

1863-1877

10th Jan 1863 Featherston, Wairarapa,
January 5th, 1863

We, the undersigned, Electors of this District, hereby call, a Public Meeting, to be held at Abbott's Hotel, on Saturday, the 24th inst., at 8 p.m., to make provision for the establishment. and maintenance of a Common School.

Arthur Hayward

Charles Cundy

Daniel J. Fry

Josias Tucker

Christopher Potts

Robert Lucas

Joseph Tidswell

7th February 1863 PROCLAMATION. Featherston School District. Br Isaac Earl Featherston, Esquire, Superintendent of the Province of Wellington, in the Islands of New Zealand.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Second Session of the Provincial Council of Wellington, No. 6, entitled " An Act to promote the establishment of Common Schools in the Province of Wellington " it is enacted that for the purposes of the said Act it should be lawful for the Superintendent by Proclamation to divide the Province into Districts, and from time to time to sub-divide such Districts, and to re-unite any subdivisions; and also by Proclamation to declare that the said Act should come into operation within such District or sub-division at such time as he might appoint : And whereas it is deemed expedient to proclaim that portion of the Province within the boundaries hereinafter set forth to be a District for the purposes of the said Act: Now therefore I, the said Isaac Earl Featherston, Superintendent of the Province of Wellington, in virtue of the power and authority vested in me in this behalf, do hereby proclaim and declare that such portion of the said Province as is comprised within the following boundaries shall form and constitute a District for the purposes of the said Act, to be called the "Featherston School District, " which said District shall be bounded as follows, namely, — North— By the Tauherenikau River.

East— By the Tauherenikau River and Upper Wairarapa Lake.

South — By the Tauherenikau River; Upper Wairarapa Lake and Paporoporo Stream, and West — By the summit of the Rimu taka range of hills.

And also that the said Act shall come into operation within such District on and from the day of the date of this Proclamation. Given under my hand and issued under the Public Seal of the Province of Wellington, at Wellington, this twenty fourth day of January, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three. I. E. FEATHERSTON.
Superintendent

31st December 1864 First Mention of a school being established in Featherston
SCHOOL EXAMINATION AT FEATHERSTON.

ON Thursday, the 22nd inst., an. examination of the scholars attending Featherston Common School, was held by the Rev. Dan Desbois, the clergyman resident in the district. The school has only been in operation eighteen months, including some suspension previous to the appointment of the present master, Mr.. Gourlay. It numbers boys and girls.

Reading was the first subject. The examiner expressed himself exceedingly surprised at the progress made. The children all read in a good audible style, evenly, and with, a good knowledge of the stops. The reading of some poetry by one or two of the elder girls would have done credit to a school of higher pretensions. The prize was adjudged to Miss Spearing. Grammar was next taken. The secret of the good reading was found in the excellent grounding the children had received in the construction of their own language.' Sentences were parsed, and false corrected very well by many of the children. The prize was given to Miss Hayward:

There were some fair specimens of writing. One or two specimens showed freedom from the constrained cramped style so common. Prizes were given to Master Hodder and Miss Cundy. There was no evidence of any great attainment in Geography. This was accounted for by the recent introduction of the subject, and by the want (till a few weeks ago) of maps or books. A prize was given to Miss Hayward.

The last subject was arithmetic. This had been very carefully prepared. Considerable proficiency in mental arithmetic was attained. Indeed the answers from some of the children were remarkably quick and accurate. The prize was well bestowed upon Master Abbott. Several good conduct prizes were distributed amongst others to Miss Nicols and Master Wardell.

The inhabitants of the township are much to be congratulated on the energy, painstaking and ability of Mr.. Gourlay. The children were in the afternoon regaled with tea and the usual "bush" delicacies, which, it is needless to say they appreciated. A social tea, partaken by the committee and their friends, concluded the day.

22nd July 1865 WANTED a SCHOOLMASTER and MISTRESS for the Featherston School. A married couple preferred. Salaries £150, a house for the Master and Mistress provided. Testimonials and references to be addressed to Mr.. C, CUNDY, Chairman of Committee, Featherston, Wairarapa.

Still repeating the advertisement in September 1865

14th April 1866 The Featherston School. — At five o'clock on Tuesday evening next, a public meeting will be held at the School-room, Featherston, for the purpose of establishing the school in that district under the rate. Trustees to the school property will also be appointed.

27th September 1866 FEATHERSTON COMMON DAY SCHOOL. THE Annual Yearly Meeting in connection with the above School, will be held in the School-room, on MONDAY, 1st October, at seven p.m. W. NICOLS, Chairman

2nd March 1867 Tea Party at Featherston. —There was a tea party held at the School Mouse, Featherston, on Tuesday last, in aid of the School Fund. There were upwards of forty persons in attendance, and after tea dancing was commenced which afforded much enjoyment to those present.

5th August 1867 Inspector's Report Featherston. —A small mixed school, mostly girls, under a mistress ; building sufficient in size, but neither lined, painted nor fenced; furniture poor; no wall maps; teacher pro. tem. uncertificated but experienced; progress very fair ; order and discipline good ; attendance very irregular; registers imperfectly kept time table not in use.

17th August 1878 Tea and Dance Party at Kaiwairai. —The tea and dance party promised by the Kaiwairai School Committee to celebrate the establishment of the first public school in their district came off according to notice in the Schoolhouse, Kaiwairai, on Friday evening last, the 7th instant. The weather having been fine and

the time since one of these parties had been given rather long many flocked from the neighboring districts, to whom a pleasant and social assembling and good ride were attractions rendered all the stronger as Kaiwairai has the inducement of fine open scenery. Trays of excellent cake, &c.; were provided gratis for the Committee by Mrs.. Williams, Mrs.. T. Benton, Mrs.. F. Benton, Mrs.. Bicknell and Mrs.. Vickery. The moveable partitions were taken down and with the help of some timber was made to transform the verandah in a long room. A paddock in close proximity to the school was obligingly placed at the disposal of the School Committee by Mrs.. F. Benton for the use of visitor's horses, while a room in the schoolhouse was set apart for ladies to change their dress After tea had been taken by the school-children (free), the adults sat down there being three, or with the children, four sets, making the number present altogether between 120 and 130 persons.' Several of the Committee served refreshments at only the ordinary rates while Mr.. W. Williams conducted greatly to the success of the meeting in managing the dancing, by excluding from, the easy, dances those who danced in the more difficult, so all were enabled to enjoy themselves. Mr.. John Cundy proved himself to be one of the most inspiring concertina players we have heard. Several young ladies enlivened the evening by some very pretty songs. The meeting was characteristic of the valley in every respect, and could not but be reckoned as one of the most sociable and successful of them. The thanks of those present are due to the ladies who made the preparations and to the Committee, the only drawback being that the room was somewhat limited.

17th October 1868 PUBLIC NOTICE. A MEETING will be held at the Schoolhouse, Featherston, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th October, 1868, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the rate to be fixed for the ensuing twelve months, and other business in accordance with the provisions of the " Educational Act." S. CARKEEK, Chairman of School Committee. School-house, Featherston
6th February 1869 We are indebted to Mr.. T. Wakelin, of the Kaiwairai school, for the statistical facts contained in to-day's leader. Shows date

5th August 1869 PUBLIC TEA MEETING AT FEATHERSTON. PUBLIC TEA MEETING will be held at the School-room, Featherston, on Thursday, the 12th instant, in aid of school improvements. Tea on the table for children at 4 p.m. ,, ,, for adults at 5 ,, Featherston, August 4, 1869

26th August 1869 A tea meeting in connection with the Featherston school took place on Thursday last, which was a great success, which indeed is generally the case when dancing is permitted. The proceeds are to be expended in lining the schoolroom

25th November 1869 WANTED, a married Man as Teacher for the Featherston School. To a competent person a liberal salary will be given. Application to be made to the Chairman not later than the 20th day of December. W. NICOLS, Chairman of School Committee. Featherston, Nov. 22, 1869

29th December 1869 Featherston School. —We draw our readers attention to an advertisement, announcing the re-opening of the School on 10th proximo. Mr.. Montalk under whose direction the school will in future be conducted, is we understand a gentleman of great experience and ability. His application for the situation was accepted by the Committee principally on account of his high testimonials, and the letter of recommendation he brought from Mr.. Halcombe. It is a very gratifying circumstance for us to be able to record the fact, that the amount of

voluntary subscriptions is sufficient, without levying any rate to pay a much higher salary than before.

Lots of Schoolmasters. —Applications from persons desirous of holding the situation of Schoolmaster for the Featherston School, were opened last week, by a committee of the school including Messrs... Wardell, W. Nicols, and J. Cox. The salary was £125, and for this no less than 12 applied. Of course some were from all sorts of individuals—some who had never been to school themselves, some whose letters were ungrammatical & «., &c., presenting a curious medley of ignorance and impudence

30th December 1869 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. Mr.. Montalk has been appointed, out of twelve applicants, teacher of the Featherston school at a salary of £150 per annum, with a teacher's residence.

30th April 1870 Featherston School.— The tea party at the school house, Featherston, on Friday evening last, notwithstanding the threatening state of the Weather, seems to have been quite a success. There were a great number of persons present. It is really astonishing, in so small a place apparently, where all the people come from. The weather prevented many who lived at a distance from attending. Considering the short notice, and so many other recent amusements —the Carandinis only a day or two ago—it exceeded the expectations of the committee ; it passed off well, and seems to have satisfied all present. The children's party broke up at nine o'clock, when the parents and others amused themselves till morning, when the party broke up. A little amusement in the shape of marching and singing, afforded by Mr.. Montalk and his juveniles, after tea, seems to have delighted the grown-up folks, and showed plainly how well the master and his pupils work together. We also hear that at the last committee n meeting a resolution was passed, expressing their appreciation of his abilities and perseverance: shewing plainly that he is a great acquisition to the district, The success that has attended Mr.. Montalk is the more noteworthy, as the inhabitants have not taken advantage of the Pound-a-house Tax which is attempted to be enforced in Greytown

5th October 1970 NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. TEA MEETING will be held at the School-Room, Featherston, on THURSDAY (tomorrow), the 6th October. FIRST TEA at 5 p.m. SECOND TEA at 6.30 p.m. Dancing will commence at 8 o'clock. Children's Tickets, 1s.; adult's, 2s. each. Proceeds to go to School Funds specially with a view to the enlargement of the School House. J G. Cox, Secretary. Featherston

10th May 1871 KAI WAI-WAI SCHOOL. On Wednesday last, the school committee, per teacher, according to custom, gave prizes to the scholars. The first, second, and third of which were awarded respectively to William Benton, Helen Bicknell, and Thomas Benton. Much credit is due to the settlers in their out-of-the-way place, for the sacrifices they have made to support a school in their midst. In addition to the usual school fees, they have to contribute considerably more than £1 per house to effect this object. "What is more, they are able to do it ; and, what is better, they are also willing, which is not the case everywhere, or a compulsory rate would be necessary: though this school, like all other schools in country places, could not be kept open without a grant from the Provincial Secretary.

9th October 1871 KAI-WAI-WAI SCHOOL. A general meeting of this school district was held on Saturday evening last, the 30th ult. Mr.. Benton occupied the chair, who gave an account of the expenditure of the past year ; from which it appeared that there

would be a balance of about £5 to start the year with. The whole of the former committee were again elected. Mr.. Benton was appointed Treasurer, Mr.. Bicknell, Collector, and Mr.. W. P. Williams, Chairman ; who, together, guaranteed the payment of the teacher's salary, whose services were again secured until the new education act comes into force. An examination of the children took place previous to the meeting which gave general satisfaction.

13th January 1872 The annual General Meeting last meeting of the Featherston School Committee *The next few lines were illegible*

The meeting was called by circular, but only one other member of Committee attended, consequently, he was not in a position to lay a report before them with a statement of account audited, Ac., but he laid the minute book, the Treasurer's book, shewing the balance, and all papers, for the perusal or examination of anyone who might choose to look at them, and also stated that he felt it his duty to collect the outstanding debts, and see the late schoolmaster paid, and hand over any balance to the new Treasurer. The school having been closed on the 22nd nit., Messrs... Carkeek, Pharazyn, Cundy, Cadenhead, Potts, and Cox, were elected as a new Committee. It was argued strongly that there has been no annual meeting last year but the Treasurer was positive such meeting was 'called by advertisement signed by the Chairman, or he would not have entered such in the minutes. Mr.. Cundy proposed, and Mr.. Cadenhead seconded the following proposition : " That a uniform tax of £1 per house be levied on all houses in the District for the half-year to June 30,1872."

Mr.. Pharazyn proposed the following Amendment:—

" That this meeting do adjourn till Saturday, January 6, 1872, at 3 p.m., for the purpose of considering the above proposition." This being duly seconded, was carried. On Saturday, January 6,1872, the adjourned annual meeting of ratepayers was held in the Schoolroom; about fourteen electors were present.

Mr.. Carkeek, as Chairman of the previous meeting, took the Chair.

hi o minutes of the previous meeting were produced, but the Chairman stated what had then been done, and that it was now competent for the meeting to approve or disapprove of the motion of levying the rate. It was then stated that the meeting had no power in the matter it was for the Committee to decide the amount to be levied within the meaning of the Act. It was then proposed that the Treasurer of the late Committee be permitted to read their report, and after some warm discussion, it was seconded; the Treasurer read the following .- To THE CHAIRMAN OP THE ANNUAL MEETING OF RATEPAYERS " Sir, —The Committee of the Featherston School for the year 1870-1 report that at the close of their year of office, 15 children are on the roll of the school, that the sum of £13 9s is due to the Treasurer on account of school fees, and subscriptions, as per list annexed. Further, that there is due to Mr.. Montalk, the Schoolmaster, the sum of £6 12s 10d, which, with a liability of about 10s for advertisements, and £1 due to the Treasurer, is all now owing by the Committee.

" The sum of £10 5s has been received by the Treasurer as subscriptions, to a special fund for enlarging the schoolhouse. This sum is now in hand, and will be applied to the purpose intended, whenever the School Committee may take action in the matter. "

I am, " Sir, " Your obedient servant, " James G-. Cox, treasurer Featherston School."

He then presented the same with a statement of liabilities, assets, and accounts audited to December 30, 1871, and it was then agreed that the sum of 10s should be collected as an instalment of the rate for the half year ending June 30, 1872, and the ratepayers present confirmed the election of the new Committee. -

Mr.. Wallace was elected Collector, and there being no other business the meeting, this terminated the proceedings.

25th January 1872 EDUCATION. Mr.. C. DE MONTALK has vacancies For two Boarders in his new establishment, CLYTH HOUSE, FEATHERSTON, (Wairarapa). Prospectus on application

25th May 1872 MEETING of the Ratepayers of the Featherston School District will be held at the School-room, Featherston, on Saturday, the 1st of June next, at six o'clock in the evening, with a view to the appointment of a treasurer, and other business.

J. G. COX

CHARLES CUNDY

GEORGE POTTS

DAVID CADENHEAD

WILLIAM SPEARINK .

JAMES DONALD.

8th June 1872 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. A public meeting of the ratepayers of the school district was held in the school room on Saturday evening. It was called by six ratepayers, being electors, four of whom were members , of the present school .committee. It appears that at the Annual . Meeting no Treasurer was appointed, , and it was to supply this omission that the meeting was called, and for any other business. On the motion of Mr.. Cundy, Mr.. Greatbach was voted to the Chair, after the Chairman had opened the meeting. Mr.. Donald thought that as no Treasurer had been appointed at the Annual Meeting, it was advisable to elect one now , that things may be conducted in a legal manner. Mr.. Cox considered that it was quite in accordance with the Act, in fact, it was absolutely necessary that a Treasurer should be appointed. Clause 12, of the Education Act of, 1855, distinctly stated as follows: — “ That at the first, and every yearly general meeting, a Treasurer shall be elected, to whom all moneys collected under this Act shall be paid as soon as received, and by whom all payments shall be made, on an order of the School Committee, and not otherwise.” The ratepayers having neglected to do so at the Annual Meeting, he presumed it was competent now to supply that omission. Mr.. C. Cundy proposed that J. G. , Cox be elected to fill that office, which was seconded by-Mr.. Donald. An amendment was proposed by Mr.. Pharazyn, who is Chairman of the School Committee:—That this meeting do proceed to the consideration of , other business, which was seconded by Mr.. W. Hodder. On the amendment being put to , the meeting, only one other ratepayer supported it. Mr.. Cundy's motion was then put and carried. Mr.. Pharazyn said that what funds , he held he should not hand over to the Treasurer or anyone else; but an order of the Supreme Court could decide the question, Mr.. Cox moved the following resolution ; “ That the ratepayers present consider the public school totally unfit for the requirements of the district, and request the Committee will at once make such necessary accommodation as they consider suitable for a girls' apartment, and abolish the mixed system at once.” He said a large district like Featherston, where a rate is collected, is quite capable of supporting a good mistress as well as a master, and regretted the Committee had taken no steps towards carrying out such a desire of the community, formerly expressed, by their promising to subscribe liberally for the required accommodation, in addition to the amount already in hand, and mentioned in the late Committee's Report of January 6, 1872, The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously. After sundry questions being put to the Chairman of the School Committee as to what meetings of the Committee had been held ? what had been done

with the money collected whether the cash was in hand or had been spent, &c. the Chairman said the funds had been appropriated, but not spent. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

11th May 1872 FEATHERSTON. The case Wallace v. Donald for half a year's school rate heard at Featherston on Tuesday last has created a little sensation in the village. The defendant refused to pay for the following reasons :—Because the schoolmaster was not appointed by the Committee ; that he (the teacher) was charging 1s per week, without the advice or consent of the Committee; and that the fourteen days' notice required a bylaw was not given before the summons was issued. Although the School Committee has not appointed a teacher, or authorised 1s per week to be demanded from the pupils as fees, it did not at all affect the case before the Court; but the fact of the defendant not being allowed the fourteen days' notice, according to law, was sufficient for the Collector to lose his case, the cost of which will have to be borne by the School funds. School Acts must be very scarce, when things are carried on in such ignorance of the Act under which they sue. The rate, I believe, has since been paid, and was resisted simply on account of the illegal acts of the Chairman. It seems that the rate was not being enforced by the Committee's wish or consent, and if an opportunity were afforded them by way of a meeting, a majority would oppose it without there was some alteration in the school management. Say £75 rates, £25, grant in aid, together with 1s per week fees on the 39 pupils that formerly attended (and would most likely attend again), would produce nearly £200 per annum, or sufficient to keep a good master and mistress. It has often been asked, why have the pupils so fallen off? If there were 39, and now nearer nine, where are the 30 ? Enquire into the falling away. There must be a cause to produce such an effect. The people of Featherston pay a rate and close the school doors (as it were) against a majority of children greatly in want of education. For, in the first place, the Act requires a treasurer, but none has been appointed, consequently, there is no one to whom the collector can pay over the rates, and get a legal discharge, nor is there any one authorised to pay any money away. Then, a majority of the Committee, it is said would be opposed to the odium produced in going to the extreme measure of summoning, at all events, in such a hurry. If one is summoned, summon the whole of the defaulters. The rate in dispute could not be overdue till July next.

27th June 1872 MR. E. de MONTALK'S Private School for young gentlemen will re-open after the mid-winter holidays, on MONDAY, the 8th JULY. Ancient and Modern Languages, pupils prepared for the Universities, the Civil Service, &c. Terms — £10 10s per quarter. CLYTH HOUSE, Featherston, Wairarapa

14th October 1872 Education Board Meeting C. Pharazyn, Featherston, stating that certain papers had been forwarded, also informing the Board of Mr. de Montalk having left the school, and asking for grant in aid of that gentleman's unpaid salary

15th January 1873 Part of a long article in Education In the Featherston Education District matters if possible are still more unsatisfactory. The school house at Featherston proper has been for some time closed, and is in a very dilapidated condition. There is no school house at all in the Lower Valley ; and no teachers residence at the one which has been for some time established at Kaiwairai. In the Moroa district there is a tolerable school house and a good teacher's residence ; but though there are forty or fifty children of school age, there is no teacher. It is much the

same at Tauherenikau. At Greytown the school house has been suffered to go to ruin, and there never was a teacher's residence worthy of the name. The Education Board is, of course, not responsible for such a deplorable state of affairs ; that responsibility at present lies on the shoulders of the Provincial authorities, who after abolishing school rates and school committees persistently refused to supply the place of either. We shall, however, hold either the Education Act or the Education Board responsible if this state of affairs be long permitted to continue

1st February 1873 Schools. —We understand that a gentleman has been appointed to the Featherston School and will take charge of it on Monday week. Another has, we also learn, been appointed to the Carterton School.

5th July 1873 Featherston School The local Committee of the Featherston school advertised, some days ago, for tenders for increasing the size of the schoolhouse there. No tenders however were sent in, so that the active interest taken in the matter has failed to produce any result excepting disappointment. Carpenters are indeed in demand.

3rd March 1874 The letter to the Provincial Secretary relative to the votes already passed by the Board for school buildings was read, as under :— Greytown, in addition to £100 voted by local association, £250 ; East Masterton, £350 ; Masterton, £350 ; Featherston, in addition to £30 voted by local body, £170

A letter from Messrs... Cox, Wardell, and Pharazyn was read relative to the addition to the Featherston school, when the Secretary was instructed to inform them that the sum, of £170 had been voted by the Board, in addition to the £30 subscribed in the district,, which would be ample for the present requirements of the district

12th May 1874 Kaiwairi School. We hear that a Mr.. Badland has been appointed to take charge of this school. Latterly been taught by' Mr.. Scott in conjunction the Wharekaka school. The distance between the two schools is too great for them to be coupled on the half-time system, and we are glad to learn that there is now a separate teacher for each.

16th May 1874 Those persons who have done us the honor to peruse the remarks we have made in the preceding article will see that the schools in the Featherston Education District passed with credit at the recent examination, notwithstanding the all but total absence of proper school accommodation. They will learn with surprise that the Inspector speaks of a number of new buildings having been put up and alterations made in those already existing in several of the districts during the past year ; and we find that the Board expended over £2252 for these purposes, though very little of this amount found its way over the Rimutaka. Yet it was well-known to the Board, and we have now the high authority and disinterested testimony of the Inspector for asserting, "That the Wairarapa is almost without a school house sufficient for the accommodation of the children who would attend. In all the larger townships no fit school house is in existence ; the Town Hall or some other unsuitable building is lent or rented for the purpose. At East Masterton (that is Masterton proper) there is not room for one-third of the children who ought to attend school; while in the schools at Featherston and Taratahi the space is far too small." This is the statement of the Inspector himself, and personally known to be true by the majority of the members of the Board. What then can we say in favor of their administration The excuse of want of funds will not avail them ; as we have already shown that upwards of £2252 were expended on school buildings chiefly in other districts of the Province, where school accommodation could not possibly have been so deficient as in the education

districts of Featherston, Masterton, and Castle Point. The excuse of want of funds will not avail them ; for we find that in these three districts upwards of £1366 were actually collected in rates, exclusive of capitation fees, while the sum expended in teachers' salaries amounted only to £1115, leaving, in addition to the capitation fees, £241 to defray incidental expenses. What then can we say in favor of the justice of the Board, or of its administration In the Wangaehu Education district the education rates amounted to £306 14s 7d, the total number of scholars was 99 only, and the amount paid in teachers' salaries was £540. In the Featherston Education District the amount actually received in rates was £602 7s 8d, the number of scholars was 182, and the amount paid in teachers' salaries was £500 only. Take the Wellington country district, represented by Mr.. Toomath, and mark the difference ! There the amount of rates collected was £577, the number of children attending school is stated at 563, and the amount paid in teachers' salaries was £1888! Thus we see that while in the above districts the teachers' salaries amount to a sum far in excess of the rates collected, in the Featherston district the rates received amount to more than the salaries paid : while in the Castle Point District £307 16s 8d were received in the shape of education rates, though not a penny of it was disbursed in that district either on teachers or schools ! This, it will be urged, was not the fault of the Board; but whose fault is it that the school buildings are in the state described by the School Inspector? when, in addition to the rates and capitation fees, the Board had £4000 at their disposal, more than half of which was actually expended on school buildings. It is a noteworthy fact that while the amount collected in each district in rates during the 12 months ending the 31st March is stated in detail, the expenditure of the Board for the same period is not so stated, so that the amount expended in each district cannot be ascertained. But the figures we have given will shew that so far as the school districts East of the Rimutaka are concerned they have received but scant justice from the Education Board. The best thing they have done, and that they delayed as long as possible, was the appointment of a competent Inspector; and for this meritorious service they deserve the thanks of the Province, provided always they place their executive functions in his hands.

16th May 1874 Resignation. —We understand that Mr.. Scott, the late teacher of the Kaiwairi and Warekaka (*Wharekaka*) schools, has resigned both appointments, not feeling himself equal to the carrying on of two schools so distant from each other. We are glad to learn that he is still under the Board, and that he has taken temporary charge of the East Taratahi School, vice Mr.. Barry, removed to Wellington. We trust Mr.. Scott will receive an appointment in one of the township schools, for which he is eminently qualified

16th November 1874 Secretary announced that in consequence of the failure of the electors of Featherston to elect a representative on the Board, his Honor the Superintendent, in pursuance of the powers vested in him in such cases, had nominated Henry Bunny, Esq., as a member of the Board for the district of Featherston. , Mr.. Hutchison protested against the action of his Honor, contending that it was in consequence of the refusal of the Returning Officer, Mr.. Freethy, to receive the nomination, and not from any neglect by the electors, that Mr.. Duncan was not elected, and therefore that there had been no default.

It was explained to Mr.. Hutchison that the act provided the alternative course in the event of failure to elect a member from any cause whatever, but Mr.. Hutchison persisted in his objections and in the end it was resolved that the opinion of the Attorney-General should be obtained on the question. Pending the receipt of that opinion, the striking of the rate was postponed.

12th October 1876 The Standard states that Mr.. Everiss, who has been appointed to the Buckle-street School, is the only good teacher they ever had in Featherston. We conclude therefore that Mr.. Everiss is a desirable acquisition to the staff of city teachers

1877

8th February 1877 We learn that Mr.. Gurr, a gentleman from Adelaide, has been appointed to the charge of the Featherston School, and has arrived in the township. The new teacher we understand brings excellent testimonials, and as the school now contains about 100 pupils, we may again look forward to it attaining the high character which it attained under the charge of Mr.. Everiss.

8th February 1877 We give the Inspector's special reports on the schools in the Wairarapa. It will be seen that the state of education throughout the Featherston Education district is satisfactory. And the same may be said of the Masterton district with the single exception of the Carterton school, where the discipline has been too coercive. FEATHERSTON EDUCATION DISTRICT This district includes that portion of the Wairarapa West County lying south of the Waiohine. All the six schools are full time schools, and in good working condition* Greytown and Featherston are large schools' the remaining five are small schools. No other schools are required in the district. Except, perhaps, Tauherenikau, they are all vested in the Board, and all are provided with an acre of land each. During the past year the attendance has increased from 268 to 351, the number of schools remaining the same. At my first visit 181 were examined; at my last 326. The comparative passes in the Standards were as follow:—Standard 1., first visit 89, last 202; Standard H., first visit 24, last 76. 16 pupils have now passed Standard HI., and two Standard IV. The percentage results have increased from 49 and 13 to 59 and 23 in Standards L and IL respectively. The Education Board has built or re-built all the properties except Tauherenikau, which has been painted and repaired. A teacher's residence is needed at Wharekaka, and an additional wing to .the school at Featherston, which has again become overcrowded. The state of education throughout this district is satisfactory. 1. Greytown school is the largest in the Wairarapa, and has considerably improved in average attendance doling the year. The results, as a whole, are very satisfactory; and in the higher Standards better work baa been done thin in any other school in tin Wairarapa. I should, however, like to see such improvements effected in the general system of work as I have pointed out, principally with a view to greater uniformity in the work done, and an even distribution of the teaching power. Ten per cent, better passes are required in Standards I. and H. to bring the school up to a very good Standard. 55 good passes were made at the late examination, but 16 is rather a large number classed as unsatisfactory. Then is good teaching power in the school. 2. Featherston.—Under the excellent teaching of Mr.. Everiss, this school has been well established. It has increased more than any school under your Board—the increase being from 46 to 106 in one year. One-half the scholars passed a Standard at the late examination. 40 pasting Standard 1., and 12 Standard U. Thera were two or three boys of good age candidates for Standard m., who failed to pass, owing to want of good previous teaching. The written exercises were all on the same model, and might have been produced from the same impress. Beading was much improved for the time. Although Mr.. Everiss has been promoted to a large field of work, every effort will be made to keep up the efficiency of the school. Log-book entries made in the time of Mr..

Gulliver, the late master, have disappeared. They were of a very condemnatory character.

3. Kaiwairi School, under Mr.. Johnson, has done very good work. There is an upper class of pupils, who have been some years at school. I was glad to pass five of this class in Standard III., although the reading for this class was not good except in one ease. Peter Pedersen, a Scandinavian boy of 19 years of age, passed two Standards in one year's work.

4. Wharekaka School is in a high state of efficiency as to the work done in the first two Standards. There were two good candidates for Standard in., one of whom failed in Reading only. Mr.. Badland is a most pains fairing teacher,

5 Kaitara School is a new school at Morrison's Bush. Mr.. Christie is a very promising teacher, of good ability and painstaking, The school is fairly established. Two families living within a mile and a half are withheld, owing to local differences.

6. Tauherenikau. Though formerly a large school, there are now few children of school age in the neighborhood. Mrs.. Hanson manages exceedingly well The Reading is good for a Wairarapa school, and the work generally improved.

1st March 1877 FEATHERSTON. Mr.. Gulliver, the former teacher of the Featherston School, wrote complaining, before he " took personal action," of Mr.. Lee's report of the school in question, more particularly the statement that " log-book entries made in the time of Mr.. Gulliver, the late master, have disappeared. They were of a condemnatory character." He denied that the missing pages contained entries of a condemnatory character. Mr.. Lee said that the pages were missing, but he had not and would not say that Mr.. Gulliver had taken them out.

3rd March 1877 Tenders are to be invited for the erection of a school and teachers' residence at Featherston.

FEATHERSTON. A letter was received from Mr.. Gulliver, complaining of the reference made to the disappearance of certain leaves from the log during his (Mr.. Gulliver's) time as master of the school. He desired to enter a denial of and protest against the damaging statement made by Mr.. Lee.

Mr.. Lea said he would rather not say any more in the matter. He had good reasons for reporting as had done, and considered it his duty to do so; but the Board would see that he had made no charge against Mr.. Gulliver —had expressly avoided doing so. All he had said was that logbook entries made in the time of Mr.. Gulliver, the late master at Featherston school, had disappeared. The leaves had been taken out and were missing, but he had not said, and would not say, that Mr.. Gulliver had taken them out.

8th March 1877 It is expected that alterations are to be made at once to the teachers' residence and school at Featherston. The number of children on the roll at present is 117, and several more are expected at once, so that the alterations will not be made before required. The porch, we believe, is obliged to be used at present. 109 children were present one day this week. Great satisfaction is expressed with the new master, Mr.. Gurr, who among other labors is organising a fife band in connection with the school. Mr.. Gurr has also introduced singing in his classes, an innovation which apparently gives pleasure both to pupils and parents

24th March 1877 TO BUILDERS. TENDERS are required and will be received at my Office, Featherston, where Plans and Specifications can be seen, to 4 o'clock on Wednesday, 28th March, 1877, for addition to SCHOOL PREMISES, and the rebuilding Master's Residence. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Wm. KNOTT, Architect

5th June 1877 Messrs... Benton and Donald fell from the scaffolding around the Featherston school on Saturday. The accident was first thought to be serious, but it is hoped nothing very serious will result from it.

5th June 1877 It is stated that a paddock at Featherston, now used by Mr.. Faber, and owned by Mr.. Caselberg, has been decided upon as a site for the railway station. It lies between the school house and the market reserve, near the Boar Bush. Evidently this is another little deviation from the old line.

10th July 1877 On Monday next, prizes will be presented at the Featherston public school, at 11 a.m.

17th July 1877 PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AT THE FEATHERSTON SCHOOL.

For some time past our Featherston friends have been very proud of their local public school, and with good reason, for since the advent of the present master, Mr.. Gurr, it has with all its surroundings become a model establishment, with advantages which few other schools in the Province possess to an equal extent. A commodious residence for the teacher has recently been erected, and the schoolhouse itself, though built at three different periods, is happily adapted to the requirements of the hundred and fifty odd , children who attend it. The building is subdivided into three apartments. In the first we noticed on the occasion of our visit that there were about forty young people, whose ages appeared to vary from four to six. In the second were the 1st and 2nd classes, numbering about fifty girls and boys, and in the third another fifty who formed the 3rd and 4th divisions. Yesterday the Chairman of the Local Committee, Mr.. Cox, presented the prizes for the past half year. A number of ladies were present, and gentlemen including Messrs... Wardell, Pharazyn, James Donald, F. H. Wood, Knott, &0.. Previous to the prizes being presented the children sang several pieces for the benefit of their visitors, and it was interesting to notice | the proficiency they had attained to the course of three or four months, the animation which lit up every face, and the thorough ! control which their teacher exercised over them. The same characteristics were observable in the infant class. We saw one little fellow of about four who sang out as if his heart and soul were in his work, and who doubtless regarded school as a place to be happy in. Our visit to the Featherston school quite converted us to a conviction that singing schools are infinitely more preferable than those where music has no place. Mr.. Cox, before fulfilling the tasks allotted to him, expressed his great satisfaction with the present position of the school. Since 1668 he had worked for and looked forward to the establishment of a good school in the township and at last his wishes had been fully satisfied. He regretted that his own children were too old to profit by s training under Mr.. Gurr, of whose attainments and system he spoke in the highest terms. The school was now one of the most flourishing in the province. During the past quarter there had been 166 names on the roll, with an average attendance of 130. On the present occasion there were 137 pupils present. Mr.. Gurr then made a few remarks: he said that he had never taught more satisfactory children than the Featherston ones, and alluded to some of the methods of teaching, which from an experience of twenty-five years he had found beneficial. For the past ten years he had put aside the cane altogether, and had found that he could maintain discipline better without corporal punishment. He also, in addition to the usual timetable had a quarterly programme of studies which he found to be a great advantage, and in which object lessons were a prominent feature. The following prizes were then presented: 4th Division. English: Mitchell Tait; Geography: Sarah Faber; Arithmetic: Margaret Yule; Reading: Cecilia Yelverton : Writing: Elizabeth Tocker;

Good Conduct: Frederick Ellis: English Composition: W. Lucena; Sewing: Charlotte Cox.

3rd Division. English; Norman Gurr: Geography: Quintin Donald and Esther Young, equal; Arithmetic: Maria Bennet; Writing: Donald Craig; Beading: Edith Cotter; General Improvement; Louis Pharazyn, Nelly Toogood, and Jane Cadenhead. 2nd Division. English and Geography; Charles Thomas ; Arithmetic: Lizzie Tait; Beading: Annie Dunbar: Good Conduct: Annie Worsley; Writing Archie Ellis. 1st Division. General Improvement: Fanny Feist, Harold Wardell, and Alfred Bennett. Infants. Good Conduct: Lizzie Gibbs, Joseph Green, Alice Cadenhead, and August Steffert.

21st July 1877 On Monday evening next an entertainment in aid of the Featherston School fund is to be given at the Odd Fellows Hall. As our Featherston friends are very properly enthusiastic about school matters it is very likely to be well patronised

27th July 1877 Eliza A Cook Third Year Pupil Teacher (age over 15) passed her examination

1st December 1877 A boys' cricket match is to be played on Tuesday next at Featherston between the Greytown and Featherston school clubs. Names of Featherston players—J. Tait, W. Lucena, R. Burt, M. Tait, F. Ellis, A. Urquhart, C. Lucena, N. Gurr, 8. Burt, T. Saunders, A. Ellis; umpire, W. Wallace; scorer, E. Gurr. The Greytown. players are C. Saywell, H. Hawke, A. Beard, W. Judd, W. Thomas, B. Hirschberg, J. Beard, D. Baillie, W. Udy, G. Humphries, W. Tully; scorer, J. Baillie.

18th December 1877 On Saturday last, a match was played at Carterton between the Featherston Club and a combined team from the in connection with the Carterton and Clareville schools, which ended in an easy victory for the Featherston boys, who won in one innings with thirty runs to spare. The all round play of Kemble on the Carterton was very good, but unfortunately he was not well backed up. The Featherston Fielders was a good one, and the bowling of ? and Tait excellent.

20th December 1877 We notice that Mr.. C. Pharazyn will distribute the prizes gained is the Featherston School on Friday next he 10 a.m. The great success of this school since it has been under the charge of Mr.. Gurr makes the occasion one of general interest

22nd December 1877 Featherston SCHOOL. The Distribution of PRIZES obtained by the pupils will take place at the Town Hall, on FRIDAY, Slat inst., at 10 o'clock, a-m. C. Pharazyn Esq., will take the chair. Parent and friends are in viz. JOHN GURR, Head Master

1878

1878	Featherston	Gurr	J	Headmaster	£240	\$35,885
1878	Featherston	Gurr	E W	Male Pupil Teacher	£55	\$8,224
1878	Featherston	Cox	A	Female Pupil Teacher	£45	\$6,728
1878	Featherston	Gurr	H	Female Pupil Teacher	£35	\$5,233

9th July 1878 FEATHERSTON. The Committee met at 7 pm. _ Present — Messrs... Cox, Donald, Freeth, Yule, Keys, Cundy and Toogood. Mr.. Cox said :

As the convener of this meeting, and perhaps the oldest committeeman present, I ask the indulgence of those present to be allowed to speak first. In doing so I will keep within rules, for it is my intention to move the resolutions which it is usual to move on such occasions as the one that has called us together. Before doing so I feel I owe an explanation as to why I was not present at the election. I will, therefore, give, the Committee, and through them the electors,, my reasons for being absent. These , were

two-fold: First I had been on all the Committees but one since the establishment of the school, now more than 14 years ago, and I therefore considered it was advisable that other persons should lend a helping hand. Secondly, I have not been altogether pleased with the position Local Committees were placed in, or were likely to occupy. The electors having placed me in the handsome way they did, although absent from the election, showed me that they recognised my services; I feel, therefore, I cannot do otherwise than continue a-member of this Committee. I also, feel my other reason is to some extent removed as the Board is likely to hand over a fixed sum of money to each Committee for small matters. Had it not been so, I certainly could not have continued to remain on a Committee of such-an anomalous character. It has been the rule hitherto to refer to Wellington for authority to repair a little fencing or other small requirements and perhaps wait for months for that authority. Gentlemen this is our present position; A long time ago the fence between the playground and the adjoining property was blown down. Application has _been constantly made for authority to have this put up But legally *Illegible Line* so long to have it put up. The late Committee would have done this long ago but I have been a little displeased with the or its officers, for not remitting me a balance arranged to be paid last year although I have kept the letter before them constantly; and I believe but for Mr.. Pharazyn I should not probably ever get it. The voting a sum. of money for the Committee's use will enable us to repair any little damage or make little improvements we may find necessary, without reference to Wellington. It will also greatly relieve the Board's officers. I take the most charitable view of their short comings, as I consider probably they are overworked. I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Donald as Chairman of this Committee.

Mr. Donald Mr. Cox should be Chairman.

Mr. Freeth also felt Mr.. Cox should be Chairman, and had fully intended to propose him

This being the unanimous resolve of all present Mr. Cox agreed, and said he would do all he could possibly to further the interest of the school, as he had done hitherto.

Mr.. Freeth was unanimously elected Clerk and Treasurer

Mr.. Gurr, head master, at the request at the Committee, gave the following information :—Number of pupils and the greatest attendance on any one day during the year, 151; average attendance during the same period, 121. Whooping cough had been prevalent and consequently caused a smaller attendance than usual.

The Committee inspected the school work and found the copy books remarkably well written, and without smears and entirely free from blots. The drawing had only six weeks been committed to paper. Slates had been used previously; but for six weeks practice on paper showed that children under proper training could do so much as to astonish the Committee.

It appeared that 166 in attendance learned reading; 166 writing; 148 arithmetic; 85 English grammar and composition; 51 geography ; 37 history. elementary science and drawing; 166 object lessons and vocal music. Also, that the liberal Board of Education had allowed the teacher £7 10s per annum for cleaning the school, sanitary work, supply of pens, pencils, ink, blotting-paper, &c. The costs of sweeping the school and scrubbing it occasionally alone cost on an average 4s per Week or more than £10 per annum A resolution was passed that as so much inducement had been offered, the Chairman should write requesting the Board to maintain Featherston a High School.

The Committee adjourned till Monday night next

16th July 1878 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The adjourned meeting of Committee took place in the schoolroom on Monday last. Present—Cox (Chairman) Freeth, Cundy, Keys, and Toogood. Correspondence outwards and inwards was read.

The following resolutions were passed; That the account just presented for cleaning and sanitary be paid. 2. That farther arrangements with regard to sanitary, cleaning, stand over till next meeting.

3. That the compulsory clauses of the Education Act be strictly enforced. 4. That the Treasurer be authorised to obtain seven copies of the Education Act. Certain standing orders were read and adopted. The Committee will meet at 7.30 p.m. on the second Monday of every month.

18th July 1878 FEATHERSTON.

(From A Correspondent.) The scholars attending the public school here were treated - to a tea and evening amusement by some lady friends and the teacher on Thursday afternoon and evening last as a kind of introduction to the next half-year's work. They assembled at 2 o'clock, and after being amused for an hour sat down to an excellent tea, to which, it is needless to say, they did justice. Before the rest the first Zealand Anthem was sung, and afterwards a number of pert songs, rounds, &c., were sweetly rendered by the children, to the evident delight of the numerous visitors. The children then enjoyed themselves in the playgrounds until five o'clock, when the younger ones were dismissed and the elder children were entertained in the second session. The first was reserved for a soiree to be given at 8 o'clock, and about a hundred of the adult friends enjoyed themselves until midnight. After supper, Mr. Gurr addressed the company upon the success and rapid increase of the school. In 1875 there were 40 scholars on the roll, now the school numbered nearly 200. A great deal of this, he felt, was due to the interest taken by the Committee, of which Mr. Cox was chief actor. He took the opportunity of publicly recognising Mr. Cox's services, by presenting him with a beautifully bound "Homer's Iliad," and was glad to see him once more Chairman of the Local Committee. Mr. Cox replied in a suitable manner, and thanked Mr. Gurr for the compliment passed on his work. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Gurr and the ladies, a most pleasant evening came to a close at 12 o'clock -

20th July 1878 FEATHERSTON.

(From A Correspondent.) Much as I approve of the sentiments of the Wellington journals with respect to the late case against the Board of Education, I can hardly endorse the sub-leader of Wednesday's New Zealander, with respect to our neighbor Mr. Gurr. I consider him among those who have received hard treatment at the hands of the Boards. He came here bringing Australian papers, re examination, and work of the highest order, and has verified his position as a first-class teacher in the Featherston school. The mistake in his case was that he was not classified at once, which would have saved him the annoyance of a primary examination. I have had the pleasure of inspecting his work and system, and must say that I appreciate and admire both, and sympathise with Mr. Gurr in being classified as uncertificated. It is true that some of the pupils in the school are old in years, but they are not old scholars; and it is to the credit of the teacher that he succeeded in passing a comparatively large number of hitherto neglected children. There is one instance of a youth named Tait who, with little previous teaching succeeded, after nine months work with Mr. Gurr, in passing three standards at once, and making over 160 marks in the third; and he is only a type of many others. No one can deny that with one or two exceptions Featherston has been unfortunate in its teachers, and now that it has one whom it is justly proud of, I cannot allow him quietly to suffer when he ought to be encouraged. I

quite exempt the Board from any partiality in this case, and only rejoice that its too stringent adherence to a rule did not lose us one of our very best teachers.

3rd August 1878 An application was received from the Featherston School Committee asking that it be constituted into a High School. Mr.. Beetham said if there was to be any alterations in the rules of High School teaching these should be dealt with before considering this application. The Secretary said it rested with the Committees, as any school could be constituted a High School on the rules being complied with, and the children paying extra fees for other subjects. Mr.. Beetham said that, under the old rules, the Local Committee should pay the cost of additional buildings, and not less than half the pupils maintained on the advance department—pupils not being eligible until they had passed Standard 11. Mr.. Hutchison thought that the new regulations should limit the number to much less than 25.

On the motion of Mr.. Too math, seconded by the Rev Mr.. Paterson, it was resolved that the letter be referred to the Revision of Boles Committee, to report on at next meeting, and that it be afterwards be submitted to the Minister of Education for his approval. In the meantime a reply to be sent to the Featherston School Committee, to the effect that their application had been favorably entertained. It was stated that the Masterton School Committee were waiting until the new rules had been framed to make a similar application. Greytown School. A letter from Mr.. Wakelin, teacher of the above school, addressed to the Chairman, was laid upon the table. Mr.. Wakelin defended himself from the criticisms in the Inspector's last report, and pointed out, Row, with essentially different conditions, it was unfair to institute comparisons between one school and another. The length of the document was urged against it being read, but Mr.. Hutchison succeeded in extracting one or two facts, which put the matter in a strong light. For example: An invidious comparison has been instituted between the progress of the Featherston and Greytown schools, and Mr.. Wakelin pointed out that in the Featherston School there are three rooms, three fireplaces, a gallery for the younger children, a lavatory, &c. The rooms are lofty and well ventilated. In the Greytown school, on the contrary, there is but one M-shaped low-roofed room, one fireplace, no gallery, and no lavatory. In the Featherston school there are never more than two teachers in one room; in Greytown the four teachers are all in one room, rendering effective teaching all but impossible. Add to this, that the desks in the Greytown school are wholly made as to be quite unsuitable for their proper purpose. The teacher at Featherston has a residence of ten

rooms; the teacher at Greytown has one of four rooms—both localities subscribed £100 each for building teacher's residence. Eventh? referred to Messrs... Beetham and Pharazyn, with a request that the V would require into the subject. J m., Carterton School. moved without notice, that candidates be rented to fill the vacancy of teacher in the Carterton school. Mr.. Lee suggested that teachers should be required to send re copies of their committee and the to the Board, remarking that such a measure would save a deal of time and risk of loss. The Chairman asked what would be the effect if the Board disapproved of the luMr.ent meat made by the Committee, Mr.. Gisborne said the Board could whom they liked. w * n> Both propositions—that of Mr.. Hutchison •ad Mr.. Lee— were agreed to. Waihakeke School. It was resolved to allow a minimum of £3 a head towards a school being Waihakeke.

5th August 1878 The report of the examiners (Messrs... Kenneth Wilson, M.A., and Mr.. R Lee) on the fourth annual examination of teachers held on July 2nd and 3rd in the Thorndon schools, and the Greytown school, was read. It stated inter alia that as Mr.. Gurr, of Featherston, was, under arrangement by the Board last year, compelled to present himself for examination this year in the subjects for a higher certificate, the

head-masters of the College, at the request of the Inspector of Schools, set special papers in Latin, Euclid, Physical Geography, and Drawing for Mr.. Gurr, whose answers were first marked by the examiner who set the papers, and afterwards revised by the other examiner. The marks obtained by Mr.. Gurr placed him in the first class. The follow! ag list of candidates in order of merit was appended to the report : — Third-class Certificate List.— Mr.. E. W. Austin, head matter, Kaiwairai School; Miss

Pupil Teacher Examination Fourth year (over 16 years of age)— Sarah Dinnant, Thorndon; E. W. Gurr, Featherston;

17th October 1878 opening of the railway to Wellington included A salute of 21 guns was fired by the battery of the Artillery Volunteers, under the command of Captain Moorhouse, when the Governor declared the Railway open. Bouquets were presented to his Excellency by the school children, who Were subsequently taken a trip along the line as far as the Lake and beck, which they ; appeared to enjoy very much, , Lunch was held in the large booth which had been erected' for the purpose; and was much too large for the number of those present

17th December 1878 Mr.. C. W. Keys has been appointed Secretary and Treasurer to the Featherston School Committee, in place of Mr.. Freeth resigned

1879

1879	Featherston	Gurr	John	Headmaster	£250	\$39,755
1879	Featherston	McFarlane	F	Assistant Master	£140	\$22,263
1879	Featherston	Gurr	EW	Male Pupil Teacher	£60	\$9,541
1879	Featherston	Cox	CA	Female Pupil Teacher	£50	\$7,951
1879	Featherston	Gurr	H	Female Pupil Teacher	£35	\$5,566

12th March 1879 The Featherston School Committee, at their meeting on Monday evening, presented Mr.. Gurr, the schoolmaster, with a purse of gold and an address drawn up on parchment in lack letter, bearing testimony to the efficiency of the school under Mr.. Gurr's management.

15th March 1879 We had another treat afforded us by our worthy school teacher, Mr.. Gurr and members of his family, assisted by a lady and gentleman from town, on Tuesday evening, in the way .of an entertainment, consisting of songs, duets, choruses, and recitations, concluding with a farce, I believe written expressly for the occasion by Mr.. Gurr, entitled “ Engaging a Professional.” The principals were Mr.. and Mrs. Gurr, Miss Gurr, (Miss Randall, from Wellington), Miss Ethel Gurr, and Masters Edwin and Norman Gurr, in the farce. Mr.. Cumberworth, faithfully represented the character of the proprietor of tire Theatre, Mr.. Smith (of Wellington) that of “Pete.” The other characters were Ilignold, Master E Gurr; Carey, Master Hume; Miss Sherwin Master N. Gurr. All acquitted themselves in their usual style, and the audience went home fully satisfied with their evenings amusement. The nett proceeds amounted to £17. The entertainment was in aid of the School Drum and Fife Band. Mr.. Gurr and family fully deserve what is so often accorded them, viz., the thanks of the community, for providing these entertainments and the ever lasting thanks of the youngsters, for affording them so much pleasure and instruction. There can be no doubt but the “ Kinder Garter” system, in use in our School, and the pleasing way in which instruction is given, has the desired effect of tempting children to school and giving them an interest in their teachers. Mr.. Gurr must have felt in high feather on Tuesday ; first at the success of his concert, and then at an unexpected testimonial, in the ' shape of a purse of sovereigns, presented him I by the Committee,

or. behalf of the inhabitants, in consideration of his success as a | teacher in the Featherston School. I Our township does not take very great' strides, still I think all must agree that we are getting "steadily onward." Business is rather dull, but we are not yet feeling the great bank squeeze, so much talked of in the other townships and Wellington. I expect our two new auction marts will be opened very shortly ah I that may stir us up a bit.

24th April 1879 At a meeting of the Appointments Committee of the Education Board, held yesterday afternoon, Mr.. Kay was appointed master of the Gladstone School, and Mr.. McFarlane assistant-master of the Featherston School.

2nd May 1879 Wellington Education Board It was resolved to grant to the Featherston local committee another ' £25 towards the cost of fencing

16th May 1879 The new assistant teacher commenced his work here last week. In Victoria he was an assistant in the Corporate High School at Sandhurst

24th May 1879 The Georgia Minstrels are to perform here on Monday, when a great treat is anticipated by Featherstonites. They seem to have stolen a march on our local school committee, who had advertised a soiree for that evening, but had not taken the precaution to engage the hall before the energetic manager stepped in and did so, much to the surprise of the school committee, who will now have to seek fresh fields

31st May 1879 Mr.. Gurr, of Featherston, was an unsuccessful candidate for the Head Mastership of Mount Cook School. Mr.. Hardy, B.A., has received the appointment

13th June 1879 PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL, ; The Secretary of the Featherston School Committee, Mr.. Gurr, wrote asking the Board to appoint the Featherston school . a high school under the Act. The matter was adjourned

18th June 1879 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. ' V The distribution of the Board of Education's prizes to the successful candidates in" the State School at Featherston took place in the Odd Fellows' Hall, on Monday afternoon. The scholars first paraded the township, headed by their baud, and, on arriving at the hall, quite filled the room. Among those present we noticed many ladies, Mr.. Pharazyn, Rev. W. Brown, and 1 the members of the local committee. Mr.. W. Cundy, in the absence of Mr.. Cox (for whom Mr.. Gurr apologized) took the chair, and called on the head-master to address the meeting. Mr.. Gun said ho was pleased to sue so many visitors on an occasion of which Featherston might justly be proud. It was not only that the school had carried live of the sixteen prizes for the Wellington Education District, but the fact that all the children were well up. This the late examination showed, when 126 candidates were sent up for standards and 121 passed, showing only five failures, and three of these were under eight years of age, and were not expected to pass. In looking over the report for 1878, it will be seen iiiat out of I'2 or l!j subjects commented upon by the Inspector, Featherston holds a. favorable position in 11, Thorndon School had 10 mentions, and no other city school more than three or four. This shows that the school compared favorably with the rest of the district. He regretted that an invitation had not been given to Waihenga to join them, in this distribution, as that school had done work equally good with Featherston. In fact, it was creditable that the Wairarapa, although not representing one-fourth of the children in the district, had taken nearly half the pri.res given by the State. He thanked his teaching staff for the manner they had seconded his efforts to place the Featherston School in a leading position. Mr.. Pharazyn rose amidst cheers, and said, as a resident in the district, he felt proud of the result achieved by the Featherston School. Mv Gurr had proved himself a teacher equal to the work of organizing and sustaining a large school, and he congratulated him and his assistants on carrying on the largest number of prizes. As their member in the Education Board, he felt a great interest in the school, and was sure that its

influence for good would be felt beyond Featherston. The Rev W. Proudhon said that the school reflected great credit on the esteemed head-master, in fact, everything connected with it was on a model principle, from the organization and arrangements to the deportment of the scholars. When leaving the old country, he felt considerable anxiety for the educational welfare of his children; but in Featherston may be taken as a specimen of State Education in the colonies no one need be anxious on that account, for he was sure the advantage was in favor of the colonies. Mr. Parker, on behalf of the local committee, said they were proud of their school and teacher. He was often in the school and everything was always in good order, and good results must convince of such a system. He hoped Mr. Gurr would not leave them, at least for some time to come. Mrs. Pharazyn then made the presentations, consisting of six valuable volumes accompanying each with a few words of kindly encouragement, in the following order Norman Gurr, Natural Philosophy, and David Craig, English Literature, both 1st prizes in the 1st standard Charlotte Jackson, Africa, 2nd prize 1st standard. Elizabeth Yule, Rambles in Norway, 3rd prize, 6th standard. and Elizabeth Yule, Cookery, 4th prize, 6th standard. Each scholar was enthusiastically wildly cheered, and after each the band played. The proceedings closed with vote of thanks, cheers for all concerned, and the National Anthem

26th June 1879 The Education Board have, on the motion of Mr. C. Pharazyn, resolved that the Featherston school be formed into a High School.

