

tion Board to maintain a comparatively large number of strong schools within its district, the existence of so many small schools throughout the colony cannot but be regarded as a very satisfactory feature in the administration of educational affairs, since it affords evidence of a desire on the part of the Boards to extend the benefits of school instruction to remote and sparsely-peopled localities. During the past year advantage seems to have been taken to a larger extent than formerly of the provision of section 88 of the Act which authorizes Boards to assist small schools "started by private enterprise in outlying districts, which it would be premature or inconvenient to constitute school districts." Most of these "aided schools" are "full-time," but some of them are "half-time" schools. As a rule, the latter class of schools are regarded with much disfavour by the parents, the feeling being that their children receive only half of what is their due. Some of the Boards in their reports refer to the efforts made by them on behalf of the children in the outlying districts, and the difficulties they have to contend with in making provision for them. Such efforts are deserving of encouragement; for, with the means at their disposal, Education Boards are naturally reluctant to multiply the number of small schools, and yet there is the strongest obligation under a national system to place the means of a good school education within the reach of the largest possible number of the youth of the colony.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

The number of teachers employed on the ordinary staff in the public schools during the last quarter of 1879 is returned at 1,773, being 162 in excess of the number engaged during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. They have been classified as follows: Masters, 659; assistant-masters, 113; male pupil-teachers, 113; mistresses, 278; assistant-mistresses, 265; and female pupil-teachers, 345. Besides the teachers on the literary staff there were 110 teachers of sewing, whose duties are confined to the giving of lessons in sewing and knitting to girls during a portion of the school time. They are employed almost solely in the smaller schools which have not an attendance sufficient to warrant the employment of a fully-qualified mistress in addition to a master. Table No. 7 of the Appendix contains a return of the teachers employed in the several schools during the last quarter of 1879. The following summary furnishes information respecting the number of teachers employed in the schools of the different education districts during the same period. The classification has been made from the Boards' returns:—

TABLE B.—NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

EDUCATION DISTRICT.	Number of Teachers employed in the Last Quarter of 1879.							8. Average Attend- ance for Last Quarter of 1879.	9. Average Number of Pupils per Teacher.	10. Teachers of Sewing not included in the preceding columns.
	Males.			Females.			7. Totals.			
	1. Head Teachers.	2. Assistants.	3. Pupil- Teachers.	4. Head Teachers.	5. Assistants.	6. Pupil- Teachers.				
Auckland	153	23	1	38	111	61	387	10,688	27.6	44
Taranaki	15	...	3	11	6	4	39	979	25.1	1
Wanganui	37	3	3	14	15	16	88	2,850	32.4	...
Wellington	30	9	4	12	22	47	124	4,402	35.5	1
Hawke's Bay... ..	23	2	2	11	6	19	63	2,020	32.4	5
Marlborough... ..	12	1	1	5	5	1	25	834	33.4	...
Nelson	34	2	...	23	31	...	90	2,935	32.6	...
North Canterbury	109	20	40	74	33	80	356	11,380	32.0	34
South Canterbury	29	6	6	8	9	19	77	2,324	30.2	5
Westland	26	6	13	9	4	18	76	2,232	29.4	...
Otago	137	37	36	62	20	67	359	14,637	40.8	16
Southland	54	4	4	11	3	13	89	3,448	38.8	4
Totals for 1879	659	113	113	278	265	345	1,773	58,729	33.1	110
Totals for 1878	625	82	118	219	235	331	1,611	50,639	31.4	80
Increase	34	31	—5	59	30	14	162	8,090	1.7	30
Totals for 1877	577	71	82	213	236	221	1,400	41,773	29.8	82