the subject and in the Meantime Mr. Low must either. *Article cut*

11th April 1916 The protest from two lady certificated teachers and the Blenheim School Committee against the appointment of an uncertificated teacher in the Borough School was again considered. . '

The inspector, on being asked for his opinion, said that the question was a legal one, and not one for him. It should be understood by every member of the Board. He detailed the circumstances of the appointment. The Act stated that transfers need not be advertised, and the appointment in question was a transfer. The two young lady objectors could have sent in an application for a transfer, but the young lady appointed was the only applicant for a transfer- and therefore the only one to be considered, he could not give the Board any direction in the matter, as it would be against Departmental usage. The position was peculiar, and required careful handling. It was a legal question and one for the Board to consider itself. "When an appointment, was being made certificated teachers must be first considered, but when a transfer was being made and no certificated teacher had applied the applicant best fitted should be appointed.

Mr. Mackay stressed the point, that the teacher in question was transferred from Picton to Blenheim. He quoted the sections of the Act bearing on the matter, and contended that there was no vacancy in the school.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the secretary write to the objectors that the Board regretted that then- claims cannot be upheld as they did not apply for a transfer at the time Miss Storey was appointed to her present position, and that the Board now offered them promotion to sole-teacherships carrying salaries of £140 per annum. The mover thought that the matter could safely be left in the secretary's hands. He could write a kindly and courteous letter pointing out the circumstances to those young ladies. Mr. Penny, in seconding, said that the young ladies did not object in the very least to the young lady appointed. They complained against the automatic action of the Act in stopping their promotion. These young ladies were excellent teachers and had particular ability, and it would be against the interests of the school to have them leave it: but he was afraid that that was the only solution of the problem, in order to allow these young ladies to seek promotion in another school.

The motion was then put and carried, without dissent.

The following letter was received from Mr. B. H. Low. head-teacher of the Blenheim Borough School: "The school residence in, I find on measuring it up, considerably smaller than my present residence, which is scarcely commodious enough as it is. Mrs. Low and I have weighed the matter very carefully and attempted to solve the problem of fitting our family and furniture into the smaller compass, but can arrive at no satisfactory solution. I therefore ask for the Board's approval of my letting the house to a suitable tenant In order to

make the house more -satisfactory to myself or tea. suitable tenant I have been compelled to have gas installed in all but three rooms (bedrooms). I consider the gas service a necessity, and hereby ask the Board to approve of my action and to pay the cost—£11 to £12." Mr. Nees moved that permission be granted to let the residence, but that the Board could not depart from its usual custom—not to pay for lighting.

Mr. Fulton seconded

Mr. Mackay said that the Board had spent over £50 in order to make, the place habitable for the teacher. He would move an amendment that the Board agree to Mr. Low's request to let the dwelling provided that he paid the cost of the renovations recently carried out. Why did not Mr. Low tell the "Board before the alterations were carried out that the place was too small for him?

Mr. Storey seconded the amendment for the reason that Mr. Low had agreed to live in the dwelling if it were renovated.

Mr. Penny said that what Mr. Low asked for was perfectly reasonable. Whatever Mr. Mackay might say, the house was not suitable, for a medium sized family. If Mr. Mackay's amendment were carried they would be placing on Mr. Low's head what they had not placed on a head-teacher for years. Permission had been granted to let the house for about 20 years.

Mr. Nees said that it was not possible to put a 9-child family into a 5 child house. He thought "that Mr. Low should pay the gas-lighting." The amendment was lost, and on the motion being put it was declared carried.

14th April 1916 During the past fortnight the Blenheim Borough School has been thoroughly "spring cleaned" and disinfected. Sanitary drinking fountains have also been installed, the School Committee being determined that the health of the school children under their care shall be safeguarded by all possible means.

17th April 1916 'Owing to the urgent need', for help to the various war relief funds, the staff of the Borough School has decided to produce another operetta', and; the practices are now in full swing. The operetta is W. S. Roddies 'Ali Baba. and under the able direction of Misses Brown and Elbeck, and Mr. Wedde, the music and dancing promise to be well up to the high standard of previous years. It is hoped to produce the operetta about the middle of June.

18th April 1916 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL.

; Twenty-seven householders, including some ladies, attended the annual meeting held in the Borough School last evening for the purpose of electing the Committee for the ensuing year. Mr. E. H. Penny, chairman of the outgoing Committee, presided. The annual report was read as follows: — "The Committee elected at the last annual meeting consisted of Messrs. E. H. Penny, J. J. White, F. Birch, W. Jordan, J. Patchett, C. F. A. Whiteford, H. Dobson, W. Braddock, and F. Southgate. Messrs. Braddock and Southgate resigned on leaving Blenheim, and Messrs. L. A. White and R. Vance were appointed in their places. The attendance of members has been as follows, the Committee having held thirteen meetings: — Penny 12, J. J. White 12, Jordan 13, F. Birch 12, J. Patchett 11, Whiteford 8, Dobson 13, L. A. White 11, R. Vance 7, the two last-named having; attended all meetings since their appointment.

A resolution of sincere sympathy and --condolence was tendered to Messrs. J. J. White and E. H. Penny both of whom had suffered the loss of a son in the Anzac operations on August 7th, 1910. Two members of the staff, Messrs. Frank Gibson and Ivor Prichard, offered for service and were accepted. The pupils and staff in each case assembled to wish Godspeed to the young men and to make suitable gifts in recognition of their soldierly spirit.

"Notwithstanding the terrible and cruel era. of the year, the school has shown excellent results educationally, and, though the season has shown much minor sickness, the attendance has been very well sustained. The relationship between the staff and the Committee has been heartily cooperative and cordial, and a letter conveying the congratulations, of the Committee was unanimously ordered to be conveyed to the headmaster and his staff.

"Early in the year the Education Board decided that no pupils above the 11 Standard should be received at the side school at Redwoodtown. Nevertheless the school is still overcrowded, but the Education Department will give no assistance towards its enlargement—probably it is in like case with many other schools till war conditions are past.

"Several very material improvements have been effected in connection with the school during the year. With the assistance of the Education Board, for which the Committee is sincerely thankful, a new fence of, substantial concrete posts, with iron pipes and chain, has replaced; the worn-out- palings and unsightly macrocarpa hedge. It is hoped after the winter to have the fence finished by painting, to make it attractive as well as substantial. A thoroughly up-to-date sanitary system has been installed with a septic tank. The latest types of fittings have been used, and any fear of epidemics from this source is effectually closed so far as is humanly possible. The pupils, incidentally, are receiving a lesson in health habits, which is an education on these matters. A similar system is in process of installation at! the Redwoodtown School, and will be highly appreciated. Complaints were made at various times of the stuffiness and bad ventilation of the classrooms in the Blenheim School, and the attention of the Board's architect having been called to the matter; He has remedied it most effectually, by the simple method of removing the perforated zinc in the ventilators, and adding short cylindrical shafts heading into the roof. The teachers report the result as most excellent. The gradual improvement of the school grounds is anticipated as opportunity affords, and would have had attention but that the needs of the patriotic funds have had first call on the efforts of the staff and. pupils, who have contributed materially as the result of a successful concert, individual contribution, and collections on several occasions.

During the summer holidays the schools were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected under the, superintendence of Sanitary Inspector Johnston, and on the first appearance of infantile paralysis the Committee decided to have the process repeated. With the headmaster's concurrence, it was decided not to close the school, but to re-arrange the teaching so as to leave one room available at a time for disinfection. The arrangement has worked admirably, and the Committee believe they have done all that is possible to avert any fear of infection. Automatic- fountain drinking taps have also been placed in positions .available for the pupils. There is no necessity to touch the tap with the lips. and the system is recommended as a great advance on the use of common drinking cups. The Committee recommended the removal of the school residence and the inclusion of the area in the school grounds; but the Department declined, and the residence is now in course of repair and refitting.

The work of the secretary is considerable, and as the Committee is not allowed to make payment for same, a resolution very appreciative of the manner in which Mr. W. Jordan has performed the duties, and the sustained interest he has taken was unanimously passed by the Committee.

"As the Marlborough Education Board will be merged in the Wellington Board in August next, the Committee desire to express their appreciation of the sympathetic attitude of the Board to this and other committees so far as departmental regulations and authority would permit. The privileges of committees have been restricted, while the minor duties have been enlarged, but we, look for the day when the committees will form some effective combination to gain proper recognition of their standing in educational affairs."

The balance-sheet gave the following particulars:—Receipts: Credit balance. December 31st, 1914= £21 1s 4d; Board's grant for ordinary incidental purposes. £133 19s; interest in savings bank, 3s 11d; total, £155 4s 3d. Expenditure: Cleaning schools and outbuildings, etc., £78 13s 8d; fuel for school use. £14 9s 2d; lighting, water, and sanitary services, £21 14s; repairs to buildings, etc., £7 12s 5d; furniture, etc., £1 11s; stationery, 5s; credit balance, £30 19s; total £155 4s 3d. The expenditure included £79 19s 0d for caretaker's wages.

A householder asked if any steps had been taken to protest against the proposed abolition of the Marlborough education district.

The position was explained by Mr. J. J. White, the chairman of the Education Board, and Mr. A. Mackay, member of the Board. They represented that the Board left no stone unturned in the efforts made to retain the identity of the district, and it was only when "Hobson's choice" remained that it asked to be attached to Wellington in preference to Nelson or Canterbury.

Mr. J. W. Humphreys asked if a reason could be given for the fact that no scholarships were won by the school last year.

The chairman said that the experience of the Borough School was that of the whole of the Marlborough district, not one national scholarship having been gained. This was due not to an diminution of efficiency on the part of the, teaching staff, but to the increased severity of the examination tests, the effect of which was seen in other parts of the Dominion as well as here. Although no scholarships were won, a greater proportion of proficiency certificates (entitling the winners to places at the High School) was secured than in any previous year. The chairman said that the experience as a committeeman- extended over 21 years, but he felt he could say without hesitation that to his knowledge no report presented in any previous year was quite so favorable as the one received tonight. He spoke not particularly from an educational point of view but with an eye especially to the general conditions and surroundings of the school—to the all-round management of the interests of the pupils and the affairs of the school, the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, the sanitary conditions, and so on. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

Eleven nominations were received for the nine places on the committee. The result of the ballot was as follows:—E. H. Penny 23, W. Jordan 22, F. Birch 21, L. A. White 20 C.

F. A. Whiteford 19, H. B. Dobson 18, J. Patchett 15, J. J. White 14, «. Vance 13, F. W. Smith 10, J. W. Humphreys 5. The first nine candidates were duly declared elected, Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman and to Mr. W. Jordan, whose secretarial services were warmly eulogised.

29th June 1916 The Education Office in Blenheim will be closed as from the 31st of July. Mr. E. S. Hylton, the secretary of the Marlborough. Education Board, will, however, remain in Blenheim for some time after that date.

30th June 1916 GREAT FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

There were very few vacant seats in His Majesty's Theatre last night, when the pupils of the Blenheim; Borough School presented "W. S. Roddies operetta, "Ali Baba," the story of the forty thieves. The. Takings must have reached close to the century mark and the funds affected—partly school and partly patriotic—will materially benefit. The operetta was nicely dressed, and the stage' managers, with the limited material at their disposal, did wonders in this way of setting. Mr. A. A. Wedde wielded the baton over a numerically, strong orchestra, and the children; entered with zest upon their world. The operetta is one of difficulties in the way of music and climax: in fact, the act endings would bear revision. But .Mr. Wedde and his helpers had to take what the composer gave them and make the best of it, and this they did well. The music generally is tuneful and vimful, and at times comes near to operatic standard. It was in these .more difficult, and at the same time more breezy items that the choristers succeeded best; notably; "Jolly, sitting round the fire," "List, the tom-tom," "Peacefully time glides on," and the chorus after the captain's song "We are roamers." In these choruses the children put some life and soul, and deserve every credit for a good performance,

The cast of characters was: Mrs. Ali Baba, Miss Rita Parsons; Mrs. Cassim, Miss Dorothy Parsons; Morgiana, Miss Connie Green; Ali Babi Charles Lucas: Cassim, Len Whittaker; Kaliwada, Robert Green ; Captain, Charles Forrest; Abdalla Roy Agar; Sergeant, John Batty. To Miss Elbeck and Miss Brown the credit is due for the grouping, marching, and dancing. The march of the thieves would have been a creditable display to an adult combination, the

lads going through the mazes of the spiral and grand march with wonderful precision. The girls also deserve special mention for the pretty ballet in the fourth act, the effect being; enhanced by the colored lighting.. Miss Rita Parsons played in easy manner the character of Mrs. AH, and her sweet and tuneful voice was heard to advantage in the quartette "We'll all be rich together." in which Ali, Cassim, and Mrs. Cassim took part; also. This quartette went with a swing and was one of the best items of the night. Miss Dorothy Parsons (Mrs. Cassim) had not much scope for showing her undoubted singing ability her one solo, "Stars of the twilight," coming on at the end, when: naturally tired. She showed her: quality fully in the quartette and in. the duet with Cassim, 'Now Mister Cassim.'" This was also a good item. Miss Connie Green made an artistic Morgiana. She spoke her lines distinctly, her singing was sweet, and her dancing war, a feature of the performance. The pas seul in the dagger scene was particularly well done, and the audience clamored for an encore but Mr. Wedde would not break the rule. Master Lucas kept things going; as Ali Baba, and with :ho aid of his. trick donkey was responsible for a deal of fun. His two songs were well rendered. Len Whittaker, the miniature comedian, had less opportunity than usual of showing off his talents, but his solo and general work was well done. The Kaliwada. of Master Robert Green was also worthy of commendation. His duet with his sister was very pleasing. Master Forrest, the villain of the piece, had a good deal to do, and on the whole did it well. He was letter perfect in his lines, and made a good captain of the robbers. Master Roy Agar and Master' John Batty deserved their round of applause for their "Sentry-go" duet and they also were letter perfect in their lines. Taken by and large, as the sailors say, the production was a. credit alike to children and teachers and should again attract a large audience to the Theatre to-night, when Ali Baba will be repeated During the performance an interpolated item by Mr. C. Plum, "When the boys come home," was encored.