10th July 1879 A special meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Monday evening to make arrangements for carrying on the High School.

Present: Messrs. Cox (chairman), Cundy, Keys, Faber, Reynolds, and Toogood.

The following were adopted as extra subjects to be taught, viz, Latin, French, Euclid, Algebra, and English literature; fees to be one guinea per quarter. Additions are to be made to the school buildings to enable one of the present rooms to be used as a classroom.

31st July 1879 At the Education Board to-day, the Athenaeum, Wellington, and the Institute, Greytown, were fixed as the places for the approaching examinations for the Board scholarships, and the 26th August agreed upon as the date. On the motion of Mr. Bunny the sum of £110 was granted for the extension of the Featherston school. Mr. Hutchison requested the Secretary to take a note of his objection that the motion was out of order, no notice having been given. It was agreed that the Board should appoint their own architect.

7th August 1879 TENDERS are invited for the extensions to the Featherston High School, on or before MONDAY, August 11th. Tenders to be addressed to the Chairman of the Featherston School Committee. All particulars may be obtained from the Headmaster

16th August 1879 At the recent examination of pupil teachers the following obtained a classification higher than last year;— Helen Young, Masterton School; and Edwin Gurr and Charlotte Cox, Featherston School.

12th December 1879 Mr. C. W. Keys has been appointed Secretary and Treasurer to the Featherston School Committee, in place of Mr. Freeth resigned

[John Gurr](#)

Research by Grandson Sam

[John Gurr was born in Tasmania in 1839, son of Henry Gurr, a wheelwright. His family had immigrated from Sussex a few years prior, rather than being convicts, as much of the population still was. He began his working life as a cabinet maker and undertaker in Launceston, and in 1861, he married Maria Thompson at local](#)

Independent Chapel. The family removed to the town of Westbury after this where he continued work as a cabinet maker. This business didn't last however and in 1864 he was adjudged a bankrupt.

It appears that this was the cause of his change of career to school teaching. By 1866 he's employed in this capacity, at Winkleigh. here again he goes bankrupt. Despite this is still gains employment, this time at St John's School in Launceston. This was probably a private school run by Gurr himself. In 1870 he was charged with perjury over the let of a pianoforte, from one J J Pollard, for the school. He claimed that he had purchased it whilst Pollard claimed it had been let He was let off on this charge as the prosecution couldn't prove it but judging from his later behaviour it was likely that he was at fault.

By 1871 his school was flourishing and he had taken larger lodgings to provide for the increase in pupils. However later that year things began to fall apart. He was charged by Esther Selwyn, a domestic servant, of being the father of her illegitimate daughter, and having not contributed to its upkeep. He was ordered to pay 7s a week in maintenance but would take Miss Selwyn to court for perjury, adamantly denying the paternity of the child.

It appears she won though, as by 1872 he has run off, leaving his brother to pay for the maintenance himself. Having left Tasmania in disgrace he appears to have settled in Portland, Victoria. He was teaching at St Stephens Grammar School in 1874 when he was at the centre of a ludicrous turn of events. He and a pupil went to Cape Grant, and then separated. Upon the return of the pupil he found no trace of Gurr, but found his hat floating in the ocean. Being a dangerous area with heavy surf crashing on the rocks it was assumed he had drowned. However several days later he turned up back in Portland, claiming he had fallen in, been knocked out and had wandered through the bush until regaining his senses and returning home. This was far from satisfactory and rumours persisted to the extent he wrote into the local paper to plead his mental health was sound and that his account of events was correct.

Just a couple of months after this however he had left Portland for South Australia, being appointed Master of Auburn School. By 1875 he was Master of Hindmarsh School, near Adelaide, before taking work at J L Young's Educational Institute, a top Non-Conformist school. He moved to Brighton to start a Grammar School but suffered a tragedy upon arrival when his son Harold was drowned in a tank in their new house. The Grammar School also failed to fire and he was again adjudged bankrupt at the beginning of 1877.

The family subsequently departed Australia, Gurr having being appointed to Featherston School in the Wairarapa. He would remain here until 1880, and was held in high regard by the parents and pupils alike, being seen as a very good teacher. He left in order to take up a position in Invercargill, Headmaster of the large local combined Primary and High school.

Once he left though he sued the Education Board for unpaid wages, which was granted mainly to stop the court case. He lasted until 1883, when he resigned due to gross neglect of duty. His son Edwin was a junior teacher under him, and when the inspector visited the school he refused to stand and insulted the Inspector. Gurr Snr stood by his son, who was fired regardless. It also emerged that Gurr Snr had not kept registers at the school and that he was running a model school in the new building

intended for the Infants School, which instead was crammed into the old school. At the same time the Parsonage in Invercargill, which the family were inhabiting, burnt down. The furniture was insured by 450 pounds and the house itself 300 pounds.

Later that year he was in court for a number of debts which he was unable to pay and its possible the fire was deliberately lit. Despite his misconduct at Invercargill he was appointed temporary school inspector for South Canterbury. He also applied for an inspectorship in Wanganui but was unsuccessful. He also applied for the Nelson Street School (Napier) Mastership but was again unsuccessful. He instead was appointed temporarily to Pukekohe West School. He was also appointed permanently to Onehunga School at the same time, having presumably applied for both, and this is the appointment he took up.

He continued to have money problems though, he left South Canterbury with debts and there were still large sums owing to Invercargill debtors, which he claimed he could not pay. In October 1886, still headmaster of Onehunga, he tied a rope around his body and jumped off Mangere bridge into Manukau harbour, drowning himself.

Investigations were pending against him into allegations of indecent misconduct with a female pupil teacher at the school, although from reports this seems to have been exaggerated and unsubstantiated. He appears to have been a capable teacher but obviously had personal demons that strongly affected his personal and professional life. His wife passed away in 1898.

1880

1880	Featherston	Tuckey	Henry E	Headmaster	£240	\$37,272
1880	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£140	\$21,742
1880	Featherston	Huntley	Bessie	Female	£100	\$15,530
1880	Featherston	Cox	Elizabeth A	Female Pupil Teacher	£50	\$7,765

10th January 1880 The Featherston public school reopens on next Monday week the 19th inst with a grand public picnic

14th January 1880 The Featherston School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Monday evening, in the Local Board's room. Present—Messrs.. Cox, Keys, Toogood, Cundy, and Reynolds. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, The Treasurer reported balance in Bank £5 2s 6d. The sub-committee having accepted Mr.. Riddick's tender for sheds in the playground, at £12 10s, Mr.. Gurr submitted a report of the late soiree,' net proceeds £8 4s fld. Accounts presented—Petherick, for extras £17 13s; O'Neal, for painting £12 4s 2d. Both were referred to the sub-committee. An account of £ 3 12s Cd for cleaning was passed for payment, It was proposed by Mr.. Cox, seconded by Mr.. Keys—That the Secretary and Treasurer prepare their reports and balance-sheet, and lay them before the next meeting, which will bt held at 7 o'clock in the evening of the 26th inst., prior to the general public meeting at 8. o'clock

20th January 1889 Your Correspondent, “ Featherston,” in Saturday’s issue seems to know a good deal about the alleged irregularity at the late scholarship examination hold at Greytown. and wishes to drag Carterton into it, which I am satisfied he would never attempt had he been rightly informed. “ Featherston ” is wrong in assuming that the irregularity was on the part of the scholars, on the contrary, Mr.. John Gurr, the teacher of the Featherston State School, was the principal performer. I will here state the facts connected with the case as they were narrated to me,- but at the same time I

trust that any omission will be supplied, either by “ Featherston” or one of the parties concerned. The facts are, on the first day of the examination held at the Institute, Greytown, Mr. Pilkington of the Masterton school, Mr. Gurr of the Featherston school, and Mr. H. W. Hains acting as supervisor, were in the room. Mr. Gurr was observed by Mr. Pilkington to take a card out of his pocket and commence writing upon it, after a time Mr. Gurr went to one of his pupils (a girl) and in straightening up her paper he was observed to drop the card amongst them, by and bye, this girl was seen by Mr. Pilkington copying from the card. He (Mr. Pilkington) then went to Mr. Hains and told him to go to this girl and get the card from which she was copying from her. Mr. Hains of course went to the girl and after some difficulty obtained the card, and returning with it to where Mr. Gurr and Mr. Pilkington were standing, asked Mr. Gurr if that was his writing (meaning the writing on the card) Mr. Gurr said, let me see it, Mr. Hains complied ; when Mr. Gurr obtained the card and said he admitted it was his writing, but declined to return it, squeezing it up in his hand at the same time, in Mr. Hains trying to take hold of his (Mr. Gurr's) hand to get it, he (Mr. Gurr) put it into his mouth and eat it. These facts speak for themselves, what does “ Featherston” say?

Further, I believe Mr. Lee, the Inspector, was informed of the facts by Mr. Hains, but Mr. Gurr being first favorite he said nothing about it. I will only add that as Mr. Gurr attempted to practise such things at a public examination in Greytown, what would he do at his own school where so many opportunities offer? So much for the grand results always obtained at the Featherston school. Does it not seem very strange that a boy from the Carterton school, which had been so badly conducted for years by the late master, could slip in and take the scholarship, beating the great guns from Featherston, This fact is attributable to Mr. Lee not having sole charge of the examination. I am, Ac., Cabtebttox.

20th January 1880 EDUCATIONAL.

(To the Editor of the Standard.) Sib, —In your issue of the 17th inst., I notice a letter signed “ Featherston,” which, in justice to Carterton School I feel compelled to answer. I acted as one of the supervisors at the examination for Scholarship alluded to, and I am in a position to state that the irregularity mentioned was confined to the Featherston School. I am, Ac., W. H. W. Haines

20th January 1880 (To the Editor of the Siasdabd). Sir,—In your issues two letters appeared respecting an examination held at Greytown, one signed “ Greytown” the other “ Featherston,” but neither of them coming from the townships they are named after. Another appears, signed “Featherston.” in your columns of the 17th inst., which, I am sure, no journalist here would be absurd enough to write. The upshot of the whole seems to me, Mr. Editor, to try to breed an ill feeling between the various schools in the valley. Allow me to state in reply to the last production that any onus at the late examination rests with my school, and that Carterton or any other school could not possibly be implicated. If either “ Greytown” or “ Featherston” requires any farther explanation, and will quit his non de plume, I will be happy to satisfy him. I am, lie., Jobs Gubb,

27th January 1880 Election of School Committee last evening :-j; ft. fl!*, 29 ; CoW 18: Tnigood.l? ; McShane, 16; W. \V a JW, 15; Bennett. 14; Reynolds, 9; W' Cundv, 7; O«M.v, flj'Seya, 4 First seven declared elected.

28th January 1880 The Featherston School Committee held their last meeting, prior to the election of a new committee, on Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

Messrs.. Cox (chairman), Cundy, Faber, Toogood, Keys, and Reynolds were present.

After confirming the minutes, the Chairman read the report and balance sheet, which were approved and adopted. A discussion took place relative to a letter in Saturday's issue of the Standard signed by Mr.. Revans, and testimonials, which Mr.. Gurr had left with Mr.. Cox on his arrival three years since, were read and proved of the highest order. In fact, no one could produce better. The Committee were unanimous in condemning the letter, and felt that Mr.. Gurr's career in Featherston fully bore out the character given to him by bishops, deans, university men, and others, numbering some 300.

The report was as follows Featherston, Jan 26, 1880. Chairman Board of Education, • i Wellington, . Sir,—The Committee of the Featherston State School beg to present their report for the year' ending December 31, 1879. During the year a great deal has been done in the way of improvements, and the Committee thank the Board for the extra grants' in aid of such works! The schoolrooms are now commodious, and two hundred children can be received; The benefit of the alterations is already felt, and will be more so as winter advances. The fencing-in is also secure on the weather side and front, and a commodious shed has been erected to shelter the scholars from the heat and rain. These improvements have' cost the Committee £239 6s 4d, in aid of which £160 was voted by the Board.' £29 1s has been expended., in maps, diagrams, &c., and £10 for a stove for teacher's residence. After paying for cleaning and stationery the Committee find a balance in the Bank of £6 14s 8d, and arrears for alterations and improvements, £42 7s 2d, leaving a debit of £35 12s 6d, to be met during the year 1880. _ The Committee, are glad to| report continued good results under the. management of Mr.. Gurr. The order and; discipline in the school are excellent, the progress of the children all that can be desired, and a bond of unity exists between the head-master and his assistants and scholars. In conclusion, we hope that the discharge of our trust will be approved by the Board. On. behalf of the Committee, I am, Sir, Yours obediently, J. G. Cox, Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET.

Debits	£ s. d.
Balance, December 31st, 1878	7 8 5
Capitation grants	65 0 0
Fencing, subsidy	50 0 0
Extension of building subsidy	110 0 0
Alteration to furniture grant	5 0 0
Soiree (net proceeds)	7 9 6
Concert	9 10 0
Donation (Mr.. Bidwill) ...	50 0
Soiree (net proceeds)	8 2 6
	£267 10 5

Cr.	£ s. d.
Cleaning	10 0 0
Fuel	5 8 0
Maps and stationery	23 10 0
(Bowden)	1 11 0
(Gurr)	4 0 0
Office expenses	0 15 1
Rent of paddock	3 12 6
Building extension	110. 0 0
Fencing	53 0 0

Painting fence	7 0 0
Iron for fence	20 19 2
Carriage of iron	1 0 0
Architect's commission	5 0 0
Stove for residence ...	7 0 0
Alteration to furniture	5 0 0
Setting Stove ...	3 0 0
Balance in bank ...	6 14 8
	£267 10

Audited and found correct this 22nd day of. January, 1880. John Gurr, Auditor.

Committee then retired to the schoolroom where a large number was assembled...

Mr.. Cox having been voted to the chair the election was proceeded with.,

The new Committee are Messrs.. Cox, Cobham. Toogood, McShane, Wallace, Bennett, and Reynolds.

Great feeling was expressed at Mr.. Revan's letter, which was strongly, censured, and the new Committee were requested to take the matter up as they may deem fit, The meeting was of opinion that they had seen enough of their teacher themselves, and wanted no outsider to tell them whether they had a good man or not.

Mr.. Cox was elected Chairman of the Committee, Mr.. McShane Treasurer, and Mr.. Cobham Secretary

29th January 1880 . On Monday evening the householders assembled in the schoolroom to elect a new school committee. There was a good attendance and much interest shewn. It is to be regretted that only three of the old committee were re-elected. Certainly

one of the most useful members was left out, namely, Mr.. W. Cundy. This gentleman has taken, the greatest interest in school matters, and his non-return-'can' only be attributed.to .cumulative voting; and he certainly, has the, satisfaction of knowing that he does hold a seat through plumping for/himself. 'There can be no doubt that the new committee will prove a good; one.; Our old friend Mr.. Cox is once again chairman

29th January 1880 Mr.. Gurr, the head master of the Featherston School, has been presented with a handsome ink and book stand, together with an address, by his pupils.

30th January 1880 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. A letter from the school committee was read, stating that considerable dissatisfaction was felt at the annoyance which had been caused to Mr.. Gurr since the late scholarship examination, as it was' considered that the matter should now be allowed to rest, as Mr.. Gurr had acknowledged his error, and expressed regret for what-.had 'occurred. The letter which appeared from Mr.. Revans in the Standard the committee considered uncalled for.— MI Toomath read a letter from Mr.. Haines, one of the examiners, on the subject, and after nicely .dissuasion, the Board decided, that the communication be referred to the School Committee.

31st January 1880 We learn from the Chronicle that at the late meeting of the Education Board some correspondence was submitted relative to the irregularities which had taken place at the recent scholarship examinations. The following resolution Was passed at the last meeting of the Board in regard to Mr.. Gurr, the head teacher of the Featherston school:— “ That in the opinion of tins Board the conduct of Mr.. Gurr in explaining the meaning of a question to a pupil at the scholarship examination at Greytown was a very grave fault. The Board accepts Mr.. Gurr's admission of his fault and his apology.” Mr.. Toomath submitted a letter from Mr..

Haines, the supervisor at the examination, complaining strongly of Mr.. Gurr's statements, which appeared very materially to differ from his own. The Rev J. Paterson condemned the conduct of Mr. Haines, whose duty, when he saw any irregularity, was to have reported the matter to the Board at the time. He begged to move that Mr.. Haines' letter be sent to the local committee, with a request for that body to reply to it, and that the Board consider the matter at its next meeting. This resolution was unanimously agreed to. We trust that the Committee will examine Mr.. Haines on the subject, or at least request his presence during the investigation. Is it not his duty to write to the Inspector-General on the subject?

3rd February 1880 It is not possible to permit the matter relative to the "alleged irregularities" which had taken place at the scholarship examinations at Greytown, so long ago as August last, to remain where it is. It is a matter which demands, in the public interest a more thorough examination than it is likely to receive from such a tribunal as the Featherston School Committee. This investigation ought to have been insisted upon by Mr.. Gurr himself, and Mr.. Haines, in his own defence, has no other course open to him except that of laying the whole facts either before the Inspector-General or the public. We gather from the brief report of what took place at the last meeting of the Education Board, with reference to this grave scandal, that Mr.. Toomath submitted a letter from Mr.. Haines, the supervisor at the examination, complaining strongly of Mr.. Gurr's statements, which appeared very materially to differ from his own ; but it is to be regretted that the charges contained in the letter were treated so lightly by the members of the Board who heard them. They were of such a character as to necessitate a thorough enquiry being instituted relative to their truth or falsehood. The question is not one merely affecting Mr.. Haines and Mr.. Gurr, but it is one in which the public have a greater interest in its right decision than either. This will be found to be the case when the whole of the evidence obtains publicity, and already what has been permitted to get abroad is sufficient to shake the public confidence in the way scholarship and other examinations have been carried out in this Educational District. We have of course nothing to do here with Mr.. Gurr's qualifications and achievements as a teacher. These may be as great and unquestioned as they have been represented both by himself and by others. It is the misfortune of some men to fail to be appreciated, but this has not been the case with Mr.. Gurr. Both from his Committee's and the Inspector's reports the public must have necessarily inferred that his abilities and success as a teacher were undoubted, even though it disregarded the continual testimonials of a similar purport which obtained publicity from a less reliable and impartial source. Such an inference was alike logical and irresistible, and it is not our intention to question its justice. There is, however another inference equally as reasonable and well-founded, and it is this : If "explanations" of questions put to pupils can be furnished them by their teachers when the difficulties placed in the way were thought to be insurmountable, such explanations may have been furnished at examinations where there were fewer obstacles to prevent the examination papers being tampered with. If an admitted "irregularity" has taken place in one case, greater "irregularities" may have taken place in other cases where the opportunities were greater and the chances of detection fewer. This consideration alone should have been sufficient to have determined the Board to investigate the case themselves, and most certainly they should have arrived at this determination after the contents of the letter of Mr.. Haines had been placed before them, exposing as it did other equivocal transactions in connection with the case, compared with which the original offence, bad as it was, and pernicious as it might prove, sinks into

insignificance. We learn that Mr.. Paterson condemned Mr.. Haines for not reporting the gross irregularity at the time of its occurrence ; but Mr.. Haines supposed that Mr.. Gurr had himself done so, and had also admitted the charge, and had apologised, not so much for supplying answers to questions to pupils, but for Ins subsequent Old Bailey attempt to destroy the evidence of his guilt. It was not until ho found out what the character of Mr.. Gurr's version of the transaction really was that in self-defence he found it necessary to write the letter above referred to. Pending the thorough investigation which can now no longer be refused we have no desire to proceed further at present; but if that investigation is refused we shall not be deterred from entering more fully into it than wo have yet done, as we believe that it is for the public good that such an irregularity as that to which Mr.. Gurr pleads guilty should be prevented in future, and than such conduct as that which Mr.. Haines charges him with should be exposed.

5th February 1880 The School Committee will shortly meet and receive (for final settlement) Mr.. Haines' letter to the Education Board re the conduct of our, Master (Mr.. Gurr, at a recent examination, and from what I can glean from the various members of the Committee their decision will be satisfactory to Mr.. Gurr. The feeling is this. First, Mr.. Gurr undoubtedly made a greet mistake, but after apologised, which apology was accepted, and the matter dropped. Second, they consider Mr.. Haines to blame for winking at a grave error and not reporting it to the Board, or else ho thought the matter too trivial to take any notice of, and is therefore to blame for raking the i subject up again. However. I think the best way to get over the difficulty is to bring Mr.. Haines and Mr.. Gurr before the Committee and have this much exaggerated matter settled once and for ever.

27th February 1880 On Saturday; next the .local School club play against a combined team from the Upper and Lower Hutt, In their last encounter with the Hutt boys Featherston was victorious by ten wickets. I am glad to hear-that the. lad. Yelverton, who was injured by. a fall from a horse, is not be badly hurt as was expected. He is once more able.to-get about

6th April 1880 Inspector Lee's long report on Wellington Education Board schools Included: 'the accommodation provided and the increased accommodation immediately required, may be thus set down with regard to the eight District - Town Schools Clareville, Featherston, ' Upper Hutt and Kaiwarra, have room j enough and to spare. Greytown, Lower Hutt and Masterton are fairly filled; but 1 the accommodation will suffice for the winter, Additional space is required at f Carterton but the case is not. .urgent, as a temporary building close at hand, is in 3 use. All the eight District Town Schools, except Kaiwarra, possess at least an acre of land, each 'with ample room-space for teaching and residences for the teachers.

	Number Presented in Higher Standards	Number who attended Over 250 half days
Mount Cook Boys'	201	157
Mount Cook Girls'	180	118
Thorndon	235	170
Greytown	69	53
Pahautanui	23	10
Fernridge	25	13
Waihenga (Martinborough)	18	18
Featherston	84	65

Taita	36	25
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7th April 1880 It will be seen by the Inspector's report in another column, that the Featherston School, conducted by Mr.. Gurr, has obtained the best passes in the whole of the Education district, beating the larger schools in the city of Wellington,

7th April 1880 HIGHEST PASS IN STANDARDS. In compliance with the regulations of the Board, I present a list of the pupils, boys and girls who have gained the highest number of marks in the three highest standards, The following is the Prize List : STANDARD VI, (HIGHEST). Featherston School—Boys.

The following candidates were next to the prize winners in the list, and deserve honorable mention:— Standard VI—Boys: Charles Harris,' Thorndon, 129; George Anderson, Thorndon, 127;

Girls; Grace Osborne, Terrace, 137; Ellen Wallace, Mount Cook' Girls', 135. . . .

Standard V.—Boys: Robert Rentier, Terrace, 158; William Hanlon- Waihenga, 155., Girls; Alice Cox-, Featherston, 162; Annie Fitchett, Mount .Cook Girls') 160.

Standard IV.—Boys: William Gavin, Terrace, 16.1-; Duncan McGregor, Fernridge,' 146. Girls, -.Annie Craig,... Featherston, 154; Martha Carter,' Carterton, 147. '

13th April 1880 In a long rambling article entitles Rustcania included the following statement

There is a loud paeon of praise in extollation of the Featherston school. Surely the whole world now knows that establishment cannot be otherwise than pre-eminent. Where so ever its master may be quartered, assuredly there will be the premier school.

17th June 1880 Mr.. Gunn, (*Gurr*) of Featherston, near Wellington, has been elected from a numb r of applicants for the head-mastership of the District; High School of Southland

21st June 1880 APPLICATIONS are requested for the xl Head Mastership of the Featherston School, the average attendance of which for the past half-year was 151. The salary will depend on classification and average attendance. A good residence is provided

24th June 1880 Applications are invited for the head mastership of the Featherston School, also for pupil teacher

30th June 1880 There were 8 applicants for the position of head teacher Featherston

2nd July 1880 Mr.. Gurr wrote, to the Board, trading his resignation as master of the 'Featherston School, in consequence of his acceptance of an appointment in the South.

7th July 1880 Appointment: Mr.. Tuckey, late classical master of the Wellington College, at Featherston

8th July 1880 Mr.. Gurr, head master of the Featherston School, will be presented with an address by the Local Committee and a testimonial by the scholars on Friday next, at 2.30. Parents and friends are also invited to be present at the ceremony. The departure of Mr.. Gurr is much regretted

29th July 1880 The working average for the past year at the undermentioned schools has been as follows Masterton 218, Carterton 163, Greytown 141, Featherston 142.

30th July 1880 DESTRUCTION OF THE STATE SCHOOL AT FEATHERSTON. MYSTERIOUS FIRE.

The latest particulars concerning the total destruction by fire of the State school at Featherston, on Wednesday evening, as reported in the Evening Post of yesterday a date, throw no light on the probable origin of the conflagration. The building was a large wooden one, Situated in an isolated position. A woman named Mrs.. Cronin, whoso duty it was to clean the schoolroom each evening after the scholars had retired,

Stated that she performed her task as usual on the evening of the fire, and locked up the premises at 6 o'clock, leaving everything in an apparently safe condition. No fires were burning when she left, and she did not observe any person lurking about the place. At a quarter-past 7 o'clock the alarm was raised, but, despite the efforts of the spectators, the building was burnt to the ground, and with the exception of a number of desks, maps, forms, and blackboards, nothing was saved. The total loss is estimated at from £450 to £500, none of the property being insured. It has been erroneously stated that the fire had its origin in a room which contained no fireplace. So far as can at present be gathered, it is generally believed that a foul chimney was the actual cause of the disaster. In the room where this chimney was situated a fire had been burning throughout the day. The Local School Committee held a special meeting yesterday, and until stops are taken by the Education Board to re-erect the structure, it was decided that scholastic duties should be continued in a building known as the Town Hall. The residence of the teacher, Mr. Tuckey, which is located about a hundred yards from the school, escaped undamaged. The wings of the destroyed building had been only recently constructed. At a meeting of the Education Board held this morning. It was resolved that the Board's architect, Mr. Turnbull, be requested to prepare the plans of a new school, and that tenders be then called for its re-erection. The District Coroner will hold an investigation of the affair early next week.

31st July 1880 FIRE AT FEATHERSTON.

DESTRUCTION OF THE STATE SCHOOL. About half-past seven o'clock on Wednesday evening, a bright glare was observed in the school, and some gentlemen at once went over, and upon entering the door found the room full of smoke, flames immediately burst forth causing those who had entered to beat a hasty retreat, the smoke and heat being so intense, and which rendered the most vigorous attempts at getting anything out of the School futile. Many willing hands were immediately upon the spot and used their utmost endeavors, but of course nothing could be done, in the absence of either a fire brigade or engine, and so all that could be done was to stand by and see the fine school take its fate. How the fire originated, is a question which has yet to be solved, or probably one which never will be satisfactorily answered. An enquiry will be held we believe early next week when some light may be thrown upon the matter. Mr. Gurr, who was at Christchurch at the time, on hearing of the occurrence immediately telegraphed to know the truth of the statement. He is, we hear, a loser by the fire of the greater part of his most valued books, etc., which he had left to be forwarded to him.

31st July 1880 On Wednesday evening at half-past seven an alarm of fire was given, and turned out to be only too true, the commodious buildings known as the Featherston school being on fire. The fire was first seen in almost the centre of the building, where, strange to say, there was no fire place. Plenty of willing hands assisted in removing the desks, maps, &c. but a number of books and other valuable property was destroyed. I believe Mr. Gurr and Mr. McFarlane are both considerable losers by the fire. I presume an inquest will be held to elucidate matters.

4th August 1880 The Wairarapa Standard says : — " An inquiry into the cause of the late fire in Featherston, by which the State School was destroyed, was held on Monday, before Dr. H. Spratt, sen., at the request of the School Committee. The evidence produced went to show that there had been fire in both wings of the school on the day of the conflagration, but that it had all been carefully extinguished after school hours, and that the fire had originated in the centre of the building. The following verdict was returned : ' That the school was destroyed by fire, but there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

5th August 1880 At the Education Board yesterday, after our reporter left, the question of insurance of school buildings was discussed, and Messrs... Bunny and Beetham were requested to wait on the Government on the subject. The Board accepted the offer of Mr.. Sellar of a suitable room for a temporary school at Featherston at a cost of 12s (id per week. It was also resolved inter alia to procure 48 desks for the school, to expend ,£30 on repairs to the teacher's residence, and to close the school for a fortnight pending the necessary arrangements for its re-opening

7th August 1880 August 6th, Monday last was very prolific in meetings, in addition to its being Court day there was an inquest on the late school fire, the Local Board meeting, and d Church meeting. The inquest was held id the Royal Hotel, at half past one, before d jury of whom Mr.. J. G-. Cox was elected foreman. The evidence taken did not throw much light on the origin of the fire which is to be regretted, as it would have dispelled doubts which arise on such occasions. The evidence of Mr.. McFarlane was the most reliable, and proved the fire in the School had not been replenished since it was first lit in the morning, that he looked to the embers before leaving

School and considered there was not tin slightest danger, no tire being perceptible also that he was first on the spot after tin Ire broke out, and was positive it commenced in the unused room in the centre of the building. Mr.. Lee was here or Tuesday, and consulted with the School Committee as to the most suitable to conduct the School temporarily, they decided to recommend to the Education Board, the advisability of renting Messrs.. Iorns and Fergusson's late auction rooms, for a term. In the interest of the scholars it is to be hoped the Board will consider the matter as speedily as possible

12th August 1880 Mr.. Turnbull, the Board's architect, attended with plans of the proposed new school at Featherston, which, having been approved by the local committee, were adopted by the Board. It was resolved to advertise for tenders, to be sent in by Tuesday, 24th inst.

13th August 1880 Tenders called to close on the 24th inst.

14th August 1889 The School Committee have had their hands full during the past week, arranging the necessary details for reopening the School on Monday next. The plans of the new School building are now in their hands, to enable them to make any suggestions of alterations for local purposes, or reasons. The general designs though lacking all attempt at ornamentation seem to have all the requirements for a good school building, and as they are from the hands of a gentleman of high reputation Mr.. T. Turnbull, they will without doubt be all that could be desired

25th August 1880 The tender of Mr.. Reddick, Featherston, for the erection of the Featherston school, was accepted

28th August 1880 The tenders of Messrs.. Riddick & Cadenhead of Featherston was accepted for the erection of the new school at Featherston, their tender being the lowest. We have not as yet heard the amounts of the different tenders.

9th September 1880 Messrs.. Riddick & Cadenhead, the contractors for the new Featherston School commenced building operations yesterday

27th October 1880 The Hon. C. J. Pharazyn, Chairman of the Board of Education, does not like lawyers, apparently, and has himself undertaken to act as counsel to the Board in a pending action. At the meeting of the Board this morning Mr.. Inspector Leo stated that Mr.. Gurr, late head-master of the Featherston school, has issued a summons against the Board for £34 3s, and there was a suggestion to place the matter in the hands of Mr.. Brandon. Upon this the Chairman remarked that if it was left to Mr.. Brandon, that gentleman would be at sea about it, adding, "We know more about

the thing than he does." He referred also to another lawyer, who, in conducting a certain case, charged .£50 for doing no good whatever. Feeling such an absence of confidence in the legal profession, the Hon. C. J. Pharazyn undertook to deal with the present case himself ; and if he pilots the Board safely through he will, as Mr.. Bunny remarked at the time, obtain great "Kudos."

29th October 1880 Featherston School cost £522. 10s (Equivalent of \$83 940.03 in October 2016)

9th November 1880 special meeting of the School Committee was held in the Local Board office on Thursday at 8 pm present—Messrs.. Cox, Cundy, Cobham, Bennett, McShane, Toogood. Treasurer reported a balance of 1d, amount passed for payment £4 19s 8d, a large quantity of inward correspondence was read-- Resolved that the chairman consult with the master with the view of inducing the parents of the school children to assist the committee in the matter of funds by the contribution of 1s per head per month for three months, this step is considered absolutely necessary in consequence of the stoppage of the special allowance, and the loss sustained by the late fire A circular was read from the Education Board re the teaching of the higher branches of education on payment of certain specified fees, resolved that the matter be left to the future consideration. of the committee

15th November 1880 The Hon. C. J. Pharazyn has not proved a success in taking upon himself the role of counsel to the Board of Education. It will be recollected that at the last meeting of the Education Board a summons was laid before the meeting, in which Mr.. Gurr, late head master of the Featherston School, claimed .£34 3s, alleged to be due to him on account of wages. It will farther be recollected that the Hon: C. J. Pharazyn was severe on solicitors generally, and undertook himself to pay 13s 4d which the Board did not dispute into Court, and to defend the action as regards the balance. The case was set down for hearing this morning, and punctual to the time the Chairman of the Board of Education appeared in Court, backed by Mr.. Lee, the Inspector, arrived with a pile of authorities. At the outset, however, a hitch occurred, as Mr.. Fitzherbert, plaintiff's counsel, objected to Mr.. Pharazyn leading a case, he not being a law practitioner ; and a second objection was that there was no authority given to Mr.. Pharazyn or Mr.. Lee to appear. These gentlemen had therefore to retire, but the authority was soon procured, they reappeared, and the case was again called on. Mr.. Fitzherbert said he had received no statement of the money paid into court, and that the case really could not go on. His Worship held that the proceedings were very irregular that he must adjourn the case for the purpose of allowing the Board to obtain the services of a solicitor. Every man to his trade. At 2 p.m. the case was again called on, when Mr.. Brandon appeared for the defence. Evidence having been taken, his Worship took time to consider his decision

18th November 1880 At the Resident Magistrate's Court this afternoon, Mr.. Davy, E.M., delivered judgment in the civil action, Gurr v. Education Board, heard on Monday last. The action, it may be remembered, was brought by the plaintiff to recover £19 3s for 28 days' salary at the rate of £250 per annum, and £15 for instruction to pupil teachers. The sum of £11 13s 4d had been paid into Court, the balance being disputed. Mr.. Fitzherbert appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr.. Brandon, jun , on behalf of the Board. His Worship said the facts of the case were very simple, and after briefly reviewing the evidence, he added that the question was whether the

plaintiff under the circumstances was justified in relying upon the permission granted by the Featherston School Committee to leave before the expiration of his term in order to accept a position under the Southland Education Board, without the confirmation of the Wellington Board. Ho (Mr.. Davy) held that the plaintiff was not justified in doing so, and, therefore, gave judgment against him, with regard to the claim for £19 3s. Regarding the other item for instruction to pupil teachers, he held that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the amount, and gave judgment for £15, including the sum paid into Court, together with the costs of the action, which, it is said, amount to £8 or £9.

14th December 1800 We notice that Messrs.. Riddick and Cadenhead have nearly completed the new , schoolhouse at Featherston, which, when finished, will be the best structure of its kind in the Wairarapa Mr.. Turnbull's style of ventilation, and .also .the general appearance of the exterior, are spoken of in high terms. There are four tanks near the school, which will hold 1600 gallons of water, We trust the Board 'Will see the necessity of spending a few - more pounds in draining and fencing, .to bring the grounds into harmony with the building.

14th December 1800 . The following is the result of the late examination in the Featherston State School.

Standard 1 G Anderson, M. Cronin, Thomas Greatbach, J. Higgins, A. Keys, B. Keys, G. Shirley, E. Toogood.

Girls. B. Burt, B. Donald, W. Jackson, V. Reid L. Riddick, J. Viles .

Standard 2.—C. Burt,. C. Furlong, H. Green, T. Haycock, O. Bunny, S. Sheen. E. Tuckey. Girls—S. Dickens, M.A. Hodder, N. Jackson. C. McKenzie, A. Reid, H. Tidswell, G. Yule, Rose Osman, G Haycock.

Standard 3 —A. Brown, E. Bunny, A. Bennett, J. Green, H. Jackson, J. Oakley, H. Wardell. R. Yule,

Girls— A, Jackson, Kate Cundy.

Standard 4.—Nellie Toogood

Standard 5.—Annie Craig.

Standard 6 Ernest Panton Brown

28th December 1880 Mr.. Gurr, the late master of the Featherston School was a passenger by the Penguin to Wellington on Sunday last from Invercargill. His business is to enforce his claims against the Wellington Education Board.

30th December 1880 Mr.. W. Panton Brown, who resigned the Hutt mastership has been appointed to the Newtown School, and will leave Featherston shortly to enter upon his new duties.'

1881

			Tuckey	Henry			
1881	99	Featherston	BA	E	Headmaster	£240	\$38,772
1881	99	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£140	\$22,617
1881	99	Featherston	Huntley	Bessie	Assistant Female	£100	\$16,155

11th January 1881 A meeting of the School committee was held in the Local Board office on Thursday the 6th ult., present J. G. Cox, (chairman), W. Cundy, G. Reynolds, O. McShane, W. Toogood, and T. Bennett. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurers statement shewed a credit balance

of £2 6s, a sum of £5 2s was reported to have been collected by the master, being voluntary contributions- A letter was read from Mr.. D. Clark of Wellington, respecting an account for goods to the order of the late master. The committee declined to recognise the account. The following accounts were passed for payment,— W. Toogood, 12s 7; J. D. Oakley, 12s ; Lyon's and Feast's accounts were referred to the master for information. A report was read from the master on the late examination, also a letter re the dismissal of certain boys lately. An application was received from the parents of one of the boys asking for a special enquiry (by the committee) into the circumstances which led to the dismissal of their son. The application was entertained, and the evening of Tuesday the 11th inst named for the purpose. Mr.. J. D. Oakley was appointed to audit the accounts in accordance with the Act. A sub-committee was appointed to report on the inventory of stock belonging to the school committee, and Education Board respectively. The annual statement of accounts was ordered to be prepared at once.

15th January 1881 The time for the election of School Committees is now drawing near, and it is hoped 1 Featherston householders, will take a little real interest in the matter, that the services of the most suitable men may be secured. I think the cumulative voting system is a great mistake, and the pernicious effects of that system, may be especially felt in a small community such as ours. The following gentlemen retire but are eligible for re-election—Messrs.. J. G. Cox, C. McShane. W. Cundy, G. Reynolds, W. S. Cobham, W. Toogood, and T. Bennett

25th January 1881 Yesterday; the public school, Featherston, re-opened in the new buildings. There was a large attendance of children

26th January 1881 Wellington Education Board Featherston (extras), £57 10s

27th January 1881 [The annual meeting for the election of a School Committee was held on Monday last in the new school buildings. Some 30 or 40 householders were present, and the chair was taken by Mr.. J. G. Cox shortly after 8 o'clock. The following report was then read by the: chairman When your Committee took office this time last year, we found the financial account to be thus—balance in hand of £6 18s 7d, with outstanding liabilities amounting to £42 7s 2d; leaving a debt of £35 12s 6d. During the year your Committee have received from various sources a sum of £112 11s 7d, . including the balance from last year, £6 18s 7d ; Capitation Grant, £62: 10s. A special grant from Education Board for repairs to teacher's residence, £37 From subscriptions, £5 14s. The expenditure has been during our term of office 14 10s for cleaning school .-fuel, £5 14s.; repairs to building, etc., £43 13s: books, 15s; repairs to teacher's residence. £37 9s;' advertising,- 3s; stationery, postages' etc., £2 4s; gravelling yard' £4 6s; other small articles, £1 10s 11 ; leaving a balance in hand of £2 :6s 8d, and outstanding liabilities amounting to £ro. A proper statement as required by the Act is attached. On Wednesday the 27th July, 1880, the whole of the school buildings were totally destroyed by fire (the origin which has not been satisfactorily been explained), by which your Committee lost all their property, amounting to: a. considerable sum. After-much trouble and endurance the Committee had just. Succeeded in furnishing the necessary requirements for the efficient working of your school, When this misfortune ,befel them. In November last the Committee decided to appeal to the parents of children attending, school for some assistance towards supplying sundry articles in place of those lost. The Committee are glad to report,, that a sum of £5 14s has already been received in reply to their application. The building we are now met in is in every way .superior to the old one. Still we

sincerely regret the immense loss to the Education Board, We feel. it our duty to State our hearty thanks are due to that body for the prompt manner in which they set to work to repair our loss, in the month of July last Mr.. Gurr, the late headmaster resigned, having received an appointment at Invercargill, Mr.. Tuckey was appointed by the Education Board with your Committee's approval, to fill the Vacancy, The. two Master Gurrs—pupil teachers—also - left soon after, and Mrs. Huntley was appointed with your Committee's approval . The number on the roll is 156. . There has been in numbers attending the school .during the past year a great falling off. . This arises from the fact that a great number of families left, the district. The Committee regret to state the headmaster found. it, necessary to expel two, boys for improper conduct ; some time in December last. One of the parents felt aggrieved and appealed to the Committee, who appointed a time, viz 11th January to hear his appeal. After, carefully considering the evidence the Committee,; did , not think it advisable to take any further steps in the matter. The annual examination took place on Friday and Saturday , the 3rd and 4th, of December with the following result .

Standard 1 14 passed 8 boys and 6 girls

II 16 ,, 7 ,, ,, 9 –

III 10 ,, 8 ,, 2 ,,

IV., V., and VI. 1 passed in each,;

These results are much below that of. last year, but may easily be accounted for seeing the time lost in consequence of the fire, the very inconvenient place lately used, and the number of children kept away until the new building is finished. Bearing in mind also our second master had charge of the Hutt School for some weeks; .. .your Committee hope and have reason to think that another examination will prove in results equal to any previous period. . in conclusion your Commit)® Slid that a further sum of £20 at least will be required to replace those requisites destroyed by the late fire, and trust parents will continue to assist the incoming Committee with, funds for that purpose, as without these appliances it is quite impossible for the work be the school to be carried but Satisfactorily; ,

Mr.. Riddick proposed, and .Mr.. J. Donald seconded, the adoption of the report, which was carried. . ,

The following gentlemen were elected a Committee for the present year Messrs.. W. Cundy, H. J. Williams, I. Q. Cox, T. Donald, W. Toogood, H. S, Wardell, and W. S; Cobham.

After the public meeting the dew Committee met, when Mr.. J. G. Cox was elected Chairman ; W. S. Cobham, Secretary and W. Cundy, Treasurer. On the motion of Mr.. Williams the meeting was then adjourned till Monday, February 7th

27th January 1881 Wellington Education Board Meeting At the meeting of the Education Board yesterday, a letter was read from Mr.. Faber, complaining of his boy having been expelled from the Featherston school, and imputing partiality to the committee in the way in which they conducted the enquiry. The letter was referred to the committee.

3rd February 1881 A special meeting of the School committee was held on Monday last iii the Local Board Office present—J.G. Cox (chairman 1 W. Cundy, J. Donald, H. J. Williams, H. S, Wardell, W.' g. Cobham &. W. Toogood, The chairman stated, the object for calling a special meeting Was, a communication received from the Education Board announcing that, the -stun of £49 had been voted by the Board for the school Committee to expend in extras to the new building and residence. A very long discussion ensued, as it appears, the Work for which the money Was voted had

been tendered for by Messrs.. Riddick and Cadenheach and part of it completed. Ultimately it was resolved—that the matter be left in the hands of a Sub-committee to consist of the Chairman, W. Cundy and H. J. Williams. The balance of the special business was adjourned to Monday next.

10th February 1881 The School Committee then met for the consideration of business adjourned to that night. Present—Messrs.. J. 6. Cox, (chairman), Cundy, Donald, Wardell, Toogood, and the secretary, Mr.. Cobham. An apology from Mr.. Williams for his unavoidable absence was received and accepted. The following Accounts were passed : —Hiteman, LI; Hodder, 10s; Riddick cfc Cadenhead, £6 10s. Correspondence inwards—From the Education Board, advice of forwarding teachers' desks!, And enclosing cheque for £ 1s, the capitation grant for quarter just ended. From the Chairman of the Greytown School Committee, to cumulative voting at election School Committees, and asking for co-operation of Featherston 'Committee. Resolved—“ That the 'chairman call a public meeting at an early date to consider the mode of voting at the election of School Committees;” also, That this Committee is of opinion that the elections should be conducted in the same manner as other elections, nominations to be made a few-days previous to election,” The chairman -stated ‘to the Committee that there were several families in the township not complying with the compulsion clause in the Education' Act. The chairman was empowered to take active steps in the matter to enforce the terms of the Act. Resolved, “ The secretary to make an application to the Education Board for bell for school tower.” “ That this committee meet in the Board office every third Monday in the month” I venture to 'think it is rather a mistake calling a public meeting re the Cumulative voting system, There is really nothing to discuss as a general feeling exists, 'that the system is a mistake/and the Featherston householders shewed their good souse at the late election by (with one exception) not taking advantage of this absurd plan. Therefore had the "School 'Committee passed a resolution unanimously condemning the cumulative system of voting it would have as much weight, and certainly would represent .public opinion in the matter in this district.

16th February 1881 FEATHERSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL.

On Monday' last a meeting of the Featherston "School' committee was held.at the Local Board Office. ' Present Messrs., Cox (in . the Chair)',Cundy, Cobham,' Donald, Toogood, and Williams.

A letter from Mr.. Wardell was received, : stating that he was called away to Masterton on other business. '

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, The Chairman gave notice that he would read the list of .persons nominated for the election of three-members for the Education Board.

. A vote was then taken with the following result:—Henry Bunny 7 votes F. E.' Darby 0, W. Francis 0, W. A. Fitzherbert 0, W. Hutchison 1, Hon 6, R, Johnson 5, Thos. Ledbetter 0, Thos. Mason 0, Charles Pharazyn 7, Coleman Phillips 1. ' The result' was therefore in favor of Messrs.. Bunny, Pharazyn; and the Hon Randal-Johnson.

A public meeting was held the same evening at the Local Board Office, Mr.. J. 6. Cox in the Chair, at which the following resolutions' were 'passed : 1. Proposed by Mr.. Cundy, and seconded by Mr.. Donald-That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable that an application be made to the Board of Education to recommend an. alteration in the Education Act, with regard to the present' system of nomination of committees, and also the objectionable system of voting for members of committees.

2. -Proposed by Mr.. Cobham, and seconded by Mr.. Cundy—That this meeting is of opinion that it would be better if nominations' for' seats on committees-. were made one week before the elections.

3, Proposed by Mr.. Tuckey, and seconded by Mr.. Williams—That this meeting strongly condemns the present system, of cumulative voting for persons to serve on committees, and hopes the Board of Education 'will take' immediate step's to have the same altered; and benefits. the cooperation of other School Committee.

4. Proposed by Mr.. Donald; and 'seconded by Mr.. Fry—That the Chairman be requested-.to send-the forgoing resolutions to the-'Board of Education, hoping-'the Board will take the necessary steps to have the Act amended,

5. Proposed' by Mr.. Toogood, and seconded.-by;..Mr.. Williams—That; the Chairman be empowered .to act with- the committee in Greytown and "other committees,- iii accordance with-the : wishes- of this meeting. Proposed, by Mr.. Williams, and' seconded by copies of the above resolutions be sent to the members of this district. -'

30th March 1881 Wellington Education Board It was decided to give Featherston School a bell not to exceed £10

14th April 1881 An incident of a most interesting nature took place on Saturday last in Featherston, Miss Cox, who for many years past has been connected with the State school in the capacity of teacher, has at last severed that connection, being about to take up her residence in another part of New Zealand. Her fellow teachers and the children with whom she has been so long associated deemed it a fitting opportunity for the expression of their esteem and affection for her. A very handsome marble timepiece was accordingly purchased and presented to Miss Cox at her residence on Saturday afternoon last, in the presence of the teachers and a number of the scholars. Miss Cox in acknowledging the handsome gift said it would be a souvenir of the many happy years she had spent while engaged in the work of instructing the young, but she was more especially pleased to know she had won the esteem of her fellow teachers and the affection of the children so long committed to her charge.

1881/966	Elizabeth Annie Cox	Malcolm MacFarlane	MacCaul
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Note McCaul is correct spelling

1882/6166	McCaul Isabella Enid	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarlane
1883/17065	McCaul Malcolm Graeme Cox	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarland
1885/6478	McCaul Douglas George	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarlane
1886/15497	McCaul Charlotte Alice Hilda	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarlane
1886/15504	McCaul Athol Ambrose	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarlane
1891/2213	McCaul Gilbert James Alston	Elizabeth Annie	Malcolm McFarlane

14th April 1881 Inspector Lee's report included Greytown School the class presented in Standard IV. by the assistant mistress, did remarkably well, 26 candidates succeeding out of 27. Many of the candid!; presented at the Upper Hutt, and Featherston failed; and very much of the work, in the first two school was unsatisfactory. The work of the first assistants at Masterton and Featherston was deplorably weak in both cases. At Masterton six .candidates of good ages failed in Standard IV., who also failed last year in the same work under the same teacher. At Featherston the assistant master presented 24 candidates for Standard 111, of whom 10 passed; and 14 for Standard IV;, : of whom only one passed. Many of the 14,

Standard IV. pupils failed in three or four subjects, and everyone of them in arithmetic. My remarks on the management of the city schools apply with equal force to the District Town Schools. I am of opinion that much better work should be expected from many of the assistant teachers.-. The teaching of the Infant Departments at Featherston, Carterton, Greytown and Masterton I found much improved in method and effectiveness

Spelling is a weak subject in the same subjects, and also at Featherston, where, however, • it, is improving in some class

Arithmetic was weak, and presented in a very slovenly form in the upper classes at Kaiwarra; Arithmetic badly taught in the two higher classes at Featherston. In most of the other schools, and especially at Carterton, the arithmetical work was satisfactory.

Needlework is taken up at the Lower Hutt, Masterton, Clareville, Carterton, Greytown, Featherston, and Kaiwaras, the work at Carterton and Greytown being best presented

19th May 1881 The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee was held in the Local Board office on Monday 16th inst. Present—J. G. Cox (in the chair) Donald, Toogood, Williams and Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting; were read and confirmed, and the following accounts, were passed for payment Hiteman £4 11s ; Riddick £8 3s. The Chairman informed the meeting that the old school bell had been returned as useless and another was now in course of erection; also that the Government had ceased to pay capitation for children under five years of age.. The meeting then closed

17th December 1881 FEATHERSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes at the Featherston school took place on Friday afternoon. The weather was not propitious, a high wind blowing in strong gusts, accompanied with showers of rain. Mr.. Cox occupied the chair and after the infants under Mrs. Huntley's guidance had sung a pretty song very nicely, and in excellent time, the Chairman opened the proceedings by an address of considerable length. He congratulated those present on the suitable and well-ventilated building which had been provided for them, and touched upon the circumstances which prevented the various Standards from acquitting themselves so satisfactorily last year as they have usually done. He pointed out that the very nature of a prize lay in those only who had most distinguished themselves receiving rewards, and remarked that if everyone was presented, with a prize such as a distribution would degenerate into a mere bestowing of gifts for attending the school, and would cease to be a reward for diligence and ability, He enlarged considerably on the advantages of education, and of acquiring habits of application, attention, and a determination not to be beaten. On concluding the young people showed their appreciation of his kindly remarks by long and most energetic applause

The prizes were then distributed by the Chairman and were as follows

Standard VI.-Eva Cundy.

Standard V.-First prize, Beatrice Cundy; second, Edith Viles.

Standard IV.—First prize, Amy Jackson; second, John Oakly.

Standard III.-First prize, Neville Willoughby; second. Oliver Bunny, and W. Lloyd.

Standard II.- First prize, George Coe second, Herbert Keys

Standard I-First prize,. Bertram Bunny ; second, John Jackson.

Infants.—First Division, Margery Fellingham second, George Toogood; third, W. Osman. Writing.-First prize, Janet Yule second, Hugh Jackson.

Reading.-First prize, Erie Bunny | second Edward Saunders.

Drawing.—Nellie Toogood.

Sewing.—Nellie Riddick.

Three prizes were presented by Mr.. McShane for the most deserving child in each room as regards conduct, progress, and punctuality, and were awarded as follows:

Room No. 1.—William Viles, 6th. Standard; No. 2, Sarah Amy Dickens 3rd Standard .Mary Jane Tidswill 1st Standard.

The Pass Certificates were then distributed by the Headmaster as follows

Standard VI.-Eva Cundy.

Standard V.—Roger Lucena , Donald Yule, Beatrice Cundy, Edith Viles

Standard IV .-A, Toogood, J. Fry, Erle Bunny, A, Bennett, John Oakly, Hugh Jackson, G. Bennett, A. Tocker, Amy Jackson, Kate Cundy.

Standard III Walter Viles Thomas Haycock, E, O, Tuckey, A Bunny, W Lloyd, S. Sheen, Neville Willoughby , Phoebe Greatbach, Jane Fox, Annie Keys, Amy Bennett, Honoria A. M Jackson, Eva Haycock, Alice Reid, Rose Osman, Kate Riddick, Sarah. A. Dickens Honoria M, Jackson, Bessie Tuckey.

Standard 11.-:Georg» Coe, William Greatbach, Thomas Greatbach, Alfred Keys, H. Keys, E. Saunders, G. Shirley, Ellery Toogood, Annie Cundy, M. A. Hodder, Violet Reid, Isabel Dicks, Kate Yelverton.

Standard 1 John Anderson, Herbert Bunny, George Fellingham, Percy Hayward, John Jackson Donald Robinson, H P. Tuckey,, Albert Viles Annie Bennett, Kate Hayward, Louisa Jackson, Daisy Mellish , Mary O'Neal, E. Osman, Mary Tidswell, Susan Toogood. The children, led by W McFarlane, , the Assistant Teacher, sing one or two songs remarkably well,' Mr., Bunny then addressed them in a lively and yet, impressive manner. After several rounds' of most hearty cheers for the Chairman and their Teachers, the children sang "God Save The Queen" and the proceedings terminated, .

29th December 1881 The picnic in connection with the .Featherston State School, will take place on the 10th January, on the Town Belt reserve, alongside the residence of H. Bunny, Esq. The cricket; match will be played in Mr.. Vile's paddock, adjoining, who has kindly lent it for the occasion. Racing and other sports will also be provided for the amusement of the youngsters, and the catering will be under the superintendence of a committee of ladies and gentlemen, assisted by the teachers of the school.

1882

1882	117	Featherston	Tuckey BA	Henry E	Headmaster	£240	\$39,401
1882	117	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£140	\$22,984
1882	117	Featherston	Huntley	Bessie	Assistant Female	£100	\$16,417

12th January 1882 FEATHERSTON.

(from our correspondent. ' The picnic in connection with the Featherston State School was held yesterday in the domain reserve, and I am sure the Featherstonians ought to be proud of having such a piece of land to call their own. I have no hesitation in saying that in a few years, with a little money judiciously spent, it will be the premier rtv cation ground in the Wairarapa. Very few of the townspeople knew such a beautiful spot so close to the town belonged to them. The day, though rather dull it first about noon turned out splendid dinner was then served out before commencing the sports, and I cannot too highly praise the catering, for l he success or the picnic was great!. due to the successful manner in which that branch was carried out. Mrs. Tuckey and Mrs. Macfarlane were most indefatigable in their attention to the comfort of the children, parents and friends, and worked hard in distributing the viands, of which there was plenty and to spare, and we do hope from this it will be held every

New Year, and give the little ones something to look forward to. Great praise is also due to the teachers and the Committee for the way in which the sports were carried out. The races were as follows: Potato race 45 yds,— 12 competitors. Hugh Jackson, 1; W. Viles, 2. Men's race 150 yds —W. Burt, 1; J. D. Cox, 2. Boy's race, 1| times round the course. —F. Burt, 1; H. Jackson, 2. Girl's race, once round —K. Riddick, 1; A. Bennett, 2. Girl's race, under 9 yrs. —A. Bennett, 1; G. Yule, 2. Boy's hurdle race.—H. Jackson. 1; R. Lucena, 2. The above were the principal events of the day, the best all round lad being Hugh Jackson, 13 years old, who bids fair to make a splendid runner. Dancing, swinging, cricket and rounders were then kept up until dark when all returned home happy and re-lighted.

12th January 1882 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL PICNIC.

The Featherston School picnic, under the management of Mr.. Tuckey (head master), took place on Tuesday last, on the reserve recently leased to Mr.. Bunny, and proved a most enjoyable meeting. The weather was all that could be desired, and the spot chosen to a most suitable one for the purpose. Plenty of trees dotted about, afforded a pleasant shade whilst the eating was going on, and a paddock just outside the reserve was kindly lent by Mr.. Viles for the cricket, foot racing, and other sports and Being close to the township, most of the parents of the children came to see the little folks enjoy themselves, and we should say that at least four hundred persons in all must have been present, A sub-committee had been appointed to look after the sports, and we can congratulate them on the success of their efforts. The prizes were both numerous and well worth winning, and though we are unable to give the names of the winners, we were especially struck with the running of Hugh Jackson among the boys, and Sarah Bennett among the girls. A race after the fashion of the egg and basket game, was got up by Mr.. McLaren, potatoes being used instead of eggs, and like everything that gentleman undertakes, it was well arranged and successful. . The runners had to pick up one at a time, 45 potatoes placed a yard apart, and put them into a box put at the end of each, row To gather them all in, each competitor had to run over a thousand yards, twelve boys started, and the winner of the first prize was Hugh Jackson. A cricket match was played between sides chosen by the head master and Mr.. J Keir, and resulted in a victory for the latter, In another part of the ground " Aunt Sally was posted and was largely patronised, as also were the swings and other amusements especially rounders and drop the handkerchief. Great provision had been made for quenching the hunger and thirst of the young people, and at one o'clock, and afterwards about five, the way great piles of ham sandwiches, tarts, cakes, and buns vanished was a sight to behold, A stream of water close by supplied the pure element, from which a constant supply of tea and coffee was kept up all day, and a twenty-gallon cask of ginger beer was also run dry, The dispensing of the good things was of course presided over chiefly by the ladies what a dismal thing a picnic would be ladies— and they were most watchful that no one should come on to the ground without being pressed to partake of fruit and cake, if not inclined for anything more substantial, The shades of night were coming on apace when the children at last gathered themselves together and cheered till they were hoarse, and then went to their homes tired and nappy.

14th January 1882 A CORRECTION. (*In reply to article immediately above from the Daily Times*)

[To the Editor of the Daily.] Featherston, Jan. 12,1882. Sir,—I beg to make a correction in your report of the Featherston school picnic, It states that the picnic was under the management of Mr.. Tuckey. This is not the case. The picnic was carried out by the school committee, who appointed a sub-committee from themselves, together

with the teachers and parents, The credit of the management is therefore due to that committee, and not to the headmaster. There is one person deserving of special thanks for the manner in which he worked and the assistance he gave, viz., Mr.. Joseph Viles. This gentleman gave up nearly three days of his time and the use of a large brake and pair of horses, and worked very hard himself. Your Featherston correspondent seems generally to have a happy knack of misrepresenting things and causing a deal of amusement by his wild " guesses" and injudicious statements. Mr.. Tuckey certainly deserves credit, but only in common with a host of others, for the very successful and most enjoyable picnic the Featherstonians were treated to last Tuesday. I must not forget the services of the ladies, Mrs. Tuckey and Mrs. Macfarlane working very hard—in fact all the ladies did their best,

By inserting this you will attribute, Honor to Whom it is due,

25th January 1882 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. The following committee has been elected : Messrs... J. G. Cox, W. Toogood, W. Cundy, J. D. Oakly, A. E. O'Neale, D. C. Keir, W. Jackson. At a committee meeting held after the election , Mr.. J. G. Cox was unanimously elected chairman, Mr.. D. C. Keir Secretary, and Mr.. A. E. O'Neale treasurer.

4th March 1882 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Wednesday at the Town Board Office. Present: J. G Cox (chairman), Messrs.. Toogood, Cundy, Oakly, Keir, O'Neale, and Jackson The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer reported balance in bank £7 4s 2d, Cheque received for £6 5s, quarter capitation tax. Correspondence was read from several of the district School Committee, in reference to election of candidates for Education Board. Several accounts were passed for payment. Proposed by Mr.. Keir, and seconded by Mr.. Toogood, “ that this Committee support the election of Messrs.. J. G. Cox and M Mason, as members to represent the district at the Education Board.”— Carried. The meeting then adjourned.

14th April 1882 The Inspector's report included

Of these the Masterton, Carterton, and Taita Schools are the best. Greytown, Featherston, and Lower Hutt Schools are doing satisfactory work, The work in the higher standards at Featherston and Greytown is below the average

The work of. the first assistants in the Featherston and Masterton schools. which last year was weak, is much improved this year,

	1877	1881
Masterton	227	381
Carterton	139	274
Greytown	223	228
Featherston	187	136

15th April 1882 THE EDUCATION QUESTION AT FEATHERSTON.

To the Editor. Sir,—I wish the Government would import a few good men to Featherston as would be fit to fill the office of School Committee, local Boards and a good school master, fit to teach the working chases' children, as a change is much needed at ' present, Now if the Government will insist in having high class education taught in our schools, I say let us have two schools, one for the upper ten, and one for the working classes. Now for instance what working man is there that has eight or ten children depending upon his daily earnings that can let his child stay at school after he or she is ten on twelve years of age, consequently his child leaves school with a little We of everything and knows nothing properly, not enough to carry him through the

world as a working man. Now, I am about to be summoned for my child not attending school regularly. One reason is, I do not approve of the way they are taught and my child is very useful to me, and, as I don't deem our committee worth consulting on the matter, I take the liberty of expressing my mind to the public. They try to teach them a lot of stuff that is no use to the working man's child instead of teaching them things that are necessary. This sort of education is very well for those who can afford to carry it out and expect to make a lawyer, banker, doctor, parson, or some other fine thing of them. Now, if our children were only taught plain education they would have a good education by the time they reached of eleven or twelve. Now I should like to know if they were that, first brought into practice in the public schools. I mean to say it is a downright piece of rot, and a drawback to education in general. Now for instance when the time comes for examination if a child fails in two things he is kept back for another whole year and drilled over lessons that he knows off by heart, besides discouraging the child from learning. Another thing I don't approve of the independent people's children being taught with the working classes because teachers are all human, and are liable to err at times, and as the saying goes kissing goes by favor. Some people say it's a good thing for the higher and lower classes to be taught together as it has a tendency to make them sociable with each other, it does but only as long as their school days last. Now if we don't like this sort of thing, and refuse to send our children regularly we are to be summoned, not taking into consideration some of the parents are as capable of teaching their children as the song says, "Give to me those good old days of fifty years ago," when we learnt as much in 10 years then as our children do in two now. If this sort of thing is to exist, I mean to say we do not live in a free country. I am, &c., An Observer,

17th April 1882 FEATHERSTON EDUCATION.

To the Editor, Sir.—Your Correspondent's letter signed "Observer" is a most extraordinary one, evidently the Schoolmaster was a long way abroad when he went to school. He commences by running a muck against schoolmasters, teachers, school committee members of Local Boards, and independent people's children, whatever that means, and mixing up inextricable confusion working classes, higher classes, high schools and low schools; in fact gone into a regular tantrum, and for what simply because he was requested to send his child to school; being one out of a million in the town who has neglected to do so when, in his position he ought to know better. In one part of his letter he says "I do not approve of the way they are taught, and (mark the words) my child is very useful to me," That is where the cloven foot peeps out, I fancy. He may also imagine that dancing is of far more importance to a child than Standards," but the Statute differs from him, and as to his tirade against the school committee that can be taken for what it is worth, as also the abuse on the master and teachers. In conclusion I would ask him, as he wishes to report a few good men into Featherston if it would not be advisable to import a few good contractors at the same time. I am, Homo Featherston, April 17th

9th June 1882 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee lapsed last evening, only the Secretary putting in an appearance.

23rd June 1892 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

; The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held in the Local Board room on Wednesday the 21st June at 8 p.m., Present — Messrs. Cox (in the chair), Toogood, Keir, Cundy, and O'Neale. The minutes of the previous meeting were duly read and confirmed. The treasurer's statement was then taken, showing a credit balance in the bank of £2. The following accounts were then passed for payment:—S Hunter, 5s; W. Hiteman, £110s; A. E. Seal, 4s; W.

Benton, £1 4s; W.:Toogood, 17s. The correspondence inwards and outwards was then read, including a grant of £5 from the Education-Board for repairs to the school and teacher's residence.

The School log book was then read and in it was a suggestion made by the Inspector, stating that the school ground wanted a little gravel, ■ A discussion took place respecting keeping the children in after school hours, and the Committee considered it unadvisable. The visitors for the last Quarter were requested to visit the school, and see what gravelling was necessary and get it done. The secretary was then instructed to communicate with Mr. Haycock in answer to his letter of the 2nd of May, stating that the question of buying books laid with the discretion of the parents where they bought them, as it was not compulsory to obtain them at the school.

•The meeting then adjourned until Wednesday, July the 5th

26th August 1882 Featherston School Committee.

In place of the regular monthly meeting, a meeting was held in the Local Board rooms on Wednesday the 23rd August, at 8 p. m. Present—Messrs. J. 3. Co* (chairman). Keir (secretary), O'Neale (Treasurer), Toogood, and Oakly. The minutes of the previous meeting were duly read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's statement was then called for, but he was unable to state exactly what amount was in the Bank. The Chairman reported that he had received the capitation grant for the quarter ending June 30, amounting to £g 10s, which was duly placed in the Bank. The Chairman also reported that the proceeds of the entertainment got up for benefit of the school had been handed to him, amounting to £g 10s, less expenses £1 31 fid, leaving a net balance of £6 11 fid. The following accounts were passed for payment W. Benton, 2s fid; D. C. Keir, postage, Ac., 4s 6d; W. Hiteman, cleaning, Ac., £1 3s; balance in Bank £4 18s 10d. The quarterly report ending June 30 from the head teacher was then read, showing that the number of names on the school register were 150, viz., 83 boys and 65 girls. The number of times the school has been opened during the quarter is 122, and the working average attendance is 118. A letter was then read from Mr. Tuckey, head teacher, applying for alterations to his residence.

Mr. D. C. Keir proposed, and Mr. Toogood seconded, that the Chairman be requested to lay before the Board of Education Mr. Tuckey's application in terms of his letter to this Committee of to-day's date, and apply that the sum of £200 be voted for the necessary alterations. Carried. Mr. D. C. Keir proposed, and Mr. Cox seconded, that the sum of £2 be remitted at once to the Board for object lessons. Carried.

Mr. D. C. Keir proposed, and Mr. Cox seconded, that one cord of aft matai be obtained at once; same to cost 13s. Carried. Mr. Toogood proposed, and Mr. Cox seconded, that a vote of thanks be accorded to those gentlemen who kindly assisted at the concert for the benefit of the school. Carried unanimously.

30th August 1882 Complaint was made of; the state of the Featherston School, and ultimately, on the motion of Mr. Bunny the Chairman and the Rev. J. Paterson were requested to inspect the school, and report at the next meeting of the Board

7th October 1882 The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee were held on Wednesday evening last. Present—Messrs. J. T. Oakly (in the chair), D. C. Keir, W. Cundy, A. E. O'Neale, and W. Jackson. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following correspondence was then read

From Education Board, enclosing cheque for £4 10s, repairs to teacher's residence.

From head teacher, re corporeal punishment.

From same, stating that scientific apparatus had arrived, and informing Committee that some wilful damage had been done to the new school fence. From Education Board, stating that all correspondence from teachers and committees to be submitted

to the Board must be received at the office, at least two days before the Board's meeting, otherwise it would stand over until the next meeting. The following account was passed for payment Hiteman, cleaning, £3 3s. Resolved tli.it Messrs.. Oakly and Cundy be appointed to inspect and assess the damage done to the school fence ; also to ask the head teacher to communicate with the parents of the children that bad done the damage. Resolved that the head teacher be requested to attend the next meeting of the committee, to explain the following questions, viz , Why are the children allowed more time at the recess in the morning then allowed by the school rules, and also to explain why a whole class should be kept in for one child's misdoing.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting.

19th October 1882 An entertainment is announced in aid of the Featherston School fund, to be held .a the Oddfellows' Hall on Saturday evening next. The first part of the programme consists of songs, glees, and dialogues. The second part will consist of the screaming farce the " Turkish Bath"

31st October 1882 A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening, Present—Mr.. J. G. Cox (chairman), Messrs.. Oakly ~-O'Neale, W. Cundy, Toogood and W . Jackson, Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

The folio wing accounts were passed for payment: -Hiteman, £1 7 1 Toogood, £1 14s Id ; Oakly, 6s. A letter was received from the Education Board enclosing plans for additions to teacher's residence, and the following resolution was carried, "That the committee approve of the plane laid before them "

A letter was read from the head teacher re attendance, and complaining of the nonattendance at school of several children in the township ; also one in reply to' secretary of committee re recess and keeping class in after hours. Mr.. Lee's annual examination of the Featherston school children is to take place five weeks earlier than' has been usual, and Messrs.. Toogood and Cundy were appointed by the committee to meet Mr.. Lee at the examination 'to take place on Monday and Tuesday. It was resolved, re Mr.. Tuckey's letter, that the constable he instructed to take proceedings, against the, parents of all children not attending school residing within three miles of the township, it having come to the knowledge of, the committee that whole families of children are not attending, and living within the distance.

The latter part of Mr.. Tuckey's letter was held over until the next meeting of the committee.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

4th November 1882

Featherston School Examination.

The .examination of Featherston school by Mr.. Lee took place on Monday and results in the several standards were as follows

(Please note this was a very difficult piece to copy and it is accurate as I could be)

Class	Presented	Passed
6	7	7
5	10	6
4	18	11
3	22	21
2	28	26
1	19	18
Out of	106	89

Average of 86%

Standard VI Quentin Donald, William Viles, Donald Yule Annie Craig, Beatrice Cundy, E Viles, Janet Yule

Standard V—G Bennett, Janes Riddick, Arthur Tocker, Kate Cundy, Amy Jackson, Helen Toogood.

Standard IV—Robert Yulee, Oliver Bunny, N Willoughby. Harold Wardell, James M Dougall, Honoria M. Jackson, Hon. A. M. Jackson. Annie Keys, Sarah Dickens, Catherine Riddick, Bessie Tuckey

Standard III— Chas Mathews. Frank Burt, Arthur Burt. David Donald. Geo Coe, John McDougall, Wm. Greatbatch. , Edward Saunders, Herbert-Keys, Alf Keys, Chas Burt, Thos. Greatbatch, Ellery Toogood, Wm. Isaac, Thos Hayward, Gracie Yule, Annie Cundy, Annie Hodder, J Viles, V. Read, Edith Isaac .

Standard II- Bertram Bunny, Jas. Craig, Geo. Fellingham, Percy Hayward, William Hodder, John Jackson, "Lewis Keys, Samuel McDougall,, Henry Murphy, Donald Robertson. Harry Tuckey, Albert Viles, Mabel Cundy, Bessie Donald, -Mary Gazely, Kate Haywood, Helen Hodder. – Letitia Jackson, Winifred Jackson, M. O'Neale, Ellen Osman, Helena Riddick Ellen Riddick ,Mary Tidswell, Susan Toogood, Walter Har-----?

Standard I—Wm, Abbott, Alan Allen, Goo. Burt, Henry Furlong. Samuel Greatbatch, Edward Isaac, Stafford Murphy,' Chas. Reid, Jas. Reid,. George Toogood, Godfrey Tostosen, Kate Abbott, Hilda Anderson, Harriet Coe, M. Fellingham, Eva McDougall, Clara McShane, Ann Murphy.

The Inspector expressed himself as highly pleased at the result, and congratulated the children on passing so well, mentioning especially one boy in the sixth class, W. Viles having completely mastered the arithmetical question given him. Annie Craig made the highest number of marks. W. Viles and Janet Yule only a few marks behind. The attendance numbered 150 out of 160 on the roll of the school, ;

The Teachers deserve great credit. considering the examination has taken place a month earlier than. anticipated, and the result must be very gratifying to them. It is rumored that Mrs. Huntley the teacher of the infant class, is about leaving. It is hoped, however, that it is only a rumor, aa there can be no doubt, that much of the success of the passing in the two lower standards, are due principally to her teaching, through her thoroughly instilling into the young children the stages of education. Her loss would be a very great one to parents of young children in the district.

21st November 1882 A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Friday evening last, in the schoolroom. Present—J. G. Cox. (chairman), Messrs.. W. Cundy. Oakly, W. Jackson,. last meeting was read and confirmed. The O'Neale, and W. Toogood. The minutes of Treasurer's statement showed a balance in the bank of £13 10s fid. It was resolved, that no steps be taken for the present to close the school in consequence of the prevalence of measles in the district. Resolved, that two members of committee be appointed to attend the school and report to the committee at their monthly meetings, and Messrs.. Webly, Jackson, and Toogood were appointed to act for the ensuing month. A discussion ensued re obtaining subscriptions to give prizes to the children—namely, first and second prizes in each standard. A sum of 30s was subscribed in the room. The teachers were to be asked to collect subscriptions and hand same over to chairman for purchase of books It was reported that several amounts for special prizes had already been promised by residents. The meeting then terminated.

25th November 1882 Inspector's report included the following

	18	79		18	82		
	Presented	Passed		Presented	Passed	Pass Increase	
Masterton	158	108		270	244	140	
Clareville	58	52		64	56	4	
Carterton	150	122		161	137	15	
Greytown	149	116		147	101	15	Decrease
Featherston	116	87		104	89	2	Increase
	631	475		749	627		

	Standard	V		Standard	VI
	Presented	Passed		Presented	Passed
Masterton	30	17		14	10
Clareville		2			3
Carterton	13	12		13	9
Greytown	16	8		2	2
Featherston	10	6		7	7

29th November 1882 Wellington Education Board Tenders were accepted for repairs to the Featherston School,

19th December 1882 Mr.. H. McFarlane, assistant at Featherston, also applied for an increase of salary, but it was decided instead to allow him a bonus of £20, preparatory to promotion.

21st December 1882 We are informed that the Featherston State School will close for the Christmas holidays to-morrow at 2 o'clock. The Chairman of the Committee will then address the children, after which it will be open to visitors to address them. About the middle of January the Standard prizes will be distributed, and it is probable a picnic may be given on the same day. The special prizes will stand over till after the re-assembly next year. This course is rendered necessary owing to the small attendance through the sickness prevailing just now

1883

1883	119	Featherston	Tuckey BA	Henry E	Headmaster	£250	\$42,763
1883	119	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£160	\$27,368
1883	119	Featherston	Medley	Laura	Assistant Female	£100	\$17,105
1883	119	Featherston	Craig	Esther	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,421

5th January 1883 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL.

".. A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was .held on Wednesday evening at the school room" Present—Messrs.. J. G Cox (chairman), Oakly, Toogood, Wm Jackson, and O'Neal. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed'

The Treasurer reported balance at bank £11 18s 8d. Accounts to the amount £5 2s were passed for payment

Correspondence.—A letter was received from the Education stating that a bonus of £20 had been granted to Mr.. McFarlane. Mr.. Tuckey's report, was read, and adopted. From Mrs. Huntley resigning her situation as Infant teacher as a consequence of ill health. The Chairman reported that he had forwarded Mrs. Huntley's resignation to the Education Board direct

Resolved.—That Mr.. Tuckey's suggestions in his report be forwarded to the Board of Education with, the approval of the committee, and hoped that the Board would sanction the same. It was resolved that the school prizes be distributed after the reassembling of the school, and that Messrs.. Toogood, Oakly, and Jackson be appointed a committee to act with the headmaster Mr.. Tuckey for; the purchase It was also resolved that the chairman be requested to obtain names of; the children who obtained the highest number of marks in each standard at the late examination; A picnic committee was then formed of the following gentlemen :-Messrs.. McShane, Campbell, Viles,, Riddick; Cundy, and Burt, with power to add: to their numbers The picnic take place on Tuesday the 16th January A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting

19th January 1883 The picnic of the Featherston School children took place on Tuesday last, and was most successful in every point of view. The several committees, both ladies and gentlemen, worked most energetically. Provisions of all kinds were supplied most liberally by parents and friends of the children; sports of all kinds were indulged in, and dancing was kept up until a late hour in the evening. Amongst the ladies noticeable for their assistance may be mentioned Mesdames Tuckey, MacShane, and Riddick, and Messrs.. Reddick and Yule, who organised the sports. Altogether a most enjoyable day was spent. let us hope the picnic will be continued annually, which will be something for the children to look forward to. School prizes will be given out after the school re-assembly

24th January 1883 FEATHERSTON, The annual election of the Featherston School Committee was held last evening at- the school house, and resulted in the following gentlemen being elected .—Messrs.. Bunny, Cox, O'Neale, Toogood, Campbell. Cundy, and Oakly. : Mr.. J.. G. Cox, was unanimously elected Chairman, Mr.. Campbell Secretary, and Mr.. O'Neale Treasurer. Resolved—That the monthly meetings be held the, fourth Friday in every month; " Mr.. H. Bunny and Mr.. J. G. Cox ; were appointed visitors for the ensuing month. Mr.. J. G. Cox presented and read the. report for the last twelve months, which ' was unanimously adopted. Resolved—That the committee support Messrs.. Beetham, Blair, and Cox . for seats at the Education Board. The Meeting then .closed, .

1st February 1883 Mrs. Huntley resigned, Misses E Craig (Pupil Teacher) and Madely to the Featherston School

16th February 1883 Featherston School Committee.

A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Tuesday evening. Present —Mr.. J. G. Cox (Chairman), Messrs.. Toogood, O'Neal, Oakly, Campbell, Cundy and Bunny. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The treasurer's statement showed a balance to credit of £13 11s Bd. The following accounts were passed for payment Mr.. Tuckey, 15s; Mr.. Booth, £2 5s; Cartage, 3s; Keir, 3s 6d. The following correspondence inwards was read. From the Education Board enclosing cheque for £7 17s as capitation grant. From Miss Medley enclosing copies of testimonials from Mr.. Mowbray and Mr.. Lee. It was resolved that Miss Medley's appointment be confirmed. The School picnic committee, landed in their

report and a balance of £2 13s Bd. The meeting then terminated. A meeting was afterwards held of the school picnic committees to decide what should be done with the balance of the money obtained by subscriptions for the picnic. It was proposed and agreed to that the money be handed over to the school committee for the purpose of erecting wings for the children on the school ground.

14th March 1883 A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last evening. Present —Mr.. J. G. Cox (chairman), Messrs.. Toogood, Bunny and Oakly. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The treasurer's statement showed a balance of £ 10. An apology was received from Mr.. Campbell, secretary, for non-attendance. Messrs.. Toogood and Oakly were appointed visitors for the ensuing month. It was resolved that the prizes be distributed on Thursday, the 22nd inst. Mr.. Tuckey reported that the attendance showed 170 names ; but that two or three families were absent on account of the measles. It was resolved that a clock be purchased for the use of the school. Amongst the prizes to be distributed are several special ones given by the following gentlemen, viz :—Mr.. Wardell 2, for arithmetic, 5th and 6th class ; Mr.. Bunny 2, composition ; Jas. Donald 2, for writing ; Mr.. Oakly 2, arithmetic, 3rd and 4th class ; Mr.. Toogood 2, for drawing; Mr.. J. G. Cox, 2, for history ; Mr.. Riddick, 2, for sewing ; and 27 prizes in standards by Mr.. Lee, examiner. The meeting (then terminated).

26th March 1883 The. Presentation-of the prizes, in- connection with the above school took place on Thursday afternoon last in the presence of the committee and a .number of- the parents of the children attending the school. The Rev Vere White, in the absence of the chairman of. the. committee, kindly consented to distribute the prizes, remarking that it gave him the greatest pleasure to do so, and giving, the children a short and pithy address on the advantages of education. He then ; distributed the following prizes

INSPECTOR LEE'S EXAMINATION FOR STANDARDS.

Standard VI—1st prize Annie Craig, 2nd "William Viles.

Standard V— 1st Amy Jackson, 2nd .George Bennett.

Standard IV—1st H. M. Jackson, 2nd Neville Willoughby.

Standard III—1st John McDougal, 2nd Edith Isaacs,

Standard II—1st Samuel McDougal, 2nd Louise Jackson,

Standard I—1st Oliver Macshane, 2nd George Toogood.

READING PRIZES. Standard VI—1st Donald Yule, 2nd Beatrice Cundy. Standard V— 1st Kate Cundy, Standard IV—1st Oliver Bunny, Standard . III—1st John McDougal,; Standard II—Winifred Jackson. Standard I— 1st Euphemia McDougal-Infant room—Thomas Saunders and Mabel Keys, ' :

.WRITING PRIZES, Standard V!—Beatrice Cundy. Standard V—Amy Jackson, Standard IV—Kate Riddick. Standard III—Frank Burt. Standard II—Bertram Bunny. Standard I—Kate Abbott. Infant room—Frederick O'Neale and Grace Cundy.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES, 1st Kate Riddick, 2nd Isabella Viles, Infant 'room—Mabel Keys and Augustus Abbott, SPECIAL PRIZES. ARITHMETIC, Standard VI, presented by Mr.. H. S. Wardell—Janet Yule; Standard V—Amy Jackson. Standard IV, presented by Mr.. J. D. Oakly—Oliver Bunny; r Standard III—Arthur Burt. history. , 1st prize, presented by Mr.. J. G. Cox—Thomas Haycock. 2nd prize—Bessie Tuckey.

COMPOSITION. 1st prize, presented by Mr.. H. Bunny—Janet Yule; 2nd prize—James McDougal. DRAWING. 1st prize, presented by Mr.. W. Toogood—Earl Bunny; 2nd prize—William Viles. SEWING., ' 1st prize, presented by Mr.. Riddick-Nellie Riddick; 2nd prize—Clara. Macshane, GOOD CONDUCT. • . 1st prize—Cyril

McFarlane; 2nd prize—Jessie Robertson. Most popular boy, presented by Mr.. A. Matthews—James Riddick. •Most popular girl—Beatrice Cundy. ' At the conclusion of the presentation of the prizes, Mr.. White called for three cheers for Mr.. Tuckey and other teachers, which' was: most heartily responded to by the children.

20th April 1883 Inspector's report included Mr.. Lee remarks:— "Of seven schools, which come under the second classification, Featherston made the best presentment, 104 children qualifying for examination out of 108 on the books of standard age. Masterton, which has attained the size and importance of a large city school, this year produced the , best percentage of passes made in this class of schools—90 per cent. The percentage results are also higher at Clareville, Featherston, and Carterton. Standard 1 and Standard VI were the best at Featherston

4th May 1881 At the last meeting of the Featherston school committee a letter was read from the head teacher, reporting the names on the books as 173 at the end of the March quarter, being 18 in advance of the quarter ending last December, 4 boys and 11 girls having left and 13 boys and 20 girls having been admitted. The working average of the quarter was 126, the highest yet reported. The proposal of the Rev Mr.. White to open a bible class, the instruction to be nonsectarian, was acceded to for a period of three months, at the expiration of which time the matter would be further considered by the committee. The formation of a cadet corps was approved of, and Mr.. Cundy was proposed as captain. Messrs.. Cundy and Campbell are the visitors for the present month.

22nd August 1881 The Featherston school cadets bid well to become the crack corps of that branch of our Volunteer force in the Wairarapa, as they go in for two good drills a week and are making very rapid progress. The other day the non-commissioned officers were appointed, and the choice appealed to give general satisfaction. The following are those chosen : —Color sergeant, Q. Donald ; sergeants, A. Tocker, D. Yule. and A. Toogood; corporals, N. Willoughby, E. Bunny, F. Burt, J. McDonald; lance corporals. T. H. Bezar, S. Sheen, J. Jackson, E. Tuckey, We hear an attempt will be made to induce those parents who can afford it to incur the expense of uniforms. This it is anticipated, will leave a small number to be provided for out of funds to be obtained by subscription and entertainments. We hope to hear soon that something has been done in this direction to further encourage the boys to progress. The same method, we understand, is to be tried at Carterton. This corps, we hear, is, at no distant date, likely to give any other quite sufficient to do to keep ahead of them.

27th August 1883 Featherston School Committee.

The usual monthly meeting was held in the school room on Friday last. Present— Messrs.. Cox, (chairman, Campbell, Bonny, Oakly, O'Neale and Toogood. The treasurer's statement showed a balance in hand of £161 8s 7d, and the following accounts were passed for viz W. Hitman, £1 4s 0d; W. Toogood, £2 19s 3d; A. E. O'Neale, £1 10 5d Wall. £1 4s 8d; Tulloch, £1 15—total, £8 12s lid. Correspondence read: Inward—From Education Board enclosing £12 10s capitation ; from Head Master, re fence blown down; from Sec. Carterton School Committee, re Standards; Sec. Featherston School Committee, resigning: Mr.. Oakly to Mr.. Bunny, re resignation of Secretary. Outward—To H. E. Tuckey, re resolution passed at special meeting on 10th inst. To Secretary Education Board, giving copy of resolution passed at special meeting on 10th instant, viz.:— Resolved, that this Committee sincerely regret the resignation of the secretary, who has carried out his duties faithfully and well, for which the Committee render him their sincere thanks, but hope that he will

withdraw it. At the same time expressing their great regret that the head master should have used such violent, unbecoming, and insulting language toward the secretary. Resolved, that this Committee also feel that every member has a perfect right to use his own judgment in voting, and should not be subject to abuse for to doing by the head teacher. Resolved, that this committee request that copies of the secretary's resignation and of the foregoing resolutions be sent to the Education Board, and that the Board be requested to give the head master the notice required by the Act, to leave the Featherston school. Resolved, that Mr.. Hiteman be paid 40s per annum additional for extra services, making in all £21 10s. That £1 10s be granted for making cadet carbine racks. That the Chairman employ a man to re-erect fence blown down.

29th April 1883 Wellington Education Board A quantity of correspondence from the Featherston School Committee was read. On the 10th August the committee resolved to report the headmaster, Mr.. Tuckey, for disregarding the instruction of the committee to discontinue giving home lessons. On 1 the 24th instant further resolutions were passed, regretting the resignation of the secretary, Mr.. A. Campbell, and expressing a hope that he would withdraw it. They also expressed their great regret that the headmaster should have used such violent, unbecoming, and insulting language towards the Secretary." The committee further requested the Board to give the head-teacher notice to leave the Featherston school. A certificate from Mr.. Hirschberg was enclosed to the effect that Mr.. Tuckey, in his presence on the 18th instant, accused Mr.. A. Campbell of conspiring with Mr.. Bunny to do him harm and give him annoyance ; also, that, in his opinion, the motion brought forward by Mr.. Bunny would not have been seconded by any of the committee had not Mr.. Campbell. done so, with perhaps the exception of Mr.., Oakley ; and also that the letter sent by Mr.. Campbell to him re home lessons, was worded in the most insulting manner possible. A reply from Mr.. Tuckey, received by the Chairman of the Board, was also read. He stated that after receiving the " peremptory notice " to discontinue homework forthwith he wrote asking the committee to reconsider the resolution. The committee held a special meeting on the 14th July, and, after reading his report, it was agreed that the homework should be resumed. Mr.. Bunny was not present at that meeting. Mr.. Tuckey complained that what was done at that meeting was concealed from him by the Secretary, and it was not till a fortnight afterward that he learned what had taken place. He discontinued homework up to the last meeting of the Board, when it clearly appeared that school committees have not the power of ordering teachers to discontinue homework, After that he resumed it. The committee again met the second week in August, and a resolution to report him to the Board was moved by Mr.. Bunny, and seconded by Mr.. Campbell (the Secretary). Mr.. (Mr.. Tuckey) knew at that time what Mr.. Campbell had done in the matter of concealing from him the rescinding resolution, and he (the writer) considered there was no doubt he was allying himself with Mr.. Bunny to thwart and annoy him. He accordingly went to the bank and removed his account, telling Mr.. Campbell the reason. He used neither violent, unbecoming, nor insulting language. He said — "You are allying yourself with Mr.. Bunny to thwart and annoy me in my school management." The committee, guided by Mr.. Bunny, the writer added, had heard what Mr.. Campbell had to say, but refused to hear him (Mr.. Tuckey), refused to let him see the minutes, and kept the proceedings at their meeting last Friday secret from him until he learned them from the newspapers. Mr.. Bunny, who is a member of the Featherston

Committee, made a detailed explanation of the circumstances of the dispute. He said the members of the committee, except Mr.. Campbell, were fathers of families, and they agreed with him (Mr.. Bunny) that the homework given the children was such as ought not to have been set them. Mr.. Campbell was manager of the Bank of Australasia, and Mr.. Tuckey had not only removed his own account, but also the church account, he being one of the church wardens. Mr.. Cox, the other churchwarden, was absent at the time. A meeting of the vestry was to be held tomorrow evening to consider the question. If a member of a local committee was to be subject to be injured in his business in that way, they would get nobody to act on such committees. Mr.. Bunny further declared that Mr.. Tuckey had been guilty of insulting behaviour to the committee, adding that he had a letter from him in his pocket, in which he referred to them as "a set of ruffians." He (Mr.. Bunny) was instrumental in getting Mr.. Tuckey appointed to Featherston, and had no personal feeling in the matter. Mr.. Mason asked the Board to allow Mr.. Lee, the Inspector, to visit the school to enquire into the dispute. Mr.. Bunny objected to Mr.. Lee going alone on such an errand, and suggested that the matter should be referred to the Chairman and one or two members of the Board. He also thought the Board should express its opinion as to what the powers of school committees really were. In reply to Mr.. Buchanan, he said that the resolution re home work had not been rescinded. The meeting referred to by Mr.. Tuckey was a special meeting, and had no power to deal with such a question. Mr.. Tuckey was not admitted to the meetings, and therefore only went upon guesswork as to what took place. Mr.. Beetham moved that the Chairman and the Rev. J. Paterson be appointed a Committee to enquire into the matter. Mr.. Bunny seconded the resolution, which was carried. Dr. Newman expressed the opinion that it was unfortunate that a member of the Board should also be a member of a school committee. Mr.. Bunny said he was not the first member who had held that position. The Hon. G. B. Johnson agreed with Dr. Newman, and expressed regret that Mr.. Bunny should have referred to private matters. Mr.. Bunny said he was only replying to a letter from Mr.. Tuckey, in which the latter stated all sorts of things.

30th August 1881 THE EDITOR). Sir,—As I perceive you have published the proceedings of the Featherston School Committee at their meeting on Friday last, I you. will spare me a little space that the public may hear both sides of this matter. The committee at an ordinary meeting on the 29th June, passed a resolution that home-work should be discontinued forthwith,' Mr.. Bunny, who was in the Chair, moved this resolution. He did not put someone else into the Chair before moving it, neither had he or anyone else given previous notice that he intended to move it. A few days after I received a very curt notice from the Secretary (Mr.. Campbell) of this motion. I had just finished my report for the previous quarter to the Committee, and I added to it a request that they would reconsider that resolution. The Committee had agreed to meet again on the 13th July to decide about some school requisites which they intended to ask the Board to provide, and at that meeting my report was read, and my request that they would reconsider the question of home work was discussed, and it was moved, seconded, and agreed to, that the aforesaid resolution should be rescinded. Mr.. Bunny was not at that meeting, but I apprehend that he had a tolerably early interview with Mr.. Campbell, as I met him just outside the bank (Mr..

Campbell's residence) soon after 10 a.m. Mr.. Bunny assumed that I was going to ask Mr.. Campbell what the committee had done and stated, without my asking, that the committee had done nothing about the question of homework, because the meeting was held for a special purpose and they had no power to deal with other matters. On my asking Mr.. Campbell if this was the case, he said that it was. I did not learn the truth of what had taken place until a fortnight after. Neither, I think, did anyone else, as it was kept out of the papers and no publicity was given to it. It is quite possible that the committee were not quite in order in the action they took when they resounded ' the obnoxious resolution, but it is certain their proceedings were not one whit more informal than those of the meeting on 31st June, and if they were, what right had Mr.. Campbell to. take upon himself to decide in the matter, to pronounce that a resolution, properly moved, seconded, and agreed to, was informal And still more why did he not tell me what had really been done instead of confirming Mr.. Bunny's statement and letting me go away completely deceived I make no remark as to Mr.. Bunny's share in this transaction, but one does expect truth and honorable dealing from a bank manager. I certainly accepted Mr.. Campbell's word without the slightest hesitation, and, as a matter of fact, I discontinued homework up to the time the Education Board met at the end of July, and Mr.. Bunny unsuccessfully attempted to' get from the Board their authority to school committees to deal with the home-work question. I did this for the sake of peace, not wishing to come to a breach with the committee, though I felt certain that they had no' right to interfere with md in- the matter and that other head masters would probably resent my yielding to it. The Committee met again about a fortnight ago, and Mr.. Bunny moved that should be reported to the Board, (I suppose for my contumacy,) and Mr.. Campbell seconded it, After that 1 took occasion to tell Mr.. Campbell that he had allied himself with Mr.. , Bunny to thwart and annoy me. Those were the words T used, and that is the violent, unbecoming, and insulting language, spoken of in your paper, and those are the grounds on which the Board is to be requested to give me notice lo quit, I distinctly assert that this is done, not because the school is otherwise than in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, not because the parents wish me to leave, for not (4. ' . child is kept away in the whole district •' out of dissatisfaction to me, but because I have incurred the ill-will of Mr.. Bunny, and of three other members of the Committee, neither of whom has a single child in the school. I wish also to state that I have never in any way attempted to influence any member of the Committee as to their voting; or said; one word on the subject either good or bad as to votes given, I fear I have taken up an unconscionable amount of room in your paper, but I believe I am not mistaken in thinking that a great many of your readers will be interested in hearing the teacher's side of the question as well as that of the Committee, j I am, 40., H. E. TUCKEY,

31st August 1883 . Sir,—As far as I know there is no truth whatever in the paragraph in yesterday's Daily, re a petition asking Mr.. Bunny to resign his seat in the Featherston School Committee. The Committee as a whole intend to stand or fall by their action in the matter now under dispute, and do not mean to be intimidated by any innuendoes set forth, or by' being publicly accused of being led by the nose by -any one of their number.

I am, , A. Member of the Featherston School Committee.

1st September 1883 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

[to the editor,] Sir,—I certainly was very much surprised at the animus displayed by Mr.. Tuckey in his letter published in your issue of the 30th inst., the whole gist, of it is evidently to injure and damage the character of Mr.. Campbell as far as by in his power, and for what I ! Because, as part of his duty as secretary to the school committee, he had to inform Mr.. Tuckey in writing of a resolution passed at one of their meetings relative to the discontinuance of home lessons, I beg to state for the information of Mr.. Tuckey that at a meeting held last Friday night (not a fortnight ago as lie states) Mr.. Bunny did not move any resolution, nor Mr.. Campbell second any. The resolutions passed at that meeting were resolved unanimously, so his information, wherever .obtained, was false. I may also state I am one of the three members of the committee who dared to speak their mind, arid, with all due deference to Mr.. Tuckey, will continue to do so. Up to about four months ago I had a boy .at school, and' if Mr.. Tuckey wishes to know why I removed him I shall be most happy to give him the information. This is not the first time the committee have had cause to complain of Mr.. Tuckey. Not long ago a complaint was made by two parents for having the whole class punished and kept in for the fault of one child. And because, forsooth, he was written' to on the subject, refused to answer the complaint, as he considered it j vexatious and frivolous, j I am,, &c, J. D. Oakly,
3rd September 1883 Featherston School Committee.

To the Editor of the Standard.

Sm, - As a member of the above committee and one of the four mentioned by Mr.. Tuckey in his letter which appeared in the Wairarapa Daily of Thursday, I crave a small space to offer a few remarks thereon. I feel certain that Mr.. Tuckey would have acted wiser if he had held his peace and kept himself quiet. Let us for the sake of argument admit that all the members of the committee are simpletons ; what have they done ? Only referred to the Education Board a question in dispute as to whether they have or have not a right to deal with the Home Lesson question. The committee ' contend that they have a right; Mr.. Tuckey thinks differently; and if he had not heaped fuel on the fire that point would have been settled by the Board on Wednesday last. But a question of intimidation has been resented. The committee are prepared to bring the matter on for discussion as soon as they get a reply. Mr.. Bunny is not the only one who considers the home lessons given too much for the children. The committee wore anxious to see a specimen of it, and although Mr.. Tucker was requested to do so, he has as yet net given them the opportunity of judging. Mr.. Tucker has written instructions to discontinue home lessons, and they were never rescinded. Whatever any individual in the have told him goes for nothing. The meeting of 27th July confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting of Juno 27, the date the resolution was passed. I was one of those who attended on the 14th July. It was a meeting called for a special purpose to receive a list of requisites required by the school, and had no power to deal with general business. It is said by many, and with some truth, that if the recess time was reduced by two thirds a large amount of home work would not be necessary. It is all very well for Mr.. Tuckey to write as he has done, but he fails even to see he did any wrong in withdrawing the Church funds. He could have done this for no other purpose than petty spite, very petty, because it only amounted to £2 6s 6d. On withdrawing his private account he might have been more modest and have done it without remark, although a wise man would not have even done this at that particular moment. Again he writes, " I distinctly assert that this is done not because the school is otherwise than in a thoroughly satisfactory condition." I could, if I like, state much upon that point. He goes on to say he has the ill will of Mr.. Bunny and three other members' of committee. He makes a sad mistake there, as

in that number he must include our chairman, Mr.. J. G. Cox, who, it is well known, has been Mr.. Tuckey's greatest friend and always supported and given way to him more than once rather than oppose, having the welfare of the school at heart! But on one occasion last year, a former committee wore sadly put out, and annoyed, at the tons of a letter Mr.. Tucker sent them. It was hotly spoken of at the time, and again brought forward for discussion, and Mr.. Tuckey may thank Mr.. Cor. for the committee allowing It to pass without censure. In conclusion I think it a great pity Mr.. Tuckey did not use A little more discretion, and not have acted so hastily. Every step ho takes only appears to make matters worse. I am Ac., A Member the Featherston School Committee.

5th September 1883 Featherston School.

A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was hold in the schoolroom, on Monday evening last. Present—Messrs.. J. G. Cox (chairman), H. Bunny, J. D. Oakly, and A. Campbell. The minutes of previous meeting, hold Aug. 21, wore read and confirmed. Correspondence. From Miss Medley, asking for a week's leave of absence owing to ill-health.

Prom Education Board, informing the committee, that Mr.. J. R. Blair and Rev. J. Patterson had been appointed a committee to inquire into the questions at issue between Mr.. Tuckey and the committee. From Education Board, enclosing copy of letter, sent by Mr.. Tuckey, to the Board. The following letter from Mr.. H. B. Tuckey, to Mr.. Cox, re notion of the committee, was then read:—

“ The School, Aug. 28th, 1383. Dear Mr.. Cox.—I waited yesterday, expecting to hear from you, of the proceedings of the committee on Friday night. Iam sorry now I let myself be bounced by Mr.. Bunny, into leaving the room. It would have been better for the school, and for all of us, if ho had walked out as he threatened to do, and never came back again. As regards the Secretary. I cannot let matters rest as they are. Mr.. Campbell stated in writing to the committee that I have accused him falsely of certain things. Either he must prove the word 1 falsely,' or he must withdraw it and apologise. If he refuses to do either, I shall! have, as Mr.. Gladstone says, three courses open to me: 1st. I may refer the matter to the Inspector of the Bank of Australasia; 2nd, I may state the case to the Education Board; 3rd, I may take a legal opinion, whether an action does not lie against Mr.. Campbell for concealing what took place at the meeting of the committee on or about the 13th July. 1 am very sorry I have been brought into this state of hostility with your relative. It hub not been in any way. of my doing, or my seeking, but as long as fie committee submit to the guidance of Mr.. Bunny, I must take the best advice I can. Believe me, yours very truly, H. E. Tuckey,”

It was resolved that on the recommendation of the bead teacher that the leave of absence asked for by Miss Medley be granted. A copy of letter sent by Mr.. Tuckey to the Education Board was laid before the meet lug. The stated that there wen statements therein without foundation, and that he would write to the Chairman at an early date. The Chairman reported that the head teacher had not yet supplied him specimens of home lessons given to the children. It was resolved that Bible reading be allowed out of school hours for another three months open to any Clergyman ; but before further application be made, the Committee would like report from head master, as to how many Clergymen had- availed themselves of it, and how many children attended each class.

Accounts to the amount of £3 2s 3d woe passed for payment, and the meeting ter.

26th September 1883 The report of the Committee appointed to inquire into, the questions at issue between the headmaster and the Committee of the Featherston school, was submitted and adopted

27th September 1883 very voluminous report from the committee appointed to investigate matters in dispute between the Featherston School Committee and the head master (Mr.. Tuckey) was read at the Education Board meeting, The committee stated that they were unable to recommend that the resolution of the committee be given effect to, viz., to give the master legal notice. They did not overlook the fact that angry feelings had been raised, but they hoped these were not general, but were confined to a comparatively narrow circle, If they were right, time and the exercise of a little forbearance on the one hand, and discretion on the other, would set matters right, They considered that the home lessons, which formed the Board of all the trouble, were fairly reasonable, Discussion ensued upon the report, members appearing to agree that the master had acted imprudently in going into print over the dispute, The Hon, H F .Johnson moved, and Mr.. Mason seconded, that the report be adopted. Mr.. Hutchison suggested an amendment which was accepted by Mr.. Johnson, and it was ultimately resolved, "That the report be adopted, and the Board .disapprove of Mr.. Tuckey's conduct in reference to the School Committee, and in publishing a letter on the management of same, in the Wairarapa Daily of 30th August,' and the Board, in the interests of education, further suggest to the School -.Committee and the teacher alike the propriety of conciliation and forbearance." The motion was carried without dissent, Mr.. Bunny declining to vote either way - Evening Post.

1st October 1883 Featherston School Committee.

A meeting of the committee was held on Friday evening. Present Messrs.. J. G. Cox (chairman), H. Bunny, Toogood, Oakly, O'Neale and Cundy. The treasurer's statement showed a balance of £7 8s 6d in the bank. A letter was received from the head teacher pointing out that the committee were required by the rules and regulations of the Education Board to provide for the lighting of the fires, and declining to see to them himself.

From Mr.. Campbell, the secretary, concerning Mr.. Tuckey's letter to the Board.
From secretary of Education Board re Dr. Cahill's lectures on Science.

From Board re report concerning head teacher.

Resolved—That at a meeting held on 29th June, this committee resolved that home work should be discontinued. The head teacher having in his reply stated that this would interfere with the annual examination the, committee resolve that they will allow the head teacher to continue the home work until the next examination, after which time it is to cease. Resolved—That a copy of homework given to the children for a fortnight previous to the 29th June be supplied to the committee by the head teacher

2nd October 1883 THE FEATHERSTON SCHOOL DIFFICULTY.

We referred the other day to the very indefinite position which school committees occupy. It has been left for the head teacher of the Featherston school to ascertain and declare their exact functions. That teacher has informed his committee that under the rules and regulations of the Board it is their duty to build the school fires. No doubt the school committee will respond in the language of the Bab ballads, " It is our duty and we will!" But this exacting teacher is not satisfied with a committee willing to build his fires—he insists that they shall be built properly, or he will take vengeance by freezing their offspring. We presume the treasurer of the local committee will have now to rise early in the morning to saw the necessary wood, that the chairman will appear an hour before the school opens .with a supply of paper and matches, and that Mr.. Bunny will trot after him with a pair of bellows. A few days ago, it will be remembered, the Featherston committee sat on the teacher re home lessons, and now

the teacher, finding that he has a sympathetic Board at his back, sits on the committee on the burning question of school fires. It will also be remembered that the Education Board recently appointed a sub-committee to inquire into the cause of dispute between the teacher and committee and to report thereon, This sub-committee, as far as we can gather, did not go into the question of home lessons, which was the casus belli, but simply endeavored to pour oil on the troubled waters to induce the teacher and the committee to kiss and be friends. How far this policy of conciliation has answered may be seen from the present relations of the antagonists. The question of home lessons still remains to be adjusted, and other matters are now, added to it which will serve the purpose of increasing the difficulty. We think it would have been better if the Education Board had gone thoroughly into the question of home lessons, and had taken evidence as to their expediency so that it might have given the public a well digested report instead of merely administering a soothing powder. Peace and pleasantness are all very well, but questions of principle should not be sacrificed to them. Several thousand children in the Wellington Education District are interested in the home-lesson question and on their behalf we have a right to expect a clear and well considered judgment from the Board. The Featherston Committee have appealed to it for such a decision, and it is simply childish for the Board to evade its responsibility and reply by a requisition for forbearance and an admonition a la Dr. Watts. The Board ought to consider all aspects of the home-lesson question. There is the medical standpoint for instance, Could not the Board ask some practitioner whether the five hours work per diem in school is sufficient for the average male or female child intellect, and at what age; it is prudent to increase it to six or seven hours There is the parents standpoint too. The parents of the children attending the Board School do not employ servants, but are obliged to utilize more or less the labor of their children. They make a sacrifice to enable them to attend school during the ordinary hours, but is it not too much to ask them to give up their children's time in the evenings for home lessons? These are points, and there are many more to which we have not alluded, which ought to be carefully weighed by the Board before coming to a decision. As yet we see no indication of their having been considered. The fact is one school struggles against another to pass! To gain high passes at the annual examination is the bonum from a teacher's point of view. To gain this object children's rights and parents' rights are ignored and set on one side. The Board, when appealed to neither sides with the teacher nor the Committee, but tries to please both. It is time that a protest was lodged against sham administration of this sort. We believe ourselves that to nine out of every ten children attending the public schools, home lessons are hurtful and cruel. They are inflicted, not for the benefit of the children, but for the advantage of teachers. High passes are all very well, but a sensible parent does not care two pence for his child to be forced into taking a maximum number of marks. Rapid teaching means superficial teaching, and should be discarded. All that is required in the interest of children and of parents is that pupils, within certain well defined ranges, should be well taught, It might be possible for the Wellington District to make the worst passes in the whole of the colony, and yet for its children to be the best educated. To keep children racing for passes from one year's end to another is a grave blunder. No doubt at the end of the year the Board rejoices over the fact that its passes compare favorably with other districts of the colony, but if instead of this, the Board made it its duty to eliminate the weak and inferior teaching which exists in its schools, and which while it turns out passes fails utterly in giving children that sound education which they have a right to expect from the State, it would stand far higher than it does in the estimation of the public, .The Board means well, but its knowledge

of the practical working of Us schools is apparently limited. When a case like the Featherston School difficulty occurs which is likely to throw some considerable light on the dark corners of our educational establishment, the instinct of the Board seems rather to be in the direction of smothering it, The battle of School Committees has to be fought out, and, however much the Board may try to keep the peace, it will have to come off, In the matter of home lessons the interests of the Board and its teaching staff are practically antagonistic to the interests of parents and children, We have every respect for the Board and for the many able teachers in its ranks, but in our opinion justice is on the side of children and parents, and till their claims receive fair consideration, we shall certainly advocate them.