11th July 1916 BLENHEIM RESIDENCE Mr. Ferguson moved that the key of the, Blenheim residence be handed to Mr. Low,' so that he could let, the place to a tenant. In moving the motion Mr. Ferguson said that the matter had been hung up for a long time, and the teacher had been Kept out of house allowance. It did not matter a great deal who lived in the house, if it were kept in repair.

Mr. Penny seconded the motion

Mr. Mackay; moved amendment that the matter of letting the residence be left to the new board. He 'did this as ono v/ho was sent)there to' -conserve; the public funds. Going around the district he found places which were in need of alteration and improvement, and he thought that after £100 had been spent on the Blenheim residence the teacher should live in it. 'Mr. Fulton seconded the amendment. He thought that the Blenheim head teacher had broken faith with the Board in connection with his letter to the Board prior to the money being expended on the residence.

Messrs. White and Nees thought that this Board should deal with the matter. On a division the amendment was lost. Ayes Messrs. Mackay and Fulton. Noes. Messrs. Ferguson, Nees, Penny, McCallum, and White. Mr. McCallum moved a further amendment that, Mr. Low be allowed to rent the residence to a teacher on the staff of the school. If he wanted to rent the place to an outside tenant he must apply to the now Board for permission. He (Mr. McCallum) did not think that Mr., Low had treated the Board rightly or. fairly in the matter. Mr. Ferguson said that he would withdraw his motion in favor of the amendment.. He would also second the -amendment, which became the motion with the addition of the words that. Mr. Low be informed that such letting was entirely contrary to the policy of the Board in the past. Mr. Mackay opposed the motion. and said that if the motion were carried he would lodge a notice of motion with the Wellington Board to rescind the motion. The division gave the. same voting as before, Messrs. Mackay and Fulton being dissentient

22nd July 1916 The secretary of the Blenheim Borough Schools wrote, asking that the Redwoodtown school be painted and that straps be placed on the fencing of the borough school.—The requests were granted

31st July 1916 "Finis" was written by the Marlborough Education Board to-day. It was fitting and proper that the last words should be spoken by Mr. John James Winsbury White, the son of the first schoolmaster, to teach the young mind to shoot in the capital of the province. On the wall above the chairman's seat was a photograph of the late Mr. White, with drawings, executed by his daughters, of the first schoolhouse erected in Blenheim. That building stood on the site of the present borough schools, and was of a primitive description. Fern grew on the school grounds, and, as is recorded in Mr. T. L. Buick's "Old Marlborough" the scholars used to manufacture their own pen handles from the (*Not completed in cutting*)

1st August 1916 The Blenheim Borough Schools, together with the 'Redwoodtown side school, Have .raised'?:and paid in to Patriotic or Relief or expended on the purchase of material to be made up into comforts for the soldiers, a total sum of £200 7s 3d

10th August 1916 Under the readjustment of education districts made by the Council of Education, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Amendment Act (No. 2), 1914, Wellington and Marlborough are now amalgamated, and the first meeting of the new board was held to-day. There were present:—Wellington: Hon. J. G. W. Aitken, Messrs. W. Allan, R. A. Wright, MP., and T. Forsyth. Wairarapa: Messrs. A. W. Hogg, T. Moss. Hutt and Petone: Messrs. E. P. Rishworth and G. London. Marlborough : Messrs. E. H. Penny and A. Mackay. Horowhenua: Messrs. J. Kebbell and W. H. Field.....

19th December 1916 BOROUGH SCHOOL

EXAMINATION RESULTS IN .STANDARD 6.

Proficiency . Certificates.—Bagge, Batty Black, Collie, Gascoigne, Horton, Kinzett, Leslie, Mowat, Murray, Wemyss, Whittaker, Wright; M. Adams, M. Horton, K. Nicholas, 1. Patchett, L. Penny. H. Simson, C. Trischler, E. Wanden, L. Waterhouse, B. Mo room. Competency Certificates. —Cleator, Cox, Crook/Daniels, Lucas., Tombs; B. Goslin, JE. Shaw, L. Sowman, G. Stedman. The above-named may obtain their certificates at the Education Office on application during office hours

20th December 1916 A clerical error in the Borough School examination list published yesterday credited Gordon Cox with a competency certificate,' whereas he gained a proficiency

1st February 1917 Out of the sole-teacher schools of the districts of Wanganui, Hawke's Bay Taranaki, and Wellington, George W. Hodgson, of Okaramio, secured the highest marks and thus gains a Junior National Scholarship; The following gained Junior Free Places:—Allan Gascoigne; (Blenheim Borough), Frank Horton (Blenheim Borough, Alice Penny (Blenheim Borough), Meme Crump (Ocean Bay), Allison Lambert (Kaituna), and Cyril Orsman (Havelock)

2nd March 1917 Misa M. McCallum, pupil teacher; - Blenheim resigned

15th March 1917 The display appearing in the windows of the Red Cross shop in Market Place to-day is of an especially interesting description. Its outstanding feature is an exhibition of garden produce—mainly vegetables contributed by the boys of the Borough School. The collection has the merit of quality as well as bulk, and altogether does great credit to the future citizens and producers who are responsible for it

19th April 1917 The outline of the service to commemorate Anzac Day is published in this issue. A procession will be formed at the Borough School at half past ten; and will march to Market Place, where a combined religious service will be held. In the afternoon patriotic speeches, will be delivered

1st May 1917 SCHOOL COMMITTEE. ANNUAL MEETING OP'-HOUSEHOLDERS.

The annual meeting of householders In the school district of. Blenheim was Held in the Borough School last night, when Mr. E. H. Penny presided over a fair attendance of householders. - ,

REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET. The chairman read the report. -which was as follows:— The members elected at the last annual meeting were Messrs. E. H. Penny, Wm Jordan, J. J. White, F. Birch, L. A. White, C. F. Whiteford, H; Dobson, J. Patchett and R. Vance. Mr. Jordan retired in January, and the committee recorded deep appreciation of his excellent services. 'The committee held thirteen meetings, and the attendance of members was: E. H. Penny 11, F. Birch 11, L. A: White 13, J: J. White 11, J. Patchett 12, H. Dobson 11, R. Vance 7, O. F. Whiteford 6. Mr. P. W. Smith was elected in place of Mr. Jordan and has attended three meetings. In August the fusion of the Marlborough Education' Board with the Wellington Education Board took place and Messrs. E. H. Penny and A, Mackay were elected to represent the Marlborough. ward of the combined district. The committee acknowledges the very sympathetic attitude of the newly constituted Board, but have not seen any reason to vary the opinion that the extinction of the Marlborough Board was a retrograde step and not conducive to the best interests of educational affairs in this province. The tendency of the Education Department to centralise all important educational matters and to assume complete control should receive the closer attention of all school committees and associations throughout the Dominion.

It is a matter for congratulation that notwithstanding the distractions consequent on the great war the attendance at the school shows a decided increase. The latest report of the headmaster shows an average attendance of 545, and in one week of last month the average rose to 550 and the total roll to 597, being a record in the history of the school. During the summer holidays, following the usual custom, the schools were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

In conjunction with the installation of the septic tank and special drinking taps, the effect, of the cleansing and disinfecting has had excellent effect on the general health .of the pupils, in. the opinion of the committee. A visit of inspection was made by the medical officer of the Department during the year, and the general tenor of the report of the visit was quite satisfactory. At the instance of the medical officer the headmaster attempted to induce parents to adopt a school uniform dress for girl pupils of simple and hygienic style, but the suggestion did not receive full support and is in abeyance. During the winter the committee had coke consuming heaters put into the class-rooms to replace the open fireplaces. The cost was borne half by the committee and half by the Board. The expenditure has boon somewhat: of a strain on the funds, but it is confidently expected .that an equalising of the heating of the rooms and a substantial reduction in fuel cost will ensue. The results of an excellent concert organised by the school staff and performed by the pupils were financially successful. The proceeds were largely devoted to patriotic purposes, and the school has been consistently helpful in this direction ever since the war commenced. Exhaustive inquiries are being made of past pupils of the school who have gone to serve King and Empire, and. in common with all other schools of the Dominion our Blenheim school will have a fine Roll of Honor.

The pupils made an excellent showing at the A. and P. Show, and have secured full share of honors on the sports-ground and in swimming contests. The headmaster and staff are to be congratulated on the attention given to these important aids to an all-round education. The school has had the honor of a visit from the Minister for Education, who spent some time in the classrooms testing the abilities of the pupils, and who expressed himself as pleased with the general result.

The architect of the Wellington Board has also visited the schools, and reported favorably on the upkeep of the buildings. The buildings are to be painted and overhauled on his report, and the work is included in the schedule of works to have attention during this year.

The general educational efficiency of the school is entirely satisfactory. The examination tests were raised considerably last year, and no scholarships were granted, but the average number of proficiency passes was secured, and the previous good, normal level of attainment was quite upheld.

The relationship of committee and staff has been perfectly harmonious, and the committee desires to express its appreciation of the successful efforts of all the teachers.

BALANCE-SHEET. Balance sheet, and report were adopted without discussion.

THE NEW. COMMITTEE. The following nominations were received for the offices of committeemen:—Messrs. E. H. Penny, F. Birch, J. J. White, F. A. Whiteford, J. Patchett, F. W. Smith, A. Sowman, L. A. White, H. Dobson, J. McKinley. Messrs. J. W. Humphreys and E. J., Hill were elected scrutineers. The result of the election was as follows:—B. H. Benny 45, H. Dobson 43, A. Sowman 42, C. F. A. Whiteford 33, F. W. Smith 36, J. J. White 30. F. Birch 31, J. Patchett 31, L. A. White 30, J. McKinley 30. According to custom in the event of a tie, the names of Messrs. McKinley and White were placed in a hat and Mr. White's name was drawn. Mr. White offered to retire in favor of Mr. McKinley, but the latter having gone the chairman ruled that his consent was necessary, and declared Mr. White elected.

The usual speeches of thanks concluded the meeting. :

13th October 1917 SCHOOL FOOTBALL.

The Blenheim Borough School football team journeyed to Seddon on Saturday last to play the combined Awatere schools, and suffered defeat by 14 points to 3. The game was played on the Seddon Domain ground, about a third of which was covered with very rank grass. Playing a very vigorous game, the country boys scored all their points in the first spell. Blenheim, in the second spell, becoming more accustomed to the conditions, rallied and succeeded in scoring their only try. Mr. O'Rourke refereed. At the conclusion of the game Mr. and Mrs. Best, of the Seddon school, very kindly provided the players with afternoon tea, which was much appreciated.

The Blenheim boys on Wednesday afternoon defeated the combined Spring Creek and Tua Marina schools by 9 to 3 after a lively game on the Spring Creek school ground. Mr. Rowe refereed.

7th November 1917 Feeling reference was made by the members of the Blenheim School Committee last night to the death of Mr. Alex. Mackay, who represented the Marlborough ward (with Mr. K. H. Penny) on the Wellington Education Board. A resolution of appreciation of the valuable services rendered, by Mr. Mackay was passed, also one of sympathy with Mrs. Mackay in her bereavement. All the members of the Committee expressed their deep sympathy with, the chairman (Mr. E. H. Penny) in the loss of his son Walter—the second son that Mr. Penny has lost in the war. Mr. Penny thanked the Committee for the kind thought which prompted what had been expressed.

24th November 1917 MARLBOROUGH MATTERS

The monthly meeting of the Wellington Education Board was held on Wednesday, the members present being: Messrs. R. A. Wright, M. P., (voted to the chair in the absence of Hon. J. G. W. Aitken), T. Moss, G. London, E. P. Rishworth, W. H. Field, M. P., T. Forsyth, R. McCallum, M. P., E. H. Penny, and A. W. Hogg. Mr. McCallum was welcomed as the new representative from the Marlborough ward, in place of the late Mr. A. McKay. Mr. McCallum intimated his intention of using every endeavor to further the interest of education, with an especial care for his own district.

Items of interest to Marlborough were the recommendation of Miss Wallace (Ward) for appointment as head teacher at Gladstone, and of Miss O. Foley for appointment of assistant at Havelock. A schedule of works to be done was adopted, including the overhaul and repainting of the Blenheim schools, and a number of country schools and the work to, proceed during the next few months. . Fences are to be renewed at Carluke and an exchange of sites at

Tunakino (in the Carluke district) ,was the new site being more central than the one originally .selected,. A recommendation of the Inspector of Technical Instruction in respect of the work at the Blenheim Technical school was referred .to. the ward members for comment at next meeting. Settlers at Whareatea Bay are to be notified that mutual arrangements will be necessary before the erection of a school can be proceeded with.

Mr. McCallum intimated his intention of suggesting the need of extended accommodation at the side school ,at Weld Street and of urging the matter at an early opportune time. The statement of accounts showed payments according to Government regulations for October (salaries and allowances) to have been £0708 1s 1d, general payments £4465 15s 4d. Government grants now due amount to £5356 16s 10d; The grant for maintenance and repairs of buildings for the year is £940, and the expenditure to date (current year) £6960. Work authorised and not completed £6340 5s 6d.

24th December 1917 BLENHEIM BOROUGH SCHOOL.

Those parents and members of the general public who attended the "break-up" function of the Blenheim schools on Thursday afternoon found much to interest and entertain them. The physical drill displays and organised games are locally at least an entirely new departure at gatherings of this kind and Blenheim has nothing to be ashamed of in the quality of the work done in physical culture if the exhibition given is any criterion. .

Mr. E. H. Penny, chairman of the School Committee acted as chairman, of the gathering; and Mr. B. H. Low, headmaster, was master of ceremonies, and gave explanatory comments on the work done by the various squads, he drew special attention to the corrective drill performed by pupils lying on the back, and to the dancing .steps given, by. a squad of girls in a tasteful blue uniform which he hoped would be adopted by the mothers of all pupils for their girls. Excellent displays were; given throughout, from an interesting and amusing mixture of drill and play by the infants' squad to a finished display of physical drill by the senior boys.

Ninety-nine attendance certificates were won by pupils during 1917 and the bulk of these were presented to the winners by Mr. J. J. White, who complimented the school both on the excellence of its attendance and on the high standard of passes made in the school work. Afternoon tea followed, and was apparently much appreciated by all.

Presentations were made to Misses Brewer, Cresswell. and' Jennings, and to Mr. Stratford, All of whom are severing their connection with the school staff.

Special reference was made by Mr. Low to the good service rendered by Miss Brewer at the Redwoodtown side school,. and the wish was expressed that she might have a long and happy married life.