2nd October 1883 THE FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

« TO THE EDITOR. Sir — In reply-to " Parent," in last evening's paper (who I am almost inclined to think does not hail from here at all), he will see by the report of the meeting of the School Committee, hold on Friday evening last, that they have decided that homework shall cease after the annual examination at the end of the month, so "Parent" will have a chance to bring forward all who, like himself, differ from, the committee on that question; and can safely say the minority in this district will be on his side, at any rate to the class of home work that has lately been given, taking children sometimes two hours to accomplish. His remarks re the member of committee, who " manfully fulfilled his duty, &c.," are certainly flattering to that gentleman : but would not that paragraph have read better thus— "who shamefully neglected his duty, by not having the courage to speak out?" As out of seven members of committee, however, the same six were present at all meetings, with one exception, the absent gentleman (almost named) must certainly feel very much flattered by " Parent's" remarks. In conclusion, I may state that the committee are only fulfilling the wishes of the majority of parents in telling the step they have done complaints having been continually made to them of the time taken by their children to complete their homo work, principally arithmetic In my own case, and several others, as much as two hours are taken up with it — in fact, compelling parents to do the work the masters are paid for. I am, Ac, A Member of the Committee, AND A PARENT. Featherston, 1st October 1883

5th October 1893 CORRESPONDENCE.

(to the editor Wairarapa daily?) ';", Sir,—I should be. obliged if you would insert a few words in reference to the last report (as furnished by. a newspaper correspondent here) of the proceedings of the Featherston Committee, and while writing I may be able to set you right as regards one or two remarks made by you in your article of the 2nd inst. With regard to the reports of the school committee meetings sent by a correspondent of yours and the correspondent of the New Zealand Times (one and the same person I believe) I have been struck by their intense one-sidedness and the case they display against the head teacher, by at one time' suppressing facts, and at another magnifying thorn is it suited his purpose. For example, take the report of the last meeting re correspondence when a memo, (written on a slip of paper) from the teacher reply is given at full length, and the other correspondence of some importance is simply referred to as being received, .flow, this seems to have been done for a sinister purpose, and what I wish you to note is this: for I see by your article that you have been misled like others; that this insignificant little memo, was sent to the chairman of the school committee a week or ten days before the sub-committee appointed by the Education Board visited Featherston, and was dealt with by them, so that you can see the | meanness of the affair

UP TO EDIT

being brought up again, and such prominence being given to it without reference to its date, and after the sub-committee had reported. I am sorry to have to say, it, but this correspondent is known to be a member of the school committee,; and a bitter opponent of the head teacher and also-a "devoted follower : of the leader of the "no home-work faction," I hope for the satisfaction of the public you will obtain and publish " the report of the sub-committee so that everyone may judge for themselves, I have no doubt that had this report endorsed the action of the committee we should have had it in full long ago. In conclusion, I would ask you, sir, what can be said in defence of a committee which allowed its minutes to be wrongfully altered on one occasion, and on another suppressed them altogether. I say at once, without fear of contradiction, that in the opinion of every honest-minded man they are totally unworthy of the confidence that has been reposed in them, and they should be ousted from their position as soon as possible to prevent further mischief. And how is it that the present chairman, who has reigned for the past fourteen or fifteen,, years, has only just discovered, now that he had no children at school, that' homework should be abolished!. And yet we are told that the committee is not' led by the nose

I am., Etc.. Parent No, 3, but not one of the COMMITTEE

6th October 1883 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL DIFFICULTY.

The following is the report of the Rev J. Paterson and the Chairman of the Education Board re Featherston school .-

The committee appointed by .and to inquire into and report to the Board on the matters in dispute between the Featherston School Committee and the head master proceeded to Featherston on the 17th inst, and there met. the school committee and the head master.

From an examination of the minutes, it appears that at a meeting held by the school committee on the 29th June" the following resolution was passed :—"That home work for children be-discontinued."

It does not appear that the head teacher was in any way consulted about this important change in school method, .

On the 5th of July he received the following notice from the Secretary pf the school committee " I am instructed by the committee to inform you that they have decided-that home-work for the children should be discontinued forthwith."

The meeting of-the 29th of. July was adjourned in the following words; the committee meet in a fortnight," but in looking at the minutes these words were scored out. This alteration of the minutes was made at the meeting held on the 27th July, but we think wrongfully, On receiving the order of the committee to discontinue home-work the head teacher set to us to have obeyed, but on the 12th July addressed the following letter to the school committee (see papers.)

On the 13th July a meeting was held of certain members from the minutes apparently in response to the adjournment of the 29th June. At this meeting the letter from the Head Teacher was considered, and this is the Secretary of the school committee's account of what took place at that meeting, no minutes having been taken. On the 29th June the committee adjourned until the 13th July for the purpose of receiving and considering list of articles required for the school. At the adjourned meeting Mr.. Tuckey handed in his quarter's report, in which he asked the committee to reconsider the question of house work' The Committee at that meeting decided to allow Mr.. Tuckey to continue home lessons temporarily until the matter was considered. (See letter,)

This resolution was not communicated to Mr.. Tuckey, but, hearing some time afterwards from one of the school committee, who was present at this adjourned

meeting, what took place, he seems to have felt justified in resuming the home work, and also, with less discretion, to speak and write as set forth in documents attached.

At this stage the dispute seems to have become acute. On the 27th July the school committee held the usual monthly meeting, the previous resolution was confirmed, but apparently no notice was taken of Mr.. Tuckey's letter

On the 10th August the committee held a special meeting, at which the following proceeding took place. (See documents attached). Mr.. Tuckey's answer to the allegation that he had failed to obey the committee, and furnish the report of the home work asked for on the 10th says, that he duly prepared the report, and placed it addressed to the Chairman of the committee on the table in the room where the committee meets but the committee whose rule it was to meet on the last Friday in each month, met on this occasion, on the 24th August Monday. Mr.. Tuckey receiving no notification of the alteration laid his report on the table. on the 31st, the usual 'meeting night. On the following day, he found the report Where he had placed it the night before, and he took possession of it. On the 24th the school committee (see report 31st August) passed the following resolution (see documents),

These are the apparent facts relating to the case so far as they have come under our cognisance.

That a gradual heat has been evolved is doubtless only too true, but the facts scarcely warrant it. We were very much impressed with the fair-mindedness of the members of the School Committee, and as the bare facts did not account (in our opinion) for the trouble, we appealed to them in the. Interests of the school to endeavour to come to a friendly arrangement

We availed ourselves of the opportunity to inspect the school and were favorably impressed with all we saw The committee seem to have taken great interest in the school, judging from its equipment, The school was clean and bright, and it was a pleasure to look at the children. We have stated the facts as briefly as possible. We are unable to recommend ' that the resolution of the committee be given effect to, viz., " To give the master the legal notice" We do not overlook the fact that very considerable and angry, feelings have been raised, but we hope they are not general, but are confined to a comparatively narrow circle. If we are right, time,-and the exercise of a little forbearance on the one hand, and discretion .on the other, will set matters right

We have only to add that we have examined the lessons for homework, which is the ostensible cause of all this trouble, So far as we are able to form an opinion, we think they are fairly reasonable, but we have obtained and submit samples to the Board for its own satisfaction. We have, etc, J.R. Blair, James Patterson.

17th October 1883 SETTLEMENT OF THE FEATHERSTON SCHOOL DIFFICULTY. To the Editor. ' Sir,—A happy thought has just struck me, which, if acted upon, may settle our little school difficulty without interfering with " home work." It is this: Let the Committee get a supply of "Hop Bitters" or "Schiedam Schnapps" for the poor little children, and if these fail give them some "Rough on Rats," the last to be applied hot, with a dose each for the Committee after. Yours etc., Another Parent. Featherston, October 15th, 1883.

27th October 1883 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

The Inspector of Schools, Mr.. Lee, held his annual examination at this school on Monday, 1 Tuesday and Wednesday last, with the following result :

Percentage of passes: 77. "This is not quite so good as last year, when 86 per cent of those presented passed. The Inspector praised the reading, composition and grammar, and remarked that one boy in the fifth standard (James McDougall) had sent up the

Girls: Mabel Keys, Grace Cundy, Isabel Ritchie, Alice Cole, Mabel O'Neale Norah MacFarlane. . Standard 11.-A. Allen, J. Greatbach, C. Reid, Elizabeth Burt, Hilda Anderson, Harriet Coe, Effie McDougall, Clara Mac Shan& Standard III.—John Jackson, B. Bunny, D. Robertson, S. McDougall, O. Furlong, Otto Knight, Joseph Harrison, W. Hodder, R. Fennel; F. Bezar. Girls: Marv Tidswell, Annie Knight, Martha Holt. Standard IV.~ Thos. Haycock, E. V, Tuckey, G. Coe, John McDougall, E. H, Saunders, R, Smith. Girls: Esther Harrison, Amy Bennett, Alice Reid, Ann Cundy, Isabel Viles, Y, Reid. Standard V.—Erie Bunny, C. Bunny, Jas, McDougall, A. Toogood, N, Willoughby. Girls: Norah. Jackson, Annie Keys, Kate Riddick, E. Tuckey. Standard VI. - James Riddick. Girls: Kate Cundy, Amy Jackson.;

Standard I. ...	23	23 ..
II.	12	8
III	24	14
IV	19	12
V	9	9
VI	3	3

The average attendance for the month was reported as 99 boys and 73 girls. The head master reported that on Tuesday, Oct. 9, Dr Cahill gave four lectures on “ The Composition of Air and Water,” illustrating his remarks with numerous experiments. The lectures, which were interesting and instructive, were attended by the children in standards a gad upwards. That children I the higher standards are reported to have understood and retained the substance of these lectures. On Monday, the 22nd Oct., the Inspector, Mr.. Lee, commenced his annual examination. The examination lasted three days. The results are published elsewhere. Six dual desks have been added since last meeting. Specimens of homo work were presented for one day’s work given in standards 4, 5 and 6. A petition was received from Messrs.. Donald and Riddick signed by 28 parents re home lessons. Resolved—That the head, teacher procure ink wells. That the head teacher give a holiday on the show day at Carterton, also on the Tauherenikau race days. That the head master be instructed to have the bell rung at the appointed time.

That this committee adjourn till Saturday evening, Nov. 3, when the foregoing reports are expected to be laid on the table.

2nd November 1883 Wellington Education Board A letter was read from Mr.. Donald, enclosing copy of a petition addressed to the Featherston local committee, asking that body to rescind its resolution abolishing home work.

7th November 1883 Featherston School Committee.

The adjourned meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held in the school room on Saturday evening last. Present— Messrs.. Cox (chairman), Bunny, O'Neal, and Toogood. Mr.. Oakly's absence was excused, owing to his indisposition. Several accounts wen passed for payment. Correspondence received since last meeting:—

1. From the Secretary of the Education Board re appointment of Mr.. H. C. Amner (late of Blenheim), to Cross's Creek school. The chairman gave a synopsis of the petition presented to the Committee by Messrs.. J. Donald and Riddick, showing that few who signed the petition had anything to do with homework; the parents named only represented 20 in the 4th, 5th and 6th Standards who did home work. The return was made from statements supplied by the head master. The exact numbers are 15 in the 4th standard, 11 in the 5th, and 4 in the 6th. Many of the parents had been warned they would be brought np under the compulsory clauses. The Committee had to deal with those who were opposed to home work, those who felt that had been given was too much and too severe, and thirdly those who have petitioned for it. It seems rather a puzzle how the latter class, as a whole, can be supplied with it, when they seldom or never send their children by day. The specimens of home work, supplied at the Committee's request, are all arithmetic in the 4th and 5th standards, with arithmetic varied in the 6th, with other matters. He considered the arithmetic in each case would take a child of moderate ability 45 minutes. His opinion was that in any ease home work could only be by permission, not compulsory, as the Education Act distinctly demanded a certain number of hours daily. The following resolutions were passed:— That the appointment of Mr.. Amner to Gross's Creek be confirmed. 2. That the bead master's attention be directed to a resolution passed at a former meeting re the compulsory- * ; ? ; ! «. md that he will be good enough > supply the Committee at its next s: U ! n§ with the names of all children bstre-ru the s ; s of 6 and 13, ' a radr.j of two rjiles, who do not I cho3' namiacaury who are exempted cd ov clause 92, and specified

.r third schedule. ' That it-- ««id teacher be requested to ; • / .j a istum of attendance since June , last of each of the children of those parents * who petitioned for home lessons. That the chairman be requested to obtain from the head teacher the following information ;—1. Are the rolls called over once or twice daily, and at what hours? 2. If a child comes late or is absent when the roll Is called in the morning, bnt cemes after this, is such child numbered “ absent ” for the half day or the whole day ? 4. The Committee are el opinion that Miss Medley cannot attend to so many children as she has in her charge, and recommends that she should have more assistance without delay.

5. Visitors for the month—Messrs.. Toogood and O'Neal. 6. The teachers convocation not yet having sent in to the Education Board their report on home lessons, as represented by the newspapers they would do, this Committee decides to allow the question to stand oyer for farther consideration.

7th November 1883 The school cadets meet at Featherston on Friday next, where » review on a small scale will be held. The Government have not made the matter public in any way, and therefore very few persons will be present. Even the hour when the review commences has not been announced. The following is the programme for the cadets: —Form up in open column, (right in front), wheel into line, break into column

to the right, advance in column, change direction to the left, halt, deploy on No. 1, advance in line, wheel to left by columns, in column, line to left on leading columns, retire by fours from right of column, front turn, line to right on No. 1, advance in line, half column on No. 1, pile arms. Break off for lunch. Company drill under captains, form up in column, right in front, wheel into line, annual exercise, break into column to right, square two deep on No. 1, reform column, march past.

3rd December 1883 We notice that Mr.. Gurr, formerly of Featherston, is acting as temporary inspector under a Canterbury Education Board. We notice that Mr.. Gurr, formerly of Featherston, is acting as temporary inspector under a Canterbury Education Board.

3rd December 1883 The monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Friday evening last, Present—Messrs.. Bunny (chairman), Oakley, Toogood and O'Neale. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The treasurer's statement showed a credit balance of-£10 3s 3d. Accounts to the amount of £5 Os 5d were passed for payment. The following Correspondence was then read From secretary Education Board, enclosing cheque for £11 5s, capitation grant, From Mr.. W. Cundy, apologising for non-attendance at meeting. From head teacher, enclosing report of children not attending school, viz,: David Jewel and Louisa Gazely. The report of the visiting members for the month was read. It was resolved that the names of children not attending school be given to the police with a view of taking action' against the parents of same. That the secretary be instructed to write to the head teacher re a resolution passed on the 26th October last* That Mr.. O'Neale be instructed to obtain necessary fixings for a new urinal. The meeting then terminated. ' - ,

6th December 1883 Sir, —I observe on looking over your columns to-day that the Featherston School Committee held one of its important monthly meetings last week, at which the usual quartette were present, and their combined brains must have been very much exercised indeed, by the long list of weighty subjects with which they wrestled, and I am sure you hardly gave the report sufficient prominence, having in "fact jput j't in rather an obscure comer, aa if it were not worthy of notice. I see, however, notwithstanding the obscurity -of • the report, that the Secretary was instructed to write to the head teacher re a resolution passed in October last. Now, this is very lucid, and reflects great credit on the Committee.' I believe there was a very hot discussion, which lasted some time , before'-they brought forth this resolution which bears on the question of the duration of interval allowed to the children" for play. According to the watches of the members of the Committee, the head teacher allows nearly thirty-five seconds too long sometimes, and this is to be put a stop to at once, hence "the instructions" to the secretary. Query— Did the committee attend daily to see that the bell was rung at the proper intervals, or did they appoint a juvenile subcommittee to watch proceedings and report'? I cannot believe that any complaint has been made about the matter from parents outside the committee. When the committee take it upon themselves to stop-home lessons, surely they won't bother about a few seconds extra playtime. EeallJWksy are getting fastidious in their oloj|o. I am told, however, that the head teacher is prepared to prove that the " interval" has not been exceeded since the memorable "instructions" of 16th October last, The subject that should have claimed their most careful consideration, viz., the petition in favor of

home work is altogether ignored without any explanation being offered. I presume they are of the same opinion as the member of the Education Board (who is acting as chairman of themselves) that there were not three names on the petition worth anything—the member referred to may yet have cause to rue this unguarded statement—or perhaps they are still waiting for that mysterious communication from the Teachers' Association, referred to by the same honorable member at the Board meeting in October, which \m never turned up. In fact, I believe no one (excepting the school committee) was mora surprised at the reference than the Association itself. I remember one thing the Teachers' Association did not very long ago, and that was to pass a resolution to the effect that they considered it would be a very great misfortune to the schools if home lessons were interfered with, but it is to be regretted that our committee did not coincide with this view and said, in effect, that they knew better, and of course they didn't. But, to be serious,' it is a sorrowful fact that a school committee should be allowed by the Board to act as this one has done, when it is apparent that they are not acting in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the parents. Let us hope that country school committees will never have any greater powers than they possess at present, otherwise the whole system will prove a disastrous failure, The Featherston school committee has had three meetings, and the Education Board two meetings, since the petition in favor of the continuance of homo work was sent in, and yet nothing has been done in the ' matter, and the committee have taken i advantage in the meantime, owing to the supiieueess of the Board, to arrogate powers which they never had, and the school as a whole has to suffer. We are thankful that the career of this noted committee is drawing to a close. Hoping that I shall not, through my explanation, bring down upon my venerable head the anger of Mr.." Ecce Homo," who wants to teach me how to spell able," my mpthor." I am, , Petitioner, Late "Parent No 3."

10th December 1883 THAT FEATHERSTON HOME WORK PETITION AGAIN. To the Editor. Sir,—That petition re homework is evidently rankling in the breast of the gentleman who signs himself " Parent No. 3." No doubt he was mighty proud of being the respected parent of that document signed, and consequently very much disgusted at the Education Board not ordering instant resumption of home -work by the Featherston meeting had taken the trouble to forward a copy of the petition, independently of the School Committee, If the Board have the power to over-ride the Committee

17th December 1883 We hear that Mr.. Tuckey, head master of the Featherston State School, has been appointed by the Board of Governors, principal of the .Rangiora High School, Canterbury, This is a new school about to be started next month, and is in 110 way connected with the Government Schools, Out of eleven applications sent in Mr.. Tuckey was unanimously chosen, and in congratulating that gentleman wo may also express a wish for his future prosperity. We are sure that both Mr.. and Mrs. Tuckey will be very greatly missed and their departure regretted by the majority of the resident's in the Featherston district

19th December 1883 The friends of Mr.. Tuckey, the head teacher of the Featherston School will be glad to hear that he has been appointed by the Board of Governors, principal of the Rangiora High School, Canterbury. This school is a new one, and will be opened in January. There are' many who will regret the departure of Mr.. Tuckey

from Featherston, and wish both himself and Mrs. Tuckey a prosperous career in the future

19th December 1883 At the Education Board to-day,' Mr.. Bunny drew attention to a statement in the papers, that Mr.. Tuckey, head master sf Featherston School, had been appointed principal teacher of Rangiora High School. Probably Mr.. Tuckey is not aware that, owing to the holidays, the date of Board's meeting this month had been altered, and so had not officially notified his resignation. It was decided to lose no time in taking steps to supply the vacancy by advertising for applications for the head mastership of the Featherston School,

28th December 1883 The children of the Featherston School have presented to Mr.. Tuckey, the headmaster, who is leaving the district, a handsome set of gold solitaires and studs, together with an address. Presentations have also been made to Miss Tuckey

1884

1884	136	Featherston	Bunting	Henry	Headmaster	£230	\$40,381
1884	136	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£160	\$28,091
1884	136	Featherston	Medley	Laura	Assistant Female	£100	\$17,557
1884	136	Featherston	Craig	Esther	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,511

14th January 1884 APPLICATIONS for the following appointments will be received at this office np to Wednesday, the 23rd inst. Head Teacher, Featherston School — Salary, £220 to £260, according to classification, and roomed residence

29th January 1884 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. The following Committee was elected :

H. Bunny ... 126

A, Matthews , ...46

A. McDougall ... 42

J. G. Cox.,. .36.

Captain Donald .. 33

B. Brunskill28

C. John Robertson 16

O'Neale 7 (Not elected)

30th January 1884 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL. The annual election of the Featherston School committee was held on Monday evening. There were 52 persons present, and the following are the names of the candidates elected Messrs.. Bunny, Matthews, McDougal, Cox, Donald, Brunskill and Robertson. A protest was entered by Mr.. Welby Jackson, against the election of Mr.. A. Matthews (On the grounds he was not a resident householder), which will be referred to the Education Board tor their decision.

30th January 1884 A protest was received against the election of Mr.. A. Mathews as a member of the Featherston School Committee, on the ground that he was not a resident householder in the Featherston district. It appeared that Mr.. Mathews used, occupied, and occasionally resided at a house situated in the district, and as in the terms of the Act this was all that was necessary to constitute a " house, holder " the Board decided that the election of Mr.. Mathews was perfectly in order. The protest was accordingly disallowed

Appointments were made as follows, subject to consultation with the local committees in terms of the Act; — Featherston (assistant), Mr.. Bunting

6th February 1884 The Education Board at its last meeting, recommended the appointment of Mr.. Bunting to the head mastership of the Featherston School by a majority of one. The following was the result of the polling, For Mr.. Bunting : Mr.. Buchanan, Mr.. Newman and the Rev. Mr.. Patterson. For Mr.. Braun: Messrs.. Bunny, Mason and Hutchison. The chairman, Mr.. Blair, gave his casting vote in favor of Mr.. Bunting. The Featherston School Committee met last Monday evening, when it was unanimously resolved to let the consideration of Mr.. Bunting's appointment stand over until Saturday next. When the recommendation of the Board will be considered. Mr.. G. Cox was unanimously elected Chairman and Secretary, and Mr.. M Donald Treasurer

12th February 1884 The adjourned meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held at the Schoolroom, Featherston, on Saturday last. Present Messrs.. Jas. Donald, Brunskill, Matthews, and Robertson. In the absence of the chairman, Mr.. J. G. Cox, Mr.. Donald was voted to the chair. Before any business was entered upon, it was resolved, upon the motion of Mr.. Matthews, that the meeting go into committee, thereby excluding the public, and, of course, the Press. The course taken by the committee appears to have been an unusual one,

13th February 1884 Featherston.

The adjourned meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening last, the 9th inst. Present Messrs.. Jas Donald, Matthews, Brunskill and Robertson. Mr.. Donald was voted to the chair. The subcommittee reported that in accordance with instructions received from the committee, viz, to enquire the suitability of Mr.. H. Bunting for the head mastership of the Featherston School, they had interviewed a number of the Gladstone settlers on the subject, who gave a very flattering account of Mr.. Bunting's moral influence on their children, and the great improvement displayed in their work during the two months he had been in charge. They all very much regret losing him, and expressed a wish that the Board would allow him to remain until another teacher could take charge, and the committee strongly recommend the appointment, made by the Board, to be confirmed. It was resolved—" that the committee confirm the appointment made by the Education Board of Mr.. H. Bunting as head teacher of the Featherston state school." It was further resolved " that the chairman write to the Education Board urging the necessity of Mr.. Bunting's taking charge of the school at the earliest opportunity

11th March 1884 A meeting of the Featherston School Picnic Committee was held on Saturday evening last, and it was finally decided to hold the Picnic on Friday week, the 21st inst. Mr.. McFarlane was elected Secretary and Treasurer, The following Committee undertook to canvass the district for subscriptions, viz, Messrs.. Toogood, Brunskill Jas Donald, Oakly, and Riddick, and Messrs.. Bunny and Mathews undertook to interview the ladies to get their valuable assistance to make the picnic a success,

26th March 1884 A bonus of £10 was granted to Mr.. Macfarlane, assistant at Featherston, for taking charge of the school for one month after the resignation of Mr.. Tuckey.

26th March 1884 Featherston School Picnic.

The annual picnic of the Featherston school children was held on Friday last, on the Town Belt reserve, and was a most successful affair. There was a heavy shower or two

in the afternoon, but, with wise forethought, the committee had provided a large tarpaulin in case of wet and this afforded good shelter to a large number. The number upon the ground, all told, was about 500 and the different games were entered into with great spirit by the juveniles, the older folks passing the time in pleasant chat with each other. In addition to the members of the committee, we may mention the active services of Mesdames McDougall, McShane, McFarlane, Matthews, and Riddick, and the Misses Donald and Chrystal. The following is the prize list for races Girls under 6 years, Jane Robinson 1, Bertha Keys 2; under 8 Tibbie Riddick 1, Mary Worsley 2; Under 10, Alice Read 1, Rebecca Sheen 3.

Boys under 5 years, W. Jackson 1, A. Vile 3, under 7, H. Osman 1, C. McFarlane 2; under 9, C. Beard 1, W. Burt 2; under 11, B. Smith 1, E. Saunders 1; under 12, W. Smith 1, J. Jackson 2; under 15, O. Smith 1, A. Bart 3.

Boys Consolation, P. Hayward 1, W. Vile 3; boys three-legged race, O. Smith and E. Cundy 1, W. Smith and O. Bunny 2.

Girl Consolation Julia Buckeridge 1, Dot Cundy 2; under 9 Grace Cundy, 1. M. A. Hailey 2. Prizes to the value of about 50s were distributed amongst the winners of the above races.

In the evening a ball took place at the Oddfellows' Hall when about 200 were present, and dancing kept up until nearly 12 o'clock. Mr. Parker presided at the piano. After the dance, the remains of the provisions, cakes etc were disposed of by auction

8th April 1883 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL.

The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening the 5th inst. Present—Messrs. J. G. Cox (Chairman), -; Matthews, Bunny, McDougall, and Robertson, The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's statement showed a balance of £9 18s 3d. Accounts to the amount of £11 7s 3d were for payment. 'Mr. McFarlane attended, *i and kindly thanked the Committee for, recommending his bonus of £10, Correspondence from the head teacher was read as follows:—Gentlemen. —The second quarter of the school year having closed on the; 31st ult.,'. [and being desirous of informing myself. : , as to the actual condition of the school. . in relation to attendance, I drew up r the enclosed list, to which I beg leave to call attention. In some cases the attendance has been admirable, but, in others very. bad. I need hardly say that I am anxious to see the attendance improved, and it would please . me to second any laudable effort to accomplish this desirable end. At the close of the March quarter we had on,, the books 96 boys and 74 girls; total : ' 170. 'The average i 5130.1. May I I. suggest the desirability of giving,ini ... some .public manner, certificates,; ; of . merit to such scholars as attend well during the year.-It: seems to me this would prove a great incentive to nob a ,few. I have, &c.,—H, Bosmo,

parents of those children ..who do not attend school regularly that it is most necessary that they allow their children to attend school, otherwise the compulsory clause of the Education Act will have to be enforced. ; ; Visitors for the month Messrs. Donald and Robertson,' reported that the school appeared to be working satisfactorily. Messrs.. Bunny and Cox were appointed visitors for the ensuing month, Collections to the amount of £1 7s were handed into the account of the Picnic Committee. The expenditure of the picnic is £13 8s, showing a balance of £3 18s 6d to the credit of the picnic account.

14th April 1884 Inspector's report included The upper and lower classes at Featherston were generally strong in their work, and the school was well conducted.

30th April 1884 The Greytown School Cadets held a meeting in the schoolroom yesterday afternoon for the election of officers,A match committee,

consisting of the officers, Sergeants Haigh and Judd and Cadets Wiggins and Hall, was appointed to arrange for matches with other cadet corps. The final match with Featherston cadets will take place on the Greytown range, at 1 p.m., on Saturday next.

6th May 1884 The usual monthly meeting of the i Featherston School Committee was held: on Saturday evening. -Present--Messrs.. i J. 6, Cox (Chairman), Mathews, Macdougall, Brunskill, Robertson and Donald, An apology for Mr.. Bunny's .absence was tendered. The minutes of last meeting were read : and confirmed-.Treasurer's.; statement showed an amount of X 3'& Bd had been paid in from' the Picnic Committee since last meeting, and still the account was overdrawn J>6 lis. Also, that a cheque received by that evening mail for capitation, £11 sa, tor quarter ending 31'st March last, also-103 paid in by Mr.. Macfarlane to the Picnic Account. A donation of £1 was also paid in by Mr.. A, Mathews townrd firewood for the school. The credit balance would there" foro stand .£12 8s Id. The following account wore passed for payment, viz., Hiteman. £1 14s. The visitors for lust month reported satisfactorily. Correspondence-Inwards, from the Secretary, Education Board, enclosing capitation grant; from Mr.. Jackson, remonstrating, against the practice of keeping children in after school hours, the distance from school being great, and the days getting short, it totally prevents children doing homo work which was absolutely necessary, From Head Master, on several, matters of school requisites; also returns for last mouth. Messrs.. Donald and' Robertson hoped their efforts iu trying to send their children to school would result . satisfactorily. Resolved, this Committee express much pleasure at seeing the increase of children (Mending school since - Mr.. Bunting took charge. .That the head master be instructed'. to prevent the recurrence of. the matter complained of in Mr.. Jackson's letter. It was resolved, , that the Chairman be instructed to obtain , fivo cords of firewood, and attend to other little matters, The visitors for the month are Messrs.. Mathews and Brunskill. .;

7th May 1884 The pupils of Mr.. and Mrs. Hyde Parker, of Featherston, will hold a fancy dress ball in the Oddfellows' Hal), on Friday evening next.

6th August 1884 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Saturday evening. A letter was read from Mr.. J. G. Cox resigning his seat as a member of the committee. Mr.. Bunny was voted to the chair. The treasurer's statement showed a balance in hand of Ll6 14s 7d. Accounts amounting to the sum of £17 2s (id were passed for payment. A letter was read from the head teacher, stating the number on the books to be 176. The visitors for the past month reported satisfactorily. The committee expressed their regret at Mr.. Cox's resignation, and instructed the secretary to write him to that effect

28th August 1884 letter .was read from the teacher of the Featherston Committee asking the Board to effect some slight repairs to his residence, the roof of which is leaky. ! The Board decided ,%t no funds were available for the purpose

10th September 1884 The monthly meeting of the Feather-don School Committee took place on Saturday evening last. Present - Messrs.. Donald, Matthews, Robertson, McDougall, Brunskill, and Bunny. Mr.. Bunny was voted to the chair. Mr.. Oakly was elected a member of the committee rice Mr.. J. G. Cox, resigned, The treasurer.'-'s statement "bowed a balance of £7 8s 7d. It was moved by Mr.. Brunskill, and seconded by Mr.. Bunny, " That the swings in the school ground be dispensed with." Carried, Resolved That the log hook be placed before the committee at each meeting."

The visitors reported that everything was going on satisfactorily', and recommended that the question of sewing stand over until after the annual examination. Messrs.. Donald and Robertson were appointed visitors for the current month The head master's report showed the number of children on the books to be 187; average attendance, 138.2.

30th September 1884 The Wairarapa Standard reports that the following election in connection with the Featherston School Cadets took place on the 19th instant, in consequence of the resignation of Messrs.. James Riddick and Quintin Donald, the lieutenants, having left school, with some noncommissioned officers: —Arthur 11. Tocker and A. J. Toogood, lieutenants; E. Bunny, color sergeant; Jas. McDougall, O. Smith, J. Fry, sergeant; T. H. Bezar, 6. Morgan, O. Bunny, and O. Knight, corporals; A. Burt, Jno, McDougall, B. Bunny, E. Toogood, lance corporals

6th October 1884 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday last.'. Present—Messrs.. H. Bunny (chairman), Mathews, McDougal. Brunskill, Oakly, Robertson, and James Donald, Mr.. Oakly was elected secretary. A donation of AT was handed in from Mr.. J. Donald and a like amount from Mr.. Macshane towards the funds. The Treasurer's statement shewed a balance of 13s Id. An account, Hiteman £2 129, was passed for payment. Mr.. Bunting's, monthly report was read and adopted. It was resolved to nominate Archdeacon Stock as a member of the Education Board, vice Mr.. Hutchison, resigned.

24th October 1884 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

The annual examination of the above school commenced on Monday the 20th inst., and was continued through Tuesday and part of Wednesday. At % conclusion Mr.. Lee, the Inspector, stated that the school had passed, a. good examination notwithstanding that there had been a change in the teaching staff during the year. He also took occasion to compliment the scholars on their good conduct and added they gave him no trouble as an inspector, in as much as there was no attempt at copying.

The following candidates were successful in passing their standards : Standard I.—Elizabeth Atkinson, Louisa Gazeley, Sarah Hanwick, . Maggie Murphy, Sarah Mann, Nelly McDougall, Florence Moore, Jessie . Robertson, Mabel Spackman, Mary Worsley, Emily Worsley, Alfred Anderson, William Atkinson, William Benton, James Burt, Henneth Burt, Charles Bezar, Edmund Cording, Herbert Cundy, Leonard Hannam, John «Hensey, Joseph Lawry, Charles Scip--page, Augustus Forstonson, Hector ■■ Urquhart, Arthur Viles, George -- Whiteman. Standard If.—Augustus Abbott,! :• Willian Abbott, William Bunny, I ■Henry Furlong, Ernest Hodder ■ Stafford- Murphy, Frederick O'Neale, j Thos. Saunders, • Edward Shirley, Sydney Smith, George Toogood, John ;' Godfrey Forstonson, Her" ^nW lt r "" S) ames George rsule ; Kate Abbott, Annie Bennett, Laura Bunting, Grace CundY, Margery Fellingham, Florence Hanwich, Mabel ■-Keys, Norah MacShane, Edith Monckton, Annie Murphy, Susan Riddick, - Rebecca Sheen, Bertha Spackman, Tamar Webb. Standard Ill.—Herbert Bezar, ■ James Craig, George Fellingham, -William Judd, Leus Keys, Henry Murphy, Charles Reid, Claude Spackman, Albert Viles, William Willis, : -Hilda, Anderson, Bessie Burt, Bessie- ' : Donald, Eva Monckton, Clara Mac- : Shane, Nellie Riddick Catherine Willis. • Standard IY :-Bertram Bunny, Charles Burt, Thomas Greatbatch, John - Jackson, Bertie Keys, Alfred Keys, Somnel McDougall, Donald Robertson, Wallace Smith, Ellery Toogood, Regi- ' v>i nald Vennell, Samuel tfhitworth, Jane Anne Knight, Moral] Monckton, " Yule, Arthur Burt, Walter Viles, flpwvid Donald. 'Standard V :-George Coe, John McDougal, Frank Monckton,

Edward ' Saunders, Robert Yule, Amelia Bennett ■ Flora Bunting. Standard VI:—Erie Bunnj, Oliver Bunny, Nelson Bunting, James McDougal. Arthur Tocker, Alex Toogood, Annie Keys, and Kate Riddick, Guc of the above candidates fifty-five were said to have made strong passes. The examination was most successful, and great praise is due to Mr.. Bunting 'and the teachers for the way in which "the children were presented for examination, in fact,' the passes as a whole at e " than for many years past. J

7th November 1884 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday last. Present Messrs.. Bunny (Chairman), Brunskill, Robertson, Oakly. Donald, and Matthews, The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A cheque from the Education Board for capitation tax, ill 5s 6d, was received. Correspondence was read from Mr.. McDougall apologizing for non-attendance at that meeting. Prom Mr.. Bunting, applying for 18 dual desks for the use of the school. The Secretary was instructed to make application to the Education Board for the same. Mr.. Bunting's monthly report wag read and adopted: also report of annual examination by Mr.. Loe, who expressed himself very much pleased at the result, Resolved—That a vote of- thanks be accorded the headmaster and teachers for the very successful result of the examination, It was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to- obtain stamps and stationery for the use of the Committee. It was also resolved that the 6th, 7th, and-10th insts. Be observed as a holiday in the school. The visitors for the month reported satisfactorily. Messrs.. Matthews and Bunny were appointed a committee re the matter of forming a sewing class.

21st November 1884 The attendance at the school is very good, and I am pleased to see many of the Featherston boys so energetically practising the manly game of cricket , for which noble pastime they have ample accommodation. It argues well for the future of these boys, and providing they go on and prosper in their athletic sports, they will ultimately develop into such men as their own generation will have just reason to be proud of

26th November 1884 Fifty-nine names have been received by the Education Board of 'intending competitors for the scholarship, The various I schools under the management of the.. i board are represented as follows i Terrace School, 11 candidates; Te Aro, School, 7 ; Mount Cook .School, boys, 5, girls 8; Newtown' School, 1; Fernridge School, 1; Masterton School, 8; Clareville School,. 1; Kaitara School, 2 . Featherston School,-5 Hutt School l Judgeford School, 1 ; Johnsonville School 8;' Kaiwarra School 1. Thorndon School, 9

2nd December Candidates for scholarship from Featherston B. Bunting, A. Toogood, J, McDougall, O. Bunny, Kate Cundy

8th December 1884 Featherston School Committee.

This committee held its regular meeting on Saturday night. Present—Messrs.. H. Bunny (Chairman), Donald, Brunskill, Matthews, Oakley, McDougall, and Robertson. Tbe minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The head master reported that the attendance at the school was not op to the average, being under 50 per cent of the number on the roll; this he believed was owing to the diphtheria scare. A discussion arose re prizes for the children and annual picnic, resulting in a committee being appointed consisting of Messrs.. Bunny, Brunskill, Donald, Matthews, and Oakly to consider the matter. Messrs.. Bunny and Matthews, visiting members for the month, reported favorably of the manner in which the school was conducted Ac. Two small accounts were passed tor payment. The Treasurer's statement shewed a balance in bank of £4 14s. The committee then adjourned.

20th December 1884 Wellington Education Board Featherston repairs to residence, £10

1885

1885	149	Featherston	Bunting	Henry	Headmaster	£250	\$45,470
1885	149	Featherston	McFarlane	Henry	Assistant Master	£160	\$29,101
1885	149	Featherston	Medley	Laura	Assistant Female	£100	\$18,188
1885	149	Featherston	Craig	Esther	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,638

21st January 1885 The Featherston School picnic is an unavoidably postponed sine die. A meeting will be held on Monday next in the school, when it is probable that the day for the picnic will be fixed. Due notice of the same will be advertised in this paper.

26th January 1885 We are glad to learn that the family of Mr.. J. G. Cox, which has lately been suffering from diphtheria, at Featherston, is rapidly approaching convalescence.

27th January 1885 FEATHERSTON, The monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last evening, Present—Messrs.. Bunny, Oakly, Brunskill, Donald, Matthews and Robertson. The minutes of the previous meeting, having been read and confirmed, the Treasurer's statement was read which showed a balance £. 7s 10d. ,

The following report- was submitted- to, the committee and adopted;

The first and most important matter dealt with by the committee was the appointment of a head teacher in place of Mr.. Tuckey resigned. Mr.. Bunting was deemed by the Education Board to be the most suitable candidate for the post, and the Committee in confirming the Board's selection' felt that Mr.. Bunting would prove a satisfactory head teacher, and now consider that the result of the past year's work fully bear out the anticipation formed at the appointment was made -The school has made steady progress during the year,, The attendance at the close being 193 against 161 at the beginning of the year. , When your Committee took office a balance of £3 14s 11d was handed over, to them by the late committee. The income for the year .has been £61 16s 10d, made up as follows,;—balance, £3 14s 11d; capitation, £48 7s 6d; other accounts, £9 17s total, £61 19s 3d'; balance, £1 16s 7d The annual meeting then took place for :the election of the; School Committee for the-ensuing year, when the following were returned':—Messrs... Bunny, Donald, Mathews, McDougal, 'Robertson, Barton, 'and Keys. Mr.. Bunny; was elected Chairman.

11th February 1885 The first meeting of the now school committee was held on Saturday Inst- Members present—Messrs... Bunny, McDougal H Matthews. Keys, Barton, Donald and Robertson. On the motion of Mr.. McDougall, seconded by Mr.. Matthews, Mr.. Bunny was appointed chairman. Mr.. Barton was unanimously appointed treasurer, and Mr.. Keys, secretary. The balance to the credit a! the committee was reported £17 10s 4d. Correspondence was read from Mr.. Banting asking for repairs to residence. The head master's report was read. Various correspondence was read and !he following gentlemen were nominated for seats on the Education Board;—Rev James Paterson, Mr.. John Young, and Mr.. David Speedy. Messrs.. Robertson and Barton were appointed visitors for the present month. It was decided that an application be made to the Education Board for a grant of £5 toward the salary of a sewing mistress to the Featherston school. Messrs.. Bunny, Matthews, and Donald were appointed a sub-committee to apportion the prizes for the

different subjects, The picnic was farther postponed owing to continued sickness in the district,

25th February 1885 An application was made for £5 for a sewing-teacher at Featherston.

25th February 1885 Wellington Education Board meeting An application was received from the Featherston Committee for a grant for sewing, but the Board declined to allow it as there was already a female teacher in the school. And then in another paper

27th February 1885 An application was made for £5 for a sewing-teacher at Featherston. Granted

13th March 1885 The usual monthly meeting 'of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday, 7th inst. Present—Messrs.. Donald (chairman), Matthews, McDougal, Robertson, Barton and Keys. The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £ 7 17s Id. Accounts to the amount of £2 15s were passed for payment. Resolved—That the account of Mr.. A. Donald stand over till next meeting. The discussion on the awarding of school prizes to stand over till the Chairman be present. The sum of 11s each was received from Messrs.. Yule and Tartensen for the use of the school paddock. The bead master's report was read and adopted. It was resolved, for the future, two hours per week be devoted to sewing during school hours. Resolved—That Mr.. Robertson be empowered to expend a sum not exceeding £ 5 in repairs to the teachers residence. Messrs.. McDougall & Donald were appointed visitors for the present month.

7th April 1885 our own correspondent.) " ... The . Featherston School. held their monthly meeting ' last. Present.-Mr.. H, Bunny, (Chairman), Messrs.. Keys, Barton, Donald, and. Robertson. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's statement on account of the Easter holidays was not handed in, Accounts for payment: Hiteman, £2 7s; A. Donald, £6 18s. Hiteman's account was passed for payment A discussion took place re A. charge, for Covering tank and it was eventually, decided to refer the matter to arbitration,: Mr.. Riddick being appointed to act on behalf of the Committee, Visitors for the month : Messrs.. Keys and Barton, Mr.. H. McFarlane, secretary to the Picnic Committee, brought forward his report of subscriptions and disbursements; connected with the late picnic, which had proved a great success. The total amount of subscription received amounted to £18 9s, expenses £16 13s Id, leaving a balance of £11 5s 11d, which was handed over to the School Committee. Resolved that a unanimous Aa of thanks be accorded Mr.. McFarlane and the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed so liberally to the success of the picnic

10th June 1885 'The usual monthly meeting of Featherston school committee was held on Saturday last. Present —Messrs.. Bunny (chairman), Donald, Matthews, Robertson, Barton, and Keys. The treasurer stated the balance in bank to be £11 15s 8d. Accounts amounting to £5 1s 8d were passed and paid. The head master's monthly report showed that the school was steadily improving, the attendance being larger and more regular. The visitors for the past month (Messrs.. Barton and Keys) reported several improvements and repairs necessary, and the visitors for the present month (Messrs.. Matthews and Robertson) were instructed to see them carried out It was resolved that in future the committee meet at seven o'clock instead of eight

6th July 1885 The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee, was held on Saturday evening, Present—Messrs.. Bunny (Chairman), Donald, Mathews, McDougal, Robertson, Barton and Keys, The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following

accounts were passed for payment Hiteman, Li 2s 6d; Riddick £1 10s; Cox, 2s 7d. A letter was received from Mr.. Jackson, complaining of the school being closed on June and the Secretary was instructed to reply that the Committee agreed with what had been done. Messrs.. McDougal and Mathews appointed visitors for the present month, with j power to carry out the necessary improvements and repairs in the school yard, It was resolved that the Secretary send post cards to members of the Committee, giving notice of date and time of meeting

29th July 1885 PUPIL TEACHER EXAMINATION. The following is the result of the pupil teacher examination of Wairarapa candidates, who are classified as follows:—

Second year (over 16), Esther Craig, Featherston

9th September 1885 Featherston School Committee.

The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held in the school room on Saturday last. Members present—Messrs.. Bunny (Chairman), Donald, Matthews, Robertson and Keys. The minutes of the special meeting were read ' and confirmed, also the minutes of the special meeting held on the 15th August. The bank book shewed a balance of £11 11s 5d. Accounts amounting to £8 0s 10d were passed for payment, viz., Hiteman, £3 2s ; Oakly £2 2s ; .Riddick, £1 13s ; Hiteman, 7s 6d ; A. Donald, 7s fid ; J. D. Cox, 8s 10d. The Head Master's report was read, which showed the number on the books 198, with an average attendance of 147. The visitors reported the improvements satisfactorily completed, and the school generally working well. Correspondence was read—From the Secretary Education Board, with copy of correspondence from Mr.. Callis, Secretary Exhibition Committee, re school children attending Exhibition. 2. From Mr.. Cuff, Chairman Greytown School Committee, asking for information on the same. 3. Copy of scale of charges for parents teachers and children attending the Exhibition. 4. From Mr.. Bennett declining to charge for metalling school yard. The Secretary was instructed to thank Mr.. Bennett for his kindness. Messrs.. Donald and Robertson was appointed visitors for the ensuing year.

18th September 1885 Featherston School.

To the Editor of the Standard. Sir, —As no one seems to consider himself sufficiently interested in the late controversy to take the subject up, I, as a looker on, and with the desire of benefiting parents and doing away with the serfdom, (I can give it no other name), at present exercised by Government schoolmasters, shall be obliged if you will find space in your columns to give the following publicity. The parents of the boy who was chastised wrongfully at the Featherston School . naturally wishing to give their child a good education, and finding that under the treatment ha was receiving from an unscrupulous mistress, backed up by still more unscrupulous members of the Committee, have been forced to send their boy to Eketahuna at considerable expense, although at the same time having to pay their rates here. Had the enquiry been allowed to be carried through, as in justice to all parents it should have been, in all probability the errors in the mode of tuition or some change might have eventuated, whereas as matters now stand, a parent forced by Act of Parliament to educate his child, is to be subservient to the caprices of any school master or mistress who chooses to make a favorite of any of her or his. pupils, indiscriminately punishing those who do not suit their fancy. Having carefully read through the letter which was published in the Star, I fail to see why the ex-local milkman, (whoever he is), and another member of the committee could have been allowed to influence the other members. There must be a screw loose somewhere.

I am. Ac., John H. McLennan

23rd September 1885 the Editor of the Standard. Sir,—On the 27th August last a letter appeared in the Star signed " Parent'' ; in it an unscrupulous (fine word that) school

mistress, Mr.. J. Donald and an ex local milkman were particularly mentioned. Most people in Featherston think that " Parent " it father to the letter that appeared in Friday's " Standard," signed John H. McLennan. In his letter to you Mr.. McLennan complains that no notice has been taken of the one in the Star, so with your permission I will gratify him. and tell him of two little circumstances that impress themselves on one's mind. The Government schoolmaster referred to is a total abstainer, therefore cannot be a customer of Mr.. McLennan's, The same idea applies to the unscrupulous school mistress. Second. People in their position are prohibited by the State from stating their side of the case in the public press, so are fair marks for the attacks of " unscrupulous" (really I cannot have enough of that word) " Parents." As to the facts of the case in question, not being a member of the school committee, it is no pity of mine to place them before the public. The Chairman conducted the case personally, therefore the decision arrived at must have been the right one. J. H. McL blames the committee for being influenced by an ex local milkman and another member (he does not tell us what another member is. They must be a set of " unscrupulous " men to disbelieve a child of Mr.. McL's, but what can be expected of a committee who allow an ex or present local milkman to be one of their number? It instead of m.lk he sold what some people are unkind enough to term body and soul destroying drinks, he might think himself 100 good to associate with farmers, tradesmen and such like cattle. Evidently, J. H. McL wishes the people of Featherston to take whisky in their tea, feed their infants on gin, and throw milk to the pigs. In conclusion, Mr.. Editor, I advise the ex local milkman, whoever he is, to give up his degraded calling, go through the Bankruptcy Court and start a pub." Then and then only can he be fit to be a member of the school committee or any position of respectability, at least in J, M.' McLennan's I am, Ac , Parent No 2.

25th September 1885 To the Editor of the Standard. Sir,— I have read with minded feelings the letters of JI. McLennan and " Parent So. redacting on the management of our school, and while fully recognising the importance of all matters affecting the interests of scholars being impartially and fairly dealt with. I certainly think such a controversy as that now going on does not redound to the credit of those who have written, and in a email community like oms such feelings should not be. It cannot be pleasant for the head of the school or the committee elected by the ratepayers—the latter giving their time and attention gratis—to have such rejections cast upon them, and each feeling as that shown by " Parent No. 2 " would be better kept until an election of committee again comes round, when, if he has the courage and good grounds for complaint, he could seek a fair remedy. We are fortunate in having a persevering, attentive, and unassuming head teacher, and instead of making things unpleasant and objectionable, I think in a small place like this we should rather all aim at good feeling. We need not all be of one opinion, We can seek a fair administration of our affairs, and get it without depending to petty feeling- Hoping this correspondence may now cease and apologising for troubling you, I I am, Etc. X. Y. Z.

5th October 1885 SCHOOL COMMITTEE. The monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening. Present—Mr.. Bunny, (in the chair), McDougal, Matthews, Donald, Barton, Robertson, and Keys. The minutes of the previous monthly and special meeting was read and confirmed. Mr.. McLennan's account amounting to £3 was passed for payment. The prize list as amended by subcommittee was passed. It was resolved that the visitors for present month, Messrs.. Bunny and Keys make final arrangements with

head master for the children to visit the Exhibition about the third week in the present month

16th October 1885 School Excursion.

The visit of the children attending the Masterton, Featherston, and Greytown schools to the Exhibition, on Wednesday, was no treat. The journey down, it is true, was all that could be desired, the weather being very fair ; but arrived at the Exhibition the children were ready for a good meal, and this they did not get. Speaking more particularly for the Greys town children, we can only express regret that they should have fared so badly. Some of them had nothing but a bun or two from the time they left in the morning until they arrived home in the evening. The fact was, too many children were taken down by the train; the total number from the various schools was between 450 and 500. The caterer at the Exhibition was not prepared for such a number, and consequently, there was confusion. Numbers of the children were kept in waiting for fully two hours for a bite of something to eat, and then did not get it. Mr.. Porritt, of the Greytown school, had to send out to the shops for a supply of buns, &c. This waiting about for refreshments prevented anything like an examination of the exhibits, and weary of waiting and discontented, the children had to return to the train for home, a drizzling rain setting in at the time. Arriving in the Wairarapa, the children had to find their way home drenched in a pelting rain, some having to go long distances. A combination of adverse circumstances made the outing a failure.]

23rd October 1885 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL.

The Featherston School was examined by the Inspector, Mr.. Lee, on Monday and Tuesday last, The following are the names of those who passed in the various Standards

Standard I,—George Osman, Ernest Cundy, Wilmore Abbott, Jacob Beel, Ernest Robertson, Ernest O'Neale, John Chisholm, Herbert Wilmhurst, Maria Sheen, Lillian MacShane, Ethel Hannan, Maud Wilkinson, Bertha Burt, Bertha Keys, Lima Davey, Elfreda Knight,

Standard 2.—Oswald Benton, Charles Bezar, George Burt, James Burt, Kenneth Burt, Edmund Cording, James Currie, Allan Donald, James Gazeley, Leonard Hannam, Joseph Lawry, Cyril McFarlane, John Kersey, Alfred Knight, William Osman, Charles Skippage, Augustus Torstenson, Hector Urquhart, Arthur Viles, George Whiteman, Walter Wilkinson, Sarah Mann, Grace Monckton, Winnifred Monckton, Nellie McDougall, Margaret Murphy, Mabel O'Neale, Jessie Robertson, Mabel Spackman, Mary Worsley, Emily Worsley,

Standard 3,—Augustus Abbott, Samuel Greatbatch, George Toogood, Laura Bunting, Mabel' Cundy, Marjory Fellingham, Effie McDougall, Nora MacShane, Annie Murphy, Mary O'Neale, Nellie Osman, Susan Toogood,

Standard 4.—Walter Davey, Louis Keys, Charles Reid, Charles Spackman Jane Currie, Clara MacShane, Eva' Monckton, Nellie Riddick, Catherine Willis.

Standard 5,—Bertram Bunny, Arthur Burt, Herbert Keys, Samuel McDougall, Donald , Robertson, Wallace Smith, Maude Cundy, Norah Monckton, Isabel Viles, '

Standard 6.—John McDougall, Frank Monckton, Flora Bunting. .