Good attendance certificates were awarded as follows:

Standard 6: M. Graydon, P. Mills, E Nicoll, F. Aston, R. Green, A. Thompson, M. Thompson, S. Vercoe,

Standard 5: P. Holmes, L. King, M. Robb, A. Schwass, J. de Gastro, G. Graydon, M. Innes, C. Hadfield, L Mills, A. Nicholas, W, Tombs, K.; Swain, F:Wedde, C. Brooks.

Standard 4: R. Pope, E. Mills, K. Robb, L. Heyward, J. Stratford, S. Terrill, P. Taylor, H. Day, U. Bell, R Gallop, J. Annand, C. Foster.

Standard 3: C. Bacon, B. Bell, J. Dobson, M. Hendra, Z. Osgood, E. Webster, E. Moreland, R. Atwood, A. Blythe, R. Dobson B. Dobson, V.. Glennie, C. Gurr, F. Humphreys, D. Leslie, K. Mills, A: Mills, R. Pope, J. Rees, F. Taylor, .W. Williams, K. Yarrall, A. Wareham.

Standard 2: A. Swain, M. Cameron, V. Oben, P. Gilbert, C. Catley, R. Cresswell, R. Gibb, W. Longman, B. Low, K. Ogilvie, K. Patchett, L. Sowman.

Standard 1: M. Dawes, E. Longman, O. Oben, C. Olliver, A. Robinson, J. Sowman, E. Smale, G. Taylor, J. Taylor, P. Thomson, W. Tudor, M. Terrill, C. Aberhart, R. Coward, A. Forrest, H. Roberts, R. Webster, F. Wright, J. Bourke.

Infants: E. Brown, N. Vercoe, J.; Robinson;

Side school: E. Bailey, C. Hosken,; E. Morris, H. Hare, V. Morris, F. [Bailey, D. Hosken, C. Bailey.

1918-1919

1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Connor	James	C-58	Head	£390.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E-64	Assistant	£305.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Strack	Conrad H E	B-66	Assistant	£290.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Millar	Olga J Mrs	D-56	Assistant	£280.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis	D-76	Assistant	£260.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Jones	Sarah Jane Mrs	D-53	Assistant	£250.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C-80	Assistant	£230.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	C-88	Assistant	£175.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Heffer	Dorothy G	D-84	Assistant	£165.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Pigou	Agnes M	C-97	Assistant	£165.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Storey	Elsie E		Assistant	£160.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Reader	Theo G	D-114	Assistant	£140.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Harris	Agnes M		Assistant	£130.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mills	Howard		Probationer 2	£75.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wilkins	Winifred M		Probationer 1	£75.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Askew	Bertha		Probationer 1	£65.00
1919	538/15	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Meads	Elsie E		PT2	£35.00

12th January 1918 Mrs. Wilkinson, of the Blenheim Borough School, has been appointed head teacher of the Ballance School.

14th January 1918 Miss Aileen Milliard (Blenheim) has been appointed to the staff of the Clyde Quay School, .Wellington

15th March 1918 Permission was-granted by the Borough Council last night to the Borough School to use a portion of the vacant reserve between High Street and Alfred Street for practical work in agricultural instruction The privilege was accorded on the recommendation of the Reserves Committee. Councillor Curry said that, as a member of that committee h opposed the recommendation—no because he did not want to see the school given every possible facility for the promotion of agricultural science, but because he considered that the municipality should not be called on to provide a requirement that properly should be furnished be the Governments. It was stated an offer to let the land for the purpose was forwarded to the Wellington Education Board some time ago, but no reply had been received, though several communications had been sent.

23rd April 1918 HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETINGS

ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

THE BLENHEIM ELECTION.

The annual meeting of householders for the election of the Blenheim School Committee was held in the Borough Schools last' night. There was an attendance of between 40 and 50 people and Mr. E. H. Penny presided. The outgoing Committee presented a favorable report on the activities, of- the school during the last twelve months. It congratulated the Headmaster and his staff on the successful nature of the work that had been done:

The average attendance during March, 1917 was 545, and that for March, 1918, was 577.4. The roll number on March 31st, 1917, was 597, and at the end of March this year 620. In

both cases the numbers easily made records, and, the development having been consistent and regular there was good evidence that it would be maintained. The average for the Borough School itself was 532, and if that had been maintained during the whole of the Quarter the school would have been entitled to an additional teacher. It seemed practicably certain that this desirable result would ensue, at the end of the June quarter.

The pupils had taken a deep and practical interest in various patriotic movements, and had materially assisted various funds. The old scholars were supplying a number of young men ready and willing to bear arms for freedom and the Empire, and it was understood that, as far as possible, the names were being kept for a future record.

Several improvements and minor additions were effected in connection with the buildings, and the Committee willingly acknowledged the sympathetic attention given to its requests by the "Wellington Education Board, though it still held that the extinction of the Marlborough Board was a gross mistake. There was very little interruption of school work from sickness or epidemic. The Wellington Board emphasised the necessity of scrupulous cleanliness, and the caretaker and the committee strenuously attempted to meet all requirements in this respect. The Committee believed that the immunity enjoyed was largely due to these efforts. On the motion of the Rev. B. F. Rothwell, seconded by Mr. J. J. White, the report was adopted.

The secretary (Mr. W. Jordan) explained that the balance-sheet had not yet been returned from Wellington whither it was sent for audit. The following are the results of the voting for the candidates for the committee, the first nine being elected:—E. H. Penny 32. C. F. Whiteford 29, F. H. Andrews 27, J. J. White 25, H. Dobson 25, F. Birch 25, A. Bowman- 22, W. Tylor 19, A. M. R. Mills 18, T. Moseley 18, J. Hyndman 15, J. Patchett 17, F. W. Smith 11, H. Alexander, 9. The new members are Messrs. Andrews, Tylor, and Mills. The following resolution was passed: "This meeting having heard the circular from the New Zealand Educational Institute urging the need for improvements in the education system is of opinion that the matters dealt with therein are of prime importance to the Dominions, and request, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Finance, and the Minister for Education to give their earnest attention to the suggestions."

Mr. J. W. Humphreys urged that an effort be made to beautify the school grounds.

At a meeting of the now committee held subsequently Mr. E. H. Penny was re-elected chairman, and Mr. W. Jordan secretary. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Jordan for his capable secretarial work.

23rd April 1918 The annual report presented to the householders last night by the Blenheim Borough School Committee stated that several changes in the staff, occurred during the year. Mr. F. Gibson returned from France after two years of honorable and arduous active service, and was appointed to his former position. Mrs. Wilkinson received an appointment in the Wellington district, and Miss F. Brewer resigned. Both were valued members, on the staff and their removal was noted with regret. Mrs. Miller was appointed to the staff of the main school, and Miss Pigou to the Redwoodtown side school. After many years of faithful and effective service, the time came during the year for the retirement of Miss Brown, but, in view of the great scarcity of able educational loyalty, Miss Brown teacher, and with most commend (sic) waived her right to retirement and was continuing her good work in the Infant Department. The relations between the pupils, teachers, and committee during the year were completely cordial.

8th May 1918 SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last evening, the members present being Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman), J. J. White, A. Sowman, F. H. Andrews, A. M. R. Mills, and Mr. Dobson. :

The headmaster's report was an exceedingly favorable one. The total number on the roll at the end of April was 630, and the average attendance was 577.6. These figures maintain the

high record of this, year so far. There is now assurance that the staff will be increased, as a result of these averages, at the end of June.

The balance-sheet for the year ended Dec. 31, 1917, was presented, and, having been duly audited and certified by the Education Board as correct, was adopted. The income for the year was £150 13s lid. The expenditure included cleaning schools and outbuildings £72 17s, fuel for school use £10 16s 6d, repairs £17 0s 3d, books, maps, and furniture £8 10s 0d, secretarial, stationery, printing, etc., £8 6s 6d, and balance in hand and at Post Office savings bank £37 17s 6d. T

The visiting committee reported a good attendance at school, and everything apparently in good working order. Several minor repairs were authorised, and some gravelling at the side school. At the suggestion of the headmistress it was decided to re-instate a gas stove in the infant room.

18th May 1918 Mr. George. Elder Brown, whose death occurred at Blenheim yesterday, was 91 years of age. He had resided in this town for many years, and prior to settling down here lived at Milton and Dunedin. One of his daughters is Miss M. M. Brown, headmistress of the Infant Department of the Borough School.

15th June 1918 The takings at the Maxwell Road and High Street district Red Cross shop on Thursday last were £40 8s 6d, including £8. 2s from 'the penny trail at the Borough school. Owing to the inclement weather all the raffles were not filled in, but the results will be published later. The committee wish to tender their sincere thanks to all those who assisted in any way, and especially to the pupils or', the borough school. The money taken is to go to .the Soldiers' Comforts Fund

22nd August 1918 Blenheim, extension to infant school verandah, tool shed, drain, and incinerator. The question of bicycle sheds was discussed, and authorised subject to the Blenheim Committee making a contribution to bring the -matter within the regulations of the Board.

12th November 1918 The headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School received circular instructions from the Wellington Education Board this morning with a view to precautionary measures being taken to prevent a spread of the epidemic. The circular recommends, inter alia, that schools be kept well aired and be thoroughly cleansed, proper disinfection where a child becomes affected, that the children be strongly recommended to gargle two or three times daily, and that, for reasons of safety, they be required to sneeze or cough into their handkerchiefs, and abstain from indiscriminate sneezing or coughing in the premises.

11th December 1918 Blenheim and Redwoodtown school teachers and pupils are notified by advertisement to attend at their school grounds on' Friday morning next to obtain school books. A warning is given re influenza, infection.

8th January 1918 Miss M. M. Brown, headmistress of the Blenheim Borough School, who retires on superannuation at the end of this month, will by her resignation sever a connection of 28 years with the infant department of the school, of which she took charge in 1890. Miss Brown came to Blenheim from Napier, and has served under three headmasters here—the late Mr. J. P. Lucas (who died in 1894), Mr. D. A. Sturrock (now Inspector of Schools), and Mr. B. H. Low, M.A., the present occupant of the position. She was educated at the Tokomairiro District High School, Milton, where she matriculated. She then spent two years at the Training College in Dunedin, and also attended lectures at Otago University. Miss Brown has taught under five Education Boards—Otago, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay, Marlborough, and Wellington. During the time she has been in Blenheim she has trained over forty young teachers. She has never had leave of absence for a single day from her duties.

She had intended retiring in 1915, but owing to the war and the consequent shortage of teachers she decided to remain "on deck" until a more opportune time came for relinquishing her duties. Miss Brown intends visiting Otago shortly for a holiday, and will then, with her sisters, take up her residence in Wellington.

5th April 1919 An outstanding record of teaching service was fittingly recognised in a gathering in the Borough School grounds yesterday afternoon, when Miss M. M. Brown, who has just reined after over 28 years' service in charge of the infant department, was farewelled by the school-children, members of the teaching staff, the school committee, old pupils, and a number of well-wishers. Mr. E. H. Penny (Chairman of the School Committee) referred to Miss Brown's long and creditable association with the school—an association which had ever been marked by kindly and discreet treatment of the children and which had endeared her to a very large section of the community. An expression of goodwill and admiration of Miss Brown's splendid services, was offered in behalf of the old pupils of the school, and Mr. B. H. Low (headmaster) spoke of the confidence he had always had in Miss Brown's administration of the infant department. Her work had been practical and characterised on a motherly care for the welfare of the children. On behalf of the present and old pupils, teaching staff, and school committee he presented Miss Brown with an aquamarine necklet and brooch as a mark of their very deep regret and of their admiration of her worthy record. Miss Brown feelingly acknowledged the gift

15th April 1919 ANNUAL ELECTION

The statutory meeting of householders in the Blenheim School district, was held at the Borough School last evening, and -was very sparsely attended. Mr. E.H., Penny was voted to the chair

The report and balance-sheet (which will be published to-morrow) were read and adopted. Mr. J. J White, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, paid a tribute to the excellent work done by Mr. E. H. Penny in the cause of education. '

The Headmaster reported that 144 Certificates of good attendance had been gained, which was about 50 more than during any previous year. Unfortunately the -epidemic 'had come just at the time when the teachers were putting their finishing touches on the year's work, and he anticipated that the work for 1919 would be found to have suffered.

The following gentlemen were elected on the committee for the ensuing year: — Messrs. E. EL Penny, J. J. White, F. H. Andrews, C. F. A. Whiteford, A. Sowman, A. M. Mills, B. J. Cooke, W. W. Tylor, and; H. Robson.

Thanks were passed to the scrutineers Logan and Adams and to the chairman. The new committee re-elected Mr. Penny chairman and Mr. Jordan secretary

16th April 1919 SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET,

Following are the report and balance-sheet of the Blenheim Borough School for the year ended March 31st, 1919: Your Committee have the honor to report a year of duty marked by many anxieties and difficulties, but also by much good work accomplished. The number of meetings held has been twelve, and the attendance of members has been uniformly good; being as follows: Messrs. E. H. Penny 10, J. J. White 12, F. Birch 10, C. F. Whiteford 10, H. Dobson 11 F. H. Andrews 9, A. M. Mills 9, A. Sowman 9, W. W. Tylor 7.

The early part of the year was still clouded by the great war, in which a good number of the old pupils were bravely bearing their heroic part. Happily and somewhat unexpectedly the day of armistice came, and the school, in common with all the people, rejoiced heartily. On the same day orders were received for closing the school indefinitely on account of the epidemic which swept over the Dominion. The committee, in accordance with suggestions from the Education Board, had the schools thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. . This entailed considerable expense in extra labor and the purchase of a portable boiler.

The work , done by the caretaker' (Mr. Handcock) and his assistants was thoroughly inspected by the Health Department, and secured unstinted praise from that department, as also from the committee and staff of teachers.

The Education Department has provided substantial financial assistance, and is still stressing the continued need of thorough work in this connection. The committee is fully alive to the position and will carefully endeavor to secure complete cleanliness and sanitary safety for the pupils. With the assistance of the Education Board, a new bicycle shed has been erected, and a verandah at the infant school has been extended so as to provide a useful and healthy open-air classroom. The floor of this addition is now being asphalted, and will be regularly used except on wet and unfavorable days.