28th October 1885 Wellington Education Board meeting The Inspector presented his interim report, but Featherston was the only Wairarapa school reported on, It is working fairly satisfactory

5th November 1885 The resignation of Mr.. McFarlane, Greytown, was considered. The Rev. J. Paterson took objection to a resolution passed at a former meeting of the Board, which led to the resignation. Mr.. Bunny remarked that Mr.. McFarlane was perfectly well aware of the resolution, and the Board had acted most fairly with that

gentleman. The reports of Mr.. Lee four years ago showed that lie. McFarlane's work was weak. He (Mr.. Bunny) had advised Mr.. McFarlane to leave Featherston and go to Kaitoke, but he would not take the advice. The matter had gone so far that either the resignation should be accepted or else the school would be sacrificed. Mr.. Shannon moved that the matter be left in the hands of the Chairman and Mr.. Bunny. Mr.. Bunny objected to this course being adopted, as it would be averred that Mr.. Young's resolution had worked its purpose like a dose of physio. He objected to the Committee being asked to reverse its decision. The Chairman of the Board had already taken a vast amount of trouble in the matter. After further discussion Mr.. Shannon moved that the resignation be not accepted, and that the whole of the matter leading to the resignation be gone into. He would not sit at the Board whilst a stigma rested upon the Board as it would now Mr.. Young's resolution had gone forth to the world. He would not be a party to anything which might be construed by those who did not know the particulars of the case to a hole and corner affair. It was now imperative that a full investigation should be made. Mr.. Bunny thought the better course to pursue would be to ask Mr.. McFarlane if he desired an enquiry should be held. This course would not interfere with the interests of the school. The Rev. J. Paterson would rather the matter should be left in the hands of the Chairman and Mr.. Bunny to deal with. It was eventually decided that Mr.. McFarlane should be asked if he desired an investigation, and if he declined the offer, the resignation should be accepted. Mr.. Hulke (Newtown) sent in his resignation. The Chairman remarked that he had had no previous intimation that he intended to resign. Mr.. Hulke was a good teacher, and it was to be regretted he had decided to resign. Mr.. Shannon, believing that the Board was losing a valuable teacher, expressed regret that they could not retain his services. The resignation was accepted. The resignation of Miss Emma Barnard (Newtown) was accepted. The committee of the Carterton School wrote asking the Board to appoint Mr.. Harper in the place of Miss Searle, who it was found would be unable to assume the duties of the school until after Christmas. It was decided that Mr.. Harper should remain in the school till the Christmas holidays.

It was decided that the matter of acquiring additional land at Featherston should be left in the hands of Mr.. Bunny

30th November 1885

The Featherston school cadets tried for District Prizes on Friday last under Captain Banting, assisted by Sergeant Major Bezar. The following are the scores, the eight highest receiving prizes. The conditions were five shots at 100 and 200 yards

	100	200	Total
D, Donald	20	14	34
W. Vile	17	15	32
Sergt W. Smith, .. ~	11	16	30
W. Hodder	16	12	28
N. Bunting	13	10	23
J. Craig	17	6	23
C. Butt	9	13	22
F. Monckton	16	6	22
E, Saunders	10	11	21
E. Toogood	13	7	20
B. Bunny	10	5	15
S Greatbatch	6	7	12

D, Donald 20 14 34

W. Vile 17 15 32

Sergt W. Smith, .. ~ 11 16 30

W. Hodder 16 12 28

N. Bunting 13 10 23

J. Craig 17 6 23

C. Butt 9 13 22

F. Monckton 16 6 22

E, Saunders 10 11 21

E. Toogood 13 7 20

B. Bunny 10 5 15

S Greatbatch 6 7 12

It will be seen that Cadet Donald made the possible at 100 yards.

23rd December 1885 Mr.. H. Bunny, at the meeting of the Education Board to-day, stated that he had seen Mr.. Cox, the agent in the late Mr.. Haynes' estate, with respect to acquiring an acre of land at Featherston, adjoining the school, to be used as a playground, and had arranged for a lease of the land for seven years' with a purchasing clause, giving the Board the right to purchase the land for .£100 the rental to be £7 per annum. Mr.. Bunny's report was considered satisfactory, and his action was endorsed by the Board.

28th December 1885 The resignation of Mr.. McFarlane, master of the Featherston School, was accepted

Henry McFarlane went in 1886 to teach at Belvedere School and was there until the end of 1909

1886

1886	135	Featherston	Bunting	Henry	Headmaster	£260	\$48,617
1886	135	Featherston	Harper	Charles H	Assistant Master	£160	\$29,918
1886	135	Featherston	Bunting	Elizabeth	Female Pupil Teacher	£40	\$7,480
1886	135	Featherston	Cundy	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher	£40	\$7,480

5th January 1886 The monthly meeting of the Featherston School" Committee was held on Saturday. Messrs.. Bunny, Donald, J, Mathews, McDougal, Barton and Robertson.. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The balance in the Bank was reported to be £9 0s 9d. The Treasure! submitted the annual balance sheet, which was approved. The following accounts were passed : Mackay, £1 6s Keys, 9s; Hiteman, £3. Mr.. Bunny reported the purchase of an acre next to the school by the Education Board. Correspondence was received from the Secretary of the Education Board stating that the resignation of Mr.. McFarlane had been accepted, also that the Board was prepared to supply schools with sets of scientific instruments at £2 per set, The annual picnic was finally fixed for Friday, 82nd January, and the following gentlemen were to collect subscriptions, and carry 'but the arrangements, viz,, Messrs.. McShane, Toogood, Bunting, John Cox, Viles, Monckton, Bezar, Riddick, Oakly and Bock, The meeting then adjourned to the 16th inst.

8th January 1886 First Assistant -Master, Featherston, salary £160

18th January 1886 Featherston Annual School Picnic. THE Annual Picnic in connection with the above School will be held in the Public Domain, Featherston, on FRIDAY, the 22nd inst. Parents and friends of Scholars are respectfully invited to attend. The annual prizes wilt he distributed during the day, and a Soiree will be held at the Oddfellows' Hall in the evening, dancing to commence at 8 p.m. Admission, to Soiree, for non-subscribers to Picnic Fund, 2s 6d. Ladies free. BY ORDER.

25th January 1886 FEATHERSTON. The children attending the Featherston Public School, with parents and friends, had a most attractive and enjoyable picnic on Anniversary Day, on the land leased by Mr.. H. Bunny from the Domain Board. There was about 200 children and the same number of adults present. The committee, composed of Messrs.. A. Matthews, B. Riddick, R Barton, Murray Jackson, Harry Wilkinson, and W. Book (secretary) arranged matters admirably, and everybody appeared thoroughly well pleased with the day's outing. Great praise is also due to the ladies who worked with such zeal for the good of all.

One of the most interesting events of the day' was the distribution of school prizes, Mr.. Bunny, the Chairman of the School Committee, presenting them. The following

is the list of prize winners Attendance, out of 427 times—Thomas Worsley 403 ; Bertha Burt, 405 ; Kenneth Burt, 406; Mabel Speakman, 418 ; Jessie Robertson, 414 ; Bertha Speakman, 403 ; Bessie Donald, 406 ; David Donald, 404 Amelia Bennett, 413.

Spelling—Ethel Hannam' Augustus Abbott.

Reading—Lilian M McShane, James Currie, Nellie Riddick. Writing—Thomas' Willis James Burt, Mabel Cundy, Albert Vile (gift of Mr.. Bock), Annie Knight, Edward Saunders (gift of Mr.. J. D, Cox). Arithmetic—Ernest O'Neale. Mary O'Neale Isabel Vile, John McDougall Spelling and Arithmetic— Augustus Torstenson, Kate Willis.

Attendance and Reading—Laura Bunting.

General Proficiency— Charles Read. Geography and Grammar Eva Monckton. Proficiency and Attendance Donald Robertson, 422. History—Jane Currie. Reading and History—Norah M. Monckton. Spelling and Geography—Bertram Bunny. Grammar—Wallace Smith. Spelling and Attendance—Flora Bunting. Grammar and Attendance—Frank Monckton. Needlework (Mr.. A. Matthews' prizes)— Standard 1., Lilian Mr.. Shane. 11., Mabel Speakman. 111., Helena Riddick. IV., Nellie Riddick. V., Annie Knight. VI., Flora Bunting. Cheers were then given for Mr.. Bunny and Mr.. Bunting, the headmaster. In the evening a soiree was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, which was largely attended, Mr.. Parker presiding at the piano.

27th January 1886 Committee of the Featherston .School met on Monday evening to receive reports and settle accounts in connection with the annual picnic. Mr.. Henry Bunny in the chair. Subscriptions amounting to £31 14s were reported, and accounts to the amount of £30 8s were passed for payment as follows W. H. Speakman, £3 17s; W. Burt, £5 3s 7d ; J. D. Cox, £3 12s 2d; F. Pelling, £1 15s ;W. Gilpin, 16s 2d ; W Abbott, 2s 6d ; W. Toogood. £3 11s 9d ; F. Smith, 5s ; .I. Viles, £1 7s 1d; Mr.. Shirley, 5s ; Standard, 10s; Bloxham, 5s ; W Hodder, 8s; School prizes, £6 16s; Soiree expenses, £4 7s 11d. The summary of receipts and expenditure shewed subscriptions received, £31 14s ; returns (soiree) £3 19 6d, total £35 13s 6d ; provisions purchased, £17 16s 1d ; sports prizes, £2 12s 11d; school prizes, £6 16s ; soiree expenses, £1 7s 1d, £31 12s 2d ; balance, £11 7s 1d. It was resolved that the balance be deposited in the Post Office Saving's Bank to credit of school picnic account, in the name of the Chairman of School Committee as trustee Several suggestions for future consideration were made by the Provision Committee in their report and which it was thought would greatly assist in equalizing the work in connection with so large a gathering as that on the 22nd inst. The number present was variously estimated at from 800 to 800, and judging from the quantity of provisions bought and given, fully 800 persons must have been on the ground. Special votes of thanks were passed to those who had so willingly assisted in making the affair a success, and the valuable assistance rendered by the ladies was specially recognised, in fact it was felt that the tax upon them was too great, and a proposal was recorded that it is thought will be the means of making the work much lighter on future occasions. A vote of thanks to the chair concluded the business.

3rd February 1886 Mr.. McFarlane, of Featherston, has been appointed to the Kaitoke School at a salary of £100 a year.

9th February 1886 The regular monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held

on Saturday last. Present.—Messrs. Bunny, (Chairman), Matthews, McDougall, Keys, and Robertson. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed," The balance in the bank was reported of £19 1s 3d The Chairman reported that that the quarters capitation £13 2s 6d had been paid since the last meeting. The following accounts were passed for payment:—Hiteman, £1 7s; O'Neale, £1 10. A letter was received from Mr.. Hunting complaining of several boys being allowed to absent themselves from school. The Chairman was" requested to instruct the police to enforce their attendance. Messrs. Matthews and McDougall| were appointed visitors for the present month

2nd April 1886 The Board of Education intend to establish classes for instruction in elementary drawing at the Featherston and Masterton. schools. Similar classes will be opened at other schools, the masters of which are certificated teachers cl drawing.

7th April 1886 Featherston School Committee.

The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held at the School room, on Saturday, 3rd inst. at 7 pm. Present —Messrs. Bunny (chairman), Donald, Keys, Robertson, McDougall and Barton.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, as was also the anion of Messrs. Bunny, Key sand Barton, in granting the school children a holiday to attend the Sunday School picnic. The Treasurers Book shewed a bank balance of £li 16s 3d ; Hiteman's account £2 10s was passed and paid, and a honorarium , of £3 8s was voted to Miss Kate Cundy tor taking temporary charge of a class room in the absence of Miss Craig. An agreement with W, Hiteman was signed for doing all cleaning, night work, for £30 per annum. Resolved that a table be procured for Mix Medley's Boom. Annual meeting of householders for the election of a new committee to take place on Tuesday, 27th inst.

28th April 1886 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL, The following gentlemen were elected a committee for the ensuing year ;

J. G. Cox 52

J. Donald 47

John Cundy 47

J. Robertson 31

C. W. Keys 20

W. Benton 14

R. Barton 10

30th April 1886 At the first meeting of the Featherston School Committee Mr.. J, G, Cox was elected Chairman, and Mr.. R. Barton Treasurer, The Chairman was authorised to engage a secretary outside the committee, and to communicate with the Education Board re parallel bars. It was decided to hold the meeting of committee on the first Saturday in each month at 8 p.m.

3rd May 1886 Featherston School Committee.

The monthly meeting was held on Saturday evening. Present—Messrs. Cox (in the chair). Donald, Keys, Benton, Cundy, Robertson and Barton. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr.. Cos reported that he had arranged with Mr.. Book to act as secretary at £2 2s per annum. The Treasurer reported £9 3s 3d to credit. Accounts—£2 15s 8d— were passed. Resolved that Treasurer and Chairman sign cheques, The head master's report was read, shewing total on books 195, average attendance for April, 155, and calling attention to the overgrowth of weeds in the playground and cattle trespassing, and to the matter of parallel bars, it was arranged that the visitors for the month see to the matters referred to, and that the outbuildings

be lime washed. Permission was granted to the head master to conduct evening classes in the school room. Messrs. Robertson and Beaten were appointed visitors for the month. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Town Board re the nuisance of cattle trespassing. The meeting then adjourned.

13th May 1886 Mr.. Bunting the head master of- the Featherston school has commenced evening classes, and intends continuing.. them through the winter.

The Featherston school cadet soiree for. the 24th promises to be a success. The juveniles are very persistent in the sale of and evidently mean to do their best in gaining the desired end,

5th July 1886 This school committee met on Saturday. Present—Messrs. Cox (chairman), Donald, Robertson, Benton, Keys, and Cundy. Mr.. Robertson apologised for the absence of the treasurer, and reported the amount to credit at £12 12s 8d. The Chairman reported that Mr.. A. Donald's tender for parallel bars had being accepted, as it was for the six sets, but they had not yet been erected. The following accounts were submitted and passed : —S. W. Mackay, stationery, £1 6s ; W. Hiteman, £2 10s. The head master wrote, reporting 183 scholars on the books, with an average attendance for the quarter of 148. Correspondence outwards and inwards was read. Amongst the latter was a letter from the Education Department, informing the Board that the Committee was considered to be in legal possession of section Mr.. Cundy offered to give fifty trees for planting on section 210. It was resolved that Messrs. Cundy, Cox and Benton be appointed a subcommittee to arrange for planting, and that £1 be granted for labor. Mr.. Keys as one of the visitors for the past month, reported that he had visited the school, and found everything satisfactory, and thought it was not necessary to do anything to bell tower, or interfere with the trees round school ground. Mr.. Benton moved that tenders be invited locally for the supply of two cords of 3(t matai firewood per quarter, for twelve months and that the chairman be empowered to accept tenders. Mr.. Donald seconded. Carried. Mr.. Donald pointed out the need of the teacher's residence being painted. Left over. Messrs. Cundy and Cox were appointed visitors for the month. The meeting then adjourned.

11th August 1886 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday, Present Messrs. J. G. Cox (chairman), Kays, Robinson, Barton, and John Cundy. The Treasurer's statement showed a balance of £21 njsad. Accounts to the amount of 8 7s lod were passed for payment. The visitors reported the school to be in good working order. The head master's monthly report, which was read, showed a falling off in attendance, the average being 139 out of 184 on the books. Messrs. Barton and Robinson were appointed visitors for the month. Messrs. Bock and Cundy made a present of fifty trees each for planting in the school grounds.

13th August 1886 The Featherston School Committee have just completed M planting of shrubs round the acre recently acquired for the use of the scholars, This will be another improvement, to the township, .besides providing necessary shelter, Unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain trees required for planting the recreation reserve, and as the • season is now advanced, it is not likely they will be planted until next year

6th September 1886 Featherston School.

The results of the recent drawing examination have come to hand, and the certificates granted by the Board to the successful candidates have been distributed by the headmaster. The following is the official statement;— Presented in First Grade

Freehand 18— passed 12.—Walter Vile, Kathleen Willis, Charles Burt, Maud Cundy, Bessie Donald, Herbert Keys, John McDougall, Annie Knight, Frank Monckton, Nellie Riddick, Donald Robertson, Edward Saunders. Presented in Geometrical Drawing 0— passed 9. -Bertie Bunny, Flora Banting, Wallace Smith, Ellery Toogood, Robert Yale, John McDougall, Frank Monckton, Donald Robertson, Edward Saunders. Presented in Second Grade Freehand 3 passed 3.—Isabel Vile and Flora Bunting

27th September 1886 A special meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening, Mr.. J. G. Cox in the chair, to consider the suggestion of Sergt.-Major Bezar ro attention in exercises as against Mr.. DeMay's system, and the matter of appointing a successor to Miss Medley, temporarily, until a permanent appointment is confirmed. Respecting the system of drill it was thought the present arrangement in respect of cadets should be adhered to, and Mr.. DeMay's system of exercise be followed out generally. A resolution to the effect "that tins committee is in favor of Mr.. DeMay's system" was carried, With regard to filling the vacancy caused by Miss Medley's resignation, it was resolved to recommend the appointment of Miss Bunting temporarily, or until a permanent appointment was confirmed. The fallowing resolution was then passed:—" That this Committee desire to place on record the satisfactory and able manner at which Miss Medley had fulfilled her duties while connected with the Featherston school, and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Miss Medley." The meeting then adjourned.

28th September 1886 There are also three applicants for the assistant teachership at Featherston, vacant by the resignation of Miss Medley, the salary of which is between £80 and .£90, according to classification

29th September 1886 special meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday last. Present—Messrs. Cox (chairman), J, Donald, Keys, Robertson, Benton, and J. Cundy. The chairman explained that he had convened a special meeting—Firstly, to consider the alteration of Mr.. De Mey's system of exercise to a system of extended military movements, proposed by Mr.. Bezar. It was decided not to interfere with the present arrangements, as the Da Mey system bad not yet bad a fair trial. Secondly to consider what steps should be taken with regard to the appointment of a successor to Miss Medley. A good deal of discussion ensued as to whether any recommendation should be sent to the Board, the Committee evidently not understanding their position. Ultimately it was decided to recommend to the Board that Miss Bunting be temporarily appointed to assist in the school until the successor to Miss Medley is able to take her situation. A vote of thanks was ordered to be sent to Miss Medley, in recognition of the efficient manner in which she had performed her duties while in the Featherston School.

4th October 1886 Featherston School Committee.

A .meeting of the above committee was bald on Saturday evening. Present—Messrs. Cox (chairman), Donald, Benton, Keys, Barton, and Robertson. The minutes of the previous and a special meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's statement showed a balance of £ 7 Is 7d at the Bank.

Account to the amount of £2 16s 6d wen passed for payment A report from Mr.. Lee was read, stating that the discipline of the school was most satisfactory. The annual examination is to take place on October 9th.

Correspondence outward—Letter to the Education Board, recommending Miss Bunting's appointment temporarily to Miss Medley's class. Correspondence Inwards—From Education Board, appointing Miss Kate Cundy, until the end of the

year, in Miss Medley's place. The head master's report was read, stating the average attendance as 149 ; number on the books, 184. A letter was received from the head master, objection to the appointment of Miss Cundy, as he considered her in no sense qualified for the very important office she sought to fill, stating also, that discipline and the art of teaching are not picked up in a day and requesting the committee to endeavor to obtain him a more efficient teacher. It was resolved, " That this committee sincerely regret that the Education Board should have engaged a sixth standard pupil to take charge of over 60 children, instead of a teacher of some grade, and consider it must have been done under some misapprehension, and the committee feel it their duty to refer the matter back to the Board for their reconsideration; the committee also regret that their recommendation for the temporary purpose was entirely ignored, and that the attention of the Board be called to section 45 of the Education Act."

It was resolved "That the annual picnic take place in December instead of January." Messrs. Keys and Benton were appointed visitors for the month.

4th October 1886 Featherston School and the Education Board

To the Editor of the Standard. " For ways that are dark and for tricks that are mean, The Education Board of Wellington in peculiar." Sib,—I am led to quote the above remark# through a circumstance that has lately occurred in our little township, re the appointment of an assistant in the Featherston School vice Miss Medley resigned. The Local Committee, at s meeting held on the 25th ultimo, passed a resolution recommending an appointment temporarily, until a regular assistant should be obtained, and forwarded a copy of it to the Education Board. At their meeting last Wednesday it appears the letter was not brought before the Board's notice, or, at any rate, not taken into consideration, and the result was the appointment of a young girl of 16 years of age, (who has had no previous experience with infant teaching) being appointed to take the infant class of an average attendance of about 68 children on the books*, Now, Sir, I ask, Why is this thus ? or in the words of the poet quoted above, Can such things be ? For the last six years the infant class has been a specialty of the Featherston School, and both by Mr.. Huntley and Miss Medley, has been brought to and kept in a high state of perfection, and after all this trouble the class is handed over to an inexperienced girl, who can exercise no control over them. A few weeks, or even days, will soon show this statement to be correct. If the recommendations of school committees are to have no effect, and their communications are to be consigned to the waste paper basket, the sooner they cease to exist as a body the better. It now remains for them and the parents to take some decided action, and prevent the stains of our school being lowered by the appointment of a teacher totally unqualified (or the position. I am, Ac., Fiat Justitia

5th October 1886 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening, Mr.. J. G. Cox in the chair. After dealing with the ordinary routine business, the matter of a teacher for the infant class and sewing was dealt with, A memo from the Educational Board notifying that the Board had considered it advisable to appoint Miss Cundy to assist the head master until the end of the year and then invite applications for the assistantship. Considerable discussion ensued, and the Committee thought if a competent teacher was not available for the permanent position the Board should have complied with the Committee's recommendation of Miss Bunting, or at least given them reasons for not doing so. The head master in his monthly report commented strongly on the appointment of Miss Cundy, and eventually the following resolution was moved by Mr.. Donald and ordered to be sent to the Educational Board: This Committee sincerely regret that the Educational Board should have engaged a sixth standard pupil to take charge of over

60 children instead of a teacher of some grade, and consider it must have been done so under some misapprehension. The Committee feel it their duty to refer the matter back to the Board. The Committee also regret their recommendation for the temporary office was utterly ignored, and desire to call the attention of the Board to section 46 of the Education Act. The headmaster reported steady progress in increase of attendances. For the month of September the average was 149 as against 117 in August, and suggested the annual picnic should be hold a few days before the Christmas holidays. It was resolved that the picnic should be held in December instead of January.

11th October 1886 A special meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday evening in reference to the late appointment by the Education Board. The Chairman stated in accordance with the resolution passed by the Committee at last meeting, he had felt it his duty to advise the head teacher in a note to the following effect: Dear Sir, the Committee have received a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Education stating the Board had appointed Miss K Cundy to assist you. The Committee have refused to ratify that appointment, and have sent a copy of the resolution passed by them on the matter to the Board requesting its reconsideration. Pending our correspondence it might not be out of place for me to recommend you to advise that young lady should she present banal. The durability of her waiting till the committee have received a reply from the Board and further consider the matter. The members present endorsed the action of the Chairman in sending a copy of this letter to the head teacher, and it met their entire consent and approval. It was also decided that the advice already tendered be still continued until further notice.

The committee adhered to the advice given relating to Miss Cundy entering upon the duties as an assistant, but have in the meantime made an arrangement for the efficient teaching power temporarily, and that the Board be informed of the fact; also that it has been ascertained that the head master has no teacher at his disposal capable of taking charge of the infants. Farther to ask the Board—1. If letter of the 27th had been received ? 2. Why applications for the appointment were not sent in the usual way ? 3. Has the Board at any time lent a teacher temporarily from the Training College ? 4. Where did the Board obtain the information that Miss Cundy's previous services had been recommended by the head teacher? The meeting adjourned at 11.30

15th October 1886 the Editor of the Standard. Sir,—Will you allow me through your columns to contradict a statement made by your Featherston correspondent in his account of the Featherston School Committee meeting held on Saturday last. He stated that all the members present fully endorsed the action of the chairman in advising the head master to request Miss Kate Cundy not to enter upon the duties as temporary assistant noted the matter had been referred back to the Education Board. This, Mr. Editor, to put it mildly, is a misstatement and misleads the public as well as the Education Board. At the regular monthly meeting on the 2nd inst., also at a special meeting on the 9th inst., called to endorse the action of the chairman I strongly objected to the course taken; so strong in fact that it was close on midnight before the resolution was carried. I consider the action taken by the chairman will give the head master cause to say, •• Save me from my friends/' I am, dear, C. W. Keys.

18th October 1886 the Editor of the Standard. Sir,— Might I ask if the C. W. Keys who wrote to you re the appointment of Miss Kate Cundy as pupil teacher at the Featherston school, is the same person who has business connections with Mr. W. Cundy. If so I think he would have shown both good taste and good sense by taking a neutral position in a matter of this kind where his private feelings must necessarily

clash with his public duty. The feeling of all unbiased persons here is that the appointment was injudicious and that the action of the Education Board was extremely overbearing and arbitrary. I am, Ac., Parent Featherston, October 16, 1886.

20th October 1886 The Bunny Pest.

To the Editor of the Standard.

Sir, —Your issue of the 15th contains a letter written by “ A Shearer,” complaining of the wages being cut down for shearing, and also complaining of other matters, amongst them the bunny pest. I have nothing to say about the wages for shearing, but feel I must on the rabbit [question. " Shearer " says there is one Bunny he hopes the ferrets will not kill, and wants him to come forth at the next election lot Parliament and fight manfully once more. Now, Mr.. Editor, I think we have already had too much of this Bunny pest in Parliament, and on Education Boards, Local Bodies, Ac., and I hope the electors will rise up as they have done the last two elections, and keep the Bunny oat, for of two evils let us choose the least, I also hope they will strive to keep him out of the Public Bodies in future ; he is only upheld by a few whom he tries to assist whenever he baa the chance, out of the Government or public money, (never out of his own pocket.) I felt somewhat disgusted when I read the letter in the same issue re Featherston School Committee. The writer of that letter is doing nothing but toadying to this same Bunny all through. This is the class of people that uphold him. I am, Ac., Nor a Shearer Featherston, October 18,

22nd October 1886 FEATHERSTON. Inspector Lee commenced his examination of the Wairarapa Schools on Monday, by taking Featherston school first, and the duty occupied two days. There were scheduled 125 of whom five were absent; four excepted by reason of attendance. Eight scholars failed and 105 passed; percentage 93. This is highly creditable to the teachers.

Standard I.—Charles Cundy, John Lawry, Kenneth Spackman, Fred Smith, David Tidswell, Harry Toogood, Thomas Willis, Thomas Worsley, Lillie Benton, May Bezar, Nita Cundy, Winnie Greeks, Lena Jackson, Minnie Kitching, Annie Lawrie, Gertrude Manning and Margaret McGill. Standard II.—Wilmore Abbot, John Chisholm, Alfred Hodder, Jas Jansen, Earnest O’Neale, George Osman, Ernest Robertson, Herbert Wilmhurst, Longworth Yelverton, Bertha Bart, Louisa Gazeley, Sarah Hanwick Bertha Keys, Lillian McShane, Maria Sheen and Maud Wilkinson, Standard III.—William Abbott, Oswald Benton, Chas Edward Bezar, William Bunny, George Burt, James Currie, Henry furlong, James Gazeley, Jog Thos Lawrie, Stafford Murphy, Fred O’Neale, William Osman, Thomas Saunders, Getfried Torstenson, Augustus Torstenson, James Burt, Kenneth Burt, Hector Urquhart, Arthur Vile, William Whiteman, Walter Wilkinson, Herbert Willis, James Worsley, William Yelverton, George Yule, Kate Abbott, Harriet Coe, Grace Cundy, Mabel Keys, Sarah Mann, Grace Monckton, Margaret Murphy, Mabel O’Neale, Lena Riddick, Jessie Robertson, Bertha Spackman, Mabel Spackman, Emily Worsley, 'Mary Worsley. Standard IV.—Augustus Abbott, James Craig, George Fellingham, Samuel Great batch, William Hodder, Henry Murphy, Claude Spackman, George Toogood, Albert Vile, Daniel McGill, Laura Bunting, Mabel Cundy, Nora MacShane, Annie Murphy, Mary O’Neale, Susan Toogood. Standard V.—Frederick Bezar, Charles Burt, Louis Keys, Charles Bead, Ellery Too. good, Walter Vile, Bessie Donald, Clara MacShane, Nellie Riddick, Kate Willis, Grace Yule.

Standard VI—Bertram Bunny, Herbert Keys, Samuel McDougall Donald Robertson, Edward Saunders, Wallace Smith, Robert Yule

26th October 1886 Our Featherston correspondent writes that through the omission of several words the souse of the local re the result of the Featherston school

examination was altered. What he wished to convey was that the result proved very creditable to the management under Mr. Bunting, more especially as two changes had been made in the teaching staff during the year

6th December 1886 Featherston School.

The usual monthly meeting of the above School was held on Saturday evening. Present—Messrs. J. Donald (in the chair), J. Cundy, W. Benton, W. Barton, G. W. Keys, and J. Robertson. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The treasurer reported £10 14s to balance of school fund. Amounts amounting to £5 were passed for payment. The head master reported an average attendance for the past month of 1.58, and that the two temporary assistants, Misses Cundy and Bunting were giving every satisfaction, and the wish that their services could be retained. Messrs. Benton and Barton were appointed visitors for the month, Messrs. Bunting and Bock were requested to prepare a prize scheme for a special meeting on Saturday next, when a committee will also be appointed to arrange the annual picnic.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain catalogues of books from Wellington, and to ask the Education Board to appoint the two temporary assistants as pupil teachers, subject to the preliminary examinations. The meeting then adjourned.

13th December 1886 The Featherston School Committee met on Saturday evening, and went into the report of the subcommittee appointed to draft a prize scheme. Subscriptions were handed in amounting to £6 7s 6d in cash and £1 4s 6d in books. Messrs. Bunting and Bock were appointed to select prizes, and it was decided to present them on Friday next. The Committee were unanimous in the wish that as many of the parents and friends of the scholars who could make it convenient would attend at the distribution. It was decided to present prizes for the most regular attendance, an allowance being made for those living a distance and one each to the most popular boy and girl in the school, these latter to be allotted by the scholars, and also to present a card to each child in the infant classes.

The Autumn picnic was discussed, and the Secretary instructed to advertise in the Standard, inviting all those willing to assist, to meet at the school on Friday evening next at 8 o'clock.

22nd December 1886 The closing of this school for the holidays 4 on Friday was celebrated by the distribution of prizes. There was a fair sprinkling of parents present, who manifested not a little interest in the proceedings. Mr. Benton, a member of the Committee, acted as chairman. The scholars being in excellent spirits, sang a few songs under the leadership of Mr. Harper, the first assistant. Addresses upon education were given by the headmaster, Mr. Bunting, and Mr. Benton. The children of the infant department, under the guidance of Miss E. Craig, assisted by Miss K. Cundy, gave much pleasure by their drill exercise and singing. Each child received a Christmas card—one, Ethel O'Neale, obtained a prize for good attendance.

Standard I—For Best Pass, Lana Jackson ; for attendance, Nita Cundy, Lillian Benton, May Bezar, Fred Smith, and Thomas Worsley.

Standard II—For best pass, Lillian MacShane; for attendance, Wilmore Abbott, Maude Wilkinson, Bertha Keys, Ernest O'Neale, and Ernest Robertson.

Standard III—For superior pass—William Bunny, Herbert Willis, and Colfriet Torstenson ; for attendance, Kenneth Burt, Hector Urquhart, Mabel Spackman, William Whiteman, Fred O'Neale, Jessie Robertson, Arthur Viles, Emily Worsley, Mary Worsley, James Burt, Stafford Murphy, George Yule, Margaret Murphy, Grace Cundy. Mr. Harper's prize for general proficiency, Grace M. Monckton.

Standard IV—For best pass, Laura Bunting ; for attendance, Annie Murphy, Albert Viles, Augustus Abbott, Mary O’Neale, Non MacShane, Claude Spackman, Henry Murphy. Mr.. Toogood's (special prize for recitation,,. Susan Toogood.

Standard V—For beat pass Kathleen Willis ; teacher's prize for general proficiency, Clara MacShane ; for attendance, Nellie Riddick, Bessie Donald, Ellery Toogood, Grace Yule, Charles Read, and Waller Viles.

Standard VI—For best pass, Robert Yule; for attendance, Donald Robertson, Isabel Viles. Teacher's prize for general proficiency, Wallace Smith, Bertram Bunny. Mr.. W. Bocks special prize for English composition was carried off by Flora Bunting; Mr.. Book, who adjudged the prize, considered Ellery Toogood a good second. In the choice of the most popular girl, there was some keen competition, Maude Cundy, having a majority of only one vote, received the prize, the Girls' Annual. Charles Burt outstripped all competitors by 90 votes, and was therefore declared the most popular boy of the school. He received the prize accordingly, the Boys' Annual.

23rd December 1866 Misses Cundy and Bunting were appointed pupil teachers at Featherston,

1887

1887	162	Featherston	Bunting	Henry	Headmaster	£270	\$52,909
1887	162	Featherston	Harper	Charles H	Assistant Master	£160	\$31,354
1887	162	Featherston	Craig	Esther	Female Pupil Teacher	£30	\$5,879
1887	162	Featherston	Bunting	Elizabeth	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,919
1887	162	Featherston	Cundy	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,919
1887	162	Featherston	Craig	Mrs. S	Sewing	£5	\$980

7th February 1887 Featherston School.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the above school committee was held last Saturday. The Treasurer reported £7 13 4d to the credit of the school funds, and that the capitation for past quarter £13 2s 6d. and been received, making a total credit, £20 15s 10 , Accounts amounting to £ 9 16s 6d were passed for payment. The head .master reported 205 scholars on the books with an average for past week of 168.

Circulars were received from Mr.. Miller, on behalf of Mr.. F. H. Fraser, and from Mr.. C. Pharazyn, soliciting the vote of the committee for the vacant seat on the Education Board. The committee selected three candidates and the clerk was instructed to forward voting paper to the Education Board. After ordinary routine business the meeting adjourned.

23rd February 1887 The Featherston Committee asked that a sewing teacher should be appointed. Mrs. Craig was appointed at. a salary of .£5 per annum.

8th March 1887 The usual meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Saturday; Mr.. J. G. Cox in the chair. The minutes of last ordinary , meeting were read and confirmed. The , Treasurer. reported £13 13s 10d to the credit of the school fund. Accounts amounting to £4 18s were passed for payment, The head master repotted the average attendance for February at 180, , and for the last week at 178, the highest yet recorded. A letter was read from the Education Board agreeing to appoint Mrs. Craig sewing mistress at a salary of £'s per annum. The Chairman reported .that Mm Craig could not undertake .the duties at so small j a remuneration, and it was agreed that the Committee contribute a further sum of L 5. An application from Mr.. F. C. Smith for the use of the school acre for two years at thirty shillings per annum, he agreeing to

leave it in English grass and use It for cropping purposes only was agreed to, the Committee reserving the right to plant more trees and attend to those already planted
26th April 1887 The Featherston School Committee election resulted in the following being elected.

the new committee :— Jacob Beal, 83 ; J. G Cox, 85; Jas. Donald, 21 ; W. Toogood, 19 Robertson, 16; Benton, 17; Everett, 17.

2nd May 1887 To the Editor of the Standard,

Sib, —There is an old saying that our Featherston larrikins would do well to remember “ It’s a dirty bird that fouls it is own nest.” A public school is not what one section of the community makes it, its success depends on the combined action of teachers, committee, parents and children, and if any one of these fail to do their duty, the school will suffer more or less. Now its notorious, that the ringleaders in Monday evening’s farce, are fathers whose children do not regularly attend school, yet who would be the first to cry out at the incapacity of teachers if these same children failed to progress satisfactorily in their studies. These disgraces to the name of parent will find that “ curses, like chickens, come home to roost,” and the ridicule they endeavored to cast on an excellent institution, which is second to none in the valley, will rebound and cover their own names with shame. I am, Ac, Featherstonian.

6th May 1887 Featherston School Committee Election.

To the Editor of the Standard. Sib, —Your correspondents, “ Mephistopheles ” and “ Let Justice be Done,” show in a very amusing manner how nicely the cap fits all round. If anything more were required to prove the correctness of the general verdict that larrikinism was at the bottom of the whole affair their puerile wordy effusions would settle that point. “Let the galled jade wince ” Mr.. Mephistopheles. You may personate the Devil in red, but I rather fancy you are the gentleman in blue, with a scarlet stripe down your unmentionables, just to give you a dash of the old man. There is no man better known in Featherston for his strictly honest, upright, probity of character than yourself, and it certainly was a great pity that, out of pique, you should have so far forgotten yourself as to turn traitor, go over to the enemy, gallantly lead the forlorn hope and carry the breach, with the 83rd Die-hards, at the point of the magical number seven. My letter, sir, seems to have hit a few gentlemen very hard, but I am quite satisfied to take any amount of abuse from such as your correspondents “ Mephistopheles,” and “ Let Justice be Done.” I think they will find me a very hard nut to crack indeed, for I will always, to the best of my ability, bring before the public through the press or otherwise any* thing I consider should be exposed, as but for the publicity allowed by the press, many times there would be no other way of redressing grievances. And furthermore, no intimidation ,personal or otherwise, will ever prevent me from doing what I consider my duty, in any public or private capacity in which may be placed. Apologising for the length of my letter. I am, &c., Fiat Justitia. Featherston, May 4.

To the Editor of the Wairarapa Standard. Sib, —That election of a certain resident to the school committee here a week ago, seems to have milled the hair of some of the other members. One would imagine by their squall that such committees were specially constituted to enable them to display their wonderful talent. The thing was done evidently to let them see what can be done. One of the members was heard to say that he went in on purely selfish grounds, to see that his children were properly looked after. Who does this hit? Some have said that it is an insult to the head master to put such a man on the committee as the one some take exception to, but for the life of me I cannot by any stretch of imagination see it in that light. How can that be ? Do those members who think thus mean that it is because the objectionable person knows less

than the head master. If such is their idea I can only say that if each of the committee knew ten times as much as they do (and that would not amount to much with some of them), the master would then be body, head and shoulders above the whole blooming lot put together. I can only say, sir, that it is a very great pity that "Fiat Justitia" did not let the matter pass and say nothing about it, for all his puffing and blowing about it could not alter the result, and it only dis-

pW» mother instance of that craving desire to be head and tail of everything going of a public character. I am, Ac., Per Interim. Featherston, May 3, 1887.

NB *I have not copied all letters in the Standard as they all follow the same lines*

6th June 1887 The monthly meeting of the Featherston school committee was held on Saturday. The Treasurer statement amounts to credit £8 3s 10d. The following accounts were passed for payment Messrs. W Toogood 8s, J D Oakley 3s 1d, W Hiteman £2 10s, J Robertson 2s lid, Mackay £1 8s 14. Resolved that the committee endeavor to recover cost of repairs to residence necessitated by chimney taking fire. Acting on advice from visitor's report it was resolved that a day's gravelling be done, entrusted to J Beel, and that J Robertson see to repairs to gratings for fire doorways, Received that the committee be furnished with a report as to instructions given in calisthenics, also as to military drill. Messrs. J G Cox and J Robertson were appointed visitors for the month. The head teacher's report showed average attendance 160 with 211 on the books

24th June 1887 To the Editor of the Standard. Sir.—Being a resident of Featherston I cannot let the "Jubilee" day pass without making a few remarks. For a number of years the children of Featherston have had an annual treat in the shape of imports and tea, but this year the people outside are at a loss to know why it has been abandoned. We here of leading members of the several towns in the Wairarapa who have neither spared money or time in giving the children a treat; but Featherston seems to be asleep, and the children have to suffer. So much for our leading townspeople We have a number of new J.P.'s. They might, in honor of their position, come forward and take an active part in it, so that our children will have something to remember the Queen's Jubilee by. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, you could suggest something that our leading citizens; of Featherston too could carry out. I am, Ac., Featherstonian

29th June 1887 Wellington Education Board passed £3 for repairs to residence

6th July 1887 The monthly meeting of the Featherston school committee met on Saturday, Messrs. J. G, Cox (in the chair), W. Toogood, J. Beel and J, Robertson being present. The Headmaster's report showed the average attendance as 162, with 204 on the books. Accounts were passed and notice of motion given re advisability of getting up an entertainment to swell the funds of the committee.

1888

1888	162	Featherston	Bunting	Henry	Headmaster	£255	\$49,970
1888	162	Featherston	Payne	Olivia	Assistant Female	£85	\$16,657
1888	162	Featherston	Craig	Esther	Female Pupil Teacher	£30	\$5,879
1888	162	Featherston	Bunting	Elizabeth	Female Pupil Teacher	£25	\$4,899
1888	162	Featherston	Cundy	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,919

4th February 1888 Mt Charles Pharazyn has been invited by the Featherston School Committee to stand for election as a member of the Education Board, Believing that the Wairarapa Schools and the education district as a whole would benefit by his

experience, capacity, and business aptitude, we venture to express a Imp,) that School Committees generally will support his candidature.

24th April 1888 Featherston. The election of the School Committee at Featherston resulted in the following gentlemen being elected: Messrs. John Beal 55, Charles Cundy 54, J. G. Cox 27, James Donald 27, W. Benton 20, Arney 12,-T. Worsley 12

26th April 1888 The request of the Featherston Committee for certain repairs to the teacher's residence was held over, and Mr.. Bunny agreed to report on the matter.

8th August 1888 Featherston Town Board: Moved by Mr.. A. Donald an< seconded by Mr.. Jas. Donald, "That a sum of £15 be voted and given as a donation to the Featherston school, the School Committee being considerably in debt and out of funds." A warm discussion ensued on the subject, when an amendment, proposed by Mr.. W. Cundy, and seconded by Mr.. G. Reynolds, "That a sum of £10 be given,' was carried.

26th September 1888 An application by the Featherston Committee for a sum of £10 for repairs was not granted

10th October 1888 This Day. The Featherston School has been inspected by Mr.. Lee, who, reports that the school work is good,' systematic, and thorough, Standard VII. being extra good. The passes are 88 per cent.

Standard I.— Of 27 presented, 27 passed.

Standard II.— Presented, 27; passed, 24.

Standard III.— Presented, 17; passed, 12.

Standard IV.— Presented, 27 passed, 21.

Standard V.—Presented, 23; passed, 16

Standard VI.— Presented, 10 ; passed 6

88 per cent pass rate

13th October 1888 Mr.. Lee, the Inspector of Schools, has been his rounds, and has examined the Featherston and Greytown schools. He complimented the headmasters, Mr.. Bunting and Mr.. Porritt respectively, upon the general efficiency of the schools and the teaching power, and congratulated them upon the success attending their efforts, especially as both percentages of passes were good. The Carterton public school, under Mr.. Samuel, will be examined on Monday

31st October 1888 The reports of the Inspector of Schools upon the results of his inspection of the country districts during the last month, were laid before the Education Board today. Mr.. Lee's comments were summarised by the Chairman as follows: — Masterton school, most excellent throughout; Carterton, head teacher's work good, assistant's work weak, school conducted for the last year under great difficulties and drawbacks ; Clareville, excellent, work very good ; Greytown, not satisfactory, assistant's work on the whole good, head master's arithmetic weak; Featherston and Lower Hutt, very satisfactory ; Mungaroa and Upper Hutt, not quite satisfactory ; Kaiwarra, not more than satisfactory; Taita, not quite satisfactory, master's work in arithmetic weak, Miss Woolcott's work good ; Petone, satisfactory on the whole, spelling and composition a little weak. In answer to the questions of members of the Board, Mr.. Lee said that, apart from arithmetic, the work of the Greytown higher standards could not be said to be weak, though it was certainly not strong. After some desultory discussion, it was decided that the Inspector's report should be referred to the Greytown Committee for their attention, and that its

consideration be resumed at next meeting. The reports on the Upper Hntt, Taita, and Mungaroa schools were similarly dealt with, members of the Board emphasising their opinions that efficiency in arithmetic must be regarded as a crucial test of a teacher's capabilities. It was explained that one of the difficulties under which the Carterton School had laboured had been the action of the committee, in harassing the head master, whom some of them were desirous of getting out of the school. Mr.. Lee said that one of the junior teachers was the daughter of the teacher of the neighbouring school at Clareville, which was a hindrance to the head master, and greatly tied his hand. The Chairman said the best solution of the difficulty would be the removal of the head master. Mr.. Lee said that he believed the master prayed for removal. The Chairman observed that this would no doubt be done. The discussion then dropped.

1889

1889	177	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$46,362
1889	177	Featherston	Hopkirk	John	Assistant Master	£100	\$18,181
1889	177	Featherston	Payne	Olivia	Assistant Female	£85	\$15,454
1889	177	Featherston	Cundy	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,636
1889	177	Featherston	Evans	Ada	Female Pupil Teacher	£15	\$2,727

30th January 1889 The Education Board had under consideration this morning a letter from Mr.. Porritt, who has been transferred from the head teachership at Greytown to the charge of the school at Featherston, asking for compensation for a coach-house and orchard which he has added to the residence in the former township. Mr.. F. H. Fraser moved that the request should be acceded to. Dr. Newman strongly objected to the Board voting any money for the purpose. He contended that such a payment would not be proper, and that it would not be passed by any auditor. Mr.. A. W. Brown pointed out that if the request were acceded to, a precedent would be established. Dr. Newman observed that coach houses and orchards formed no part of the educational system of the colony. The Chairman also considered the principle was a wrong one. It was no doubt hard on Mr.. Porritt that he should get nothing for the improvements which he had effected at Greytown, but it could not be helped. Mr.. Blair added that he was firmly of opinion that the auditor would not do his duty if he did not refuse to pass such a payment. Mr.. Fraser accepted the ruling of the Chairman, and withdrew his resolution. The subject then dropped.

12th January 1889 We are pleased to find that the long services of Mr.. T. Porritt, the master of the Greytown School, is about to be recognised before his departure, by a testimonial. He has been a very useful and energetic public servant apart from his school duties. For a long time he has been connected with the Literary Institute, and has taken a deep interest in its, welfare in horticultural matters he has been one of the chief supports of the Greytown Horticultural Society. His work, too, at the Cemetery will be a lasting monument to his zeal. It is owing to Mr.. Porritt that the ground has been laid off in a proper manner, and the different sections numbered he also did a great deal to the planting of the Cemetery with shrubs and trees. He has been an active member of the Greytown Rifle Corps, and holds the position of Lieutenant; he is also captain of the cadets, Quiet and unassuming he has worked steadily on for the welfare of attention he has been identified with, and his departure from Greytown will be regretted by many.- we hope the testimonial will be a substantial one,—Standard,

30th January 1889 The Board decided to adhere to their determination to place Mr. Porritt in charge of the Featherston School.

30th January 1889 Our late schoolmaster, the Rev. T. Porritt, has not as yet commenced the work of tuition at the Featherston School, owing, it is alleged, - as rumor has it to obstruction offered by -the Featherston School Committee

31st January 1889 The Featherston Committee asked for a ; grant with which to paint the local school house'. It was resolved that Mr. Bunny should ' inspect the building before next meeting and report to the Board

28th February 1889 Wellington Education Board report included The committee appointed to visit and report on the Greytown and Featherston schools brought in their report. They found the accommodation available for the junior portion of the Greytown School much deficient, A new classroom requires to be added, and the school painted; inside and out. The committee recommend several alterations and renovations' both in school and residence., The Committee were much impressed with the quiet and orderly manner in which the business of the school was being carried out under the headmaster, Mr. Bunting. The Featherston school needed painting, for which tenders have been called, and the Committee recommended that a grant of £5 be made for small repairs.

25th April 1889 FEATHERSTON. In this district the householders elected Messrs. Matthews, C. Cundy, H. Bunny, S. Bezar, A. Donald, J. G. Cox, and D. Smith as their committee The election of office bearers was postponed until Monday next.

24th October 1889 The result of Inspector Lee's examination of the Greytown, Featherston and Carterton Schools stands thus:—Passes, Greytown, 91 per cent, Featherston, 86 per cent, Carterton, 80 per cent

29th October 1898 Our school children have passed through the ordeal of examination very creditably indeed, and show a good average, Greytown securing 91 per cent, of passes, while Featherston follows with 86 per cent. This week our Mayor had the pleasant duty of presenting drawing certificates to the successful Greytown scholars. The averages in this class for the three large schools of the South Wairarapa may be considered satisfactory, the figures showing :— Greytown, 23 Featherston, 23 ; Carterton, 21

30th October 1889 Featherston.— Excellent order of class rooms, the rooms being in perfect condition and furnished with good taste. The work of Standards 3 and 4 was not so good as the rest, especially in grammar. Much of the arithmetic was accurately worked. I am pleased with the general condition of the school.

7th December 1889 Part of a long report on the Greytown Horticulture and Poultry Show included Penmanship brought forth a great number of competitors and gave the judges a considerable amount of trouble, it being very difficult" to determine which should be first., Mr. Porritt of the Featherston School deserves great credit for marshalling such a number

of competitors in the writing, fancy work, and drawing classes, by having the whole of the latter class from his schools. ,

24th December 1889 Two of the Board's scholarships have been retained in this district Francis R. Wakelin securing one for Greytown with a total of 364 marks, while George Toogood takes one to Featherston with 350 marks. In connection with our two principal School's, Mrs. Scales, who had gone to England on leave of absence, has returned, and will resume duty as assistant at the Greytown school after

the holidays; and Miss Kato Cundy, of Featherston, has resigned. The latter young lady has been the recipient of a complimentary letter from Mr.. Lee

In 1891-1892 Kate Cundy taught at Manakau School in the Horowhenua

1870/21329	Cundy Katherine Howden	Alice	William
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Ah her, she married in Tasmania, as did her sister Elsie Althea who taught as well, albeit privately. Why they were in Tasmania is an enigma and one I haven't yet been able to solve. It was to a Robinson. She died in Geelong in 1961. Research by Grandson Sam

1890

1890	190	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$48,106
1890	190	Featherston	Hopkirk	John	Assistant Master	£100	\$18,865
1890	190	Featherston	Payne	Olivia	Assistant Female	£85	\$16,035
1890	190	Featherston	King	Edith M	Female Pupil Teacher	£40	\$7,546

26th November 1890 The question of re-roofing the Featherston school residence and re-papering same was referred to the local school committee

10th December 1890 A request that the school teachers residence at Waihakeke might be papered, was left in the hands of Mr.. Buchanan, and an application from the Featherston Committee that the Board should have some repairs (estimated to cost about £19) effected to the teacher's residence there, was referred to the committee appointed by the Board to visit all of the Wairarapa schools

1891

1891	175	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$47,682
1891	175	Featherston	Pope	Robert J	Assistant Master	£100	\$18,699
1891	175	Featherston	Payne	Olivia	Assistant Female	£85	\$15,894
1891	175	Featherston	King	Edith M	Female Pupil Teacher	£40	\$7,480

29th January 1891 Wellington Education Board It was decided to effect repairs to the roof of the school residence at Featherston.

18th February 1891 A Piece from the long article on the Funeral of Mr.. Henry Bunny Chairman of the Featherston School Committee who committed suicide, The clergy were represented by the Rev. E. H. Wyatt and T. Porritt (*Head teacher of Featherston School*). The children of the Featherston School attended in charge of their teachers to the number of over 60— a fitting tribute to one whoso last public act had been to present the prizes to the scholars at the borough school, in which he had always taken so strong an interest. Nearly 500 persons must have been present at the graveside,

He was aged 69 and had been defeated in the last election as a member of Parliament

25th March 1891 The granting of a scholarship to Marjory Fellingham, of Featherston, was approved. Miss Cundy was temporarily appointed assistant-teacher at Manakau

22nd April 1891 The children attending the Featherston public school were granted a holiday on Friday last in honor of the fact that a Wesleyan picnic was being held

28th April 1891 FEATHERSTON. W. Toogood, W. Homber, C. Cundy, J. G. Cox, Smith, W. Benton, and Neilson

28th April 1891 It is stated that the population of Featherston has increased during the past five years at the rate of one per month.

9th May 1891 The average attendance at the Featherston public school is 179

27th May 1891 Consideration of the proposal to purchase an acre adjoining the Featherston School was deferred for a month

16th June 1891 Assistant, Featherston ; Salary, £100.

18th June 1891 Mr.. Hopkirk, at present assistant teacher of the Featherston school, has received the appointment of headmaster to the school at Pirinoa.

24th June 1891 Mr.. F Cox, of Featherston, wrote requesting the Board to complete the acre of ground adjoining the local school aa agreed upon. No action was taken

26th June 1891 A subscription list is being taken round Featherston to raise funds with which to purchase firewood for the state school.

1892

1892	157	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$47,300
1892	157	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$27,824
1892	157	Featherston	King	Edith M	Assistant Female	£70	\$12,984
1892	157	Featherston	Riddick	Nellie	Female Pupil Teacher	£15	\$2,782

17th March 1892 Inspector's report included The seventeen schools ia class B range from 101 to 286 in attendance, and contain 2781 children, or about- one-fourth of the total of the district schools. With the exception of some depression in the condition of the Taita and Featherston Schools, the results are good and the quality of the work improved. The improvement is most marked at Fernridge, Greytown, Hutt, Mangatainoko, and Vogeltown

19th May 1892 Assistant, Featherston school; salary £70

25th May 1892 Miss O Payne of Featherston resigns

25th May 1892 Appointments of teachers for the Pahiatua, Fernridge, Featherston, and Eketahuna Schools were made, but it was resolved not to allow the names to be made public until the Committees have been consulted.

31st May 1892 Miss Payne, who has led the choir and played the organ in the Church for years, having resigned her position as teacher in the State school, has left to join the happy state, Miss Payne was a great favorite, and we all wish her joy.