The roll of scholars and average attendance during the year have constituted a record, and the school has become entitled to an addition of two to the staff of teachers. Some of the .classes are considerably, too large for proper tuition, even under the care of the most -accomplished teachers, and the committee is pressing on the Board the extreme urgency of dividing two of the classrooms, in order that at least two of the large classes may be reduced in numbers, thus giving the teachers greater opportunity of efficient tuition.

At the close of the year Miss M. M. Brown, after many years of very faithful and very successful work as infant mistress retired on superannuation, to the .deep regret of old pupils, present pupils, and all who have been associated with her in her school work. 'This was emphasised at a farewell gathering, when Miss Brown was presented, on behalf of the committee, staff, and old and -present pupils, with an exceedingly handsome necklet and brooch, suitably accompanied by abundance of good wishes from all concerned.

Very cordial relations have existed with the headmaster and his staff during the whole year, and the work of the year is considered eminently satisfactory in all respects. The Wellington Education Board has dealt with all our requests in a broad and generous spirit, and the committee unanimously tenders its best thanks for such considerate treatment at the hands of the Board.

Educational affairs are largely under discussion at the present time, and it seems practically assured that considerable developments will take place. Insistent demands are being made for many additional teachers, for smaller classes, for more roomy class-rooms and playgrounds, and for better conditions- for teachers and pupils away from the centres of population.

The present Minister for Education is quite sympathetic, and will undoubtedly endeavor to meet these demands if Parliament will .grant the financial assistance. There is, however, a strong movement belittling the work of education boards and school committees, and there would appear to be a need of co-operation by these bodies to resist the marked spirit of centralisation, which will .eventually take away all their powers and usefulness, unless boards and committees assert and secure their, rights. In conclusion we have great pleasure in recording the continual increase of numbers on the school roll and in the average attendance. The figures for 31st March, 1918, were: Roll number 620, average attendance for quarter 571; for 31st March, 1919, roll number 636, average attendance for quarter 595. Over 50 proficiency passes were secured by the pupils, and the general educational attainment both in the main school, infant school and side school at Redwoodtown, has been on a high level. Our congratulations are due to the headmaster and his staff on these excellent results.

The balance-sheet disclosed the position as follows: The balance in bank on January 1st, 1918, was £37 17s 6d. The receipts from all-sources were £230 5s 2d, and the expenditure v/as £221 5s 3d, leaving' a credit balance of £46 17s 5d.

24th May 1919 Wellington Education Board: Mr. Penny asked if anything was being done in connection with the division of, class rooms in the Blenheim, schools in view of the excessive numbers in several of the classes and the need of dividing the classes to ensure more efficiency in tuition. The architect suggested that the building was very unsuitable for

division, but he was considering the question. Several members emphasised the common and great evil of excessively large classes, and strongly condemned the present circumstances. It was decided to approach the Department with a request that matters in connection with the school site enlargement may receive favorable consideration

20th June 1919 Wellington Education Board Works approved included asphaltting open-air class room at Blenheim; The report of the architect on the division of rooms in the Blenheim school was adverse in view of the quite unsuitable architectural features of the building. Mr. Penny emphasised the view, that the committee were only making the suggestion so as to enable the headmaster to classify his large classes better and secure more effective teaching by reducing the size of the classes. He also indicated that the Committee would probably approach the matter from some other point of view

30th July THE ISLAND OF BALKIS."

A full house should; greet the Borough School children at His Majesty's Theatre to-night, when the fairy operetta, "The Island of Balkis," will be staged. Mr. Wedde and these associated with him have devoted a great deal of time to the training of the children, and judging by the final rehearsals they are going to give a very good account of themselves. The doors will open at 7 o'clock; and the overture, will commence at 7.45.

31st July 1919 The Borough Schools broke tip for the term vacation this afternoon. Included in the holidays are a day for Empire Day and a half-day due under the Peace Day celebrations .account. School will .resume on August 19th

31st July 1919 THE ISLAND OF BALKIS."

A CHARMING PRODUCTION,

There is nothing so delightful as an entertainment given entirely by children, and the Borough School productions are quite an institution of the sort in Blenheim. . "The Mystic Mirror," "The Magic Ruby," and Ali Baba" left pleasant recollections behind, and it was small wonder that His Majesty's Theatre .should be so well filled as it was last night, when the Children put on the charming operetta, "The Island of Balkis." This piece is of a somewhat different class from the preceding productions, being more in the nature of a comic opera in miniature, the humorous element: being much more pronounced. It is a dream phantasy. A young "snottie" on a man-o'-war falls asleep and dreams that he has been transported to an island dominated by fairies. Two royal children have been lost, and the "middie" and an aviator friend seek to find them. How they eventually do so (even though balked at every turn by five jealous princesses) and find love and happiness is told charmingly and tunefully in the action of the opera.

The music is bright and flowing and a bit above the average standard of children's work, and the responsible people who trained and dressed the midget company deserve all the encomiums passed upon their work by last night's large audience. Under Mr. Wedde's baton was a compact orchestra lead by Mr. J. M. Hardin, L C V. The accompaniments were played with due regard to the voices accompanied, and all through the orchestra did good work, keeping well within the compass of the children's powers. There was nothing elaborate in the setting, but it was tasteful and quite adequate; The dressing, dancing, arid grouping showed careful training and intelligence in understanding.

The opening chorus was attacked with vigor, the full strength of the company showing unexpected power. The following chorus went weaker, but the opening chorus of the third act, "Sing a Song of Sunshine" and "Hail King Robin were the germs of a good night's work; The principals all did well. But the honors of the production must undoubtedly go to Master Brian Low, the young "Middie". He is the central figure of the operetta, and has much to do. He spoke his lines distinctly and. naturally, and .was never once at fault, and he also sang well. Another outstanding character was Dinah, played by Miss Phyllis Wedde. This young lady was the best of the individual voices, and the Pansy of Miss Muriel Ball was another

well played character with a good singing voice. Miss Koa Dakin, as the fairy queen, sang and acted well and was careful to give the audience the points of the story. Ragged Robin was a character study that was made a good deal of in the hands of Master Will Greenslade. Billy the Aviator was invested with a good deal of vim by Master Ronald Bennett, and the five jealous daughters of the 'Chancellor, were adequately played by Misses Isobel Crowe, Lorna Gibson, Ethel Mills, Molly Haswell, and Lillian Grigor. Master Len Whittaker was the comedian of the piece, and as the Chancellor, Ittelheim, squeezed as much fun as possible out of the character. The ballets, especially the fairy dances, were charming items, the changing lights, playing on the dancers and upon the grouped chorus, giving a pretty color effect. Quite an outburst of applause rewarded the witches and aviators for their effective dance in the woods. If space permitted each and every one of these little fairies would be mentioned by, name, for they deserved singling out. The managers of the opera and the children are to be, heartily congratulated upon a finished performance of "The Island of Balkis," which will be given again tomorrow (Friday) evening

7th August 1919 SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held on Tuesday, when there were present: Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman), C. F. Whiteford, A. Sowman, F. H. Andrews, H. Dobson, J. J. White, and W. Tylor.

The Education Board notified the appointment of J. Connor, at present on the staff of the Levin School, to the position now held by Mr. Wedde, who has been appointed organising teacher to the Marlborough ward of the Wellington education district. .

The report of the inspector on the Redwoodtown side school referred to the -work there as being satisfactory. The headmaster, in his report, referred to a considerable fall in the average attendance, due principally to the bad weather.

The Committee placed on record its appreciation of the successful production of the operetta, "The Island of Balkis," by the pupils of the school, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the members of the staff, the orchestra, and others who. had assisted in staging the performance. As the proceeds of the entertainment are expected to be more than sufficient for the objects at present in view—viz., the purchase of the piano recently acquired for the school, the establishment of the school Roll of Honor, and the augmentation of the school library—a suggestion from the headmaster that part of the money be allocated to the improvement of the school grounds was cordially agreed to, and the Committee decided to meet at the grounds on Wednesday next to decide on a scheme of work to be carried out. .

4th September 1919 The monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held on Tuesday evening, there being present : Messrs. E. H. Penny (chairman), J. J. White, A. M. Mills, F. H. Andrews, H. Dobson, and C. F. A. Whiteford; #The Headmaster, in his report, referred to the low average attendance for the month, due principally to the weather". In view of the time lost at the end of last year by the enforced closing of the schools" owing to the epidemics find in the general interest of the scholars, parents were urged to assist by the regular attendance of their children in the ensuing term. The question of connecting; the Redwoodtown side school and the main school by telephone was favorably considered, and inquiry as to the cost is to be made. It was decided to devote the money in hand for improving the school ground to asphaltting a block on the wide side of the Infant School and connecting it with an asphalt path to the Alfred Street entrance, also to tarring and sand in the space between the main school and the roadway on the north-eastern side. The placing of racks in the bicycle sheds and minor repairs reported on by the Visiting Committee were authorised to be carried out.

4th September 1919 BOROUGH SCHOOL.

PRESENTATIONS TO ME WEDDE

MR CONNOR WELCOMED,

A pleasant function took place at the Borough School on Monday afternoon, when the pupils and staff, together with members of the Committee and Mends, assembled to bid farewell to Mr. A. A. Wedde, who for the past twelve years has occupied the position of First Assistant. Mr. E. H. Penny, in addressing the gathering, spoke in terms of high praise of the work done by Mr. Wedde as a teacher in the school, of the interest displayed by him in the outdoor sports and exercises of the pupils, and of the active part taken by him in organising and training them in the several successful entertainments of recent years. In behalf of the school staff, pupils, and members of the Committee he presented to Mr. Wedde a cheque with which to purchase a memento of his association with them and as a token of their regard and esteem. Mr. J. J. White spoke in a similar strain, eulogising the work of Mr. Wedde and congratulating him on his promotion to a higher and more responsible position. The Headmaster (Mr. Low) voiced the feelings of the staff and pupils in their regret at parting with Mr. Wedde, and in behalf of the sixth standard' scholars presented him with a case of pipes as a mark of their esteem and affection.

Mr. Wedde, in responding, said he could not find words to acknowledge the good things said about him or the gifts made to him. except that from the bottom of his heart he thanked them one and all. His stay in the school had been one of pleasure and pride, and he would always look back to it with feelings of joy. To the pupils he was leaving, especially the sixth standard, of which he had been in charge, he said good-bye with regret. He trusted they would continue to work hard at their studies and rise to take their position in the world with pride and success.

Mr. Wedde has been appointed Organising Teacher for a number of the lower grade Marlborough Schools, and takes up his duties, forthwith. A cordial welcome to Mr. Connor, who was present' and.. succeeds Mr. Wedde, was extended by the Headmaster and the chairman of the Committee, in responding to which Mr. Connor expressed the hope that his sojourn here would prove profitable and pleasant, and that when the time come for him to move on again he would have gained their esteem and good will as Mr. Wedde had done.

13th September 1919 Mr. B. H. Low, headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, has been advised that he has been selected by the committee of the Timaru main; school to fill the position of headmaster. Mr. Low has been in his present position for 6 years. # His many friends in Marlborough will be pleased to hear of his advancement

21st October 1919 PRIMARY SCHOOLS SEVEN-A--SIDE TOURNAMENT.

Nine schools from the Marlborough district entered teams for the above tournament on Saturday. The results were as follows:—, First round: —Borough A. defeated Picton A by 30 points to nil; Convent B defeated Picton B by 9 points to nil; Spring Creek defeated Borough 2 by 26 points to nil; Convent A defeated Borough B by 23 points to nil; Seddon a bye. Second round: —Seddon defeated Convent B by 8 points to nil; Spring Creek defeated Convent A by 8 points to 3; Borough A a bye. Semi-final:— Borough A defeated Seddon by 5 points to 3. , Final: —Borough A, defeated Spring Creek by 14 points to nil. The banner therefore goes to the local school for the ensuing year. The winning team played consistently well throughout the tournament, •their display of tackling and passing "being a fine one. Tries were registered in the final match by Mogridge (2) and A. Nicholas (2). The Seddon team were unfortunate in that they played one boy, short throughout' the tournament

25th October 1919 No teacher should be asked to teach more than forty pupils, that is, if he is expected to educate them properly. Yet classes of sixty and over are common in all our town schools. No standard class in the Blenheim main school contains under fifty scholars, while "two are seventy and one is over eighty

26th November 1919 FAREWELL GIFTS.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR AND MRS B, H. LOW.

Several presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Low on the eve of their departure for Timaru, indicative of the regard in which they are held by many in Blenheim. At a largely attended, "afternoon" by Miss Greenslade a presentation was made to Mrs. Low of a dainty rose bowl. Mrs. Mogridge, in making the presentation, referred to the many excellent qualities of the departing guest, and Mesdames D. McCallum, J. Rose senr., Avery, and Greenslade expressed their regret at the near departure of their guest. Mrs. Low replied to the expressions of goodwill, and stated that she had spent, six happy years in Blenheim.

Last evening a. numerously attended gathering met to say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Low. Mr. C. W. Parker who presided made reference to the keen interest the guests of the evening had taken in movements of an educational and philanthropic character. The chairman, in behalf of the Prohibition League, presented Mr. Low, with a purse of notes, and referred to the recipient's work as secretary of the league. Mr. W. D. Pike, senior circuit steward of Wesley Church, spoke of Mr. Low's interest in the church as envelope steward. Mr. D. McCallum representing the trustees, spoke of Mr. Low as a valued trustee of Wesley Church. Mr. H. Hoar dealt with Mr. Low's interest in Wesley Church choir as a former choir master and; later as a choir member. He presented the departing guest with a Gladstone bag. The Rev. W. Greenslade then dwelt on Mr. and Mrs. Low's interest in Wesley Church Tennis Club. He knew Mr. Low many years ago, and spoke as an old friend. He regretted the departure of so true a "sport" and churchman as Mr. Low. Mr. Greenslade presented Mr. and Mrs. Low with a thermos flask and photo frame on behalf of the Tennis Club, and wished them God-speed in their new sphere. Messrs. J. Montgomery, H. Oldham, C. White, and R. Cameron also spoke, and Messrs. Chuck and Cameron rendered recitations.

Mrs. Low who was greeted with rounds of applause, thanked those present for their expressions of goodwill. Mr. Low, in the course of his response, mentioned the six happy years he had spent in Marlborough. He dwelt on the beauties of the province. He paid a high tribute to the kindness of the people and wished them Godspeed. A highly successful gathering was brought to a close by the singing of "God be with you till we meet again."