1892/2140	Olivia Emma Pellow	Payne	Ernest	Northcroft
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Wedding.— A Press Association telegram received from Wellington last night says Mr.. E. Northcroft, assistant officer in charge of the Telegraph Department at Christchurch, was married to-day at St Paul's Cathedral to Miss Payne, of Wellington. The happy pair left for Christchurch by the afternoon's steamer

1895/12416	Northcroft	Earle Fred	Olivia Emma Pellow	Ernest
1894/18714	Northcroft	Muriel Staines	Olivia Emma Dellow	Ernest

1929/968	Northcroft	Olivia Emma Pellow	65Y
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2nd June 1892 Miss King has been appointed by the Board of Education to fill the place of Miss Payne, who resigned a short time ago the position of assistant mistress in the Featherston school

8th June 1892 A successful concert In aid of the Featherston school funds was hold in the Oddfellows' Ball last night. The chair was occupied by Mr.. W, Toogood. A dance was afterwards held

23rd June 1892 At a meeting of the Featherston School Committee held last night, a case of alleged undue punishment by the assistant master was brought up. As the scholar's parents had made no complaint and the master himself was not present, the consideration of the matter was postponed

3rd August 1892 To-morrow being Arbor Day, the Committee has granted the Featherston School a holiday,

4th August 1892 A meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. J. H. Cox (chairman), C. Keys, W, Benton, W. Toogood, W. Hodder and M. B. Tait. The minutes of two previous meetings were read and confirmed, The Chairman read a circular he had received from the Education Board, concerning Arbor Day celebrations. The circular had been sent up too late to be of any use, as two or three days' preparation would be necessary. Mr.. Tait notified that he would bring forward a motion at next meeting concerning a picnic Messrs. Cox and Toogood were appointed visitors (or the month, The same gentlemen were also appointed a committee to interview Mr.. W, Hiteman to form an agreement as to the work he should do about the school.

8th September 1892 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held in the school last night, there being present Messrs. J. Q. Cox (chairman), C. Keys, W. Benton, M. B, . Tait. W. Toogood. W. Hodder and O. * The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, The head master reported that the attendance had not been very good on account of bad weather and illness, and that several children wished to leave school before closing time to attend music lessons, etc., In some instances when permission had been refused, the children were kept away the whole half-day. He also stated that he was sorry to hear the Committee had decided to have the school scrubbed out twice yearly, The Committee wished it known that this was only a suggestion, and the school would be cleaned monthly as usual. The visitors for the past month, Messrs. Cox and Toogood, reported satisfactorily. It was resolved that the water channels across the playground, in need of repair, be seen to, also the school sheds. Mr.. Cox reported that he had attended the school in the morning to superintend the annual drawing examination. A circular was read, requesting the valuation of all school buildings and Board property in the district. It was resolved that the present Committee form themselves into a Picnic Committee, with power to add to their, number, and that the parents and guardians of scholars be notified to attend at the next monthly meeting for the purpose of adding to the Picnic Committee. It was also resolved that Mr.. Porritt be allowed to expend the sum of one pound for the purpose of procuring apparatus for object lessons

6th October 1892 The monthly meeting of the Featherston- School Committee was held on Wednesday night, there being present Messrs. Toogood, W. Cundy, W Hodder," M. Tait, and Mr., Benton. In the absence' of Mr.. Cox, Mr.. Toogood took the chair, 'the Headmaster reported that the attendance during the past month had increased. The annual examination held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last week, hid been very satisfactory. The children were looking forward to obtaining prizes this year, and he was willing to get up a concert to provide the necessary funds.

On the motion of Mr.. Tait, It was decided to call by notice a meeting of parents on the 19th of this month, to make arrangements for a picnic. The Treasurer's report as read, showing a credit balance of £11 16s 10d. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr.. Hodder, that a concert be held on or about the 31st of October, to raise money for prizes. The concert will be followed by a dance. Messrs. Porritt, Cox, Tait, Toogood, and W. Cundy, were appointed a Concert Committee. It was decided that_ the sheds and drains should be repaired as soon as possible. Messrs. Cundy and Tait were appointed visitors for the month.

18th October 1892 Mr.. J. G. Cox has resigned his position as a member of the Featherston School Committee

20th October 1892 A special meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last night (Wednesday) to consider the picnic and other questions. There were present- Messrs. V. Hodder, M. Tail, W. Benton, C. Cundy, and W. Toogood, Mr.. W. Toogood occupied the chair. It was resolved on the motion of Mr.. Tail that Mr.. J. G. Cox be asked to reconsider his resignation. It was resolved that the transfer of Mr.. Popo to the Newtown to Featherston be sanctioned, The Committee then resolved itself into an open meeting of householders. There were three householders present besides the Committee.

Mr.. Toogood, on taking the chair, remarked that the householders were very ready to come forward at the annual meetings to offer suggestions as to the work of the committee, but when it came to a little practical application of their suggestions they were conspicuous by their absence, and the householders present form a picnic committee. One gentleman, however, objected very strongly to being on the committee, and accused a former committee of stealing a ham. by which he meant using it otherwise than for sandwiches. After a good deal of trouble and discussion it was proved to this gentleman that the ham was only a ham-bone, which had been given away in charity, A picnic committee with power to add to their number was formed, consisting of Messrs. Cundy, Hodder, Benton, Tait, Toogood, Roys, Porritt and Spackman, and it was decided that the picnic be held on the 25th of November, unless otherwise arranged. It was resolved that business places be asked to close at noon on the picnic day, and that a ladies' committee be formed and subscription lists be distributed. Messrs. Cundy and Hodder kindly offered their services as collectors,

21st October 1892 The Railway officials missed a box containing percussion caps from the Featherston goods shed and reported the matter to Constable Smith who visited the school and found them in the possession of one of the scholars, The boy had already emptied two boxes and had opened two more. It is left to the Railway Department whether they will leave the father to chastise the boy.

2nd November 1892 The following is the continuation of the list of the Wellington district school passes in the recent annual first grade drawing examinations. Featherston — B. Burt, L. Benton (good), A. Benton, O. Cole, E. Donald, H. W. Hodder (good), C. Mann, E. O'Neale, K. Spackman, E. M. Viles.

3rd November 1892 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. Cundy, Benton, Tait and Toogood (Chairman), . The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting, and of a special meeting were read and confirmed.

The head master reported the school to be in a satisfactory state. The visitors for the month reported everything clean and satisfactory, Messrs. Toogood and Cundy were appointed visitors for the present month, The following resolution was passed;—"The

Committee hears with regret that Mr.. Pope has administered a flogging to a small boy, which flogging they consider too severe, under the circumstances." It was resolved that this resolution be brought under the notice of Mr.. Pope, It was decided that Show Day (Friday, Nov. 4th) be observed as a school holiday, and that a rubber stamp be procured for the Committee,
PICNIC COMMITTEE.

Present—Messrs. Toogood (in the chair), Porit, Cundy, Tait, Benton and Spackman, Mr.. D. Robertson, having consented to act as secretary, was added to the Picnic Committee.

It was decided to hold the picnic on Thursday, 24th November. The subscription lists of Messrs. C. Cundy and W. Hodder, junr., were considered. As the funds will not be sufficient to provide the usual free public picnic, a shilling admission for adults and sixpence for children will be charged. Complimentary tickets will be issued to all contributors to the picnic fund, and to all school children,

It was decided to ask some ladies to assist

The picnic committee will meet again on the 16th of this month

14th November 1892 The school boys of Featherston are greatly elated at their success as cricketers. A week or so ago the Kaiwairai boys paid them a visit and beat them by about fifty runs. The Featherston captain sent in a challenge resulting in a match at Kaiwairai, where Featherston won in one innings

17th November 1892 In a lengthy letter to the Standard Mr.. R. J. Pope, late teacher of the Featherston School complains strongly of the interference of the Featherston School Committee between the teachers and the children.

17th November 1892 Sir, —Kindly allow me to correct your report of the Featherston-Kaiwairai School Boys' Cricket Matches. In the first match played at Featherston, my boys won by seven wickets and seventy runs; in the return match played at Kaiwairai on Saturday last Kaiwairai again won, this time in one innings with sixty-three runs to spare. In making this correction, I merely wish that honour should be given to whom it is due, while I feel sure the Featherston lads, who played a losing game with all the good spirit of true cricketers, would not for a moment desire to wrongfully take the credit of having won.—I am, etc., . G. S. M. McDermid , Kaiwairai, 16th Nov,

21st November 1892 A meeting of the Featherston School Picnic Committee was held last Wednesday, when sub committees were appointed to look after the various departments.

9th December 1892 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Monthly Meeting.

The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. J. G. Cox (Chairman), W. Toogood, W. Benton, W. Hodder, C. Cundy, Mr.. M. B. Tait was present for a few minutes, but could not stay as he had just come over from Kaitoke The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting had been read and confirmed at a special meeting. The head master reported that the school tanks needed attending to and that there was a bad-leak in the roof at the residence. The school had progressed favourably during the past month. Mr.. Toogood, visitor for the month, reported that a broken post in the school fence had been stayed up and was now secure. The tank frame needed staying, This matter was left in the hands of the Chairman.

The Inspector's report was read.

It has been decided to postpone the school concert indefinitely. The head-master thought it would be better not to give prizes, but to buy some books for the school library.

A letter, rather warmly worded, from Mr.. Pope was read, thanking the Committee for their vote of censure, stating that coming from such a committee he considered it a compliment.

As tie Secretary (Mr.. C. Keys) has forfeited his seat through nonattendance, Mr.. W. Seed will be requested to take his place as a member.

A meeting of the Picnic Committee will be held on Friday at Mr.. Toogood's to draw up a balance sheet of the picnic accounts etc.

14th December 1892 Correspondence which had taken place between the Featherston School Committee . and Mr.. R. J. Pope, late assistant master, ' with reference to a case of flogging, was laid before the Board. The Chairman remarked that Mr.. Pope seemed to think he had a perfect right to chastise children, where no assistant had the power, but he must always refer the matter to the headmaster

1893

1893	153	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$46,198
1893	153	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$27,176
1893	153	Featherston	King	Edith M	Assistant Female	£70	\$12,682
1893	153	Featherston	Riddick	Nellie	Female Pupil Teacher	£25	\$4,529

9th February 1893 Nellie Riddick passed third year Pupil Teacher examination

11th February 1893 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last Thursday night, there being present Messrs. J, G. Cox (Chairman), C. Cundy, W. Hodder, jnr., W. Toogood and M. B, Tail,

The Head Master reported that there were 120 children present on the opening of the school, but the attendance had increased to 180, and that there were 230 names on the register, the school was working satisfactorily, and Mr. Williamson, the new assistant, was very popular, Accounts amounting to £3 7s were passed for payment. A lotter was received from the Headmaster, stating that Miss M. Fellingham, who was desirous of becoming & pupil teacher, was willing to teach in the school without remuneration till a vacancy should occur, It was decided to that permission be given, A letter was read from the Education Board re the election of members of the Board, All the school yard needs gravelling Mr. Hodder offered the use of a horse and cart and also the metal if the Committee obtained, a man to do the work, It was decided that some repairs in connection with the tanks and water drains be left in the hands of the chairman, Mr. Tait was appointed visitor for the month,

13th February 1893 The Rev. T, Porritt, head-master of the Featherston School, proposes taking the youngsters under his charge on a trip to Petone, to visit the Wellington Woollen Factory and the Meat Freezing Works, This is certainly practical education

2nd March 1893 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. J, G. Cos (Chairman), W, Toogood, W. Hodder, Jnr., and C. Cundy. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, The Head Master reported everything satisfactory and took the opportunity to thank the Committee for 'he holiday which was granted to enable the scholars to visit Petone. Ho also suggested a slight alteration in the manner of opening and closing the

windows of the school. A notice was received from the Board of Education re election of members. The following! resolutions were carried:—That Mr.. Porritt be authorised to make alterations in the windows. That a vote of thanks be accorded Mr.. W. Hodder, junr., for the use of his horse and cart for gravelling the school grounds. That Mr.. Pope be requested to transfer his trust as Treasurer of the School Cricket Club to Mr. Williamson, his successor, The visitors reported favourably, and Messrs. Hodder and Cundy were appointed visitors for March,

6th April 1893 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Commutes was held last night, there being present Messrs. Toogood, W, Benton; M, Tait, C, Cundy, and W. Hodder, junr. In the absence of Mr. J, G. Cox, Mr. Toogood took the chair. The head master reported everything satisfactory. It was resolved that Mr. Porritt's account for pulley and cords for the school window/, be paid. It was resolved " That this committee appreciate the manner in which Mr. Porritt had kept the School grounds. In order, and the hedges trimmed, and\that the resolution be embodied in the annual report," on the motion of the visitors for the month. Mr. Benton was instructed to see that the school sheds be repaired!

26th April 1893 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Annual Report,

A meeting of the retiring School Committee was bold at Featherston at half past seven on Monday, all members being present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed., The Committee's annual .report was also read,

Mr. Tait moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services during the past year, Mr. Toogood seconded the motion, to which Mr. Cox replied.

It Was resolved that the hew committee be recommended to procure Bacon's drawing charts for the school.

ANNUAL Meeting. The annual meeting was held at 8 o'clock, there being: about twenty householders present, including the committee. \

Mr. J. G. Cox was voted to the chair, on the motion of Mr. Toogood.

he annual report was| read as follows : Your Committee came into office on the 25th April, 1892, and on meeting you this: evening their term of office expires., The Committee have worked vary pleasantly together, and nothing of any serious consequence has taken place On coming into office they found the teaching staff to consist of : the present head master, Miss Payne, Mr. Pope and Miss King. Two changes have taken place during the year, viz., Miss Payne has left. and Miss King has been appointed to fill her place and Miss Riddick has been appointed to fill Miss King's place in the infant room. Mr. Pope left some time ago and Mr. Williams in succeeded him as assistant teacher, and your| Committee willingly assented in fact the change has proved beneficial to the whole school. A short time ago Miss Fellingham applied, to be permitted to assist as pupil tesohar, to which your Committee willingly assented , The teaching staff as at present constituted, is satisfactory.

By a resolution the Committee requested that mention should be made in our annual report acknowledging the pains taken by Mr. Porritt in keeping the trees trimmed and for the general neatness of the school property.

It may not be known to all the householders present that the capitation, viz., £98 during the year, given by the Education Board, is insufficient for the Committees requirements for sanitary purposes cleaning the school, for stationery, fuel, repairs and other requirements without some extraneous aid, To meet the deficiency your Committee with the willing assistance of the teaching staff and children have a concert in the Oddfellows Hall on the 8th of June last, to which the public generally admirably

responded. This gave a net profit of £15 Is 6d. It will only be right that a subscription for the school picnic of £2 and for general purposes of £8 was generously given by Mr. Monckton. Later on in the season a picnic was given. This also proved a source of profit, giving an additional net sum of £4 7s 7d. On your Committee coming into office they found there were 209 on the roll with an average attendance of 166. On the 16th of April or at present there are 227 on the roll with an average attendance of 191. The highest number in attendance on any half day during the past year was 199. Your Committee regrets to still see that there are parents who keep away their children from school, thereby depriving them of the great blessings of education and forgetting the fact that by so doing they are preventing them from taking part in the world's affairs in their after life, which all children are entitled to, and perhaps in continuing their lives fit only in between hewers of wood and drawers of water.

The School library contains about 200 volumes. It has been established over two years and has been much appreciated by the children. It has been carried on from the first, without the contribution of one penny from the public or the School Committee. The headmaster started it by contributing sixty volumes as a beginning. The assistant teachers and the children have supplied the remainder. Owing to constant use, many of the books have become more or less dilapidated. Many of them would pay for rebinding, but there are no funds available. The headmaster is of the opinion that as this small beginning has been a great success and proved valuable to the children an appeal may now be fairly made to the public for assistance. On February 10th last, Mr. Porritt, with the consent of the Committee, took those of the higher standards by rail to Petone to see the working of the Woollen Factory. There can be no doubt this proved a very good lesson to those who availed themselves of it. The Committee's attendances have been as follows, there having been 14 meetings:—Mr. Cox attended 7, Mr. Beaton 13, Mr. Keys 5, Mr. Toogood 14, Mr. Hodder 12, Mr. Tait 13, Mr. Cundy 13.

The total amount of cash that the Committee have had to deal with from all sources has been £52 19s 1d. And the expenditure has been £40 2s 4d, leaving a balance in hand of £12 17s 1d. The cadet corps has been disbanded owing to the inability to maintain the regulation strength, viz., forty boys over thirteen years of age. The headmaster, who has been a volunteer for thirty-five years and a commissioned officer for twelve years, applied to the Hon the Defence Minister for permission to retain the old muzzle-loading carbine for drill purposes only. His modest request was met by a peremptory order to return them to the store without delay.

The annual drawing lessons held in August of last year, when sixteen papers were worked, resulted favourably. After discussing our report and balance sheet it will be our duty to elect a new Committee, and in doing so the outgoing committee bring before your notice the necessity of a careful election, as they have suffered from a want of the services of a secretary.

1st June 1893 An application from the Carterton School Committee, to the Education Board, for repairs to the present sheds and the supply of a new water-tank has been granted, as also was an application from the Featherston Committee for the erection of new shelter sheds.

1894

1894	158	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$45,948
1894	158	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$27,029
1894	158	Featherston	King	Edith M	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,415

1894 158 Featherston Riddick Nellie Female Pupil Teacher £36 \$6,487

15th February 1894 Recently the Featherston School Committee requested' the Education Board to grant it .£47 odd for the construction of a windmill to be used for obtaining an efficient water supply for the school. The rain water which the children were drinking was supposed to have been affected through birds nesting in the spouts, although it was filtered before being used. The Board declined the request for the giant, but at the suggestion of the Committee forwarded samples of the water to Sir James Hector for analysis. Sir James has now replied to the effect that the water is of excellent quality, and in no way affected as > was supposed, and the result of the analysis has accordingly been forwarded to the Committee

9th March 1894 The usual meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held last Wednesday, Mr. J. Q. Cox occupying the Chair. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £4 1s 4d, accounts, Whiteman £2 8s 4d and Lyon and Blair £1 7s 3d were passed for payment. A very "favorable report on the sample of water submitted for examination was read from the Government Analyst. Messrs. Jno Cundy and Spackman were appointed visitors for the month. It was resolved to hold a picnic at an early date, and that the children canvas for subscriptions, under the supervision of the head master. The list will be submitted at a meeting to be held on the 21st inst, when all arrangements will be made

6th April 1894 A very largely attended picnic in connection with the Featherston Public School was held in the Domain yesterday. The scholars marched in procession from the school at ten o'clock in the morning, and indulged in numerous races, games, etc., until shortly after five in the evening. A large number of parents and friends were also present and a most enjoyable day was spent

24th April 1894 Towards evening heavy rain fell, accompanied by very vivid lightning The Comedy Company's entertainment was very poorly attended, evidently folks did not like venturing out, as may well be seen by the attendance at the School Committee election,

3rd May 1894 Thursday. The monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last night, The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's balance was reported at 12s 4d, There was only one account for payment, amounting to £2 3s 4d. Correspondence read from the Education Board, enclosing capitation grant of £8 16s, The Headmaster's report was read, and found to be satisfactory. A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Fellingham, who had been transferred to Martinborough, for her past services to the school, which she gave gratuitously

1894	59	Waihenga	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£	32.00
1895	42	Kaiwaiwai	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£	20.00
1895	60	Waihenga	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£	32.00
1896	166	Featherston	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£	32.00
1897	168	Featherston	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£	36.00
1898	171	Featherston	Fellingham	M U	Female Pupil Teacher	£	42.00
1899	145	Featherston	Fellingham	M U	Female Pupil Teacher	£	42.00
1900	15	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory	Female	£	80.00
1901	14	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory	Female	£	70.00
1902	15	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory	Female	£	76.00

1903	20	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U		Female	£	92.00
1904	22	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U		Female	£	100.00
1905	20	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	118.00
1906	21	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	118.00
1907	24	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	130.00
1908	24	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	130.00
1909	23	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	135.00
1910	26	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	140.00
1911	38	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E2	Female	£	150.00
1912	41	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E1	Female	£	180.00
1913	36	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E1	Female	£	185.00
1914	32	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E1	Female	£	195.00
1915	30	Kahautara	Fellingham	Marjory U	E1	Female	£	205.00
1917	53	Korokoro North	Fellingham	Marjory U	E-69	Head	£	200.00
1919	21	Bideford	Fellingham	Marjorie U	E-69	Sole	£	230.00

11th May 1894 A special meeting of the School Committee was held last night for the purpose of drawing up specifications of tenders which are to be called for the many duties in connection with the school cleaning, also to arrange the site of a drain to drain the water from the playground into Fox-street. The matter of the drain was left in the hands of Messrs. Toogood and Spackman,

26th May 1894 A special meeting of the School Committee was held last night to consider the applications for the position of cleaner for the ensuing year. The minutes of the previous ordinary and special meetings were read and confirmed, There were only two tenders, and as the lowest tenderer had tendered before a few additions had been made to the specifications, it was decided not to publish the amounts tendered till the specifications had been read over to the tenderers again

5th July 1894 Thursday,. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee took place last evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of 13s 2d, Accounts amounting to £3 3s 4d were passed for payment. It was resolved that the 1st August must be a school holiday that being Arbor Day,

2nd August 1894 the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last evening. All the Committee men were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £8 1s 10d. Accounts amounting to £3 17s 6d were passed for payment. Correspondence was received from the Education Board, re the carriage fees of trees for Arbor Day on the railways, also including a cheque for £7 14s capitation grant for the quarter ended. The visitors report was satisfactory, and Messrs. Toogood and W. Fry were appointed visitors for the ensuing month. The Head-master's report was satisfactory, and showed 216 on the roll; attendance was not very good at present, owing to much sickness about. This being all the business the meeting terminated.

There was not much observation of Arbor Day yesterday at Featherston, excepting that some private individuals had a little Arbor Day of their own, in their own gardens, 7th September 1894 On Wednesday evening the School Committee met as usual, all members being present. The usual routine business was gone through. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £3 4s 4d and accounts amounting to £3 11s 6d were passed for payment. It was resolved that a concert with the assistance of the children

should be held at the beginning of next month to raise some funds for the carrying on of the school work.

5th October 1894 On Wednesday evening the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held, all the members being present. The usual routine business was gone through, after which a complaint from Mr. It, T, Buckeridge re his son being Hogged,

was dealt with, It seems that Mr. Buckeridge had instructed his son to run away if he ever thought he was going to be punished, so on hearing both sides of the complaint the Committee decided that the Headmaster. had been justified in punishing the boy for leaving school without permission

31st October 1894 Mr. J. S. Cox wrote notifying the Board that he had sold his acre adjoining the Featherston school

10th November 1894 Thursday. The usual monthly meeting' of the School Committee was held on, Wednesday evening. Present—Messrs. J. G. Cox (chairman), Worsley, W Fry, Spackman, and W. Toogood. The Treasurer's statement showed a credit balance of £7 14s 10d., Accounts. . The following accounts were passed for payment:—Crompton, £1 17s 6d; Tait and Cox, 6s. correspondence: The following correspondence was received:— : -From Mr. E. J. Searle tendering his resignation as a member of. the School Committee as he is about to leave the district.—Resolved that it be received with regret, and good wishes for his future welfare. From the Education Board enclosing capitation grant £7 14s. The Wellington School Committees Association wrote re a meeting of delegates to be held : on 28th inst.—Resolved, if possible, that one or more delegates attend the ingb From. Mr. Williamson re of absence.—As this application, came in after last meeting leave was granted by* the Chairman. From the Head Master giving his monthly report, which stated that there are' 215 on the roll and the average attendance is 171. That the water supply at the school is very , limited, also that he finds great difficulty in getting the children to provide the necessary drawing materials.. Messrs. Lee and Fleming wrote enclosing report on late examination.

6th December 1894 Last evening the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held, all the members being present, The minutes of the previous meeting were rend and confirmed. The, Treasurer reported a credit balance of £7 2s 4d, and stated that £7 had been the nett proceeds of the concert min aid of the school ' funds,' Accounts amounting to £2 17s 9d were passed for payment. The head master's report showed an average attendance of 166 only, and it was unanimously resolved that the 'compulsory Clauses <of the .Education Act, should be brought into use, and that parents should be summonsed forthwith. Mr. C. Kent-Johnston was unanimously elected to fulfill the vacancy on the Committee, caused by the resignation of Mr. Sear], and was appointed Secretary as well. Messrs. Toogood and Kent-Johnston' were appointed visitors for' the month,

1895

1895	158	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$46,198
1895	158	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$27,176
1895	158	Featherston	King	Edith M	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,494
1895	158	Featherston	Riddick	Nellie	Female Pupil Teacher	£36	\$6,522

9th February 1895 On Wednesday evening, the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held. Present Messrs. J. G. Cox (Chairman), C. Kent-Johnston, hon. sec, T. Worsley ; and W. Fry. The Treasurer's statement showed a credit balance of £2 7s 6d. Accounts, amounting to £2 17s 6d, were passed for payment. The headmaster's report showed that the attendance of scholars is still irregular, and the Secretary was requested to issue the schedules of the School Attendance Act, preparatory to taking proceedings. A letter was received from the Carterton School Committee suggesting Friday 22nd inst as the day for the school excursion and it was resolved to adopt whatever day they do. The Greytown Committee wrote stating that they do not intend availing themselves of the excursion for the children. The various candidates for seats on the Education Board forwarded their notes on educational matters. It was unanimously resolved to support Messrs. Blair, Bradey, and Shine

13th February 1895 The results of the pupil teachers' examinations show that out of 75 candidates, nine failed to pass. The examiners were Messrs. R. Lee and T. R. Fleming, Inspectors to the Board, and the subjects were reading, writing, spelling, grammar, composition, geography, and school method. Algebra, French, and Euclid were optional subjects, and drawing, drill, and singing were considered. The instruction classes for the City pupil teachers are to recommence next week. Nellie Riddick of Featherston passed the fourth year examination

20th February 1895 On Monday evening a special meeting of the School Committee was held to make the final arrangements for the school excursion on Friday. It was resolved that as many of the Committee as conveniently go shall do so, and that all the children from 9 upwards shall be in charge of the members of the Committee that go and the teachers, children under this age to be in charge of parents or guardians. It is estimated that there will be over 180 from here and Kaiwairua, and over 600 altogether, as Carterton and the smaller schools are going. The children are going down by a special train leaving Carterton at 6 a.m.

25th February 1895 The meeting which was held on Friday evening, to try and arrange about a permanent medical man was adjourned till next Wednesday, as so few were in attendance, owing to the School excursion and the fires roundabout

28th February 1895 The Masterton School cricketers try 'conclusions with their Featherston cousins on Saturday next, The following boys will wield the willow and handle the leather for the Masterton School:—Beside (captain), Boddington (2), Richards, Williams, Green, Judd, Corbett, Rutherford, Cameron, Bunting, Emergencies G. Sellar, Temple, F. D'Arcy.

4th March 1895 The Masterton School team were defeated at Featherston on Saturday by 7 wickets. The boys went down by train, and were accompanied by Messrs. Jackson and Darroch. Some little trouble occurred at the commencement of the game by Featherston trying to work a point against our small boys, by wringing in a senior player. The matter was only settled by Mr. Jackson threatening to take his boys off the ground. Those who were responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct to a visiting team should know that this is not the way to encourage school cricket. Masterton scored 37 and 36, and Featherston 40 and 35 for four wickets. The scores will appear to-morrow.

8th March 1895 (From Our Own Correspondent), Friday. The monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, Present-Messrs. J. Cr. Cox

(chairman), C. Kent-Johnston (secretary), W. Toogood, W. Fry, T. Worsley, and W. J. Spackman. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £7 11s Id. Accounts amounting to £2 4s 6d were passed for payment. The Head-master reported the average attendance for the past-" month as 188 out of 218 on the roll. He submitted four names of children irregular in their attendance. It was resolved that in future the names of the children not putting in the required number, of attendances should be published. The Secretary reported having v . issued twelve notices to parents sines last meeting. _ The Head-master tendered his sincere thanks to those members of the Committee who rendered such great assistance when the children went to Wellington. ... Some minor business having 3(|<n transacted the meeting terminated.

13th March 1895 (From Our Own Correspondent.) Tuesday. The children from the Vogeltown and Karori schools came up by yesterday morning's train, and were met at the station by Messrs. J. (x. Cox and C. Kent Johnstone, chairman and Secretary respectively of the local committee. There were about 100 children and 20 parents, The children were in charge of the following teachers: Misses Browne, Kenny, Fitchett and Legg, and were accompanied by Mr. Fitchett, Secretary of the Vogeltown School Committee. The excursionists were taken to the Domain by the Secretary of our local Committee and here the children spent a most enjoyable day, and many were the praises bestowed on our Domain

30th March 1895 From Our Own Correspondent,) Friday. The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. Present: Messrs. Cox (chairman), Kent-Johnston (secretary), Spackman, Worsley, Fry, Toogood. The minutes of the previous ordinary and special meetings were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's statement shewed a credit balance of £4 19s Id.

Accounts amounting to £2 3s 8d were passed for payment, The Headmaster reported the average attendance as 180 out of 217 and that some of the girls have m clubs to drill with, and the suggestion that the Committee should supply these. He enclosed the usual list of defaulters. The Committee were strongly ad verse to supplying clubs, as it would establish a bad precedent, so the Secretary undertook to see the various parents, and get them to provide their children with clubs, As to the defaulters the Secretary was instructed to issue notices to those parents whose children are irregular in their attendance, but where the parents have already received notices and the children continue irregular, the Secretary; was instructed to take proceeding against, Messrs. Cox, Toogood, ant Kent-Johnston were appointed committee to draw up a report to be submitted with the balance sheet at the annual meeting, The visitor! appointed for the month were the Chairman and the Secretary, the visitors for the previous month having reported favourably

10th April 1895 On Monday, there were only three ' cases heard by Mr. T. Hutchison, I S.M., one was for debt, and two ' were for breaches of the School Attendance Act, Mr. Kent-Johnston, Secretary of the local School Committee, appeared on the Committee's behalf, and gave evidence of having posted notices to both the defendants in question, namely J. Crawford and W. Ritchie, The defendants both said that they had not received the notices, but the S.M. pointed out there is no need of any notice being sent, so long as the child is on the Register of the School, and that parents are liable to pay 2s per week, for every week that the child does not make the required attendances, if it is good health, and he further pointed out that should a child be ill, the parents must apply to the Committee for a certificate of exemption, Crawford was convicted and ordered to pay 7s costs; Ritchie Was convicted and discharged,

19th April 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. Thursday. Great interest is being taken in the forthcoming piano fund ball. A meeting of the decorating committee was held last evening, and it was resolved to start decorating on Wednesday morning. So far there are no nominations for seats on the new School Committee, but I hear that there is likely to be a good muster at the annual meeting, as there are some who want a new Committee entirely

23rd April 1895 Featherston. The annual meeting of householders was held last evening, in the schoolhouse, there being about thirty present. Eleven persons were nominated in the room, and on a ballot being taken the following were declared elected :-Messrs. W. Fry, W. Benton, D. Smith, H. Crawley, W. Toogood, J. Viles, and F. Good, Mr. Benton was elected Chairman, Mr. Good, Secretary, and Mr. W. Fry, Treasurer. It was resolved to hold their meetings on the same night as hitherto, viz., the first Wednesday in every month

4th May 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. Present Messrs. W. Benton (Chairman), P. Good (Secretary), W. Fry, D. Smith, H. Crawley, and J. Viles. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £1 10s 2d, The following accounts were passed for payment:—F. Crampton, £1 17s 0d; Mr. Riddick, 2s 6d; Tait and Cox, £3 7s 9d. The head-master reported that the average attendance for the past month had been 188.

The visitor's report was satisfactory and Messrs. Benton and Fry were appointed visitors for the ensuing month. It was resolved that the Secretary should write to the Secretary of the Education Board and ask him to appoint Constable Smith, of Featherston, as Truant Officer. It was resolved to hold a concert on June 12th, in aid of the school funds. The Chairman intimated that the Committee intended to keep up the attendances. The Chairman and Mr. Good were appointed visitors for the month. The meeting then terminated.

18th May 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. Friday. A special meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, when all the members were present. The business before the meeting was to make arrangements for a concert to be held on June 12th, in aid of the school funds. It was resolved to hold a dance afterwards, and arrangements, both as to the programme of the concert and dance, were settled. The Chairman, Mr. W. Benton, was appointed to see to the music, and to try and obtain concessions from the Town Board re the use of the Town Hall for the concert and practices. The new Courthouse is not ready for use yet, as the furniture has not come to hand, and, in fact, won't until the building has been passed by the Minister of Justice, who is to come up shortly for that purpose. Business is at a standstill, residents stating that they have not seen things so dull for many a year.

8th June 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. The ordinary meeting of the School Committee, was held on Wednesday evening. Present Messrs. W. Benton (Chairman), W. Toogood, W. Fry, D. Smith, J. Yule, and H. Crawley. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £3 2s 5d. Accounts, amounting to £1 12s, were passed for payment. The Headmaster reported the roll number at 218, and the average attendance 183. A list of those irregular in their attendance, was submitted, and it was resolved that the Constable should be instructed to see to these, as a letter was received from the Educational Department, stating that the Police Department would instruct the local Constable to

act as truant officer. Final arrangements \ were made for the concert on Wednesday next.

15th June 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. Friday. The annual school concert took place on Wednesday evening, and was an unqualified success, There was the largest audience present in the hall that has been seen there at any entertainment so far, Everything went off without a hitch, the first part of the programme being rendered by the children, and they did credit to their instructors, especially the boys in the sword drill exercises. The second part of the programme was composed of solos, glees, recitations, and tableaux, the tableaux reflecting great credit on Miss Porritt and Miss King, the promoters. The conceit was followed _by a dance, which was well patronised. The total amount taken at the two was £20 0s.

An extraordinary meeting of the School Committee was held last evening to wind up matters in connection with the concert. The gross takings were reported as £20 6s. Accounts amounting to £11 2s 8d were passed for payment. It was resolved to give £3 to the school library. Votes of thanks were passed to the following: the Town Board for the free use of the Hall for the concert and practices; the teachers, for getting the children into such a state of efficiency; and to all ladies and gentlemen who helped to make the affair such a success by lending their services; also to the custodian of St. George's Hall, for lending seating accommodation. This concluded the business, of the meeting.

10th August 1895 Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £22 0s 9d. Accounts amounting to £6 1s 4d were passed for payment. The headmaster reported that nearly half the school was absent through sickness, that Miss R Fellingham who had been probationary pupil teacher had been appointed to Kaiwairua, also that the roll number of the night school was 26

28th August 1895 Miss Riddick applied to be transferred to Wellington

7th September 1895 By Telegraph.-Press Association. Wellington, Saturday, Mr. Fleming, the Inspector for the Education Board will visit the following places on the dates named to examine the schools, Featherston, 23rd 'and 24th inst.; Greytown North '25th, 26 and 27th;' Carterton October 30th 1st and 2nd; The. School examination for scholarship at Wellington and Masterton on the 15th and 16th

There was also a Greytown out of Dunedin

7th September 1895 Friday. The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee' was held on Wednesday evening, when the following were present;— Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), W. Fry, D. Smith, J. Vile, W. Toogood, and F. W. Good (Secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £15 0s 5d, and £1 17s 6d was passed for payment. Mr. H. Crawley wrote resigning his position as a committee-man, and Mr. C. Kent-Johnston was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

Mr. W. Fry resigned his position as Treasurer, and Mr. Kent-Johnston was elected in his stead.

The Headmaster reported that everything was progressing favourably, and that the roll number is increasing, Also that the Inspector had visited the School, and had ' found everything satisfactory. ..

The visitor's report was satisfactory, and Messrs. Toogood and Kent Johnston were appointed visitors for the ensuing month.

25th September 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. Wednesday. During the past couple of days, Mr. Lee has been examining the local school, and I am informed that

the number of passes have been very satisfactory. To-night there is to be a meeting when it will be decided whether the long defunct Band is to come to life again or not. 4th October 1895 On Wednesday evening the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £13 2s lid. The usual routine business was gone through, the visitor's report being satisfactory. The report of the examination was not to hand

1896

1896	166	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$45,948
1896	166	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$27,029
1896	166	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,415
1896	166	Featherston	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£32	\$5,766

6th February 1896 -The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last evening. The head-master reported that some of the children are most irregular in their attendance, and it was resolved to give the list to Constable Smith, the truant officer, and get him to look up the parents. The committee gave the head-master permission to dismiss the school a little earlier this afternoon so that the boys can have a friendly game of cricket with the boys of the Newtown school who come up here to-day

26th February 1896 Wellington Education Board As regards the petition for a school at South Featherston, the Inspector reported he was unable to make any definite recommendation, as the children affected could be taken either to the Featherston or Tauherenikau Schools if provision were made for conveying them there. The present buildings at Tauherenikau were Unfit for habitation, and if a school was to be maintained there a new room was absolutely necessary, the present building, with a few alterations, being made to do duty as a teacher's residence. The recommendations in the reports were ordered to be given effect to

26th February 1896 Featherston, Wednesday. ' A special meeting of the School Committee was held last evening for the purpose of voting for three members for the Education Board. There were present Messrs. W. Benton ' (chairman), F. W. Good (secretary), C. Kent-Johnston (treasurer), W. Toogood and W. Fry. The three candidates selected were Messrs., Buchanan, Fraser and Robertson.

6th March 1896 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last evening. Present—Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), P. W. Good (secretary), C. Kent-Johnston, J. Vile and W. Fry. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £11 5s, and £11 7s 6d was passed for payment. The Head-master reported that the roll number is 215, with an average attendance of 163 for the past month, and 182 for the past week. He enclosed a list of those who were irregular in their attendance, and it was resolved that the Truant Office, Constable Smith, be requested to enforce the School Attendance Act as regards these defaulters. Messrs. Good and Kent-Johnston were appointed visitors for the month, the visitors report having been satisfactory. It was resolved that the school excursion to Wellington shall take place on Friday, 13th inst

13th March 1896 At a special meeting of the School Committee held on Tuesday evening it was resolved to hold the school excursion on Monday 23rd, as it was found that train arrangements could not- be made for the previously arranged date

17th April 1896 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last evening, the following being present: W. Benton (chairman), F. Good, W. Toogood, O.

Kent-Johnston. and W. Fry. The Treasurer reported that the balance at the bank was £5 12s 11d, and that the gross receipts for the year had been £50 18s 11d, and the expenditure £45 6s £1 15s was passed for payment, The head master reported 216 on the roll, with an average attendance of 173, Ho stated that those children regular in their attendance wore making good progress, bill those irregular were falling back and would have to be put back in lower standards. Ho thanked the Committee for the careful attention they had given to the school during the past year, and for the support and assistance they have rendered to the teachers in performance of their duties, and stated that it was very gratifying to be able to state that the relations subsisting between the Committee and teachers had been of the most cordial and harmonious nature throughout the year. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Good for having acted as Secretary for the past year,

28th April 1896 The election in Featherston resulted in the return of the following :-C. Kent-Johnston and W. Fry, 18 each ; R. J. Rowe, 17 ; F. W. Good, 14; W. Toogood, J. Fellingham. and W. Benton, 13 each. Mr. W. Toogood was elected Chairman by the Committee, and Messrs. Good and Kent-Johnston Secretary and Treasurer respectively

19th May 1896 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee took place on Wednesday evening last. Present: Messrs. W. Toogood (chairman), W. Fry, J. Fellingham, Kent-Johnston, F. Good, W. Benton and R.J. Rowe. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £10 15s 5d, and accounts amounting to £5 5s were passed for payment. It was unanimously resolved to rigidly enforce the School Act, also that the Truant Officer be furnished with a list of those children not putting in the required number of attendances, and that he be instructed to take immediate proceedings against the parents or guardians of such children.

4th July 1896 From Our Own Correspondent Featherston, Friday. . The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last evening, when the usual routine business was gone through. The appointments of Miss Fellingham from Waihenga School, and Miss f McLaughlin from Otaki School to the vacancies caused by Miss Riddick and Miss King respectively, was approved of,

7th September 1896 The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on j] Wednesday evening. The Treasurer's statement showed a credit balance as of £5 5s lOd, and accounts amounting to £2 5s passed for payment. The headmaster reported the average attendance for the past month at 168 and the lowest fifty nine. It was resolved that from October 1st the children should come out at 12 o'clock instead of 12,30 and go in at one instead of 1.30. It was decided to hold the annual School concert on Thursday, October 22nd, The visitor's report for the past month was satisfactory

9th September 1896 Miss McLauchlan, at present assistant at the Featherston, School, to the charge of the Rongomai School (*Near Eketahuna*)

22nd February 1896 Miss Agnes Sage, of Masterton, has been appointed assistant teacher at the Featherston School. ,

25th September 1896 Miss Sage, senior ex-pupil teacher in the Education Board's service, has been promoted to be first assistant at Featherston, and will enter on her duties at the beginning of the month

1886	83	Masterton Infants	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	25.00
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1887	88	Masterton Infants	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	30.00
1888	98	Masterton Infants	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	30.00
1889	482	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	30.00
1890	455	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	35.00
1891	510	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	40.00
1892	477	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	40.00
1893	409	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	40.00
1894	445	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	50.00
1895	496	Masterton	Sage	Agnes	Female Pupil Teacher	£	50.00
1896	166	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1897	168	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1898	171	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1899	145	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1900	152	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	80.00
1901	190	Greytown	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£	100.00
1902	89	Horowhenua	Sage	Agnes	E2 Assistant Female	£	95.00
1903	259	Levin	Sage	Agnes	E2 Assistant Female	£	85.00
1904	269	Levin	Sage	Agnes	E2 Assistant Female	£	85.00

23rd October 1896 Featherston, Friday. The annual school concert took, place last evening and was fairly well attended, though there were not so many there as one would have expected to see. An excellent programme was gone through, and after', the concert a dance was held. It has been blowing big guns here incessantly for about the last three weeks, and we are anxiously awaiting a change.

27th October 1896 meeting of the School Committee was held on Friday evening to square up in connection with the recent school concert. The takings were £15 18s, and the expenditure £2 3s 7d, leaving the Committee a net balance of £13 14s 5d. Votes of sthanks were passed to. The teachers and all who assisted with the concert

6th November 1896 The usual monthly-meeting of the School Committee was held last evening, when the following members were present:—Messrs. W, Toogood (Chairman), W. Fry, F. W. Good, C. Kent-Johnston, J, Fellingham, R. J. The Treasurer. reported a credit balance of £17 1s The Headmaster's report showed the roll number for the past .month at: 205, The . highest attendance was. 192 and the lowest 137. . It was resolved to grant the children a holiday- on Friday, Show Day It was decided to try and .find out when and how many, of ;the! other schools round about would join in so as to get n special train for the school excursion - to the Exhibition, also to find out when the excursions for school children will start

10th December 1896 special meeting of the School Committee was held last evening when tenders were received for painting the school and schoolmasters' residence. The tenders have been forwarded to the Education Board for approval, It was resolved that should there be any increase of diphtheria, that the school shall be closed forthwith, The school excursion has been put off till January so that we can join Greytown when they go

1897

1897	168	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$45,489
1897	168	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$26,759

1897	168	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,271
1897	168	Featherston	Fellingham	Marjory	Female Pupil Teacher	£36	\$6,422

8th January 1897 Last evening the ordinary meeting of the School Committee was held, when inter alia it was decided to hold the school excursion to Wellington at the same time as Carterton school, and the Secretary was instructed to find out all particulars relative to the same. A communication was received from the Education Board, stating that they could not accept the tender for painting the school, as their grant is than was expected. Strong was expressed at this action of the Board after allowing the Committee to call for tenders and get the school all ready for the work, to suddenly turn round and refuse to allow the work to proceed. It was resolved to write to the Board and ask them if they could not possibly allow the interior of the school to be painted, as it is sorely in need of it. The usual routine business having been gone through the meeting terminated. The above is only another illustration of the want of further country representation on the Education Board, for it is well-known that the Town schools are well looked after, while our up-country schools have to take their chance. It is only a few days since that tenders were accepted for painting some of the Town schools, which could not possibly want it more than our school, which has had nothing done to it, since it was erected.

20th January 1897 Carterton Notes A school excursion will leave Carterton on the 28th for Wellington, Four hundred and fifty tickets have been applied for, for the schools of this district, and two hundred and fifty for Featherston and district. The children will be taken to the Exhibition and afterwards a trip on the s.s. Duco.,

18th February 1897 The Featherston School Committee met last evening and decided to support the candidature of Dr. Chapple and Messrs. Young and Hogg for the seats on the Education Board. Masterton, This Day. The Masterton School Committee voted for Mr. A. W. Hogg alone in the Education Board election

3rd March 1897 The Taita school children came' up by this morning's train, and were' met on the platform by Mr. J. G.. Cox, Chairman of the Town Board,, and Messrs. Good, Toogood and' Kent-Johnston, members of the School Committee. The children are: having a picnic on the Domain.

6th March 1897 The usual monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Wednesday evening when the usual routine business was gone through. The Head-master reported the number on the roll at 210, the average attendance being 168, and the highest attendance on any one half day was 175

2nd April 1897 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on J Wednesday, when the Treasurer reported a credit balance of £7 13s 2d and that a further sum of £2 10s was due from the Education Board, as was also the capitation grant. Accounts amounting to £2 14s were passed for payment. The headmaster reported that the quarter commenced with a roll number of 200, and that thirty had left during the quarter ; nineteen having been admitted, The present roll number is 193, the average attendance last quarter was 165, and the average attendance for the quarter just ended 166. Some minor business having been disposed of the meeting terminated.

26th April 1897 The annual School Committee elections arc not causing much excitement down this end, it is possible the people have had enough of elections for some time to come. Still School Committees, should have the attention of thinking people, as much of success of a school depends on an energetic Committee

8th May 1897 The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening when the following were present Messrs. W., Good (chairman), R. J. Rowe, J. Douglas, W. Fry, C. Kent-Johnston, J. Fellingham. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £14 4s 2d. Mr. Kent-Johnston informed the Committee that he was quite willing to act as Treasurer but must decline to fill the dual capacity of Secretary and Treasurer. It was resolved that the Chairman act as Secretary. The headmaster reported the roll number at 201, the average attendance for the past month being 101, He pointed out that there was a great deal of irregular attendance on the part of scholars. The Committee discussed the matter and decided to call for applications for the position of Truant Officer, and to have the compulsory clause of the Act attended to.

20th May 1897 The School Committee met last evening and drew up a schedule of for the Truant Officer, applications for • which post are now being called

4th June 1897 The ordinary monthly meeting of the School Committee was hold last evening, the following members being present; -Messrs. F. W, Good (chairman), W. Fry, B. J. Rowe, C. Kent-Johnston, J. Fellingham and J. Douglas. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £9 2s 3d. The Headmaster reported that the roll number is 207 and the average attendance for the month was 177. The highest attendance on any half day was 184 and the lowest 163.

Three applications were received for the position of Truant Officer and the Committee selected Mr. J, Crawford, It was resolved to close the School for Record Reign week, thus letting the children have three weeks' holidays in place of the usual fortnight.

30th August 1897 From Our Own Correspondent). The usual monthly meeting of the Committee was held on Friday night, in place of next Wednesday. The following members were present, viz,, Messrs. F. W. Good (Chairman), W. Fry, 11. J. Rowe, J. Fellingham, and (J. J. Kent-Johnston.

The head-master reported that the average attendance was somewhat lower this month, owing to the weather

The Inspector's report was as follows " Inspection .Report on Featherston Public School, inspected July 23rd, 1597: St. V, VI and VII, (Mr. Porritt) 35 present; St. III and IV, (Mr. Williamson) 31 present; St. I and 11, (Miss A. Sage) 43 present; Prep. land 11, (Miss Fellingham) 42 present; Total: 151 present.

(2). Remarks on organisation, as shown under Topic 1: Approved. (:S). Suitability of time-tables: It is time they were removed (dated 1895).

Remarks on methods and quality of the instruction in general and detail: Very suitable work put on the black board for upper class and in very neat form. The School was in active work throughout. Miss Sage is getting good composition in Standard 2; Miss Fellingham told a story well to eager listeners; Mr. Williamson gave a very full geography lesson on Asia. He takes the upper science class. (5 to 7).

Order mid discipline and the tone of the School with respect to diligence, alacrity, obedience and honour: Manners and general behaviour of pupils; satisfactory.

(8), State of buildings, ground; and fences: Very commendably kept.

(10). Cleanliness and tidiness of rooms and premises, including outside offices, ventilation and warming : Satisfactory. Considering the weather the attendance was good. A number of children are of dull intelligence, and with them it is impossible to produce average results. The general working condition of the school is satisfactory, It was decided to join the School Committees' Association, The appointment of delegate being left over. Mr. Kent-Johnston was appointed supervisor for the drawing examination on Wednesday next. The visitors report was satisfactory

9th October 1897 Friday. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £4 7s 6d. The headmaster reported school matters satisfactory; and the average attendance for the month 168, with a roll number of 188. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Williamson, for a week this month and another, week next, to attend the College and University examinations, The meeting then adjourned till the Inspector's report of the examinations is received. Since the meeting adjourned the report has been received and the Committee will meet again on Monday evening to consider the Inspector's report

13th October 1897 The adjourned meeting of the School Committee was held last night to receive the Inspector's Report. The Committee considered the report, as a whole, satisfactory, and acting on the Inspector's suggestion passed the following resolution : " That all boys who have attained the age of fifteen years be informed that the Committee has decided not to allow boys over fifteen to remain at the School after this date, except under exceptional circumstances, when the permission of the Committee is first obtained. The meeting then adjourned,

16th October 1897 It is stated that an indignation meeting is to be held by some of the lady residents who are a little sore over the recent action of the school committee. But strange to say their wrath is all poured out on the Head Master and not on the Committee or the inspectors. It is with regard to restricting the age of pupils attending the school.

5th November 1897 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Wednesday, when Messrs. F. W. Good (Chairman), W. Toogood, W. Fly. C. Kent-Johnston, J. Fellingham, W. Burton and T. J. Rowse were present. The head master reported the average attendance for the month at 161 and for the last-week 107, The present roll number being 185. It was decided not to shut the school on Monday. It was also decided to hold the annual school concert on December 1st

16th December 1897 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday evening when Messrs. F. W. Good, W. Toogood, J. Fellingham and C. Kent-Johnston were present. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £10 3s 10d, stating that a net balance of £10 had been received from the late concert and dance, and paid into the account. The Headmaster reported that there was a marked falling off in the attendance, the average for the last month being one hundred and forty-two. It was decided to close the school for the holidays from to-day. The matter of the usual school excursion is to be dealt with at the January meeting, The visitors report being satisfactory, the meeting terminated

1898

1898	171	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$43,682
1898	171	Featherston	Williamson	John	Assistant Master	£150	\$25,695
1898	171	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£80	\$13,704
1898	171	Featherston	Fellingham	M U	Female Pupil Teacher	£42	\$7,195

7th January 1898 Friday. At the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee on Wednesday evening last, it was decided to hold the excursion to Wellington on the 28th inst. Greytown has signaled its intention to join Featherston in the trip

28th January 1898 The school excursion from the South Wairarapa districts took place to-day, a special train bringing into town 160 children from the Greytown School and 220 from Featherston, Kaiwairi, and Cross's Creek, while about 40 from Martinborough followed by the regular train. The little travellers have found amusement in exploring the city, and this afternoon a large number of them are engaged on a Harbour excursion in Mr. J. H. Williams's steamer Duco, All the schools will be taken home by a special train which leaves the city at 6 p.m.

4th February 1897 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £17, The received from [ho Wesleyan Sunday • school authorities asking for a holiday to be declared on the 17th inst., as the Sunday School picnic is to be held on that day. The Committee could not see its way to grant a holiday so soon after the late holidays and the recent excursion. No nominations were made for the Education Board, the Committee round until the ballot comes round.

A very gale was blowing here all day yesterday. The bell of the Anglican Church was blown down

22nd February 1898 The School Committee meeting which was to have been held on Saturday night, lapsed for want of a quorum, only Messrs. Good, Fellingham and Kent being present. Messrs. Toogood and Benton are away and Messrs. Howe and W. Fry have forfeited their seats through missing three meetings

20th April 1898 Messrs. W. Toogood, W. Benton, F. H. Good, A. Donald, J. Fellingham, and C. Kent-Johnston have all been nominated for the School Committee, the election for which takes place on Monday evening next. It is expected that there will be opposition.

23rd April 1898 A special meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening to consider a complaint of a parent against the Headmaster for having had his son arrested and searched for the theft of 2s (id, which was stolen from the school on Friday afternoon last. On 'going, into the matter the Committee ascertained that Mr. Porritt had simply called in the police and given him the names of five boys who were present in the morning, but absent in the afternoon, The Headmaster never individualised any particular boy and the police took it upon their own shoulders to arrest one boy and take him to the lock-up and search him. It was pointed out to the Headmaster that it would have been better had he consulted the Committee before calling in the police. Constable Carlyon was sent for and asked to attend the meeting but this he declined to do, I have since interviewed him and he tells me that Mr. Porritt never mentioned any boy in particular to him, It was only on Wednesday that it was found out that one of the girls had been brought to confess that she took the money. The school was informed yesterday who the real culprit was

Constable Carlyon is the researcher's Great Grandfather

7th May 1898 From Our Own Correspondent). Friday. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, when the following were present Messrs. W. Dalrymple (chairman), J. Barker, A. Keys, K. Jackson and C. J. Kent-Johnston. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £141 5s 2d. The Headmaster reported the average attendance for the past month at 150, and for the past week 151), the roll number being 180.][o also reported that many of the children were very irregular in their attendance. This matter was left in the hands of the Chairman. It

was resolved that for the future when a committeeman is about to be absent he must send an apology in writing. Messrs. Dalrymple and Kent-Johnston were appointed visitors for the ensuing month.

4th June 1898 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £8 11s 2d. The Headmaster reported the average attendance for the past month was 149, the roll number being 190. He gave in a list of those children irregular in their attendance, and the Committee passed a resolution that- they would enforce the compulsory attendance clause. The Chairman promised to write to the Secretary of the Education Board, and try and ascertain what repairs are done by the Board and what have to be done by the Committee,

7th July 1898 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was hold last evening, The resignation of Mr. K Jackson was received and accepted. Mr. M T. Tait was elected to fill the vacancy. The Committee signed the petition from , Eltham re the change of Inspectors.

20th September 1898 A special meeting of the School Committee was held on Friday, night to decide whether the Committee should ask the Education Board to erect a windmill and so do away with some of the tanks which are in a leaky condition; the suggestion emanated from the Board's carpenter. But after discussing the matter the Committee decided that our locality is too windy for wind-mills that one would be a constant source of expense. It was decided to ask the Board to partition off the big class-room instead of having it only curtained off.

26th October 1898 Wellington Education Board The Featherston Committee was granted a division of the schoolroom into two classrooms

4th November 1898 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last night. The Head Teacher's report showed the average attendance for the past month at one hundred and sixty-two, the present roll number being one hundred and eighty-seven. A letter was rend from the Secretary of the Education Board stating that the Hoard has agreed to partition the big class-room and to give two new tanks to the school and that the Board's Clerk of Works would visit the school to go into any further repairs It was resolved to hold the Annual School Concert about 21st November, and that the teachers with the Committee form a Concert Committee, Though erection of the new school at South Featherston is being pushed on. No doubt when it is completed it will lake about twenty pupils from hero'. The Tauherenikau School is closed at present owing to the majority of scholars having joined the Featherston school.

29th November 1898 Dr. Porritt, son of the Rev. T. Porritt, of Featherston, is on his way out to New Zealand by the Rimutaka, due at Wellington on the 26th December

19th December 1898 The school concert which took place last night was a decided success,, There was a splendid house and everything went off very well

1899

1899	145	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$45,247
1899	145	Featherston	Malcolm	John H	Assistant Master	£150	\$26,616
1899	145	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,195
1899	145	Featherston	Fellingham	M U	Female Pupil Teacher	£42	\$7,452

10th January 1899 Mr. J. Williamson, assistant master at the Public School here, was married at Napier on 3rd inst, to Miss Annie Montgomery, of that town

25th January 1899 The School Committee met 011 Saturday night, and decided to postpone the opening till Monday next on account of certain repairs not yet being finished

1st February 1899 Public School reopened on Monday and a good number of children rolled up

3rd February 1899 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, the following members being present: Messrs. M. B. Tait, It. J. Rowe, C. J. Kent-Johnston, J. Barker and A. Keys. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Tait was voted to the chair,

The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £18 19s 1d. The Head Master reported the attendance on Wednesday at one hundred and fifty-five, the number on the roll being one hundred and ninety-one. Thirteen new scholars have been admitted during the week. A deputation of teachers from the Wesleyan Sunday School waited on the Committee and requested that the school be given a holiday on 23rd inst., when the Sunday School hold their annual picnic. It was agreed to give the holiday asked for, but it was pointed out that the Committee think that the Sunday School picnic should be held either during the day school holidays or on a day when it will not interfere with the work of the day school. The deputation promised to try and alter this for the future.

The matter of prizes was brought up by Mr. Tait and discussed. Ultimately it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Tail, seconded by Mr. Kent-Johnston, that prizes given for attendance as follows:—First, for those children not missing any attendances during the time from February 7th to December 8th, 1899; second, for those children not missing more than livo attendances during the above period; third, for those children not missing more than ten attendances during the above period, These prizes are to be guaranteed by the Committee out of the School funds.

Mr. Kent-Johnston intimated that he would give a prize for the scholar obtaining the most marks in Standard VI. at the annual examination; Mr. M. B. Tait stated ho would give a prize on the same conditions for Standard V ; Mr. E. J. Rowe also offered a prize for the boy and girl obtaining the most marks in Standard IV.; Mr. A, Keys made a similar offer to the scholar obtaining most marks in Standard III.; and Mr. J, Barker a prize on the same conditions for Standard 11. It is hoped to interest some of the residents to oiler other prizes for special subjects, and so infuse a thorough interest in the school. The matter of a treat for the children was discussed, Mr. Kent-Johnston suggesting that the feeling of the children should be taken on the matter. This was agreed to, and the Headmaster was requested to ascertain and report to a special meeting of the Committee to be held on Saturday evening next. Messrs. Tait and Keys were appointed visiting members for the month,

7th February 1899 A meeting of the School Committee A was held on Saturday night to decide whether the children should have an excursion or a picnic. The Head Master reported that all the children, with the exception of about twenty, were in favor of an excursion, It was decided to hold an excursion about 21st inst., and to try and get Greytown School to amalgamate with Featherston. It was decided that names of all those wishing to participate -in the excursion should be handed to the Treasurer, Mr. Kent-Johnston, at as early a date as possible

13th February 1899 Very little interest is being manifested in the school excursion, and unless the number of intending participants is greatly increased within the next few days the matter of a special train will fall through

21st February 1899 arrangements have been made for the school excursion on Friday next

24th February 1899 The Featherston School Committee met last night and resolved to support Messrs. Buchanan, McCardle, and Luke for the Education Board election. Two hundred and ninety-two persons left by the school excursion train from here this morning, and from Greytown 239.

8th March 1899 Yesterday The Rev Mr. Porritt started the first of the regular service to be held every other Sunday in the undenominational Church at Kaiwairai by an Anglican clergyman, The School Committee meeting which was put off from Wednesday till Thursday evening, was again postponed till Tuesday.

6th April 1899 Mr. A. D. Riley. Director of Technical Schools has arranged classes of instruction in cookery in the Wairarapa schools as follows, under the direction of Miss Millington:—Masterton every Monday; Carterton, Tuesday; Dalefield, Wednesday ; Greytown, Thursday; Featherston, Friday; and a teachers instruction class at Masterton on Saturday.

7th April 1899 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £20 12s. The headmaster reported the average for the quarter was one hundred and forty-six; the highest attendance for any half-day was one hundred and sixty-four, and the lowest ninety-seven. At the commencement of the quarter one hundred and fifty-five names were on the roll, and at the end of the quarter 172. During the quarter, twenty-five have been admitted and eight left. The present roll number is one hundred and seventy-seven. He informed the Committee that the cookery classes would start this week, and suggested the Committee obtaining a cupboard at a probable cost of thirty shillings for the cookery teacher to lock up utensils between lessons. The Committee decided that they could not see their way to go to this expense until they saw if the classes are going to be a success.

25th April 1899 School Committee Elections Messrs. M. B. Taine, W. Dalrymple, C. J. Kent-Johnston, R. J. Rowe, J. Barker, W. Collins, and E. Cox

1st July 1899 A special meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday night for the purpose of accepting tenders for the cleaning of the school, The following tenders were accepted:—Mrs. G. Houghton, £12 per annum for inside cleaning of the school and Mr. T. Burn £1 per annum for outside work.

9th September 1899 First Assistant Master, Featherston School ; salary £150.

9th September 1899 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The usual routine business was gone through. The Inspector's report was read and was considered satisfactory, with the exception of a clause that stated that the pupils of the upper classes were below the average intelligence. As the Inspector every year makes some disparaging remarks as to the intelligence of the children in the upper classes, the Committee took exception to this and have written to the Education Department, asking them to ask the Inspector for a definition of the term "intelligence" as used in his report. Mr. J. Williamson, assistant master, has

accepted the headmastership of the Ballance School and will leave at an early date to take up his new duties,

28th September 1899 On Wednesday Mr. James Williamson, our assistant master, who is leaving to take charge of the Ballance school, was presented by Mr. Porritt on behalf of the teachers with a very handsome travelling rug

5th October 1899 The School Committee last night dealt with fifteen applications for the position of assistant master, and approved the Education Board's selection of Mr. J. H. Malcolm, of Greymouth.

6th October 1899 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. Present—Messrs. V. Dalrymple (chairman), U. J. Rowe, M. J. Tait, W. Cox, W. Collins, J. Barker and C. Kent-Johnston.

The Head Master reported the average attendance for the quarter 145, and for the last month 117, and that Mr. Anderson, the Board's Relieving Officer, was acting till Mr. Williamson's successor is appointed. Mr. J. H. Jellyman wrote complaining of boys and girls in Standards I. and II. sifting together, and it was decided to refer this letter to the Headmaster. The Education Board forwarded fifteen applications for the position of assistant teacher, and recommended the appointment of Mr. J. H. Malcolm, of Greymouth. After reading numerous testimonials as to Mr. Malcolm's ability as a teacher and disciplinarian, the committee approved of the Education Board's choice. The discussion on the Inspector's definition of the word "intelligence" was left over till the receipt of his report on the recent examination.

8th November 1899 Sir Malcolm, our new assistant master, started on his duties at the local school on Monday

14th December 1899 Mr C Skippage tender for painting outside at Featherston accepted

1900

1900	152	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£255	\$44,334
1900	152	Featherston	Malcolm	John H	Assistant Master	£150	\$26,079
1900	152	Featherston	Sage	Agnes	Assistant Female	£80	\$13,909

2nd February 1900 The letter was addressed to the Minister for Defence, and in due course was forwarded on to the committee which is; selecting the local members of the "Rough-riders " Contingent: — "I have the pleasure of offering my services for the Transvaal. I will accept any office, from drummer-boy upwards. I am eleven years old, 5 feet high, and weigh 6 stone 1 pound. I am captain of the Featherston School, and in the Sixth Standard. My brother is leaving Sydney for the Transvaal on the 27th by the s.s. Warigal, and I hope to meet him in South Africa.— N.B.— I wish I could urge a crew of the other boys to come, but they seem to be frightened. Please send the time when I am to come, and where I am to go." The momentous decision has not yet been come to by the Selection Committee

10th February 1900 I hear that there is every likelihood of our having a Cadet Corps formed here shortly. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday night. The usual routine business was gone through. It was decided to hold a special meeting on 19th inst. to consider nominations for the Education Board and other special business.

20th February 1900 The School Committee recorded their votes in favour of Messrs. Hogg, Hornsby, and Nation for the Education Board vacancies. A sharp shock of earthquake was felt here this morning at twenty minutes to 5 o'clock.

2nd March 1900 There have been some very strong comments made here about our local school not getting a holiday yesterday, like other schools, over the surrender of Cronje. The Chairman and one member were in favour of it, two were against it, and two of the Committee were away, The Chairman gave his casting vote against the holiday

8th March 1900 At a meeting of the School Committee last night, when the Head Muster, and his first assistant were debating with the Committee on the attendance question, it was stated that down South, and even in Wellington, it is customary in order to keep up The average attendance on wet days, to keep the school in till one o'clock, and make the roll for two attendances, and not have the children back in the afternoon, it was felt that such a practice was not fair lo schools which do not go in for these tactics. It was decided lo fall out if the Education Board countenances such proceedings.

27th March 1900 The School Concert on Friday night last was one of the most successful entertainments that has ever taken place here. Miss Jenny Sheen, Miss Smithson and Miss Eva McKenzie were all very well received , more especially the latter young lady, who received a number of bouquets in token of appreciation from the audience. The "lunischorly Bhoys," from Greytown, were also very good and were highly appreciated

7th April 1900 At the School Committee meeting on Wednesday evening the chairman reported that the proceeds of the Concert had been £20 2s 9d, and the expenses £4 18s 9d, leaving a balance of £15 4s 0d. The Committee therefore go out of office with a balance of £28 16s 6d.

24th April 1900 The retiring School Committee, Messrs. W. Dalrymple, M. Tait, R. J. Rowe, E. Cox, J. Barker, W. Collin, and C. Kent Johnston, were re-elected last night.

8th May 1900 Our local school children have subscribed one pound four shillings towards the Indian Famine Fund

At the Road Board, on Saturday, Constables May, of Martinborough, and Carlyon, of Featherston, wrote offering their services under instructions from the Inspector of Police for the inspection of sanitary matters. The Hoard decided to request both Constables to make inspections and report on any insanitary places.

8th June 1900 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, all the Committee being present with the exception of Mr. Tait. The head 'master reported the highest attendance for past month was 151, lowest US. The roll number is now 106. Thinking it would conduce to habits of loyalty, patriotism and respect to have a, permanent flagstaff in the playground, he has started a subscription list to procure the New Zealand flag and a distinctive school flag. The flagstaff itself will not cost much, as the timber is to be free, and the dressing, making and erecting will be done by voluntary labour. He therefore asked the Committee to approve of his action, and, if so inclined, to add a little to the list. The action was endorsed, and £2 was voted for the list, and £2 also towards the school library. The Town Board Sanitary Inspector's report, finding fault with the position of the school sanitary arrangements, is to be forwarded to the Education Board. The Chairman

undertook to communicate with the Chairmen of the other schools relative to the Peace Celebration

7th July 1900 At the monthly meeting of the School Committee held on Wednesday it was decided to ask the General Secretary of the Peace Demonstration. Committee to call a general meeting of all the Committees as there seems to be some miss understandings as to the status and powers of the various Committees.

On Wednesday night Featherston's first street lamp was lit. The ceremony of lighting the lamp, which is worked by acetylene gas, was performed by Mr. & Reynolds, the oldest resident in the town. The lamp which has been erected near the Town Hall, gave a good light, and all present seemed thoroughly satisfied with it. Now we hope to soon see a few more lights dotted about our town.

19th July 1900 To-day being Arbor Day, the Public School has a holiday

21st July 1900 FEATHERSTON, This Day. The School Committee last night appointed a deputation to wait on the Education Board on Wednesday to protest against the Board's intention to remove the assistant master

A special meeting of the School Committee is to be held this evening on account of the Education Board having notified the Committee of its intention to take away our assistant master and substitute a pupil teacher on the grounds that the average does not warrant an assistant master. Mr. Malcolm an too efficient and able teacher and the Committee are not likely to submit to this latest fad of the Board especially when the school has not in any way retrogressed since Mr. Malcolm came here. I would suggest that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Board at its next meeting; and lay the matter fully before it

23rd July 1900 special meeting of the School Committee was held last night to receive a communication from the Education Board relative to dispensing with the services of Mr. Malcolm the assistant master. It was felt that there was no justification for the act and the Committee appointed Messrs. W. Dalrymple and C. Kent-Johnston a deputation to wait on the Education Board at their next meeting

3rd August 1900 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday night, when the routine business was gone through. The average attendance for the past month was only 140 and the Head Master reported that children were kept away on most trivial excuses. The reception of the deputation by the Education Board was reported but nothing has been heard yet officially from the Board

22nd August 1900 Mr. Lee, Inspector of Schools, paid a surprise visit yesterday to our local school.

5th September 1900 The annual technical drawing examinations are proceeding at the State School to-day

8th September 1900 At the usual monthly meeting of the School Committee held on Wednesday evening the Headmaster's report showed the average attendance for the past week at 153, and for the past month at 150 He applied for permission to have a progress report book printed, and permission was given. Mr. Porritt has just rigged up in the school grounds a flag-pole some forty feet high, and constructed after the appearance of a ship's mast with yards.

18th September 1900 Mr. Porritt is trying to form a Cadet Corps composed of school cadets and young fellows who have left school.

27th September 1900 Leave of absence was granted to Agnes Sage, Assistant at Featherston, for the month

6th October 1900 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Head Master reported the average attendance for the quarter was 152, and for the past month 156, the roll number being 162. He also informed the Committee that in accordance with instructions from the Education the "Imperial Readers" were best introduced into the school in place of the "Ship Reader" which is out of stock at present.

9th November 1900 Miss Marjory Fellingham, assistant at the Featherston School, is to be placed in charge of the Kahutara School.

10th November 1900 The Kahutara School Committee have appointed Miss M. U. Fellingham to the charge of the School, vice Miss McIntyre resigned. The Committee regret the loss of Miss McIntyre, as she has brought the School on very well. In connection with the recent drawing examinations, two native children—namely, Henry Renira, of Standard III., and Emily Manihara, of Standard V.—both obtained certificates for freehand drawing. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee, lapsed last night for want of a quorum, the following only being present: Messrs. Dalrymple (chairman), and Messrs. Tait and C. Kent-Johnston. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £23 11s 11d, The Head-master's report showed the average attendance for October at 147, the average for one week being 156, and at present 152. The roll number is 103. Notice has been received from the Education Board, that Miss Fellingham is to be transferred, and that the vacancy will not be filled up, as according to the Board's regulation?, we are over-stalled, as the average attendance must not fall below 150. I understand that the School Committee will not lose a pupil-teacher without some opposition, it seems rather sharp practice on the part of the Board, when the average attendance has just gone under the required number—but is again up-to take away any of our stall.

20th November 1900 Much regret is expressed at the removal of Miss Fellingham to the charge of the Kahutara school. Of course, our loss is Miss Fellingham's gain, but she, is a most efficient teacher and will be missed. Now, the four rooms will have to be divided up between three teachers.

1st December 1900 Lately, when the Education Board's truant officer was here he stated that if there was as little truancy in other schools as at Featherston, there would be no need of his services, as the attendance for some time now has been over 150 out of 160 on the roll. Yet I noticed a par in the N.Z. yesterday, stating that the Truant Officer had reported to the Board that truancy was prevalent at Featherston and other schools, I hear that an explanation is to be asked for Miss Fellingham, who has been appointed to the Kahutara School, has taken her leave of Featherston, her new duties starting on Monday,

7th December 1900 At the School Committee meeting on Wednesday evening the Headmaster reported that the attendance for four half days during the week had been 158 out of a roll of 163, and that the average, attendance for the past month was 150 (?) e Committee passed a resolution placing on record its appreciation of Miss Fellingham's services whilst a teacher here, The Chairman reported that application had been made to the Education Board for a pupil teacher in Miss Fellingham's place.

21st December 1900 The presentation of prizes at the ' South Featherston school took place yesterday. Mr. J. G. Cox distributing the awards.' He also presented Miss Townsend with an album as a mark of appreciation of the Committee and parents of the children attending the school, The Featherston school concert took place last night and was a decided success, all the items being excellently rendered by the children. Great credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm who organised the whole programme. The distribution of prizes will take place here this afternoon,

22nd December 1900 The distribution of prizes at the school took place yesterday. Tin awards were made by Mr. J. Q. Cox Chairman of the Town Board, Then were over fifty in attendance, Prize! were given as well as class subject prizes. A presentation of a gold ring and jewel case was made to Miss Fellingham as a mark of appreciation from the pupils and teachers

24th December 1900 The School Concert was given to a large audience, and the programme was an exceptionally good one. The : children gave their respective items admirably, which reflects great credit on the tuition of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm,

1901

1901	136	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£235	\$39,673
1901	136	Featherston	Malcolm	John H	Assistant Master	£150	\$25,323
1901	136	Featherston	Fellingham	Rebecca	Female Pupil Teacher	£50	\$8,441
1901	136	Featherston	Turkington	Letian	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,376

8th February 1901 The monthly meeting of the Committee was held last night. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £32 19s Id. The net proceeds of the recent concert were £9 4s 6d. The Chairman reported that the Education Hoard would not grant a pupil-teacher. The head master reported the roll number 157; average 143

The resignation of Mr. C. Kent Johnston was accepted with regret. A vote of thanks was passed lo all who assisted at the concert, It was decided to take the opinion of parents and children as to holding a picnic or excursion at an early date.

16th March 1901 The School Committee met this evening to consider a proposal of holding with Greytown a combined school excursion to Woodville,

18th March 1901 At a meeting of the School Committtee on Saturday evening it was decided to join _ with Greytown in the matter of holding a school excursion to Woodville on Tuesday next

20th March 1901 Arrangements for the school excursion to Woodville, on Friday next, arc being made by the Committee, and there is every indication of its being a great success.

22nd March 1901 About a hundred children, accompanied by teachers and parents, left by n special train early this morning for Woodville, to take part in the combined school excursion. The weather is perfect, and no doubt a most enjoyable outing will be enjoyed by the children.

23rd April 1901 School Committee Elections Messrs. E. Cox, M B Tait (Treasurer), G. T. Allen, W. Benton (Chairman), W. Collins, J Barker, and L. Keys

9th May 1901 Mr. J, Varnham, Truant officer, has been on a visit here, and it is probable several parents will be summoned to appear before the Court shortly for failing to send their children to School regularly.

14th May 1901 At a special meeting of the School Committee held on Saturday evening the treasurer reported a credit balance at the Bank of £17 12s 7d. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Education Board re school children visiting Wellington on the occasion of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. It was resolved that no steps be taken at present, as the risk is considered too great. In connection with the communication from the Greytown School Committee, re deficit on late excursion to Wellington it was decided to pay half the amount (£3 13s 6d).

Trooper H. Fitzsimmons, a step-son of Constable Carlyon, of Featherston, who was a member of the Second Contingent, returned hero last night.

17th May 1901 In connection with its decision re school children visiting Wellington, during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, the School Committee wishes it to be understood that it does not desire to throw cold water on the project, but has decided to hold over consideration of the matter for the present pending united action being taken by country committees. It has been suggested that a meeting of delegates from various committees should be held at Wellington to arrange with the Education Board, and confer with the Railway Department, with a view to having satisfactory arrangements made for the conveyance of children to and from Wellington

1st June 1901 A meeting of the subscribers to the Peace Demonstration Fund, to consider how the money in hand should be dealt with, was held in the Town Board Office on Wednesday evening. The Secretary reported that over £14 had been handed in out of which £6 had been expended on fireworks, which were yet in hand, leaving a balance of about £8 16s. It was decided that the money be expended in providing an entertainment for school children, on Thursday, June 27th, and committees were appointed to carry out the arrangements, Weather permitting, the party is to be succeeded by a display of fireworks, after which the dance for adults will be held, The Kaiwairua School Committee have decided not to take any part in the celebrations on the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall in the Colony.

7th June 1901 At the monthly meeting of the School Committee on Wednesday a proposal to send 30 school cadets to Christchurch during the Royal visit was discussed, and it was decided to endeavour to arrange for the use of the local Town Hall for drilling purposes

7th June 1901 At the monthly meeting of the School Committee, on Wednesday evening, the Treasurer reported a credit balance of £17. The Headmaster reported the number on the roll 155, average attendance 141. In connection with the proposal to send thirty **school** cadets to Christchurch during the Royal visit, it was decided to endeavour to arrange for the use of the Town Hall for drilling purposes

12th June 1901 FEATHERSTON, This Day. ' On news of the arrival of the Royal visitors at Auckland being received here yesterday, the school children assembled round the flagstaff while the Union Jack was hoisted, and the cadets went through the usual form of salute

17th June 1901 FEATHERSTON, This Day. Word has been received here" that the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall will pay a visit to Featherston on Thursday next, and will remain about an hour for lunch. The station is to be decorated for the occasion. The goods shed is being cleared and renovated and will be converted into a luncheon-room for visitors. The school cadets will leave here on Wednesday for Christchurch.

27th June 1901 The School Cadets are expected to arrive here from Christchurch tomorrow.

29th June 1901 The children's sports gathering, with fireworks display and dance, held here on Thursday in commemoration of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall to the Colony was a great success visitors being present from all parts of the district. The sports commenced shortly after one o'clock, The competitors included pupils from all the surrounding schools, At 4.30 p.m. tea was served for the children in the Town Hall, and adults were entertained at the Oddfellows' Hall, The fireworks display in the evening was witnessed by a large number of people, and was much admired by all assembled, The School Cadets arrived home from Christchurch by the evening train and were given a hearty reception, the platform at the railway station being crowded. They were marched to the Town Hall, and formally welcomed by the Chairman of the Town Board, Mr. Cox. Captain Porritt responded on behalf of the Cadets. The dance in the evening was largely attended, and was a great success

5th July 1901 At the monthly meeting of the school committee held on Wednesday evening, the credit balance at the bank was reported at £16 The headmaster reported the average attendance at 137, and number on the roll, 154. Votes of thanks were passed to officers in charge of cadets during the trip to Christchurch. It was decided to the Defence Department a resolution to the effect that the arrangements in connection with the Cadet's visit to Christchurch were satisfactory

17th July 1901 holiday is being observed at the public school to-day on account of Arbor Day

7th August 1901 Miss Sago, who leaves here shortly to take up a position on the staff of the Greytown school, was presented with a handsome set of toilet brushes suitably inscribed, by the ladies of the Presbyterian Church congregation on Monday afternoon.

10th August 1901 At a meeting of the contributors to the children's celebration fund and Carlyon presentation fund, a balance of 18s from the former was handed over to the school library, and £2 13s 6d from the latter, was presented to Mr. F. Carlyon.

24th August 1901 Mr. T. Porritt, has been laid aside for a few days with an attack of influenza,

29th August 1901 Miss K Fellingham appointed pupil teacher Featherston

2nd September 1901 Miss Sago was presented, on Friday afternoon, by the scholars of the local school, with a silver pen and pencil, on the occasion of her severing her connection with the leaching stall to take up a position at the Grey town School, The annual examination of the Featherston School will take place on the 9th, and the drawing examination on the 4th. The football match, Featherston v. Tauherenikau School boys, was played on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the former by 13 points to 7

6th September 1901 A meeting of the School Committee on Wednesday evening the treasurer reported the credit balance of £B. It was resolved to inform the Education Board of the insufficient number of teachers, and urge the appointment of Miss Fellingham as soon as possible

11th September 1901 The School Committee has received an intimation from the Education Board that Miss Fellingham cannot keep up her position on the teaching stall till the beginning of next month, The annual examination of the local school has been concluded, with most satisfactory results

4th October 1901 At the monthly meeting of the **School** Committee, held on Wednesday evening, the Treasurer reported a credit balance of £8 16s 1d. The head-

muster reported average attendance for month to be 145, out of a roll number of 155. With reference to the resolution passed by the Joint **School** Committees, re Mr. Lee's dismissal by the Education Board, it was decided that the Committee feels unable to adopt in full the resolution submitted, yet feels that the manner in which he was dismissed was unconstitutional.

The first drill of the newly, formed Rifle Club was held on Wednesday evening, 15 members being put through preliminary stages by Captain Porritt.

8th November 1901 This Day, At the monthly meeting of the School Committee, held on Wednesday evening, the Treasurer reported a credit balance of £8 16s, The headmaster reported the average attendance for the past month at 138 out of a total number on the roll of 153, £6 capitation was received from the Education Board

14th December 1901 At an adjourned meeting of the School Committee it was decided to procure attendance prizes, and that Mr. J. G. Cox be asked to present the same. It was also decided that the annual school concert be held about the middle of March next, and a picnic at Pigeon Bush in February

1902

1902	122	Featherston	Porritt	Thomas	Headmaster	£235	\$38,744
1902	122	Featherston	Hall	Laura L	Assistant Female	£105	\$17,311
1902	122	Featherston	Gray	Catherine	Female Pupil Teacher	£50	\$8,244
1902	122	Featherston	Turkington	Letian L	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,297

30th January 1902 New salaries for teachers included Featherston, Laura Hall, present salary £147, colonial salary £105. Salaries Varied including Manakau , Rebecca Fellingham, present salary £50, colonial salary £85. Martinborough, Mary Kennedy, present salary £60, colonial salary £95. Masterton Infants, Eliza Bunting, present salary £60, colonial salary £95.

24th March 1902 The annual school concert was held in the Town Hall on Friday evening, and despite the unfavourable weather, was a success.

4th April 1902 At a meeting of the School Committee held on Wednesday evening, the Secretary was instructed to convey to Miss Tate the cordial thanks of the Committee for her services in connection with arranging the recent entertainment.

29th April 1902 FEATHERSTON. There was no election at Featherston yesterday. School Committee Elections

1st May 1902 Only about a dozen householders put in an appearance at the Schoolhouse on Monday evening, for the purpose of electing a School Committee for the ensuing year. As only four of those present consented to be nominated, the election was declared void

7th May 1902 Word has been received from the Education Board to the effect that arrangements will be made for holding another School Committee election at an early date

10th May 1902 At last meeting of the School Committee the Treasurer reported a credit balance of £4 15s 6d. Brother. T. Porritt has been duly installed as Worshipful Master of the local Masonic Lodge.

7th June 1902 The formal opening of the new Gymnasium Hall took place on Thursday evening, in the presence of a large number of people. In the absence of the President (Mr. W. Barton) the chair was occupied by Mr. W. B. Tait, who delivered an interesting address on the benefits that had been derived by the young people since the

opening of the Physical Training School. The ceremony of formally declaring the building open was performed by Miss Matthews, who said, " This building is now open for the purposes of the Physical Training School." The lady then severed a cord, thereby liberating the gymnasium apparatus, amidst hearty cheers. A social was also hold, and was followed by a ping-pong tournament, for which over thirty entries were received. The final was between Mrs. G. T. Allen and Mr. H. C. Madsen, and aft..- a most interesting game, was won by the former by two points

10th June 1902 Football Carterton School defeated Featherston School on Saturday by 28 points to nil. *Rugby not soccer*

21st June 1902 The burning question here at present is who is to succeed Mr. Porritt as headmaster of the State School hero. I have heard several names mentioned in connection with the appointment, amongst others being Messrs. Williamson, Pope, Turkington, Beechy and Malcolm. Now, in an appointment of this kind a man of good standing should be chosen. Of late it seems to have been the custom to ignore length of service under the Board, and good men long in harness and full qualifications have been passed over, and teachers young in years and experience, , but with good University certificates,, put over their heads. This should not - be. Mr. Malcolm's name has been freely used, but I am given to understand that ho is not anxious to leave his present school. I think that no better selection could be made than Mr. Beechey, of Dalefield— if he would accept it—a most successful teacher, musical and a good all-round man in out-door sports. Mr. Beechy would be an acquisition to Featherston. Rev. T. Porritt's loss will be greatly felt, more especially in church, matters, in which he took a deep interest. It is pleasing to know however that with-removal means promotion which I, wish him long life to enjoy

Mr. Porritt was still teaching at the end of 1902 but in 1903 was teaching at Te Horo just south of Otaki a smaller two teacher school The researcher taught there in his first year of teaching

25th June 1902 This Day. At the meeting held on Monday evening for the election of a- School Committee the following were appointed: — Messrs. W. Benton (Chairman), M. B. Tait (Treasurer), L. F. Key» (Secretary), W. Hodder, E. Cox, T. Sheen, W. Collins

5th July 1902 At the first monthly meeting of the newly elected School Committee held on Wednesday evening, the Treasurer reported a credit balance of 44 5s 6d, and accounts amounting to 42 were passed for payment

24th July 1902 In his report on the Featherston Public School, Inspector Fleming says :— " Mr. Porritt has sent in his resignation after 47 years' service as a teacher, \$8 of which have been spent in the Colony, and 23 of these in the service of the Board. He has been an earnest and conscientious worker, faithful in the performance of his duties, and one who has taken a great interest in the work of his pupils, both in and out of school. I have much pleasure in recommending the Board to give as favourable consideration to his case as it possibly can

8th August 1902 usual monthly meeting of the local School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of 42 5s 6d, and accounts amounting to £2 wore passed for payment. It was resolved that Mr. J. G. Cox be asked to present the Coronation medals to the school children on Friday, and that Monday be observed as a holiday. Messrs. Sheen and Tait were appointed visitors for the month.

The Headmaster reported the average attendance for the month of July at 123, and the roll number 140.

11th August 1902 SCHOOL CADET CORPS.

THE NEW REGULATIONS. The headmasters of the public schools and officers of the various school cadet corps met in consultation with. Captain Loveday recently on the subject of the new regulations applying to the cadet corps in connection with the Board Schools. Captain Loveday explained the effect of the proposed regulations and recommendations as to the uniform to be worn, and they were discussed. As regards shooting, the ranges fixed by the regulations are one to five hundred yards, inclusive, and the meeting suggested that the cadets should be allowed to fire in any position, and that ranges above 300 yards should not be compulsory. It was also considered that the cadet movement would have little chance of success unless competent military instructors were appointed, and the meeting was most emphatic on this point, recommending that it should- be urged upon the Education Board And the Government. A number of applications are coming in from schools in all parts of the district for recognition. In the city, the Mount Cook Boys' School has applied for two companies, and To Aro, Terrace, Clyde Quay, and Thorndon for one each. From the suburbs and country districts applications have been received from Carterton, Fernridge, Johnsonville, Featherston, Brooklyn, Greytown, Mitchelltown, Kilbirnie, and Petone, and applications to establish corps at Mangatainoka and Eketahuna. The corps connected with the city schools are already uniformed, and the Minister for Defence has permitted them to retain these, but he has suggested the following as an appropriate uniform for the whole of the schools.— For officers Frock : Blue cloth, with stand-up collar ; plain cuffs;- shoulder-straps of same material as frock ; rank-badges in metal ; a patch-pocket on each breast; brass button on each pocket and shoulders ; five brass buttons down front of frock; buttons to bear the same design as the cap badge. Trousers of the same material as. frock; a line of scarlet welt down outside seam. For Rank and File.— Blue woollen jersey, blue cloth knickerbockers, and blue stockings. Head dress (for all ranks)— Glengarry cap, with diced border. Chevrons for non-commissioned officers to be a line of yellow braid on scarlet cloth : crowns and stars in yellow worsted to be worn above the chevron. Cap-badge— The Royal Cipher surrounded by a garter bearing the words "Public School Cadets, N.Z., and surmounted by a Tudor crown. As soon as the badges, chevrons, waist belts, buttons, swords, sword-slings, and sword-knots are received in the colony they will be issued to recognised corps wearing uniform; and haversacks and caps will be on sale at the same time

14th August 1902 Coronation Day was celebrated by children's sports gathering, presentation of medals to the school children, and a fireworks display and bonfire in the evening. There was a large attendance of the public, and an able address was delivered by Mr. J. Cr. Cox (chairman of the Town Board). A special service was conducted by the Rev. Johnson in St. John's Church, at noon.

5th September 1902 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening. The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £6, and accounts amounting to £3 15s were passed for payment

9th September 1902 The Featherston school team played a football match against Carterton on Saturday, and defeated the visitors, the scores being 9 points to 7.

25th September 1902 Wellington Education Board new offices at Featherston, £60 10s
Office = toilets not the business centre but where you go to do your business

3rd October 1902 The usual monthly meeting of the local School Committee was held on j "Wednesday evening, when the usual routine business was transacted

6th October 1902 Prior to leaving the Victoria High School, Hokitika, to take up her appointment at the Featherston School, Miss Oswin, M.A., received an illuminated address and several presentations from the staff and scholars of the school. *Wrong school actually Miss Oswin went to South Featherston to teach my Great Aunt*

6th December 1902 At the monthly meeting of the School Committee, held on Wednesday evening, it was decided to take active measures, with a view to enabling past and present pupils of the school to contribute to the testimonial to Mr. Porritt on his severing his connection with the school.

15th December 1902 The pupils of the Featherston Physical Training School, who have shown excellent progress this year, thanks to their energetic and popular Instructor, Mr. Arthur Harvey, intend giving an exhibition shortly, in aid of the Featherston School Prize Fund. It may be of interest to know that Mr. Harvey instructs his pupils in Sandow's system.

24th December 1902 During the ceremony of presenting the prizes to pupils of the public school, at the Town Hall, on Friday, Mr. T. Porritt was presented with an address from past and present pupils.

8th December 1924 The death occurred in a Wellington private hospital last" Wednesday of the Rev Thomas Porritt, at the age of 87. years, ;- after a long and successful • educational and ministerial career. He was a member of the Masonic Order, in which he had held high offices. He attended the Masonic Conference in Nelson some weeks ago, but was attacked with congestion of the lungs while there.

Mr. Porritt was educated at Durham University, and came to New Zealand,--, with his wife 61 years ago in- the Humphrey Nelson, landing at Nelson. He was ordained by Bishop Suter, of Nelson; and took charge of the parish of Picton and afterwards of Kaikoura. In 1874 to went to Wellington, and with the late Rev. A. A. Bowden took charge of the English school. Seven years later he entered the services of the Wellington Education Board, being appointed headmaster of Greymouth (*Actually Greytown School*) school, and subsequently Featherston school, being nine years .at the latter. Ho then retired .on superannuation.

Mr. Porritt. leaves five sons and three daughters, all of whom are in the 'Dominion. They are Mrs. Bey , widow, of Dr. Bey, Greytown; Colonel E. W. Porritt, Paeroa, father of Captain E. A, Porritt, M.C.; Mr. O. H. Porritt, Timaru- Dr. E. E. Porritt, Wanganui, father of the popular Rhodes scholar and New Zealand athletic representative at the Olympic Games;(Later Governor General) Mr. H. E. Porritt Cambridge; Mr. Oscar A. Porritt, Netherton, Mrs. Capel Bisdee, Levin; - and Mrs. Reginald Revell, Koromatua, Frankton Junction. There are twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren

1903

112	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	Headmaster	£224	\$37,125
112	Featherston	Hall	Laura L	Mistress	£105	\$17,397
112	Featherston	Armstrong	Mary C	Female Pupil Teacher 3	£40	\$6,628
112	Featherston	Turkington	Letian L	Female Pupil Teacher 2	£30	\$4,971

2nd January 1902 At a special meeting of the **School** Committee, held on Wednesday evening, it was decided to recommend the appointment of Mr. F. G. Everton as head teacher, to succeed Mr. T. Porritt. *Head teacher at Manakau School south of Levin where he was teaching with Rebecca Fellingham ex teacher at Featherston*

9th February 1903 The usual meeting of the School Committee, to have been held last evening, lapsed for want of a quorum

14th February 1903 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday evening, when routine business was transacted. It was decided to hold a dance on March 4th, in aid of the School funds.

7th March 1903 There was a large attendance at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening last, on the occasion of the farewell social to the members of the Carlyon family. At the commencement, Mr. A. Donald (Chairman of the Town Board), presented Mrs. Carlyon with a purse of sovereigns and a silver mounted emblem, in case, as a token of the esteem in which the family was held by the residents of the district.

11th March 1903 Constable and Mrs. Carlyon and family left here on Monday for Gisborne, and were accorded a hearty send-off by the many friends who assembled at the Railway Station to see them off. Constable Hammond commenced duty on Monday.

Measles is still very prevalent in this district, and the attendance at the local **school** is very small in consequence

18th April 1903 Unless increased interest is taken by parents in the forthcoming School Committee election, it is probable that members of the present Committee will refuse re-election

30th April 1903 Miss Mary C Armstrong appointed as pupil teacher

30th April 1903 Owing to the small attendance of householders, no School Committee was elected.

1904

1904	113	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	Headmaster	£221	\$36,610
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1904	113	Featherston	Cederholm	Daisy O	Mistress	£100	\$16,559
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1904	113	Featherston	Armstrong	Mary C	Female Pupil Teacher 4	£55	\$9,107
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1st March 1904 Miss Turkington, v/ho has acted as pupil teacher at the Featherston Public School for the past two years, was presented with a silver-mounted purse by the teachers and pupils of the infant classes, on the occasion of her transfer to Wellington
Letian Turkington went to Mount Cook Infants School in Wellington

25th March 1904 The Featherston School children, in charge of Mr. Everton (schoolmaster) and Mr. Benton (member of the School Committee) are to-day on an excursion visit to Masterton. They have been shown over the Fishponds and the Museum and other places of interest, and this afternoon races and other games are being indulged in on the Park Oval. The party, which numbers about two hundred (including adults) leave for Featherston again by the 5.15 train, this afternoon

28th April 1904 At the meeting of householders, on Monday evening, the following School Committee were elected for the ensuing year: —Messrs. Wen. Benton (chairman), "W. G. Hodder, Cummings, Keys, K. Burt, Geo. W. Cobb (treasurer) and A. E. Harvey (secretary). The balance sheet presented by the outgoing Committee showed a credit of £1 17s 3d

14th June 1904 The local school was closed on Monday on account of the prevalence of diphtheria and influenza.

9th September 1904 At the School Committee meeting, evening, Mr. C. J. Kent-Johnson suggested that the Committee should secure a certain number of books necessary for the school work, and retail them to the scholars at cost price. This was done in many schools at Home. The suggestion met with approval and was referred to the sub-Committee.

16th November 1894 Miss C. M. Stanton, at present mistress of the Mangamaire school, has been appointed assistant mistress at Featherston.

19th November 1904 A parade of the Wairarapa School Cadets was held on the Show Grounds, to-day, under Major Parkinson and Captain Burns. The parade was taken part in by companies from Masterton, Carterton, Greytown, Featherston, Te Ore Ore and Fernridge, making a total of 256. The Corps were put through battalion movements, but not much good work could be accomplished, owing to the adverse weather conditions.

1905

1905	110	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£221	\$34,965
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1905	110	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Mistress	£100	\$15,185
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1905	110	Featherston	Renall	Olive E		Female Pupil Teacher 3	£45	\$7,117
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30th January 1905 Miss Cederholm, relieving teacher at Featherston, has been appointed the Mitchelltown School, and Miss Stormont, of Belvedere, to the Kaitoke School.

1st November 1905 A correspondent in Featherston sends the following item:—Over a fortnight since the cheque-book, belonging to the Featherston School Committee, was stolen out of the office belonging to Mr. M. B. Tait, who is treasurer to the School Committee. On Saturday last, it was discovered in Carterton and Masterton that some person or persons were using the Featherston School Committee cheques, as cheques stamped with the Committee's stamp were being met with, but signed "Thos. Willis." So far it is known to the police that three of these valueless cheques have been cashed. In each case they were, drawn by "Thos. Willis," and made payable to "J. Fulton." Mr. Thos. A. Willis, of Featherston, does not belong to the Featherston School Committee, and that body's cheques are signed by W. Benton, Chairman, and M. B. Tait, Treasurer. This information may be of use to business people in case any more of the above cheques are to be met with. So far the police do not seem to have been able to get any clue to the identity of the person issuing the cheques.

1906

1906	116	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£225	\$34,967
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1906	116	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£105	\$16,318
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1906	116	Featherston	Aitcheson	Evelyn		Female Pupil Teacher 1	£25	\$3,885
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27th February 1906 since- New Year contracts have been let for new latrines at Featherston and Taueru

1st June 1906 Mr. S Sadler resigned from Featherston School *I Can't find an appointment for Mr. Sadler*

1907

1907	109	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£225	\$35,273
1907	109	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£105	\$16,461
1907	109	Featherston	Aitcheson	Evelyn		Female Pupil Teacher 2	£35	\$5,487

8th April 1907 In recognition of the Featherston School Cadet Corps team's excellent performance in winning the Wairarapa Schools Battalion Shield, the Featherston Rifle Club have resolved to present each member of the team with a suitably engraved silver medal.

25th April 1907 The ringing of the Featherston school bell for the annual meeting of householders, on Monday night, resulted in attracting a number of firemen to the brigade station, when the reel was expeditiously brought forth.

26th April 1907 The Featherston School is closed on account of scarlet fever

July

4th September 1907 The School Committee at Featherston has decided to adopt the method of sprinkling sawdust, moistened with sheep dip, on the floor before sweeping, as recommended by the Timaru School Committee. This idea is said to help to some extent in keeping away disease.

20th September 1907 At a meeting of the Featherston School Committee, on Wednesday, night, a credit balance of £7 19s 10d was reported, and accounts to £4 6s 10d passed for payment. The headmaster reported for the month of August the total attendances were 5166, times open 42, average attendances 123, roll 135' It was resolved to support the circular of the New Zealand Bookbinders' and Paper-rulers' Trade Society re uniformity in school books

18th November 1907 SCHOOL GARDENS. At its last annual meeting the- Wairarapa A. and I. Association decided to inaugurate school gardens competitions, open to all schools south of the Waingawa River. Points were to be awarded for general appearance, condition of soil, condition of tools, and the judges were to take into consideration adverse circumstances, such as poorness of soil, absence of water, and exposed situation maximum was fixed at 75 points, and the first prize was to be a challenge shield, presented for yearly competition by Messrs. W. Buchanan and H. Bunny. 'Six schools were entered for competition, and the judge, Mr. A. R. Hadfield, a well-known Wairarapa gardener, has just made his award, which is as follows:—Gladstone .school (Miss M. H. Pigsford,. teacher), 75 points, 1; Clareville School (Mr. R. C. Drummond, teacher), 73 points, 2; Greytown School (Mr. A. B. Charters, teacher), 68 points, 3. The remaining competitors were: Dalefield School (Mr. J. M. Beechey), Featherston School (Mr. F. E. Everton), Waingawa School (Mr. John Harvey). The fever epidemic was responsible for no entries being made by the Carterton School. Thos judge made the following comments:—Gladstone—The maximum attained; worthy of special mention;- soil in good order, beds clean, tools of excellent utility and well kept, full advantage taken of shelter conditions. Clareville—Soil in good- order, beds clean and well cared for; flower garden managed by girl scholars gives evidence •of careful selection; fifteen experimental plots potatoes are grown; the whole exhibit reflects great credit. Greytown — Gardens clean, tools in good- order, vegetables backward, flower plots in early stages. Waingawa—Garden in good condition, though not long commenced. Featherston Tools in good order, plots weedy. Dalefield—Tools in good order.; plots in several instances not finished off

properly. In the competition among each district school for individual plots; there was a large number of entries from the six schools who 'figured first in the competition, and scholars from each school were awarded first and second prizes. The first prize-winners were' as follow: — Fred Waters, Stanley Turley (Clareville); A. Ordish, C. Sago (Dalefield); Frank Everton (Featherston); Ray Strang (Gladstone); J. Benton and S. A. Dair (Greytown). Second prize-winners were: Hubert Rathbone, S. Sowell, E. E. Ordish, F. Jamieson, E. Rowe, E. Knowles, Albert Mason, S. Brunton, and R. Ingley

3rd December 1907 The Kahautara School cricket team defeated Featherston School, at the latter place, on Saturday, by two runs, the scores being 88 to 86

12th December 1907 A meeting of the Featherston School Committee. was held on Tuesday night, Mr. W. Benton; in the chair. The treasurer, reported a credit balance of. £10 5s. 9d., and accounts totalling £9 9s. 10d. were passed for payment. A ladies committee was elected in connection-with the concert to be hold 011 Friday night

21st December 1907 The distribution of prizes at the Featherston School was made on Thursday afternoon by Mr. J. G. Cox.

1908

1908	123	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£225	\$35,273
1908	123	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£105	\$16,461
1908	123	Featherston	Aitcheson	Evelyn		Female Pupil Teacher 3	£45	\$7,055

31st January 1908 At a meeting of the Featherston School Committee, on Wednesday night, the resignation of Mr. L. F. Keys, as secretary, was accepted, and - he was accorded a vote of thanks for past services. Mr. T. Saunders was appointed to carry out the duties for the remainder of the term. A meeting of film Featherston School Committee was held on Wednesday night, Mr. W. Benton in the chair. The statement of finances showed a credit balance of £7 4s 3d. including capitation, £5 5s. 10d. Accounts totalling £2 18s. were passed for payment

8th February 1908 Among the candidates who have passed the first year of the pupil teachers' examination, held by the Wellington Education Board, are Evelyn Aitcheson (Featherston) and Arthur Roydhouse (Carterton).

10th February 1908 Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Keys, of Featherston, have taken up their residence in Wellington

3rd March 1908 Mr. Hogg, M.P., paid a visit to the Featherston School on Monday. He found Mr. Everton, headmaster, with au assistant and pupil teacher is. charge of 130 children. Addressing them in the different rooms, he pointed out in a forcible way, quoting familiar illustrations, the advantage they would derive from their school training. Giving them the name of one Wairarapa schoolboy who was chief engineer in the Straits Settlement,, he told them if he had time he could quote several instances where New Zealand boys and girls had distinguished themselves in different parts of the world. This success iv life was giving the Dominion a prestige everywhere, and he asked the scholars to do all they could to maintain it. Referring to the influence of good books lie asked the young people not to. be content with their school training, but with the aid of books and pencils and pens to make the best possible use of their leisure time, submitting that iv traversing unexplored fields of travel and history and science they would find all the exquisite pleasure of a wonderfully diversified entertainment. In conclusion he assured them that regularity of attendance, good

conduct and success in their studies was the best reward they could extend to their best friends—their teachers.

9th March 1908 The annual meeting; of the Wairarapa School Cadet Battalion was held at the Papawai Range, Greytown, on Saturday, when a large muster of school boys were present to fire for the Wairarapa Rifle Association's prize of £5. and the Shield Teams Match. The shooting was supervised by Messrs. A. N. Burns A. 13. Charters, O. N. Haslam,!! Sutton, A. Talbot, F. C. Everton, V. Higgins and R. J. Foss. Following are the scores : Wairarapa Rifle Association's prize of £5, ranges 100 yds and 200 yds; 7 shots each range.--Duncan, Featherston, 57; Dudson, Carterton, 55; Lorimer, Greytown, 54; Everton, Featherston, 53; Freeman, Greytown, 52; Fairbrother, Carterton, 51; F. Beard, Carterton, 51; Elliott, Masterton, 50; Boyle, Fernridge, 49; Catt, Fernridge, 48; Baillie, Carterton, 47; Seivers, Carterton, 47; Robinson, Greytown, 47; Hirschberg, Masterton 46; McNab, Featherston, 46; K. Miller, Masterton, 46; Denby,' Carterton, 45; G. Miller, Masterton, 45; Sutton, Masterton, 45; Flvnn, Carterton, 44; Ruane, Featherston, 44; Giles. Carterton, 44; Teams' Match, 100 yds and 200 yds; 7 shots at each range.--Greytown, 253; Featherston, 246; Carterton No. 1, 236; Masterton, No. 1, 235; Carterton, No. 2, 217; Masterton, No. 2, 216; Fernridge, 200. The winners hold the Shield for one year. Last year it was won by Featherston. Champion shot of the Wairarapa

Cadet Battalion, decided on aggregate of first match and Teams' Match. . I Lorimer, Greytown, championship j and trophy value £1, presented by W.F.C.A., Ltd., scores 54 and 59, total 113. Everton, Featherston, W.F.C.A. trophy value 12s 6d, scores 53 and 59 112. Duncan, Featherston ,, W.F.C.A. trophy value 7s 6d, scores 57 and 53, 110. Freeman, Greytown, scores 52 and 58, 110. Duncan and Freeman made the same total (110), but Duncan takes third place, having made a higher score at the longer range.

29th April 1908 FEATHERSTON. A meeting of householders in the Featherston School District Was held on Monday night Mr. W'. Benton being in the chair. The balance-sheet showed that receipts exceeded the expenditure by 9s. 6d. The election of a committee for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Messrs. S. Aitchison W. Benton, M B. Tait, S. Murphy, .T, Saunders, J. McCarty and C. Elliott; At a subsequent Meeting Mr. Benton was elected chairman.

10th March 1910 The Featherston school cadets, who were just beaten by the Greytown boys for the Challenge Shield at Papawai shooting match on Saturday, brought away £2 2s 6d in prize money.

2nd May 1908 FEATHERSTON, This Day. Householders did ,not take much interest .in the election of -a school committee here, only eleven persons attending, including, the retiring committee. Of those present five had no youngsters attending the building of education. The .chairman - (Mr., W..-Benton) commented .upon the laxity of parents in school matters, which, he said, was to be much regretted

27th June 1908 The Featherston School Committee met ou Wednesday evening, Mr. W. Benton being in the chair. Capitation amounting to £10 3s was received, and accounts amounting to £1 19s 6d were passed for payment. The balance-sheet of the Wairarapa School Committees' Association was read, showing a credit balance of £7 11s 9d. Mr. W. C. Buchanan wrote, iv reply to au inquiry regarding subsidies on donations and subscriptions to schools, stating that if they were for a special purpose the subsidy was applicable. He would make further inquiries at the next Board meeting. The Minister for Internal Affairs wrote asking that Arbour Day (July 22nd)

be observed as much as "possible by tree planting. Mr. A. H ; Vile was nominated for the Wairarapa Ward on the Board of Education.

1st July 1908 The Featherston school boys have issued a challenge to the Martinborough boys to play a friendly game on Saturday week. The Featherston team will be:—Toogood, Ruane (2). Sheen, Duncan, O'Neale, McNab, Till, Rowe, Knowles, Hickson, Tyler, Burt, Everton and Worsley.

24th July 1908 The monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Wednesday night, Mr. W. Benton in the chair. A credit-balance of £8 10s. 6d. was reported, and accounts amounting to £3 8s. 6d. were passed for payment. It was decided to join the School Committees' Association, and to take part in the proposed conference on school matters. It was resolved to support the candidature of Mr. A. H. Vile on the Wellington Education Board. The headmaster's report showed, a roll number of 138, with an average attendance of 119. for the month. The average attendance for the quarter was 118. Several requirements for the school were attended to.

7th September 1908 The annual examination of the Featherston State school has been concluded by Inspector T. H. Fleming. The result is highly satisfactory, and the promotions will be made after the Christmas holidays. The term spring holiday, extending over one week, is being observed this week

7th September 1908 The annual examination of the Featherston School was completed on Friday by Mr. T. R. Fleming. The promotions will not take place until the Christmas _ vacation. The results are highly satisfactory to the headmaster, Mr. F. C. Everton, and his assistants

19th September 1908 The monthly meeting of the Featherston **School** Committee was held on Wednesday night. Mr. W. Benton in the chair. The headmaster's report showed that there were 141 names on the roll at the end of the month, and the percentage of attendance was 87. It was decided to expend 30 shillings in lopping the trees on the **school** property, and to hold a dance at the conclusion of the **school** concert on the 24th inst. Messrs. T. Saunders, M. B. Tait, C. Ellis, and W. Benton were appointed a committee to arrange details in connection with the concert.

26th September 1908 The children attending the local school were this afternoon presented with-, the Dominion Day medals. The cadets saluted the flag, and the medals were distributed by Mr. F. C. Everton, headmaster

26th September 1908 The school concert held on Thursday night was, largely attended,, and the programme enthusiastically received. . Miss Ward received a great reception for her rendering ; of "A Happy Song," as also did Miss Rubi Seddon, who sang "Song of Life." It is expected that the school funds will benefit by .over £25

28th September 1908 On Friday afternoon the Dominion Day medals were distributed by the headmaster (Mr. Everton) to the children attending the Featherston School. The cadets were formed up in front of the flagstaff, and saluted the flag

22nd October 1908 The monthly meeting of the school committee was held last night, Mr. "W. Benton in the chair. The balance-sheet of the recent concert showed a credit of £19 12s 6d, the receipts having been £26 5s 6d and expenditure £6 13s. A vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Palmer, and 1 all who had. assisted in the concert. The inspector's report was of a satisfactory nature, and stated that while the roll numbered 138 'the school was staffed for an average of 90. Under the conditions a satisfactory

organisation was difficult, but the alterations recently made by the headmaster made a great improvement. The headmaster reported that the average attendance for the September quarter was 123, Several matters were left in the hands of the secretary to attend to.