28th November 1919 PRESENTATIONS TO MR. LOW.

A pleasant function took place in the grounds of the Borough School on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. B. H. Low, B.A., B.Sc, the headmaster, who has accepted a similar position on the staff of the Timaru Main School, was farewelled by the committee, staff and pupils of the school. The children were paraded on the tennis court for the occasion, and the following occupied positions on the platform: Messrs. J. J.- White, H. Dobson, Sowman, and W. Jordan, Archdeacon York, and the Rev. W. Greenslade.

Mr. Jordan briefly; intimated the reason for the function—the transfer of Mr. Low to Timaru—and called upon Mr. J. J. White to make the presentation. Mr. White said that Mr. Low had held the position of headmaster for over six years, and during that time had worked, conscientiously for the good of the school. His academical attainments were such, that he had been enabled to hold his position with honor to himself and to the school. He outlined the activities of the guest in the field of sport, referring particularly to his interest in swimming and life-saving. the doctrine "mens sana in corpore sano" was specially applicable at the present time, and this phase of school life was of the greatest importance. The speaker referred to the increased attendance during Mr. Low's tenure of office. It gave him very great pleasure to present to Mr. Low a bank draft for a substantial amount subscribed by the pupils of the school, the Committee, and the staff. It was the wish of the donors, he said, that the amount should be utilised in the activities of Blenheim. The speaker concluded by wishing Mr. and Mrs. Low and family every prosperity in their new sphere.

Archdeacon York, on behalf of the teachers of religious instruction. mentioned that his association with Mr. Low had been of a most pleasant character. Mr. Low had made his path

and 'that of his colleagues as pleasant as possible, and! he looked forward to his weekly visits to the school with a very large degree of satisfaction. He had been actively assisted by Mr. Low in the Band of Hope movement, and recognised the great loss they would sustain by Mr. Low's removal from the district. The Rev. Mr. Greenslade spoke in a similar strain, and mentioned briefly, the guest's activity in and: participation-in church work generally. Every opportunity was afforded the visiting clergy to impart to the scholars religious instruction, and Mr. Low had seconded their efforts in an effective manner. . Mr. H. Dobson. briefly referred to the loss the school would sustain by Mr. Low's removal from this district, and wished him every success in his new sphere. Mr. Jas. Connor, on behalf of the staff, mentioned the regret that was felt by all at Mr. Low's departure— a regret that was felt keenly by all the pupil? of the .school. Although he had not been associated with the staff for any length of time, he recognised, as they all did, their guest's ability as a teacher and as an organiser and his earnestness of purpose He wished Mr. and Mrs. Low and family every prosperity in their new home , Mr. Low, in reply, said that for many reasons he was sorry to leave Blenheim. He had lived: in many parts of the Dominion, but Marlborough, with' its fine climate, its' mountains and valleys and rivers and wealth of foliage, appealed to him more than any other district. The years that they had spent here would always be remembered by himself and Mrs. Low as amongst the happiest of their lives: To the school children he said goodbye with regret. He trusted that their future would be bright and happy, and that at some future time he would be able to renew his acquaintance with them. On behalf of Mrs. Low and himself he thanked them and all for their expressions of goodwill and their generous present, with which they would obtain a memento to be cherished in their new home In memory of their Blenheim friends. After giving, three hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Low and family the children dispersed. At the invitation of the staff about forty guests partook of afternoon tea at the Loloma tea rooms, where Mrs. Low was presented with a handsome bouquet of roses and autumn foliage by Mrs. Joy Connor. Short speeches were delivered by Archdeacon York and Adjutant Sanson., both of whom referred feelingly to the' loss the community was about to sustain by the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Low. Musical items were rendered by Mrs. Mills and Misses Pigou and Wilkins, and were much appreciated. The singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" terminated the proceedings.

27th November 1919 Mr. James Connor has been appointed acting-headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School pending the appointment of Mr. B. H. Low's successor.

27th December 1919 Mr. W C Davies, M.A., at present headmaster of the Greytown District High School, has been appointed headmaster of the Blenheim Borough School, and. will take up his duties on- February 3rd, the date of the reopening of the school

1920-1921

1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Rowntree	William W	C	Head	£510.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Connor	James	C	Assistant	£420.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Jones	Sarah Jane Mrs.	D-53	Infant Mistress	£350.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E	Assistant	£340.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Gibson	Francis	D	Assistant	£300.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	C	Assistant	£270.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	C	Assistant	£230.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Heffer	Dorothy G	D	Assistant	£220.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Donn	Mabel G Mrs.		Reliever	£210.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Reader	Theo G	D	Assistant	£190.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Madeline		Assistant	£180.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Mills	Howard	D	Assistant	£150.00

1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Palmer	Alice A	Assistant	£150.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Meads	Elsie E	PT1	£125.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Meads	Ella M	PT1	£125.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Scott	Helen M	Probationer 1	£95.00
1921	608/47	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Lane	Irene E	Probationer 2	£90.00

14th January 1920 Mr. W. C. Davies, who has been appointed curator of the Cawthron institute, is headmaster of the Greytown District High School, and headmaster elect of the Blenheim Borough School (says the Colonist). For several years he was senior agricultural instructor to the Wellington Education Board and scientific photographer to the New Zealand Department of Agriculture. Very complimentary references to his skill as a photo-micographer and to the example set by him in the organisation of agricultural instruction occur in the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture.

31st January 1920 Mr. W. C. Davies (head teacher elect at Blenheim) attended the meeting of the Wellington Education Board on Wednesday to say good-bye after twenty-two years of service. Mr. Davies has accepted the opportunity as Curator of the Cawthron, Institute at Nelson and the chairman of the Board offered the congratulations of the meeting on his appointment.

Mr. W. W. Rowntree at present head teacher at Worsley Bay is to receive the Blenheim appointment, and Mr. Penny suggested that he should take up his duties at the earliest possible date, as the school was suffering from the fact that there had been so many changes in the staff during the last six months.

23rd January 1945 OBITUARY

MR. W. W. ROWNTREE

Mr. William Walter Rowntree a well-known teacher in the Wellington district, died suddenly at Auckland on Sunday at the age of 72. After teaching in various schools in the Wairarapa and Wellington districts, he was at the Worsley Bay school from 1903 to 1919, during the development of the Miramar peninsula. Several years in charge of the Blenheim "Borough" school followed, and from 1923 to 1928 he was at Richmond, Christchurch. Mr. Rowntree was also a well-known figure in public affairs, in particular in connection with the N.Z. Educational Institute, the Open Air Schools League, the League of Nations Union, and the Workers' Educational Association. At the time of his death he was an elder in the Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church. He was a keen bowler and was twice secretary of the Victoria Bowling Club. He was attending the Auckland tournament when he died. Mr. Rowntree was married in 1904 and is survived by his widow and son, Mr. John B. Rowntree, of the Department of Works.

10th March 1920 last night's meeting of the Borough School Committee the headmaster reported that the total roll number, including Redwoodtown and the infant school, now stood at 673.

10th March 1920: Misses Murphy and, J. Hilliard were last evening appointed assistant teachers at the Blenheim Borough School.

10th March 1920 BOROUGH SCHOOL

HEADMASTER'S CRITICISM: OUT OF DATE AND BADLY LIGHTED.

The ordinary meeting of the Blenheim School Committee was held last night. There were present: Messrs. H. L. Dobson (in the chair), J. J. W. White. W. W. Tylor, O. F. A. Whiteford. F. H. Andrews and A. M. R. Mills.

The chairman welcomed Mr. W. W. Rowntree, the new headmaster to the district. he expressed regret that the committee had not been able to welcome him upon his arrival. Several other members added their word of welcome.

Mr. Rowntree thanked the members for their welcome, and! then delivered his first report. He said that the Borough School was out of date, and it would be a ""tough row to hoe" for him to put it in better order. The lighting was wrong, not so much the quantity of light, but the direction from which it came, which was at the back of the pupils. He severely criticised a number of the rooms. The first thing to do was to deal with the mechanical part of the school, and every effort should be made to make teaching easier. The rooms were long but not very wide, and the teacher, facing a class of 80 pupils arranged either longitudinally or cross-ways in the room, would not be able to teach well or easily, nor could he see the whole class well.

Mr. Rowntree said that he favored two rooms at least being divided. These rooms were 45 feet by 22 feet, and could easily be partitioned off to hold a, class of 36 or 40 pupils, and the lighting and ventilation would be good. If the school was to be efficient there must be more rooms, and it was the duty of the committee to bend all its energies to that end and as the inspectors were in the district they should be interviewed about the matter.

The furnishings of the schoolrooms. Mr. Rowntree continued, were years and years out of date, there being only one room that was fitted with decent desks. The verandahs he thought should be done away with; they were useless as play sheds, as they could not accommodate all the children, and they made the light and ventilation of the two rooms facing the street very bad. Having dealt with other matters. such as the play grounds, the head master went on to talk about the educational part of the school. Among other things Mr. Rowntree said that he was against school operas or concerts. "I'm here to run the school, not the school concerts," was his outspoken statement. If the school wanted funds he advised that a bazaar should be organised with the aid of the parents, and large sums could be made in that way, without keeping the pupils from their school duties.

It was resolved that the secretary be instructed to arrange an interview between the inspectors and. the committee at the school on Saturday, and that Mr. Rowntree and; Mr. Logan be asked to attend.

12th March 1920 was a representative gathering of residents of Miramar at the Miramar Borough Council Chambers on Friday evening (reports the Post), when Mr. W. Rowntree was farewelled after a period of sixteen years as headmaster of the local schools. During the evening the Mayor (Mr. S. M. Stone), on behalf of the residents, presented the guest of the evening with a well-lined pocket wallet, and Mrs. Rowntree with a gold wristlet watch. In making the presentation' he voiced the general regret of both parents and children that Mr. Rowntree was leaving, through promotion, for Blenheim. Mr. F. Black, on behalf of the Progressive Association, presented Mr. and Mrs. Rowntree with a. handsome piece of plate. Messrs. A. D. Crawford and J. Brodie as old residents of the district spoke of the genuine regret felt at the departure of two who had worked so whole-heartedly for the general welfare of both schools and district. Mr. E. Kellow, the chairman of the School Committee, mentioned that when Mr. Rowntree took charge 16 years ago there was only a two roomed; schoolhouse at Worser Bay, one assistant, and eighty pupils. To give some idea of the change that has taken place in the district, he stated that Mr. Rowntree was leaving behind him three teaching places, eleven assistants, and over four hundred scholars. Mr. Rowntree suitably replied'

29th March 1920 Mr. Parr, the new Minister for Education, could hardly make a better beginning than devote himself, as he expresses his intention of doing, to the problem of overcrowded schools. Every teacher knows that it is impossible to do justice either to himself or to his pupils when the children are huddled together without sufficient air space to keep them healthy, while unwieldy classes make it impossible for that individual attention to be given to each pupil which is so desirable, and indeed so necessary, if the best results are to be obtained. In view of the facts placed before the Blenheim School Committee recently by Mr. W. W. Rowntree, the Headmaster of the Borough Schools, it is to be hoped that the case for

at least an alteration in the main building to bring it more up to date will be brought under the Minister's notice as soon as possible. Mr. Rowntree contends, as a matter of fact that the school is hopelessly behind the times, and should be replaced by a building erected in another part of the town. Certainly its close proximity to the river and the main avenue of traffic to a portion of the borough which is much more closely settled than it was thirty years ago, when the present school was built, constitutes an argument of no little weight for removal.

The interior arrangement is also condemned by the Headmaster, who claims that it is a wrong principle for the children to be so seated that the, light from the windows falls on their backs, which thus obscures their view of slate or book

The Borough School—that is the main building is not, it may be admitted overcrowded in the sense that the number of children attending is too large to be comfortably accommodated although the space in one or two of the smaller classrooms is fully taxed, The chief trouble is that the classes are too large to be handled efficiently, The numbers, of children, in the various standards are- as follows—Standard I., 85; Standard II., 74,-Standard III., 75; Standard IV., 75; "Standard V. 63 Standard VI., 85. For a single teacher to impart anything like individual instruction to seventy or eighty children of various degrees of intelligence is of course absurd, but there is no alternative to these unwieldy classes under existing conditions. If certain of the rooms were divided, into two it would be possible for the classes also to be divided, and both teachers and scholars would have a better chance of doing efficient work. In order to allow this subdivision to be carried into 'effect it would be necessary to replace four of the pupil teachers now engaged at the school by four certificated teachers who could each take control of a class. "We understand that the Education Act contains the necessary provisions to enable this to be done,

If the school is to be conducted in the present building it seems to us that this is the best course to adopt. It would, however, be as well perhaps to have an exhaustive report on the whole matter prepared for submission to the Minister. The chairman of the Wellington Education Board will be visiting Blenheim during the next few weeks, accompanied by the Board's architect, and it will be interesting to have their views regarding the suitability or otherwise of the building for school purposes in the light of modern educational requirements.

29th March 1920 The south-easterly weather of the past few days has been accompanied locally by an increase in the number of cases of mild influenza. The infection seems to be especially prevalent amongst the children' There were over 150 pupils absent from the Borough Schools today and four teachers. The School Committee has decided provided the Education Board consents to close the school from this afternoon until Wednesday, April 7.

7th April 1920 When a member of the Blenheim School Committee asked at the meeting last night if the headmaster had the power-to close the school under extraordinary circumstances, Mr. Rowntree said that the law provided that if even one child attended the school during the first half-hour in which, it was open in the morning then he must not close the school.

7th April 1920 SCHOOL COMMITTEE. MONTHLY MEETING.

The final monthly meeting of the present Blenheim School Committee was held last evening. Mr. E. H. Penny occupied the chair, and Messrs. F. A. Whiteford. J. J. White, H. Dobson, A. M. R. Mills, F. H. Andrews, and W. Tyler were present. The head master of the Blenheim School Mr. W. W. Rowntree also attended. The headmaster's report was: "I have to report, that the roll numbers attendances at the schools were: Main school, present roll 457, average roll 461, average attendance 422. Infant school, present roll 161, average roll 156. Average attendance 138. Redwoodtown School, present roll 52, 'average roll 53, and average attendance 40. The totals for the three Schools were: Present roll 670, average roll 668, average attendance 605. This is only 91 per cent, of the average roll, and is a. very low

average indeed for this time of the year. The causes are probably general sickness and influenza. Owing to the spread of influenza, I consulted the chairman, reporting that four teachers and 150 children were absent. On the chairman's advice the School was closed on Monday afternoon, 29th March.