4th December 1908 The prize 3 offered by the Wairarapa and East Coast Pastoral and Agricultural Society for the best kept .gardens at the Public Schools in Wairarapa have just been awarded by the judge, Mr. A. R. Hadfield. Clareville School comes first with 74 points, Carterton and Gladstone with 71 points each tie for second place, Dalefield School 65 points fourth, Featherston School 63 points fifth, Waingawa School also competed and .-showed a nicely kept garden. The judge's report stated on the whole the gardens and plots are in nice <order, and show a great improvement . all round on last year

21st December 1908 The attendance at the Featherston State School having increased during the past quarter, the school is now entitled to claim an additional teacher.

22nd December 1908 girl named Eliza Hoskings , attending the Featherston State School, has not missed attendance once in seven years. She has been going to school eight years, but was ill for a few days during one year

1909

1909	134	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£245	\$38,933
1909	134	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£125	\$19,864
1909	134	Featherston	Aitcheson	Evelyn R		Female Pupil Teacher 4	£55	\$8,740
1909	134	Featherston	Russell	Janet L		Female Pupil Teacher 3	£55	\$8,740

2nd February 1909 Miss Ivy Russell, of this town, who has received an appointment as a teacher in the Featherston State School, commenced her duties to-day. It was Miss Russell who was selected by the Carterton School Committee for a position on the staff of that school, but the selection was overridden by the Education Board, who preferred another applicant on the grounds of higher qualifications. Since then Miss Russell has passed her matriculation examination. Miss Oliver, of Parkvale, has received an appointment on the staff of the Gladstone School, and her sister, Miss Unice Oliver, has received a position on the staff of the Upper Hutt School.

20th February 1909 The meeting of the Featherston School Committee, to have been held ou Wednesday evening, lapsed for want of a quorum. The headmaster's report to have been presented showed the average attendance since the school re-opened to be 143 out of 148 on the roll. Fourteen new scholars were admitted, aud eleven left. Of the latter, nine obtained proficiency certificates, nearly all of whom are attending the Greytown High School.

1st April 1909 Master James Donald, son of Mr. Q. Donald, of Tauherenikau, met with a painful accident while playing at the Featherston School on Monday. One of the lads swung a cricket bat round, which accidentally caught young Donald on the aye with some force, resulting in skin abrasions. Fortunately, the sight was uninjured, and the victim should be right in a day or so.

27th April 1909 Featherston — Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), C. Burt, S. Murphy, C. E. Skipage, F. Merlet, and A. Bungay

28th April 1909 The adjourned meeting of the Featherston School Committee was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. W. Benton presiding. The credit balance was reported at

£21-7s-6d, and accounts amounting to £3 14s 3d were passed for payment. The headmaster reported a roll number of 147, the average attendance for the March quarter being 135, which was considered very satisfactory. It was decided to have some necessary repairs effected to the windows.

21st May 1909 The Featherston School Committee met ou Wednesday evening, Mr. W. Benton presiding. The headmaster reported a roll number of 153, and an average attendance of 134. It was decided to procure several requirements asked for by the headmaster. Messrs. Benton and F. E. Merlet were appointed visitors for the month. Capitation amounting to £10 12s M was received from the Education Board. It was resolved to meet at 7.30 instead of 8 o'clock during the winter months

24th July 1909 At the last meeting of the local School Committee, the credit balance stood at £24 0s 8d, and accounts amounting to £8 10s 10d were passed for payment. The headmaster (Mr. F. C. Everton) reported a roll number of 148, the average attendance being 131. The quarterly returns for June showed a roll of 148, and an average of 136, or 92 per cent

1st October 1909 Extended Leave to 16th October. Stanton Featherston Granted

13th November 1909 The school concert, organised/by Dr. Palmer, in aid of- the school funds, proved a great success . The audience was a very largo one, the performance went off without a hitch, and every item was encored and willingly responded to. The following was the programme:—School song, "Two , Little Birdies," junior children canoe song, Mr. Wilson song, Mr. Tinney song,, Miss England; March of England, Scotland, Ireland, and New Zealand, School Children ; - sartette, glee party song, Mrs. Nix; scene, "The Zoo, ' glee party, and Bong, Mrs. Palmer; recitation. Misses Saunders and Ruane; song, lire, Taylor; School song, "Huntsman's Chorus," Senior Children Song, Miss Wilkinson.; song, Miss Brough and company; song, Mr. Bagley American Indian Scene-song, Mr. Wilson Ballad Mr. Stewart and Mrs Wilson and Mr. Wilton; song, Mr. Tinney; song. Mrs Wickens, and dance with Miss Benton. song Dr. Palmer.

18th November 1909 The result of the competition! for the best plot at schools in South Wairarapa for the Challenge Shield presented by Messrs. H. R. Bunny and W. C. Buchanan, is as follows: Gladstone School (Miss M. H. Piggford, mistress), 75 points (the possible) 1 Carterton School (Mr. A. N. Burns, headmaster) 2 Clareville School (Mr. J. M. Beechey, headmaster) 3 Featherston School (Mr. F. C. Everton. headmaster) 4 Mr. A. R. Hadfield was judge. The shield has been win as follows:—Gladstone School, 1908, Clareville School, 1909 Gladstone School

20th December 1909 Fourteen children attending the Featherston school made every attendance during the year, and twenty six only missed five for less times, entitling them to attendance certificates

1910

1910	137	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£250	\$39,193
1910	137	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£130	\$20,380
1910	137	Featherston	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£90	\$14,109
1910	137	Featherston	Smylie	Wilheimina		Female Probationer 1	£50	\$7,839

1st February 1910 Miss Skelley, of the Teachers' Training College, Wellington, is at present acting as relieving teacher at the Featherston school

29th January 1910 The Featherston School Committee met .this week, there being present. Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), C. E. Skipage (treasurer), T. Skipage, S. Murphy, A. Bungay, and F. E. Merlet. An account of £3 18s. 4d; was passed .for payment. It was decided to hold the school picnic' on February 19, and . also that the committee meet again on February U to make arrangements for . the event: : The picnic will be held on the Domain. .

10th March 1910 Featherston, assistant, Mrs J. Hugan appointed

14th March 1910 CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING. The championship meeting of the Wairarapa Battalion of Public School Cadets was held on the Papawai Range, at Greytown, on Saturday last. Majors Haslam and Charters acted as range officers, and were ably assisted by the following company officers:—Captains Everton, Featherston; Foss, Masterton suburbs; Bee and Sutton, Masterton; Miller. Carterton; Kidson, Greytown; White-Scott, Pahiatua. Greytown District High School Company secured the honours of the day. It provided the champion shot of the Battalion, K. Curtis, and the two runners-up, H. Orr and R. Ingley, and also carried off the Battalion Shield for the champion team. The shooting of these boys was splendid. The results are :

Association Match, seven shots at 100 and 200 yards. Trophies presented by the Wairarapa Rifle Association :—Ingley, Greytown, 58, 10s (*Prize money s = shillings*); Curtis. Greytown, 57, 7s 6d; Orr, Greytown. 54, 7s 6d; Beard, Carterton, 52, 5s; McKenzie, Masterton, 50, 5s; R. Burt, Featherston, 49, 5s; P. Burt, Featherston, 49, ss; Perry, Masterton 49, 5s; Duncan, Featherston, 49, 5s; Blackman, Masterton. 49. 4s; P. Dudson, Carterton, 48. 4s; Sykes, Masterton, 47. 4s; Hooper, Masterton, 47, 2s 6d; Stevens, Greytown, 47, 2s 6d; Stratford, Greytown, 46, 2s 6d; Everton, Featherston, 46. 2s 6d; Early, Pahiatua, 45, 2s 6d; Brunton, Masterton, 45, 2s 6d; E. Pryor, Masterton, 45. 2s 6d; McNab, Featherston, 44, 2s 6d; Bicknell, Greytown, 44 2s 6d; Burson, Carterton, 43, 2s 6d.

Teams' Match, for Battalion Shield, teams of five cadets, «even shots at 100 and 200 yards. Greytown A 150 132-282 Masterton A 139 109—248 Greytown B 141 100—241 Carterton A 145 88-233 Featherston 139 93-232 Grand Aggregate, highest individual scores in one and two. Trophies presented by W.F.C.A. Ken Curtis, Greytown, (champion) 121 Harold Orr, Greytown 113 Roy Ingley, Greytown 111

26th March 1910 The Featherston School Committee has decided to obtain the signatures of all parents who would send their children to a high school if one were established in Featherston

27th April 1910 School Committee Featherston.— Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), A. Bungay (secretary), C. H Skipage (treasurer), S. Murphy, C. Elliott, W. Mellish, and T. Saunders. The average attendance of the year was 138 out of a roll of 154.

16th November 1910 THE NAVY LEAGUE.

, NEXT WEEK'S EXCURSION, EIGHT SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING. The Navy League School excursion for the Wairarapa to Wellington on Thursday, the 24th, promises to be a great success. Already eight schools have notified the Secretary that they intend to take advantage of this easy and cheap manner of spending a good day's outing, and Masterton, Lansdowne, Te Ore Ore, Taueru, Fernridge. Clareville, Featherston, and Martinborough are sending contingents. The train will only stop at Clareville and Featherston to pick up the children and at Kaitoke for refreshments. The timetable will be as follows: Down—Masterton, 8 30 a.m.; Clareville, 8.50 a.m.; Featherston, 9.40 a.m., and Wellington, 12.45 a.m. Up—Wellington, 6-7 p.m.; Featherston, 9.14 p.m.; Clareville, 9.55 p.m., and Masterton, 10.15 p.m. Very liberal fares have been arranged by the Navy League, and are as follows, the fares being

return—From Masterton, under 15 Is 2d, senior scholars and teachers 2s 10d. adults 3s 9d; from Clareville, Is 4d. 2s 6d and 3s 3d; from Featherston Is Id, Is lid, and 2s 6d. On the arrival of the train a; Wellington the carriages will be locked, and those desirous of leaving their coats, etc., in the carriages will not need to carry them around during their visit to the warships. It is probable that both the Gover nor, Lord Islington, and the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, will address the children on landing, and also that the Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Richard Poore, will say a few words? to the Navy Leaguers when aboard the Powerful.

1911

1911	149	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£255	\$40,328
1911	149	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£135	\$21,350
1911	149	Featherston	Hughan	Jessie	E1	Assistant Female	£95	\$15,024
1911	149	Featherston	Smylie	Wilheimina		Female Probationer 2	£55	\$8,698

27th March 1911 The average attendance at the chief schools in the Wairarapa district during the past .year was as follows : Masterton D.H.S and. side school; 775;

Carterton D H S., 269; Pahiatua D.H.S., 238; Greytown D H S., 227; Mangatainoka, 145; Featherston, 137; Martinborough, 115; Lansdowne, 144; Eketahuna, 113

Fernridge, 86

26th April 1911 School Committee FEATHERSTON. —W. Benton (chairman), C. R. Skipage (treasurer), A. C. Holms (secretary), C. Elliott, S. Murphy, A. E. Laery, J. Henderson Funds in Hand amount to £10 1s 8d

26th May 1911 The report of the Education Board's inspectors upon the. work done at the local **school** during the year is of a highly satisfactory nature. The report shows the average attendance to have been 151, the number on the roll being 168. An average attendance of 160 will entitle the **school** to an extra teacher.

27th May 1911 Miss Murray, of Masterton, is at present relieving Mrs A. 'Hughan on the teaching staff of the Featherston school. Mrs Hughan is away on sick leave.

6th July 1911 The local public **school** has 169 scholars on its roll, but owing to t the epidemic of measles the attendance since the holidays has not exceeded 40 per day. The Education Board is not in favour of closing the school.

7th July 1911 The public school reopened oil Monday last, alter the winter holidays, but owing to measles there has been an attendance of below 40 children. The number on the roll is about 160. The Education Department was asked to close tlio school again, but declined to do so, suggesting that affected children and contacts should remain away

24th July 1911 The attendance at tho public school is now approaching the normal average. There were 120 children present on Friday, the average for the previous week being only 40.

1912

1912	143	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£260	\$39,874
1912	143	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£140	\$21,470
1912	143	Featherston	Jackson	Lucy		Assistant Female	£90	\$13,802
1912	143	Featherston	Smyth	Jacquette		Female Pupil Teacher 2	£50	\$7,668

23rd April 1912 Featherston. — At the annual meeting of householders a credit balance of £13 5s 3d was reported, the year being commenced with £10 Is 8d in hand.

The following committee was elected : — Messrs. W. Benton (chairman), C. R. Skipage (treasurer), A. C. Holms (secretary) 1 , S. Murphy, C. Elliott, E. A. Laery, and S. Aitchison

17th May 1912 average attendance at the local public school for the past month was 134 out of a roll number of 157

27th May 1912 The attendance at the public school during the past month has been affected by mumps and influenza, which are prevalent here just now.

24th June 1912 The Wairarapa Rugby Union has donated £3 each to Carterton, Masterton and Greytown schools, and a new football to Featherston and Greytown schools. The Wairarapa Rugby Union has been notified by the New Zealand Rugby Union that a further sum of £11 has been donated for the encouragement of school football in the Wairarapa

22nd July 1912 The average -attendance at the public **school** during the past: month has been 145 out of a roll number of 161 The average for the quarter was 141.

5th December 1912 school gardens competition held by the Wairarapa P. and A. Society has again been won by the Gladstone school, who secured 70 points. Clareville was second with 68 points, Featherston third with 65 points, Belvedere fourth and Dalefield fifth.

20th December 1912 Prize-giving in connection with the local State school took place on Wednesday afternoon, when the splendid weather enticed many parents and friends to assemble, while the children were much in evidence. Mr. Charles H. Williams (chairman of the committee) made the opening speech, and congratulated the teachers and children on the success attained by the school. Afternoon tea was subsequently dispensed.

1913

1913	145	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£265	\$39,750
1913	145	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£145	\$21,750
1913	145	Featherston	Jackson	Lucy	C5	Assistant Female	£95	\$14,250
1913	145	Featherston	Smyth	Jacquette		Female Pupil Teacher 3	£55	\$8,250

12th March 1913 Miss M Burbush appointed assistant *actually appointed to South Featherston*

30th April 1913 The Featherston School Committee for the ensuing year is as follows:—Rev. G. K. Stowell (chairman), Messrs. A.Y. Benton, S. Murphy, C. Elliott, L. J. Hayward, C. R. Skipage (treasurer), A. G. Holms (secretary).

12th May 1913 At the fortnightly meeting of the Wairarapa Rugby Union on Saturday, communications were read from Masterton, Carterton, Greytown and Featherston schools, intimating that there was no intention of substituting any other game for football in the schools, and acknowledging the substantial assistance given by the Union in the past. Several suggestions were made regarding further, assisting school football

23rd June 1913 There are at present 161 scholars on the roll of the local public school, and the average attendance during the past month has been 142

September

23rd October 1913 The Featherston school has a roll number of 166, and the average attendance for the past month was 152

1914

1914	154	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£270	\$38,656
1914	154	Featherston	Stanton	Catherine M	D2	Assistant Female	£150	\$21,476
1914	154	Featherston	Jackson	Lucy	C4	Assistant Female	£105	\$15,033
1914	154	Featherston	Baillie	Raymond I		Male Pupil Teacher 3	£55	\$7,874

29th January 1914 Mr. Raymond I Baillie appointed Pupil Teacher

3rd February 1914 Mr. Baillie, late of Eketahuna, has taken up a position on the staff of the Featherston State School. Succeeding Miss Smythe

20th March 1914 At the last meeting of the Featherston School Committee the headmaster reported the number on the roll to be 167, and the average attendance for the month 149. Advice was received that Dr. Elizabeth Gunn would conduct a medical examination of the scholars on March, 25 and 26.

21st March 1914 Miss Chatwin, of Wellington, is acting as temporary teacher at the Featherston school during Miss Jackson's absence on leave

23rd April 1914 The average attendance at the Featherston school last quarter was 153, out of 168 on the roll

9th May 1914 The annual meeting of householders in connection with the election of a school committee for the year was held this week, the Rev. G. K. Stowell presiding. The balance-sheet showed a credit of £13 14s. 7d. The following committee was elected; Rev. G. E. Stowell (chairman), C. R. Skipage (treasurer), A. C. Holms (hon. secretary), S. Murphy, C. Elliott, L. J. Hayward (re-elected), and M. Ford. Mr. W. Benton retired after about twenty years' valuable service. For many years he held the office of chairman of the committee.

29th May 1914 Miss Kilmartin, of Paekakariki, is to be the successor of Miss Chatwin as a teacher at the Featherston Public School.

3rd June 1914 The public school reopened yesterday, following upon a vacation of three weeks and the observance of the King's Birthday on Monday

19th December 1914 the sake of an average of one more attendance the Featherston school is considerably understaffed. The present average is 159, whereas with 160 another teacher would be granted. The staff at present is on a basis of 81 with an additional pupil teacher. That is to say the staff is the same as if the attendance were only half what it is, the difference having to be made up with the help of a pupil-teacher.

22nd December 1914 Mr. R. Baillie, who has been a member of the teaching staff at Featherston for some time, has resigned in order to enter the public service.

1915

1915	152	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C1	Headmaster	£280	\$37,506
1915	152	Featherston	Chatwin	Cicely M	C3	Assistant Female	£150	\$20,093
1915	152	Featherston	Kilmartin	Kate		Assistant Female	£110	\$14,735
1915	152	Featherston	Duley	Edith D		Female Pupil Teacher 3	£65	\$8,707
1915	152	Featherston	Butler	Elen		Female Probationer 1	£30	\$4,019

27th January 1915 Miss A Jackson resigned as assistant of Featherston School

5th May 1915 Featherston.— The following School Committee was elected from nine candidates : — Messrs. M. Ford, S. Murphy, F. E. Merlet, C. E. Skipage, A.

Stubbs. M. 11. Kendall, C. Elliott. Mr. Ford was elected chairman of the new committee, Mr. Kendall secretary, and Mr. Murphy treasurer

18th May 1915 Miss C. Chatwin has 'been appointed to the staff of the Featherston school vice Miss !M. Stanton, resigned

1916-1917

1917	206	Featherston	Everton	Frederick C	C-46	Head	£300	\$33,624
1917	206	Featherston	Simons	Rose E	D-83	Assistant	£150	\$16,812
1917	206	Featherston	Kilmartin	Kate		Assistant	£126	\$14,122
1917	206	Featherston	Muir	Oswald		Pupil Teacher 2	£60	\$6,725
1917	206	Featherston	Welch	Doris E		Probationer 1	£55	\$6,164

3rd April 1916 Miss Chatwin has resigned from- the Staff of the Featherston school

19th April 1916 School Committee Featherston. —Messrs. A. C. Holms, O. R. Skipage, S. Murphy, W. H. Kendall, F. E. Merlet, C. Elliott, and W. Benton

29th April 1916 Miss I. P. loins, of Masterton, has hi-on advised that she will probably be called upon to act as relieving assistant at the Featherston school next month

27th June 1916 Steps are being taken to constitute! the Featherston .school a District High School.

17th February 1917 The Featherston school has at present a roll number of 225, and the Martinborough school a roll number of 200.

31st May 1917 At the annual meeting of householders in Featherston on Monday night, the following School Committee was elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. A. C. Holms, M. H. Kendall, W. Benton, F. E. Merlet. C. R. Skipage, S. Murphy and C. Elliott.

5th December 1917 The school garden competition in connection with the Wairarapa P. and A. Society was won by the Featherston school (100 points), with Gladstone (98 points) second, Belvedere (97 points) third, and Clareville .fourth. The judge was Mr. A. R. Hadfield. The competition has been won on seven occasions by Gladstone

28th November 1917 At the last annual meeting of householders of the Upper Hutt Public School a motion was passed congratulating Mr. W. McCaw, who was on the staff of the Upper Hutt School prior to .his enlisting with the New Zealand Forces, on his promotion to the Featherston School. His departure from the district was much regretted by all, both scholars and householders. Mr. McCaw has replied in a letter from France to the householders, thanking them for their kindnesses and cordiality.

12th December 1917 Mr. O F Muir resigned from January 31st

1918-1919

1919	241	Featherston	Coombs M A	Frank L	A-43	Head	£360	\$32,522
1919	241	Featherston	Kirby	James R	D-69	Assistant	£245	\$22,133
1919	241	Featherston	Maysmor	Edna O Mrs	D-89	Assistant	£200	\$18,068
1919	241	Featherston	Kilmartin	Kate		Assistant	£160	\$14,454
1919	241	Featherston	Tully	Dorothy	D-108	Assistant	£150	\$13,551
1919	241	Featherston	Tait	Catherine L		Pupil Teacher 2	£100	\$9,034
1919	241	Featherston	Burt	Effie W		Pupil Teacher 2	£75	\$6,776

27th March 1918 The following additional subscriptions to .the Mayor's Raetihi Fire Relief Fund bring- the total amount received to date to £248 11s 3d:—Mrs. W.

Nathan. £10; Thompson Bros., £10; L. Tripp £5; T. J. Leighton, £1 1; Featherston School, £1 0s 3d

24th April 1918 Featherston .-The following committee was elected: Messrs. M. H. Kendall (chairman), H. Benfield (secretary), A. C. Holmes, C. R. Skipage, J- Cross, C Elliott, Y. S. Murphy, C. J. Carlyon *The researcher's Grandfather. My Father was about 8 years old*

16th May 1918 Miss R E Simons resigns

5th June 1918 The Featherston correspondent of the "Wairarapa News" says:—The final scene in the case Galbraith v. Kilmartin took place on Saturday morning, when Miss Kilmartin was, evicted, her furniture being put out of the house into the back yard. It will lie remembered that action was brought by Mr. Galbraith against Miss Kilmartin, a school teacher, to obtain possession of the house, which he stated he required for an employee Miss Kilmartin could not get another place or suitable lodgings, and so declined to move. The Court ruled against her, and a warrant of ejectment was issued in due course and executed on Saturday. An eviction is an unusual thing in the Wairarapa, and the event has caused a great deal of comment in Featherston. Miss Kilmartin has found temporary refuge in the Hostel. There is much sympathy with her. *The owner wanted the house for a horse trainer to live in*

17th June 1918 Miss M Kennedy Temporary appointment

20th June 1918 In response to the overtures made unanimously by the Featherston School Committee, and from other quarters, Mr. A ; C, Holms,. well-known in connection with, several provincial bodies and in the Wairarapa and Forty Mile Bush, districts, has consented to stand for the vacancy in the Wairarapa Ward at the forthcoming- Education Board election, nominations for which close on Wednesday next. If necessary, an election will be held on the "17th proximo. Mr. Holms is favourably known in journalistic circles and in me district has served as secretary, also chairman, of the Featherston School Committee, as well as several other public positions, including that of treasurer to the Borough Council. "

2nd July 1918 The contracting parties wore Miss Rose E. Simons, recently teacher in the Featherston school, and Mr. John Griffiths, photographer at the Featherston Military Camp

1st August 1918 EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

MEETING AT FEATHERSTON,

In the interests of educational reform, Mr. F. L. Combs, of Masterton, addressed a well-attended public meeting at Featherston last evening. Mr. M. B. Tait, deputy-Mayor, presided.

The address of Mr. Combs covered a wide range of points bearing directly upon the need for increased interest in our system of education, and following upon trenchant criticism of its defects, indicated the lines on which reconstruction should follow.

At the conclusion of the address the following resolution, moved by Mr. A. C. Holms, and seconded by Mr. J. W. Card, was carried:—"That this meeting records its keen disappointment as to the secondary place given the demands of education by the Government, being impressed with the - necessity for early preparation to maintain the nation's position of supremacy." On the motion:-of the Rev. E. H. Catherwood, seconded by Mr. Danating, it was resolved;—" That this meeting is strongly of the opinion that there are four pressing necessities in connection with the school facilities in Featherston, viz.: (1) The erection of a larger building to accommodate the great increase in the school attendance roll; (2) the location of the infant classes in

comfortable rooms; (3) the provision of a larger playing area in lieu of the use of the public square with its attendant dangers; (4) the purchase of a site for the erection of a new school. In pursuance of the foregoing essential local re. forms, this meeting assures the school committee of support' in renewed efforts to improve the existing disabilities."

On the motion of Mr. Danahey, seconded by Mr. B. S. Yelverton, it was unanimously decided to form a local branch of the Wairarapa Educational Reform Association. Mr. Card moved, and Mr. E.E. Sinclair seconded, "That a provisional committee, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Catherwood, Messrs. J. H. Fieldhouse, Holms and Danahey, be set up to enrol members and convene a general meeting of members." This proposition was carried unanimously. Mr. Combs expressed his pleasure as to the reception his mission had been accorded, and at his invitation the chairman was thanked for presiding so ably over the proceedings

17th August 1918 MR F. L. COMBS' VIEWS

Mr. F. L. Combs gave the "Daily Times" an interesting account of the effort on behalf of education reform, with which he has been so closely associated.

FEATHERSTON STIRRING. "In Featherston," said Mr. Combs, "there was keen, and better still, active interest. The proposal to form a Reform Association had been taken up with enthusiasm, and no difficulty was anticipated -securing in the neighbourhood of 100 members at a subscription of 5s each. Four of the most representative enthusiasts in the town, Messrs. Holms, Denehey, Fieldhouse, and the Rev. Catherwood, joined the Provisional Committee, and the movement in their hands was sure to go forward. It is not desired, said Mr. Combs, to have other than convinced and live supporters.. But the parents are everywhere waking to the fact that their children's abilities are not being brought out to one-half the extent they might be, and things are going to be put right. Overcrowding, under-staffing, and bad housing in Featherston are a scandal to the town. But they have their counterpart everywhere. I have been notably in Palmerston North. In fact such conditions are Dominion wide. But the most disgraceful thing I saw was in a small country school. The teacher's residence was inferior in size, appointments and construction to an average working man's* home, and one class was being taught in a shed no bigger or better than a cowshed. One reason given for improvements in this school was that the school furniture was being spoilt by being left out in the shed .It was evidently felt that this fact ought to move to action an Administration unconcerned at the injury to the children.

PALMERSTON NORTH INDIGNANT. "The citizens of Palmerston North were roused by recent exposures to the town of preparing to hold an indignation meeting. The intercession of the Mayor turned this into a visit from, the Minister, whose tour of the schools would show him the true value of the progress made.

WELLINGTON COMMITTEES. "' "The Wellington School Committees' Association is to be complimented on having far more modern and enterprising programmes than the recently much advertised central administration," said Mr. Combs. "I found, too, that bad as I knew local conditions to be, this very alert body could invariably cap my own instances with worse ones. With the organised support of the parents behind it, such an organisation would soon achieve reconstruction. TEACHERS' DISMISSALS. "Mr. T. Forsyth, a probable candidate for the chairmanship of the Wellington Board, stated that as things were now it was almost impossible to dismiss a teacher even for bad morals. This was a matter that needed an immediate legislative remedy. The incompetent but conscientious teacher should be quietly removed to some other occupation. As for the teacher who so failed in self-respect as to jeopardise that of his

pupils, it was more urgent to get him out of the schools than to put the gaol walls round a burglar.

THE VITAL POINT. "Having so far as one can do placed my own position above suspicion, may I finally reiterate that the two reforms most wanted are: Healthy, therefore happy, schools, and more and better teachers. Let the Department go on starring its medical service, a service dependent on four doctors, against Japan's eight thousand. Let it continue to advertise half a dozen open air class rooms and to suppress reports of overcrowding received from its coadjutors. The people will be fooled no longer. The thousands more actively interested in their children's welfare than anything else, are going to see things put right. I venture to say that even those with least reason to complain under existing conditions of the progress of their youngsters will be astonished at the improvements that will result from capable reconstruction. That must come, and speedily, or the existing system will fall to pieces of its own internal weakness. "

29th August 1918 At the monthly meeting of the Featherston School Committee Mr. A. C. moved, in accordance with notice of motion : "That this meeting is favourable to the formation of. a school committees' association f or the Wairarapa Ward, with sub-centres, say, as follow: (1) Pahiatua, 'L ;) Eketahuna, (3) Masterton, and (4) South Wairarapa." The motion was carried and recommended to the favourable consideration of the school centres invoked. The mover has in view .the recognition of county areas as follow: (1) Pahiatua and Akitio, (2) Eketahuna and Mauriceville, (3) Masterton and Castlepoint, (4) Wairarapa South and Featherston, with approximately twenty-five schools in each area, with the exception of Masterton (16). Meetings to be held quarterly and a ward conference annually.

6th November 1918 CARTERTON, This Day. The following motion was passed at a public meeting in Featherston on Monday night: "That this , public meeting representative of Featherston and district strongly urges upon the Government the necessity of very substantially increasing the grant for education, in order that the demands for a bold forward policy of Imperial social and industrial development may be adequately met." A further motion was carried: "That the Featherston School Committee be accorded hearty support in pressing upon the Education authorities the claim of the area for improved educational facilities, as the buildings are inadequate to meet the increased attendance, and the surroundings are unsuitable. The purchase of a new site requiring immediate attention."

8th November 1918 GALE AT FEATHERSTON

CANVAS. CAMP .WRECKED. By Telegraph—Press Association. Featherston, November 7. During the severe gale last night the canvas camp was wrecked. This afternoon the military authorities arranged for the accommodation of 900 men in the town, securing the Town Hall, the public school, the gymnasium, the Presbyterian Church, the Anglican schoolroom, and the Oddfellows' Hall. All were willingly offered

11th November 1918 In consequence of the buildings being required for the accommodation of soldiers, though Featherston Public School will be closed for n week, states our Featherston correspondent

16th April 1919 Featherston. —Messrs. M. H. Kendall, A. C. Holms, C. Elliott, H. Murphy, J Cross, J. Moore, M. H. Brown, Rev. Catherwood, and Major Stone

22nd April 1919 Owing to the exodus of families, the school at Featherston will not require to be enlarged, but some improvements arc to be made to the playground.

6th May 1919 prizes for the best essays on "How New Zealand Manufacturers j Can Best Help our' Returned Soldiers," two gold medals (presented by ' Messrs. A. and G.

Price, Ltd., engineers, Thames), have been awarded cd to the following: Girls—Winnie Catherwood (Featherston); boys—Ralph Wilson (Taupaki). The competition was open to any boy or girl attending any college- or school in New Zealand. The whole of the essays received were of a very high standard.....

6th June 1919 The presentation of the gold medal,, given by the National Service League was made at Featherston on Wednesday afternoon by the Mayor, Mr. T. W. Card, at the local school. In handing the valuable trophy to Miss Winnie Catherwood, the Mayor complimented her very highly on being so successful as to secure the prize essay, a competition which was open to the whole of the schools in New Zealand. The honour was indeed a great one, and Mr. and Mrs. Catherwood have every right to be proud of their daughter, and the Featherston School of its scholar. Cheers, were given, and in honour of the occasion the school was dismissed-for* the rest of the afternoon.

11th June 1919 The Featherston School Committee has entered an emphatic protest against the vacant headmastership of the school being advertised by the Education Board on a grade 4C salary basis,' whereas the present grade stands as grade 5, A. Although at present 'the attendance average, as might reasonably be expected during winter months, and with an epidemic of colds in evidence, is below 241, the committee has every reason to believe that the year's figures will prove favourable to the retention of the present grading.

19th June 1919 Mr. F C Everton resigns as Head Teacher

23rd June 1919 Mr. F. L. Combs, M.A., headmaster of the Fernridge School, has been appointed headmaster of the Featherston school.

7th July 1919 Mr. F. C. Everton, the retiring {headmaster of though Featherston School, and Mrs. Everton, were farewelled on "Friday evening at a public gathering, and presented with an illuminated address and a cheque for '£200.

8th July 1919 On Sunday the school children of Featherston assembled in the township, and after being formed into a procession marched to the cemetery and placed wreaths on the graves of soldiers who died at the Featherston military camp.

15th July 1919 After a children's peace service at the Town Hall, Featherston, the children formed in a column of fours and marched to the cemetery, each child having been given a small flag. They formed up round the soldiers' monument, which was draped with flags. Streamers led from the top of the monument to each of the four corners, and these were decorated with miniature flags. After an address from the Mayor on those who had died for their country, the children placed wreaths of flowers in a flag on each grave. Then the "Last Post" was sounded, and an impressive ceremony came to an end.

21st August 1919 Vigorous protests were entered by several members of the Education Board meeting yesterday against the proposal of the Department to close down the Tauherenikau School, at any rate, until such time as^, proper arrangements could be made for the conveyance of the children to Featherston. Mr. Hogg objected to the whole idea of closing down small schools, in furtherance of the system of centralisation. The small schools, many of which were old-established institutions, were doing most useful work, and the closing down of those schools would be at the expense- of the pupils' and of the settlers. He instanced the case of the Te Ore Ore School, which was recently burned down, and said that all the settlers in the district were' up in arms over the idea of the transferring of the children to the Lansdowne School.....Mr. Moss said he was in favour of centralisation, but he pointed out that the Featherston School is already crowded^ and that there' is great difficulty in

getting a conveyance. It was eventually moved by Mr. Moss and seconded by Mr. Shand, that the Tauherenikau School be continued

4th November 1919 On the eve of her departure from Featherston, Mrs. Banks was the recipient of a presentation from fellow members of the teaching staff and the scholars of the local school who had been under her charge.

21st November 1919 The Featherston School Committee is sending a letter of appreciation to Miss Kennedy, who is retiring from the staff of the school on November 30.

1st December 1919 Before the Featherston school dispersed on Friday last, a presentation was made to Miss Kennedy, one of the staff of the local school, who was leaving on account of her approaching marriage. Mr. M. H. Kendall, chairman of the School Committee, who made very complimentary remarks on the fine results of Miss Kennedy's class, owing to her very capable teaching, handed her a set of Tennyson's Works from the teachers and the children of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Standard classes.

10th December J R Kirby appointed

1920-1921

1921	241	Featherston	Combs M A	Frank L	A	Head	£440	\$37,880
1921	241	Featherston	Kirby	James R	D	Assistant	£290	\$24,966
1921	241	Featherston	Burbush	Margaret A	D	Infant Mistress	£270	\$23,244
1921	241	Featherston	Kilmartin	Kate		Assistant	£220	\$18,940
1921	241	Featherston	Collier	Fanny I	C	Assistant	£210	\$18,079
1921	241	Featherston	Dillon	Kathleen F		Assistant	£150	\$12,914
1921	241	Featherston	Lonie	Adrian T		Pupil Teacher 2	£125	\$10,761
1921	241	Featherston	Mathias	Ena		Pupil Teacher 2	£120	\$10,331

6th January 1920 Brigadier-General B. J. Stone, of the Salvation Army, who is leaving Featherston for Narrow Neck Camp, was farewelled by fellow members of the Featherston School Committee, of which he has been hon. secretary, on Saturday evening. Opportunity was also taken to farewell another member, Mr. J. T. Moore, who has received an appointment in a* Wellington commercial enterprise. Presentations were made by the chairman (Mr. M. H. Kendall), and Messrs. A. C. Holms and F. E. Merlet (ex-chairmen) also spoke.

25th February 1920 The Featherston School Committee has decided to submit to the Education Board its claims for special consideration in connection with the urgent need for a new school. Mr. M. H. Kendall (chairman) the Rev. E. H. Catherwood, and Mr. A. C. Holms will be the delegates.

15th March 1920 The Featherston school held its annual picnic on the Tauherenikau racecourse on Friday last

3rd May 1920 The meeting of householders, which was to have been held at Featherston last week for the election of a School Committee, lapsed for the want of a Quorum.

20th May 1920 It was decided to purchase Town No. 245, from, the Featherston Methodist Trust, thus giving the board an area of two acres, at Featherston on which to erect the proposed new school

28th June 1920 The Wellington Education Board, in its annual report, includes among the works of immediate necessity, schools or additions at Featherston, Castlepoint, Eketahuna, and Poroporo.

9th July 1920 FEATHERSTON SCHOOL

A deputation, introduced by Mr. A. 15. McLeod (Wairarapa) waited upon the Minister of Education to-day to- urge upon him the needs of the town in regard to school accommodation. The speakers asked the Minister to approve of a grant of £350 for removing the present school to a better site, and also to provide enough, money to secure further land contiguous to the proposed site. A third request was that he should make provision for the erection of a new infant school. The Minister expressed approval of the proposal to remove the school, and said that if the additional land required could be secured at a reasonable price he would recommend the making of a grant. In regard to the application for a grant for an infant school, he advised the Board of Education to make a formal application, and promised that he would go into it thoroughly.

12th July 1920 Carterton News The fact that the Minister of Education gave an encouraging reply to the Featherston people, who asked for an infant school, should spur on the local "progressives" who are out to secure a side school. This question should be one of the first dealt with by the Progress League.

23rd July 1920 The Education Board Executive, recommended at Wednesday's meeting that arrangements be made for the re-modelling and the removal of the old school at Featherston to the new site, and for the erection of the first portion of the new main school in reinforced concrete. The recommendation was adopted, and the arrangements were left in the hands of the chairman

3rd August 1920 The Hon C J Parr Minister of Education visited Featherston. . At Featherston the "Minister was met by members of the School Committee and the Deputy Mayor (Mr. Smith). The Committee asked for three new rooms for the site recently acquired, and detailed the proposal for remodelling the old school for the infant classes. The Minister was told that «for over two years eighty infant children had been taught in a shed that let in the wind and rain. The Minister inspected the building, and expressed his sympathy with the request. There was serious overcrowding, and it was his duty to get.-then) a new school. With the proposed three rooms, estimated to cost £5000, he would have to approach Cabinet for a grant of £7000 He had to take the worst cases first, and Featherston came under this category. The Ministerial party left by the four o'clock mail train for Wellington.

16th August 1920 Mr. J. E. Kirby has resumed his duties at the Featherston School, after a severe attack of influenza, which confined him to his room for some time

October

16th October 1920 Mr. Martin Elgar has presented the Featherston School with a full set of cricket requisites

23rd October 1920 The roll number of the Featherston School last month was 266 and the average attendance 227

4th December 1920 The teachers and pupils of the Featherston State School presented Miss D Tully with an engraved- silver manicure set on the eve of her departure for Greytown, where she has received an appointment on the staff of the District High School

4th December 1920 A pleasant little function took place at the Featherston school this week when the teachers and children assembled in the main room to bid farewell to Miss D. Tully, who has been appointed to an assistantship ' the District High School. Greytown. The head teacher, Mr F. L. Combs, ALA., on behalf of the teachers and pupils, in presenting Miss fully with a suitably engraved silver ? set, referred to the work carried out by her during the past three years and the high esteem in which teachers and children alike held her. They were all sorry to lose her, and the speaker

doubted if the teacher appointed in her stead would be as capable. Prolonged applause by the children and the singing "For she's a jolly good fellow," followed by cheers, terminated this part of the function, which was followed by afternoon tea.

11th December 1920 Mrs Martin Elgar has presented a tennis racquet and half a dozen tennis balls to the Featherston school.

27th January 1921 Mrs. M. U Tait (nee Fellingham), Featherston; Resigned

18th February 1921 Miss F I Collier appointed 4th Assistant Featherston

14th March 1921 The- Featherston School Committee has been advised by the Wellington Education Board that the tender of Messrs. Auger and Norris, builders, Lower Hutt, has been accepted for the . erection of a new. school «n wood on concrete foundations. The area of the new school-grounds will comprise four acres

29th March 1921 In view of the fact of the Wellington! Education Board having made arrangements for the erection of a new school in Featherston, the local Borough Council has. decided not to enforce the drainage bylaws in respect to the old school.

26th April 1921 This Day. Anzac Day was celebrated in Featherston in fine weather. The public assembled at the Town Hall, ..and, headed by the band, returned soldiers, and school children, marched to the Cemetery, and assembled round the soldiers' monument, where a stirring address was delivered by. the Mayor (Mr. J. W. Card), followed by a short service, conducted ,by the Revs. Aitken, Bartlett, and Costain, the former delivering an appropriate address. Over 100, wreaths were placed on the monument, and the school children placed a small Union Jack on each soldier's gra.ve. The attendance at the Cemetery was estimated at 2000. The returned soldiers' wreath placed at the top of the monument was a fine piece of work. Included in the wreaths was one each from the Patriotic Society, Borough Council, and district schools.

15th June 1921 A proposal for the conveyance of school' children from Tauherenikau to Featherston was contained in a letter from the Featherston committee. The secretary of- the board said that the reason for the suggestion appeared to be that the attendance at Featherston was diminishing. He was not aware that the Tauherenikau people were agreeable to the proposal, or that there could be a suitable means of conveyance. "The matter was held over

10th August 1921 The board was also pleased to note the establishment of a general library scheme embracing a, number of schools ;in South Wairarapa. The board had, found the necessary book-cases, the community had recognised the value of the scheme by substantial contributions, and the teachers, with a highly creditable enthusiasm, had undertaken the distribution and exchange from headquarters at Featherston. The sum.' of over £200 received, with a pound-for-pound subsidy, had enabled the purchase of .over 2000 books to be made. '

At Martinborough, which is about twelve miles from the railway, the educational needs have, justified the establishment of a district high, school, opening in February, 1921.

28th September 1921 . The opening of the new Featherston School will take place early in October. The Minister of Education has been invited to perform the ceremony

14th October 1921 The new school at Featherston was opened on Saturday, in the presence of a large gathering. Mr. T. Forsyth, chairman of the Wellington Education Board, was present. The school is a single-story building of wood, containing five large class-rooms, two of which are capable of being converted into one by opening folding doors. -The playing ground measures two acres, and an additional acre is available for enlarging it later.

1922-1923

1923	244-27	Featherston	Combs M A	Frank L	A-65	Head	£445	\$40,900
1923	244-27	Featherston	Kirby	James R	D-134	Assistant	£293	\$26,930
1923	244-27	Featherston	Burbush	Margaret A	D-157	Infant Mistress	£273	\$25,091
1923	244-27	Featherston	Kilmartin	Kate	A	Assistant	£218	\$20,036
1923	244-27	Featherston	Collier	Fanny I	C-209	Assistant	£205	\$18,842
1923	244-27	Featherston	Henderson	Sarah C	C-212	Assistant	£175	\$16,084
1923	244-27	Featherston	Lonie	Adrian T		Probationer 1	£118	\$10,845
1923	244-27	Featherston	Merlet	Muriel F		Probationer 1	£83	\$7,629
1923	244-27	Featherston	Brown	Alexandra M	B-107	Secondary		
1923	244-27	Featherston	Denham	Fanny R Mrs	B-124	Secondary		

2nd June 1922 Messrs. C. Elgar and J. O.: Bidwill have each donated £10 towards the purchase of new school grounds at Featherston.

21st June 1922 The establishment of a, District, High School at Featherston was approved by the Council of Education to-day. Mr. J. Cagliley, M.A., Director of Education, presided

16th August 1922 The proposal to establish junior high schools was discussed without any enthusiastic advocacy at this morning's meeting of the Wellington Education Board. A report by the executive of the board stated that, at a time when the finances of the country do not permit of substantial expenditure on any new enterprise, 'indeed appeared to preclude rapid compliance with urgent requirements as far as primary education is concerned, the executive considered that any recommendation the board might make should be confined to a district where the necessary accommodation for a new institution already existed and can be fitted for requirements at small cost. The centre which best met this requirement appeared to the executive' to be Featherston, where the old school, ample in size for the purpose, could be devoted to the purposes of the Junior High School at very moderate expense, and the Council of Education has recently approved the establishment there of a district high school,) which would merge into this institution. This recommendation could only be carried out if the junior high schools were vested in the board. > > • The Chairman said it might be worth while, to pass the recommendation, but he had yet to be convinced of the necessity for junior high schools. • Sir. F. H. Penny said he could not see the use of such schools, which would require a material alteration of the present system. • Mr. O. I. Harkness considered that efficiency should be first of all attained in the present system before they launched out in new schemes. Referring to the question of teachers' salaries, he considered the matter should be reviewed,' as the difference between primary and secondary school salaries contained many anomalies. • (Mr; W. T. Crundy said that the inauguration of a school at Featherston would provide a valuable experiment in the proposed new scheme. Mr. G. T. London said he thought members of the board 'did not know much about junior high schools. He considered it a good idea, but he was not satisfied that Featherston was the best place. He thought Petone would provide better facilities for the experiment.

15th November 1922 A letter was received from the Education Department stating that it was not proposed to establish a junior high school at Featherston 'as recommended by the board, but the suggestion which had been made with respect to a district high school had been approved

17th May 1922 LABOUR AND EDUCATION

Mr. F. L. Cooms. (Sic) M.A., headmaster at the Featherston School, will address a public meeting in the Empress Theatre, Willis street, next Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of the Wellington Labour Representation Committee. His subject will be "Education and Politics: An Informed Public and How to Get It." Mr. Cooms is a brother of Mr. H. E. Combs, secretary of the Post and Telegraph Officers' Association, who contested Wellington North at the General Elections, and for some years was an executive member of the New Zealand Educational Institute. The public are cordially invited to the meeting which begins at 8 o'clock. The doors will open at 7, and a silver coin collection will be taken to defray expenses.

17th May 1923 Owing to a sufficient attendance not being maintained in the secondary department at the Carterton D.H.S. to justify a grade D staff, Miss A. M. Brown, at present grade 5 assistant, Featherston, has been permitted to withdraw her acceptance of the senior assistantship, and Miss Colquhoun, who is at present filling the position, is to continue at Carterton in lieu of transferring to the Featherston D.H.S.

19th July 1923 Nominations from the junior grades . for places in the teams to play against Featherston at Wellington will be received up until Monday next by the secretary Mr. E. C. Feltham, Kilbirnie; .School). The Featherston boys are ex.to visit ; Wellington on 17th August, play on the Saturday, and return home on Monday. As two teams are coming, it will be necessary for homes to be found for some 35 boys. Sportsmasters are therefore asked to send.to the secretary the names, addresses, etc., of those willing to act as hosts

16th August 1923 The Department wrote declining a grant for purchase and fitting up of a building at Featherston for -woodwork and cookery. The board decided to writ, seeking further assistance and offering a contribution.

12th September 1923 Two interesting curtain-raisers to the lest match will be provided on Saturday next, when the Wellington' Primary schools senior B representatives will play Featherston District High School senior team, and the junior representatives (primary) will play the Featherston D.H.S. juniors. The Wellington schoolboys paid a visit to Featherston two weeks ago, and were splendidly entertained by the local enthusiasts. In a letter to the secretary of the Wellington Schools' Union, the headmaster of the Featherston D.H.S.' (Mr. F. Combs, M:A.) congratulates the officials on the splendid behaviour of the lads, both on and off the field. Regarding the standard of play shown by the boys, the junior team was highly praised, and, as the senior teams are evenly matched, interesting games should result when these teams meet on Saturday. As some 37 boys are coming down on Friday, the secretary (Mr. E. C. Feltham, Kilbirnie School) asks sportsmasters to send to him, with' a s little delay as possible, the names of boys willing to act as hosts to visiting boys.

14th September 1923 view of the fact that critics of New Zealand Rugby lament the lack of scoring backs, it is interesting to note that on their recent trip to Featherston the Wellington primary schools team scored twenty tries, of which sixteen were obtained by the backs. The primary school boys are to play early games at the Park, thus affording an unique opportunity for the public to see the national game from its nursery stages to its full maturity. The Featherston senior team is a good combination, containing a half-back (C. Burt) and a five-eighth (Barry) who should go far in New Zealand football. All primary school players are requested to be at the Park entrance at

11.45 a.m. sharp.' The 1st Wellington Battalion Band will play selections at the Park during the afternoon.

17th September 1923 Junior: Wellington, representatives 32, Featherston 0. ... Senior: Featherston District High I School 6, Wellington representatives 3.

My father Clement Ian Carlyon was born in March 1910 at Featherston and attended Featherston District High School being the first pupil to gain a degree after having a full education at the district school. He also played rugby and I guess was in the above teams

9th April 1924 Mr. F. L. Combs, M.A., headmaster at Featherston, has been appointed teachers' advocate for the Wellington district in the grading appeals.

3rd June 1924 Miss E R Chambers appointed

5th December 1924 The death occurred in Wellington on, Wednesday, of the Rev Thomas. Porritt/ at the age of 87-years^ The late Mr. Porritt, -who ;had.i a long and successful •educational, and ministerial career in New Zealand, was also a member of the Masonic Order." While attending the Masonic Conference at Nelson several months ago he contracted a cold, which developed into congestion of the lungs". i'.He returned to .Wellington, however, and.as his malady became worse he entered a private hospital, and after an illness of some weeks passed away on Wednesday. The late Rev. Mr. Porritt was educated at Durham University, and came to New Zealand with his wife 61' years ago in the Humphrey Nelson, landing at Nelson. He was ordained by Bishop" Suter, of Nelson, and took charge of the parish of Picton, and afterwards of Kaikoura. In 1874 he came Tto'Wellington, and, with the late Rev. A. A. Bowden, took charge of the English, school. Seven years. later, he entered,.the .services of the Wellington Education-, Board, being appointed > headmaster ■ • iof ■-•" Greymouth School, and subsequently Featherston School, being nine "years'at'the latter. He then retired on superannuation, and came to liye at* Seatoun,' where hs resided -until his wife's death five years ago. He went to live with his daughter Mrs. Bey, 'at Greytown, He leaves five sons and three daughters, all of whom are <in the Dominion; They are .Mrs. Bey, .widow. of. Dr. Bey, ■• Greyto wnj Colonel E.. W. Porritt,"solicitor, Paeroa (father of Captain-E. A.'Porritt, M.C.); Mr. O. H. Porritt, Timaru; D/- il _EV,, E- Porritt^ Wanganur '(fattier of the .Rhodes scholar and-champion athlete at the" Olympic "sports)'; "iMr -fi' EPorritt; Cambridge,' Waikato-'irrr. Oscar _A. Porritt, Netherton, Hauraki Plains; Mrs. Capel Bisdee^Levin^ and Mrs Eegmald ' Revel!,,,Koromatua, irankton Junction. There are twelve grandchildren-and- five .great grandchildren. The funeral tooK-placo-this-atter-noon following a service, a,i,St. _Eanl's Pro-Cathedral. The interment was at the Bolton' Street.

Cemetery.

5th May 1925 Featherston.—Messrs. C. W. Ritchie (chairman), B. C. Kennard (hon. secretary), F. Dohup, N. Murphy, W. Johnson, F. A. O'Neil, J. Cross, and G. Murphy. A motion was passed asking the **Education Board** to make representations to the Department asking for the establishment of a dental clinic at **Featherston.**

1st February 1928 On returning to Featherston from Nelion, where lie spent his Christmas vacation, Mr. G. H. Stubbs, headmaster of the Featherston School, found that his residence had been broken into and that clothing and jewellery, valued at £27, had been removed. James Maxwell, described as a swagger, was arrested in Napier

and charged with breaking, entering, and theft. Maxwell admitted the offence, and was remanded for sentence.

23rd August 1926 SECONDARY **EDUCATION**. The average attendances for the year 1925 at the district high schools in the district were:—Carterton, 37; Eketahuna, 29; **Featherston**, 24; Greytown, 23; Hutt, 40; Levin, 91; Martinborough, 31; Pahiatua, 44; Petone, 49. In addition a secondary class of twelve pupils was conducted at the Pongaroa Public School, making a total average attendance of 380, as against 430 for the previous year. The secondary departments at the Hutt and Petone District High Schools after years of most useful work were closed from the end of the year, giving way then to the Hutt Valley High School.

18th April 1927 On the eve of his departure for Wellington, the children of the Featherston State School presented the headmaster, Mr. F. L. Combs, with a gold-mounted fountain-pen and a cheque.

9th June 1927 Mr W Churchill appointed assistant

8th August 1928 Mr. J.P. Clcmett has been appointed assistant at the Masterton Central School, and Miss M. H. Sim assistant at Featherston school.

4th April 1929 Mr E Boyes Headmaster Featherston School

27th July 1929 Mr E M Walden appointed assistant

19th July 1930 The average attendances for the year ended 23rd August, 1929, at the district high schools in the Wellington **Education Board** district totalled 322, which is an increase of 46 on the figures of the previous year. Details are as follow:— — Carterton 35, Eketahuna 37, **Featherston** 42, Greytown 32, Levin 102, Martinborough 34, Pahiatua 40. In addition, secondary classes were conducted at Pongaroa and Havelock public

20th August 1931 Advice was received that grants had been approved to carry out measures to minimise earthquake risks at the following schools:—Muritai, Northland, Rakanui, Carterton District High School, Newtown, **Featherston** District High School, Levin District High School, Konini, and Masterton Central. The work embraces chimneys, gables, emergency exit, and parapets.

19th November 1931 Mr V A Welch assistant Featherston

11th June 1936 Mr E B Dean Featherston Secondary to be transferred as the roll had increased transferred to Levin on 3rd August 1937

2nd August 1938 Mr F S Hayes appointed Head Teacher Featherston from Reefton School

3rd April 1939 Mr F Slocombe appointed secondary assistant

29th May 1939 Miss W Wharton appointed Infant Mistress

19th October 1939 The board has been authorised to call for tenders for the erection of additional accommodation at the Featherston District High School.

22nd May 1941 Miss F Collier appointed Infant Mistress Featherston from Martinborough

June 1929 Upto Education Board Featherston