In connection with the proposed roll of honor, the staff is of opinion that a memorial in the shape of a drinking fountain would be better than a board with a list of names." Considerable discussion ensued upon the question as to whether the schools should be opened today or not. Several members stated that they had been told by various medical men that the schools should not open, but should remain closed for at least a fortnight, as the influenza has by no means abated.

Eventually it was resolved that the school should open as usual, but that if the attendance was too low the chairman should communicate with the Wellington Education Board stating the position, and asking to be allowed to close the schools for a further period.

The balance-sheet, showing a credit balance, was read and confirmed.

A letter was received from the Wellington Education Board, stating that all money to be paid to committees which have savings bank accounts would in future be paid into the bank accounts, thus doing away with the use of cheques and the consequent extra trouble entailed. A letter signed by several clergymen, was received, stating that they had, as was their custom gone to the Blenheim, school on Thursday before the holidays to give religious instruction, and they had been refused admittance by the headmaster. Considerable feeling was expressed upon this matter, but Mr. Rowntree explained that the inspector has noticed that half an hour for religious instruction was set down upon the time-table where it had no right to appear, as the instruction was supposed to take place out of school hours. If the school were formally dismissed at half-past eleven on Thursday mornings, then the instruction could take place till twelve o'clock. He stated that he had instructions from the Education Board to give 25 hours per week of secular instruction to the children, but as it was, he would not be fulfilling the requirements of the Board by allowing the religious instruction to be held, and he was justified in debarring the ministers from entering the school, It was decided, however, that the religious instruction proceed as usual until the position was investigated.

It was resolved that a recommendations be made to the incoming committee with regard to the increasing of the secretary's salary. Satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the new caretaker of the school, Mr. R. Hope, discharges his duties.

Various accounts were passed for payment.

20th April 1917During 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. A great number of cases have been brought under my notice by the parents of children who were-down with a mild form of the disease and did not think it necessary to call in the services of a doctor in cases of this nature. I made a visit of inspection of the premises, as to, their sanitary condition, and advised as to what precautions were necessary with regard to isolation and disinfection. From general mv formation received during the past few days there is evidence of a decrease in the outbreak."

22nd April 1920 Wellington Education Board: repairs to the caretaker's cottage at Blenheim were authorised.

In connection with the visit of the Prince of Wales, it was decided that close schools close on May 10th and 11th, and that, on account of the enforced holidays consequent on the epidemic, the term, holidays in May be eliminated this year;

29th April 1920 The annual statutory meeting of householders of the Blenheim School district was held in the schoolhouse last evening, when there was a large attendance. Mr. E. H. Penny was voted to the chair. The first business was the reading of the

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The continuity of school life for various reasons has been considerably disturbed during this year and has necessitated the holding of a number of extra meetings of the committee. Several considerable improvements have been effected, principally the asphaltting of the areas in front of main and infant schools, and the erection of stalls in the bicycle sheds. The Education Board is apparently after continued representations from the committee and past head masters, supported by new representations from the present head master, favorably considering the reconstruction of two large class-rooms to secure the Reduction in the number of pupils in each room so as to enable the teachers more, effectively to pursue their duties. It is also proposed to remove the verandah at the main school in order to improve the lighting and ventilation of two classrooms, and to erect shelter sheds to replace the verandah, which is now largely used for shelter purposes. These alterations are endorsed by the senior inspector, and it is hoped that the approaching visit of the chairman of the Board and the Board's architect will ensure, the work being done. Previous to the amalgamation of the Marlborough Board with the Wellington Board, estimates for the purchase of new sites for schools were obtained at the request of the Department and valuations of present schools and site for business purposes submitted. These were handed to the Department and passed on to the Wellington Board, but no action was taken. Obviously a wise thing would be to secure sites before closer building takes place in the borough, and the committee will probably renew Suggestions in the future.

During the year Mr. A. A. Wedde was transferred to other educational duties and his place taken by Mr. J. Connor. Mr. B. H. Low received the appointment as headmaster of the Timaru Main School, and resigned his position of headmaster in Blenheim in November. Mr. W. W. Rowntree, of Wellington, was appointed to succeed Mr. Low, and commenced his duties at school opening in February. The committee and school staff suitably recognised the work of the departing teachers, and heartily welcomed the new members of the staff.

At the end of 1919 Mr. J. Handcock resigned his position as caretaker, and the committee recorded its appreciation of his faithful and efficient services. Mr. Richard Hope was appointed to the position, and is fulfilling his task to the complete satisfaction of the headmaster and committee. The school buildings have been carefully and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected four times since the close of the year 1918, every care possible being exercised to secure the best sanitary conditions for the pupils in the schools. The great epidemic at the close of 1918, and the recurrent waves of milder epidemics which have taken various forms, have necessarily much disorganised the continuity of educational effort, and in common with other schools it will be some time before normal results can be restored. The staff changes, too, have made the work of the school difficult, but the headmaster, the staff, and the committee are deeply anxious for restoration to the excellent educational standard of past years and will labor to secure the best possible results during the coming year. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of £50 4s 10d. The report and balance-sheet were adopted. It was stated that the liabilities at the end of February were £87 16s, with credit at the Education Board of £36 18s 6d, and this had to be taken into consideration when the credit balance disclosed by the balance-sheet was looked at.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. The election of committee resulted as follows:—Messrs. E. H. Penny, F. Andrews, W. W. Tylor, A. M. B. Mills, H. B. Dobson, C. F. A. Whiteford, J. J. White, H. Kirby, and W. Braddock.

REDWOODTOWN SCHOOL. The meeting resolved that strong representation; be made to the Education Board that another room be added to the Redwoodtown School immediately. In the course of discussion of the motion the chairman said he was sure that if a standard school was made at Redwoodtown in a very short time there would be 150 scholars there.

The speakers in favor of the motion stressed the point of the danger of young children having to pass through the main thoroughfares of the town to school; also that the present school was much too over-crowded, as had been borne out by the headmaster's statement.

Mr. Rowntree said that not only were the classes too congested, but the school itself should be condemned. He supported the motion. The strongest point brought forward to his mind was the danger to young children in coming through the business portion of the town to and from school. The trouble about the present school was that it was built of brick. If it were of wood it would be a different matter.

A voice: A good match, or a charge of dynamite?

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Mr. W. W. Rowntree (the headmaster) moved the following motion —That this meeting of Blenheim householders urges upon the Government the great necessity for reform in the national system of education in regard to (a) the extension of the school age and the reduction of the size of classes; (b) the securing of more trained teachers, and, to this end, the paying of much better salaries; and (c) in order to give full effect to these measures a reform of the system of administration by establishing a national education board and local educational committee

In moving Mr. Rowntree said that large classes could not be efficiently taught, and if there was a dearth of good teachers it was the Department's business to get them. In regard to the extension of the school age, he could say that nearly every teacher in the large towns was besieged by people who had left school to coach them in the effort, to obtain a proficiency certificate. When children left school they should have such a grounding in education as would be for the benefit of the child and the nation. No teacher could teach a class of 80 children, and two teachers could not efficiently teach in one classroom. One teacher in the Borough School was trying—he emphasised the trying—to teach 85 children. This should not be. The people were themselves to blame for putting up with things that should not exist in such an enlightened country as New Zealand. No teacher should be asked to teach more than 30 or 35 children in a class. He urged the formation of a National Education Board, with local committees having more power at present. Much more interest could be taken in educational matters if they had a big committee controlling all the schools round about Blenheim. A householder seconded the motion.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Hill, and seconded by Mr. Tyler, that the matter be left to the committee to digest, the committee later to call a public meeting at which, the motion could be threshed out.

It was pointed out by the mover that the motion was too comprehensive to be dealt with at that meeting. It required more consideration than they were able to give it that night. The amendment was carried.

NEW SCHOOLS. A resolution was carried unanimously urging the strong necessity of building two new schools in place of the present building, and that immediate steps be taken to obtain suitable sites. During the discussion Mr. Rowntree said that it was a matter of urgency. The chairman and secretary of the Wellington Board were shortly coming to Marlborough and they should have a resolution from the householders to give them when

they came. The town really should have two schools, and if they did not immediately look round for sites they would have great difficulty in obtaining them when they did want them.

Mr. Girling thought that the present site could be turned into something profitable for business purposes and so take off a considerable amount of the cost of the new schools.

Mr. Humphreys suggested that one or two sites should be picked out, in view of the visit of the Departmental officers.

The meeting concluded, the chairman remarking that it was the most interesting meeting of householders for some years.

6th May 1920 THE CASE FOR THE TEACHERS

[to the Editor]

Sir,—I have to thank you, on behalf of the teachers of this district, for the very able and sympathetic leader in Saturday's issue of your valuable paper. You have stated the case so well that I have very little to add to it. I would, however, emphasise the fact that the ranks of the teaching profession are not being filled by the class which the importance of the profession warrants. The profession should attract 'the best brains of the community, but unfortunately this is not so, and will not be so until two radical alterations have been made. One of these you have very ably advocated, viz., an increase in salary; the second is the removal of the greatest bugbear of the profession—the payment on average attendance. This pernicious system is the cause of two thirds or more of the teachers' troubles, and its abolition would bring joy to the teachers' hearts. Again thanking you.—I am, etc.,

W. W. ROWNTREE. Blenheim School.

3rd May, 1920

17th May 1920 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP, JUNIOR GRADE.

In the school competition for the Daiken 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.

3rd June 1920 SCHOOL COMMITTEE

At the monthly meeting of the Blenheim School Committee on Tuesday evening there were present:— Messrs. E H Penny (chairman), J. J White, H. Dobson, A. M. R- Mills, F. H. Andrews, W. W. Tylor, C. F. A. Whiteford, W. W. Rowntree (headmaster), and W. Jordan (secretary).

HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

The headmaster's report was as

follows: The rolls of the schools are:— Main 443, infants 166, Redwoodtown 55- total, 664. The average attendances since the beginning of the quarter are:—Main 415, infants 166 Redwoodtown. 45; total 664 The average roll numbers since the beginning of the quarter are:-

^Main 449 infants 162, Redwoodtown. 55; total 666

"The Education Department's Medical Officer, Dr. A. Paterson, accompanied by two nurses, visited the school on the 19th and 20th May. She examined thoroughly all the new infant children, and the teeth and throats of all the children in the school. A visit was also paid to Redwoodtown on 23rd May.

The taps from which the children drink are most unsatisfactory. In the first place, there are only four taps for over 600 children, and infants and the standard class children drink at the same taps very often to the injury of the infants. In the second place there is no proper drainage, and the playground is often in a wet state owing to these taps.

"The heating of the class-rooms is not very satisfactory in the main school. The stoves are very difficult to stoke, except in two cases and unless great care is taken the fires go out. I would suggest that the four unsatisfactory stoves be either replaced by "Carron" stoves or converted to stoves like those in the Infant School

Now the cold weather has commenced, I would suggest that the children who bring their lunch should have the opportunity of procuring a cup of cocoa. If the committee will provide an urn, and the necessary basins,; towels, the teachers will attend to the distribution of the cocoa. The children could pay for the cocoa at the rate of 3d a week for a cup every day or 1d for a single cup would suggest that during the months of June July, and August, the dinner-time be reduced by fifteen minutes.' This should give those who go home to lunch time to do so, and would be better not those have to bring their lunches. It would also be of decided advantage to those who play football or basketball after school

I have moved my office to what, was the headmistress's room, and I propose turning the old office into a classroom. 'To do this properly some shelving needs removing. I shall be very much obliged if the committee will have it done as soon as possible. ,

"The playground is very unsatisfactory for so large a school, and I have applied for a subsidy on £10 of the concert money for raising and levelling a piece big enough to play basketball or tennis on. Mr. Hadfield estimated the cost between £20 and £25: As soon as the subsidy is granted, I shall be pleased if the committee will put the work in hand and agree to pay any deficiency up to £25 If it costs more than that the school fund will bear the extra cost. RESOLUTIONS. ; On the motion of Mr. Dobson, it was resolved that the secretary get an estimate of the cost of laying the gas onto the caretaker's cottage, and that the Education Board be I asked to bear the cost. . Messrs. White and Tylor, the visiting committee for the month, presented their report and made a number of recommendations. It was decided that attention be given to the drinking fountains, windmill, gate, and swings at the Redwoodtown ,school and that the heaters at the Borough School be converted, as they had not been giving the necessary amount of warmth in the schoolrooms. - In the matter of levelling the Borough School playgrounds it was resolved that, as Mr. Rowntree had decide(d) to give £10 towards the cost out of the school funds, and the Education Board would give a £10 subsidy, the committee pay £5, if the work costs £25.

With regard to the question of supplying cocoa to the children who remain at school for lunch, several members thought that the scheme was a good one and it was resolved that Mr. Rowntree be authorised to go on with it, the committee guaranteeing £5 towards the initial expenses .

It was considered desirable that during the winter months the children should be allowed out of school earlier in the afternoon, and the committee authorised "the headmaster to curtail the lunch interval to an hour and a quarter from 12 noon to 1.15.pm

On the motion of Mr. Whiteford it was decided to have a special meeting to be held on Monday next to discuss the resolution and recommendations made at the householders' meeting.

7th July 1920 Mr. W. W. Rowntree, Headmaster of the, Borough School, in the course of his report; at the meeting of the Blenheim School Committee last night, said: "The- supplying of cups of cocoa to the children commenced two weeks ago. So far the scheme has worked satisfactorily, and is, I believe, much appreciated. On an average eighty cups of the beverage are supplied every day."

The Visiting Committee's report at the meeting of the School Committee last evening was considered very satisfactory. Mr. Whiteford said that at the Borough School everything appeared to be in order, and the children looked bright and cheerful. He said he was pleased with the clean manner in which the caretaker kept the building. Mr. Kirby reported a similar pleasing state of things at Redwoodtown.

The Headmaster of the Borough School reported at the School Committee meeting last evening that the rolls at the schools, for the previous month, were: Main 451, Infant 167, Redwoodtown 56. The average attendance for the quarter ended 30th June was 604, composed as follows:—Main 418, Infant 142, Redwoodtown 44. The attendance, he reported,

had on the whole been satisfactory, but at present it was not very good, owing to the prevalence of colds.

4th August 1920 As the result of an outspoken discussion at the meeting; of the Blenheim School Committee last night, a public indignation meeting is to be called for an early date to protest against the inadequacy of the school buildings in the district. The overcrowding of the classes, and the general discomfort and handicaps imposed by the present conditions were strongly condemned, and keen resentment was expressed at the "slowness" of the Department. A committee was set up to make arrangements for the public protest.

5th August 1920 The monthly meeting of the., Blenheim School Committee, was held on Tuesday evening when there were present:—Messrs. H. Dobson (in the chair), C. F. A. Whiteford, A. M. U. Mills, W. W. Tylor, J. J. White, F. H. Andrews, W. Braddock, W. W. Rowntree (Headmaster), and W. Jordan (secretary). Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. E. H Penny (chairman) and H. Kirby.

An application was received for the use of the Redwoodtown school for Gospel services. It was decided to decline to rent the building. The secretary explained that under the regulations governing the matter, the committee would have to insure the building against loss by fire.

The renting of the school for several nights a week would entail a great deal of extra work for the caretaker. and a high charge would need to be made to cover all expenses incurred. Accounts amounting to £26 were passed for payment.

The Visiting Committee reported that everything was satisfactory at both the main school and Redwoodtown .

The Headmaster's report was read and several necessities mentioned therein were authorised to be provided.

INADEQUATE SCHOOLS

Following on the instructions received at last meeting, Mr. Rowntree reported that the secretary and himself had drawn up a schedule of alterations and a sketch plan of the same to be put before the Minister for Education, the Hon. C J. Parr, on his proposed visit to Blenheim. Speaking on the subject the Headmaster said that the Committee should ask for three more rooms. The infant school, which he termed "an abomination," needed remodeling, or a new building. It had always been roundly condemned by the educators and inspectors who had seen it. The room, instead of being bright and cheerful, were dull and dingy. The Government should be able to spend a few hundreds of pounds in remodelling the schools of this district, as it was spending thousands of pounds on the schools in other parts. Mr. Dobson thought that the schedule of requirements should be sent to Wellington, as it was no use waiting till the Minister came over here. He was sorry that he occupied the chair, as he had intended to ask the chairman what had been done with regard to the resolutions passed at the last householders meeting. He thought the Committee had shirked its duty in this respect.

The secretary pointed out that a special meeting had been summoned to deal, with the matter, but a quorum had not resulted. General discussion then ensued, dealing with the Blenheim schools. Mr. Tylor said that Mr. Forsyth on his visit to Blenheim with the delegation of Wellington business men invited by the Chamber of Commerce, scoffed at the local schools, and had said at several meetings that they were the worst he had seen. The speaker desired the public to know that the Education- Department was hampering the Committee in every way, and was preventing it from doing what it should. If Auckland wanted anything she got it, and Marlborough should not be left out. While in Wellington recently he heard a lot of talk there about Marlborough, and it was Marlborough's chance to go for what she wanted while she was-in. the hands of the people in other places.

Other members spoke in a similar strain, expressing the need for radical changes, and the chairman moved that the resolutions passed at the. householders' meeting be sent to the

Education Board and the Education Department, with an appeal for their earnest consideration.

Mr. Braddock, in seconding the motion, said that after his visit to the schools as members of the Visiting Committee were more impressed than ever as to the necessity of an immediate change.

The motion was carried

Mr. Tylor thought that with care the Committee might be successful in getting a new infant school, for it was the brick building which was worrying the Department. He advocated the holding of a public indignation meeting as a remedy for the slowness of the Department.

Members immediately agreed with this idea, and Mr. Andrews moved that a public indignation meeting be held at an early date to discuss the over-crowding, the large classes and general discomforts in the schools of the district. The motion was carried, and a small committee was elected to further the matter, and make all necessary arrangements.

20th August 1920 BASKET BALL

MATCHES AT BLENHEIM

(Basketball later became Netball in the early 60's, Basketball as we know it now was called indoor basketball. Basketball was played 9 aside. The court was divided into 3 parts and players all stayed in their own third)

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.

Quite 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 Creek, Grovetown, and Springlands schools took part. In the first round Marlborough College defeated Borough, 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.

Next week two teams of primary school girls are coming over from Wellington to play matches against teams from the Marlborough College, Borough School, a primary schools representative team, a combined team from College and Blenheim Borough, Picton, and a country team. The representative team is Marjorie Hunt, Hilda Day, Norah Trischler, Ada Vercoe, Lilian Grigor, and Myrtle Wanden, of the Borough School, Annie Adams and Hilga Madsen, of Picton School, Gladys Rowe, of Spring Creek School; emergencies, Elvira Dunn (B.), Vera Hall (S.C.), and Lucy Adams (B.).

24th August 1920 Mr. Connor, of the Borough School teaching staff, stated at the public meeting in the Council Chambers last evening that the increase in attendance at the school was 102 per cent, during the last 14 years. This surely warrants more school accommodation.

24th August 1920 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS. LAST NIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING
REFORMS AND NEW SCHOOLS WANTED

The unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the schools of the district have been for many years exercising the minds of educationists and some parents as to ways and means of having the position improved. The Blenheim School Committee, which has ever worked hard in the cause, arranged a public meeting, and this took place in the Council Chambers last evening. That the attendance was not larger than it was is a matter for very great regret. It is this apathy of the people towards public affairs which causes stagnation. Several speakers expressed surprise and disappointment that the parents had not more thought for their children's welfare, or they would have attended the meeting in larger numbers. The attendance, however, was of a representative character, and served to show the trend of public opinion in the matter.

The Deputy-Mayor (Mr. W. D. Pike) was voted to the chair, and briefly explained the reason for the meeting. As those present were quite aware, he said, the schools were very old, and anything short of the best was not good enough. If the best appliances were not obtainable, then the best could not be done for the children. In visiting the schools he saw immediately that changes were necessary. Mr. W. W. Rowntree, headmaster of the Borough Schools, said that the matter was very important indeed as regarded the welfare of the children of this borough. The need for the best in education had been forced upon other Countries, as it was of paramount importance.

Even conservative old England had made great strides in education, as had America, New Zealand, which prided itself in leading the world in many things, was hopelessly behind in this matter of great importance. The speaker then went on to give some instances of the bad conditions at the schools. The main school was 30 years old. The infant school had been heartily condemned by all who had seen it. He pointed out where changes were necessary if a new school could not be procured, and said that the rooms were badly ventilated and dark, and were; too large in both schools. The children, were herded together in large numbers, and the teachers could not impart knowledge satisfactorily. The most important class, in the school, the sixth standard comprised 75 pupils, another had 63 children, (twice as many as one teacher should have); others comprised 75, 83, 78, and 80 children respectively. In woodwork and cooking classes the Government had stipulated that 25 pupils should form a class, and why this should not apply to ordinary' education the speaker failed to see. That applied to the main school, and to the others as well. In conclusion Mr. Rowntree said that no system of education worthy of the name could flourish under those conditions. If New Zealand education was to go ahead a better supply of teachers was necessary and more new schools, with better playground accommodation. (Applause).

Mr. H. B. Dobson said that this was no new move on the part of the School Committee, as it had advocated reforms many and many a time. The Government said there was no money for education now, but they must keep hammering till something resulted. The schools had outgrown their usefulness. They were built at a time when the site was appropriate, as it was then comparatively a, secluded corner of the town. He had three children of varying ages in one class of 75 children, which showed that there was something' wrong. Dividing the classes would help, but new schools were what was really necessary. The speaker then Moved: —

'That this public meeting of householders of the Blenheim School District ask the Education Board to urge the Department to give effect to the resolution passed at the annual meeting of householders, in April, to the effect that two new schools be built in the Blenheim district, and that the present school and site be disposed of. Or, in the alternative, to enlarge the Redwoodtown side school by the addition of two rooms to allow of tuition up to and including Standard 4; to remodel, renovate, improve and bring up to date the present main school, including the suggestions enumerated by the Committee. To dispose of the present infant school, and provide a new and up-to-date building on a separate site to be approved."

Mr. W. W. Tylor, in Seconding; the motion, expressed the hope that the meeting would pass it, and show the Government that the householders were in earnest, and wanted changes immediately. He saw that the classes in the schools were too large, with detrimental effects to the scholars. In the secondary schools there were 25 pupils to a teacher, and the same system should rule in the primary institutions. The crowded classes gave the child whose parents could afford to send it to a secondary school an advantage over the poor man's child who was educated in a large class. He wanted the public of Blenheim to back up the Committee in its endeavors to gain reforms. He had thought that the education of the children had been the fault of the teachers, but he now recognised that it was the fault of the conditions under which they were working. The positions of the schools were too central, the infant one especially, as the children had to go through the main thoroughfares to reach the school, and this was

dangerous. Mr. H. J. S. Mitchell advocated "direct action," and moved an amendment that the Committee be advised to close the schools until the urgent requirements were complied with. Dr. R. G. Adams seconded the amendment pro forma. There was nothing of greater importance than the education of the children of the Dominion. The public was not taking the interest in the matter that should be taken. He wanted to see changes in the situation. The infant school children should not come from the outskirts of the town to the centre, but should go from the centre outwards. There was one side school, but more two wanted. He favored the motion, and would support it, but he recognised that something desperate was necessary and the "direct action" should be the alternative.

Mr. Rowntree said that the motion should be passed, but the amendment was a direct negative to it and should be reserved as a last resource.

Messrs. W. J. Girling and R. P. Furness spoke with emphasis upon the subject, and strongly supported the motion.

Mr. Mitchell asked when the allocations were to be made, for educational matters, if they waited too long the grants would have been made and the Blenheim district left out.

Mr. E. H. Penny explained that the allocations were made month by month as applications were made and approved. The sum of £3,000,000 had been appropriated for education, he said, the expenditure to extend over four years; but the Minister had stated that this would do only half what had been done before the war and there was a very great deal of work in hand all over the country.

Mr. W. E. Gascoigne speaking in support of the motion, said he had been surprised and disappointed that such conditions should prevail at the schools. He saw, upon visiting the institution, that reports as to the conditions were not exaggerated in the last. The position in some of the rooms was bad enough in winter; what it was like in summer he could not imagine, but it must be very bad. Certainly some radical change was necessary, and the Department should be forced to act.

Mr. Penny explained the difficulties he had met in trying to get Mr. Forsyth (chairman of the Education Board) to visit the province. Month after month, matters had cropped up which had prevented the promised visit, but the speaker was sure Mr. Forsyth would come as soon as possible. The same difficulty prevailed in the case of the Minister for Education, whose Parliamentary duties prevented him from coming when he would like to do so.

Mr. Connor, a master at the borough School, compared the antiquated methods and building here with his experience of modern schools at Levin, where he had taught previously to coming to Blenheim. He thought the old school could be utilised for Government offices, or a portion of it for a day technical school - a great need here.

Mr. J. J. White traversed the ground covered by previous speakers. He would support the motion.

Mr. Andrews also spoke in favor of the motion. As a member of the Wellington Education Board, he had a better insight into the matter under discussion, and he could give some inside knowledge which would make many things clearer. They were not "up against" the Education Board, he said for the Board was as anxious for changes as the public: they were not; "up against" the Department, for it, too, was anxious for reform; but they were "up against" circumstances. The supply of teachers was not great enough, either of probationers or of pupil teachers. The Principal, of the College at Wellington had told him that there would be no students to go out as teachers this year. He did not know where Mr. Rowntree got the idea, that the Minister could banish, with a stroke of his pen, the pupil teachers and replace them with students from the training colleges. This was quite wrong. As regarded the difference in the size of the classes between the primary and secondary schools aiding the rich man's child, this was not so; there were as many children of the working-men at the colleges as others, and they all had equal chances. Another of the circumstances militating

against new schools and reforms was the lack of finance. The amount granted to the Department was inadequate, and schools were such a great price to build now. A tender had been received, after long delay, by the Board, for a school at Martinborough, a small town. The tender was £13,500. Another factor was the lack of material and labor for construction, and this was a very real difficulty. In the case of the Blenheim schools it must not be forgotten that the building was good, solid, and fairly healthy, and compared with other schools it was quite good. There were many schools in Wellington City for which he would not exchange the main school here. Throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion there were cases as urgent, and in Marlborough there were more urgent cases. Mr. R. McCallum, M.P., and himself, as members of the Board, each mouth battled for something for this district, and gained it, and they would continue to advocate the needs of Blenheim. (Applause.)

As his amendment had not gained much support, Mr. Mitchell decided to withdraw it. He agreed with Mr. Penny that it was circumstances that were delaying progress, but the old unwieldy "go-slow" policy of the Government needed enlivening. Marlborough had always been at a dead end, but should be so no longer.

Mr. Dobson briefly replied to the discussion, and the motion was then put and carried unanimously.

It was then decided, on the motion of Mr. Girling, seconded by Mr. Gascoigne, that the meeting viewed with pleasure the proposal of the Minister for Education and members of his Department to visit Blenheim, and urged that the visit take place as soon as possible—on September 4 as proposed, if convenient. It was thought that if this resolution, and the previous one were sent to the Minister they might help to induce him to come over.

A letter was received from the Marlborough branch of the New Zealand Educational Institute, asking the meeting to support a resolution protesting against the "shelving" of the Education Bill, which it had been heard was the intention of the Government. The meeting decided that it could not, off-hand, and without knowing the provisions of the Bill, pass such a resolution. It might be better for the Bill to be postponed so that it could receive more careful attention next session, rather than be rushed through half-digested at the end of this session.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

25th August 1920 THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The one weak point in the armor of the Blenheim School Committee in its agitation for more adequate and more modern school accommodation - was mentioned by Mr. Penny at Monday night's meeting when he declared that the Committee and the householders it represents were "up against," not the Wellington Education Board, not the Department—both of which were as anxious as the meeting was to see the present conditions ameliorated—but "up against" circumstances, in the shape of lack of trained teachers, insufficiency of funds wherewith to carry out all the works that were so urgently required, and scarcity of labor and materials to cope with undertakings already authorised. That these things should be so is a matter for very great regret, for an improvement in the conditions under which the teachers and the scholars of the local schools do their work is badly heeded; but the meeting served a useful purpose in endorsing the Committee's request for better facilities, and the resolution which it passed will serve to demonstrate to the Education Board and the Minister that the people of Blenheim are not content for their children to continue to endure a state of things that; has been growing steadily worse and worse with every year that passes. For teachers to have under their care seventy or eighty children each is fair to neither teacher nor children, more especially when, as is the case with the Borough Schools, the rooms are ill adapted for the purpose for which they have to be used. Neither mentally nor physically can the scholars hope to develop as they would do under better conditions; nor can their instructors hope to

obtain satisfactory results from their efforts. It is useless to assert, as some of our readers may assert, that matters should not have been allowed to reach such a stage as they have done; what was left undone in the past rests with the past, but its effects are still here, and will become more serious if they are not immediately remedied.

The approaching visit of the Minister for Education and the chairman of the Education Board will, it is earnestly to be hoped, result in the authorisation of a substantial portion at least of the programme of improvements desired by the Committee. It is a matter of general knowledge that from all over the country are coming requisitions for schools in newly settled districts, new schools to replace buildings that are "done for," and additions to schools that have become too small for present requirements. The money available is not sufficient to satisfy all these demands, but Marlborough is entitled to receive a fair share of the sum placed by Parliament at the disposal of the Minister.

14th September 1920 The Borough. Schools' re-opened to-day. The attendance in the main school was very good, but -in the infant department there was a large number of absentees owing no doubt to the inclemency of the weather. The headmaster (Mr. W. W. Rowntree), conversing with an Express reporter to-day, expressed the hope that the parents generally would make an effort to send their children to school as regularly as possible, considering the year had been very broken, and the annual examinations were rapidly approaching

21st September 1920 DEPUTATIONS TO THE MINISTER.

THE BOROUGH SCHOOL

Mr. McCallum welcomed Mr. T. Forsyth, chairman of the Wellington Education Board, and Mr. G. L. Stewart, the secretary, and invited Mr. Forsyth. to address the Minister:.

Mr. Forsyth ventured the opinion that there were matters connected with education that would not pass muster with Mr. Parr (*The Minister*), especially in view of the possibilities which Blenheim possessed when better communication was established with other parts of New Zealand. He invited the Minister to inspect the Borough School, and would afterwards ask him to agree to the purchase of two suitable, and adequate sites for new schools, and; ultimately to dispose of the present school property. Regarding Springlands it was desired that one or two rooms should be erected as soon as possible, as the nucleus of a new building. A grant would also be asked for at Picton next day for a new school there

Mr. E. H. Penny, chairman of the Blenheim School Committee, said that the Borough School had 'been badly modelled. After long consideration of what was best to be done the Committee had decided that if the Minister would authorise the purchase of two new sites—one in the northern and the other in the Southern portion of the town and undertake to have schools built when funds were available, it would waive all claims for the remodelling of the present school, and be content with the partitioning of some of the rooms. The sale of the school buildings: and grounds would he asserted, almost pay for the new sites. To remodel the school would cost £2000 or £3000.

Mr. Parr: What's wrong with the school ?.

Mr. Penny: It is not suitable, and is too close to the centre of the town.:

Mr. Parr: Who would buy a school?

Mr. Penny replied that the building could be more easily remodelled for a store than for a school. The alterations would cost a lot of money, and besides there was the future; to consider. Mr. W. W. Rowntree, Headmaster of the Borough School, gave as the principal reason why the school should be abandoned that it was hopelessly out of date.. It was also in v\as® proximity to streets which carried as much traffic as any in the town.

The traffic on race days was a menace to the safety of the children The infant school was an abominable place—a prison, with the window's up against the roof.

Mr. Parr: Oh, good gracious! I saw some of those windows to-day.

In reply to the Minister, Mr. McCallum said the school property was a very valuable one a good saleable asset.

Mr. H. Dobson, a member of the School Committee, said that the site of the Borough School Was selected over fifty years ago, when there was no bridge over the river in front of it and consequently no traffic. The population had spread away from the school. If two new; schools were erected they would serve the requirements of all parts of the borough. A meeting of householder)s had resolved to request that the present property be sold and that two schools in the residential portions of the town be substituted for the Borough School. Under present conditions the children of Blenheim were not being properly educated

The Minister remarked that he was prepared to consider the question of purchasing new sites. Messrs. J. J. White. C. F. A. Whiteford, A. M. R. Mills, and W. Jordan also supported the Committee's request.

Mr. Parr promised to visit the school this morning

8th October 1920 BASKETBALL.

BLENHHEIM SCHOOLGIRLS VISIT WELLINGTON

Some weeks ago two teams of Wellington girls came over to Blenheim and. tried conclusions with the Marlborough. schoolgirls at basketball. Last weekend two teams from Marlborough journeyed to Wellington and played several return games. The teams comprised: Hilga Madsen, Jessie Baxter, Annie Adams, and Freda. Powick (Picton School); Vera Hall and Gladys Rowe (Spring Creek); Elvira Dunn, Marjory Hunt, Hilda Day, Kathleen Robb, Mavis Cooke, Norah Trischler, Margaret Robb, Margaret Mowat, Ada Vercoe, Lilian Grigor, Marjory Pike, Myrtle Wanden, Lucy Adams and Dulcie Dodson (Blenheim School). After a rough trip lasting just-on seven, hours, Wellington was reached at one o'clock on Friday morning. Practically everybody had been ill, and consequently the players were not in good form. However, the teams .kept to the programme arranged, though they did not .do themselves justice On Saturday the visitors were taken to the Hutt where they were treated "right royally," and two games were played. On Monday morning the programme was continued and two more games were played in Wellington. The Wellington .schools entertained the teams most sumptuously, and nothing; was left undone that could tend to the comfort and entertainment oi: their visitors. The following is a. list -of the matches played and the results: —

Friday.—Blenheim School v. Lyall Bay School, lost 16 to 4; rest of the team v. Karori School, won 8 to 7;

Marlborough A v Wellington A. lost 4 to 3; and Marlborough B v. Wellington B, lost 8 to 6. Saturday.—Marlborough A v. Hutt Valley A.' lost 3 to 8: and Marlborough B v. Hutt Valley B, won 14 to 8.

Monday Marlborough A v. Wellington A, won 14 to 7;. and Marlborough B v. Wellington B won 3 to 0.

22nd October 1920 Wellington Education Board included Blenheim, a brick fireplace to replace a stove

This does not include the necessary alterations and additions at Blenheim, to cost approximately a like sum (£600)

18th November 1920 Wellington Education Board The amount of capitation has been raised from £6 to £15 per pupil; a, model country school is to be established in Blenheim for training of teachers in these small schools; the teachers had already under the school inspector at Blenheim been provided with three., weeks'

9th December Wellington Education Board Alterations to Blenheim school by the erection of partitions, the rearrangement of the heating system, a new doorway, and the reconstruction of the verandah, were authorised, and it was decided to again approach, the Department to acquire a school site on. the southern end of the. town. The question of redesking the

Blenheim school was remitted to the Inspector (Mr. Warren) and Mr. J. C Logan for an early report. An emphatic protest was made by the Marlborough ward members against the continued delay in the matter

11th December 1920 epidemic of measles which has lately asserted itself in Blenheim is so seriously depleting the attendance at the State schools that it has been thought advisable to close the institutions. Among the factors preventing this course, however, is the fact that the proficiency certificates for which the senior pupils at the Borough School were recently examined have not come to hand, and the school will remain open till these are distributed. Figures speak more strongly than words at times, and the headmaster of the Borough School (Mr. W. W. Rowntree) states, that out of a total roll number of 527 children at the main school, only 434 were present this morning, the absentees thus numbering 193. This deficiency is almost wholly due to measles/which during the past ten days have been spreading rapidly. The infants are evidently affected to a greater extent, as the attendance numbered 77 out of a roll number of 191 children. At the Redwoodtown side-school the same conditions apply, 33 being absent out of a total number of 63 on the roll. The breaking-up concert has had to be abandoned owing to the fact that a number of intending performers will be away, the majority of whom were to be children from the infant department. The primary school sports, «which v/ere to take place on the 17th December are also postponed, it is understood, till the end of February, when all the children who entered will be allowed to compete. Speaking to an "Express" reporter to-day, Mr. Rowntree said the year had been a disappointing one, being extremely broken, and the attendance had been the worst in the history of the school. The influenza epidemic and the prevalence of other kinds of sickness had militated against a good year. However, recovery was almost certain next year. Considering all the adverse circumstances, the children had emerged satisfactorily from the examinations, though, as could only be expected, the result was below normal.

14th December 1920 RESULTS AT BOROUGH SCHOOLS. The results of this year's proficiency examinations are now available, and the headmaster of the Borough School regards them as very satisfactory considering the difficulties with which the children have had to contend. Of the total number of pupils who sat for the examination 86 per cent, were successful. No competency certificates were awarded this year, as all who gained passes were awarded proficiency certificates. Nine pupils of the Borough School sat for the junior scholarship, but the result will not be known till sometime in February, 1921. The following are the names of the successful candidates for Proficiency Certificates:—Frank Adams, Hugh Adams, Fred Andrews, James Annand, Arthur Bailey, William Bartlett, Ronald Bennett, Alan Binley, Andrew Blythe, Edgar Clarkson, Robert Dodson, Leslie Fox, Bruce Gane, Victor Glennie, Colin Gurr, Donald Holdaway, Frederick Horton, George Hoskin, Fred Humphreys, Dudley Leslie, John Lucas, Alan Mills, Kenneth Mills, Lindo Patchett^ Roy Patchett, Alan Rayner, Jack Rees, Stephen Thomas, Hugh Thompson, Lucy Adams, Constance Bacon, Mavis Cooke, Isabel Crowe, Hilda Day, Joan Dobson, Dulcie Dodson, Elvira Dunn, Dorothy Edwards, Madge Fisher, Lilian Grigor, Mahina Hendra, Marjorie Hunt, Helen Lang, Janet Lang, Elva Markham, Muriel McFadden, Ethel Moreland, Margaret Mowat, Katie Penny, Margery Pike, Kathleen Hobb, Margaret Robb, Eileen. Sanson, Iris Smith, Volda Sowman, May Trischler, Nora Trischler, Ada Vercoe, Myrtle Wanden, Berenice Waterhouse

Note: There are no copies of the Marlborough Express or the Dominion from 1921 in Papers Past. Only the Evening Post is copied from this date

18th February 1921 Infant Mistress Mrs. S J Jones

7th April 1922 The appointment of Mrs. O. J. Miller, of Blenheim School staff, as senior female assistant at Thorndon ' Normal School, is announced.

1923-1924

1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Kean	Balfour	B-63	Head	£470.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Rockel	Cecil F	B-124	Assistant	£395.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Jones	Sarah Jane Mrs	D-102	Infant Mistress	£353.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wanden	Elizabeth W	E-138	Assistant	£323.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Pattle	Kate A	D-152	Assistant	£313.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Kathleen	B-158	Assistant	£263.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	McFarlane	Alexander G	B-200	Assistant	£243.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hilliard	Josephine	C-180	Assistant	£215.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Heffer	Dorothy G	D-151	Assistant	£215.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Pinfold	Doris G	B-198	Assistant	£195.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Hicks	Phoebe M E	D-203	Assistant	£185.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Paterson	Gladys B	C-204	Assistant	£185.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Wilkins	Winnifred	C-213	Assistant	£185.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Perry	Flora B	C-207	Assistant	£175.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Horton	Freda W	C-209	Assistant	£175.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Murphy	Bernadette	C-212	Assistant	£175.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Williams	Eva M	C-213	Assistant	£175.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	McFadden	Edith V		PT1	£83.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	Workman	Jean		Probationer 1	£83.00
1923	651/53	Blenheim/ Redwoodtown	King	Lena A		Probationer 2	£78.00

1st May 1923 Mr. A. G. MacFarlane, of the Masterton Central School staff, has been appointed to the Blenheim School, and leaves to-day to take up his new position.

20th September 1923 Mr. W. W. Rowntree, for many years in the service of the Wellington Education Board, recently resigned the headmastership of the Blenheim School to go to Richmond ' School, Canterbury, and at the Wellington Education . Board meeting yesterday reference was made to his good work and a resolution in appreciation was passed. .

15th October 1923 It was a pity that a teacher who had made good in one school had to remove elsewhere to secure promotion, remarked Mr. H. R. Searle, chairman of the Hataitai School Committee on Saturday evening, when residents and parents gathered at the school to bid farewell to the headmaster, Mr. B. Kean, who is shortly moving on promotion to the Blenheim school, and it appeared that the present grading system might very well be amended to make such moves unnecessary. Mr. Searle remarked upon the splendid progress achieved by scholars, individually and collectively, during the three years of Mr. Kean's headmastership, and upon the high esteem in which he was held by Hataitai residents.^ Members of the school committee had been impressed by the manner in which all departments Of school activities had been organised and carried oh to the betterment erf the physical, mental, and moral -Welfare of the children and all concerned were sorry indeed that Mr. Kean was going away, though at the same time he was to be congratulated on his promotion. On behalf of the committee, he presented Mr. Kean with a framed photograph of the committee; assuring him of the good wishes of all members for his arid Mrs. Kean's future prosperity and happiness. Mrs. D. Ardel, speaking On behalf of the parents and residents, expressed the regret that was felt in the district that the school would no longer have the benefit of Mr. Kean's services; and as a token of Hataitai's appreciation and

goodwill, presented him with a cheque from the residents. The teaching staff said Mr. A. Kirk, very sincerely regretted the break with Mr. Kean for school conditions had been almost ideal during his headmastership, and the moral tone and consequent real progress of the school had been excellent. In reply, Mr. Kean thanked the speakers for their good wishes, and thanked the teaching staff for the manner in which they had loyally co-operated in all school activities. Personally, he greatly regretted his transfer from Hataitai, but it was necessary to accept promotion when offered. Following the presentations, musical items, cards and dancing were the order, and generally a very happy evening was spent

1st November 1923 Mr. Kean has resigned from the headmastership of the Hataitai School to take charge of the Blenheim State School, left Wellington by the Wainui yesterday Prior to his departure from the school, Mr. Kean was farewelled- by the pupils and was the recipient of a set of, stainless cutlery from the scholars, the presentation being made by Master F. Johansen.