

TABLE D.—AGES OF SCHOLARS.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentage.
Under five years	1,387	1,393	2,780	3·68
Five and under seven years	8,642	7,789	16,431	21·75
Seven and under ten years	14,006	12,659	26,665	35·29
Ten and under thirteen years... ..	11,373	10,341	21,714	28·74
Thirteen and under fifteen years	3,453	3,324	6,777	8·97
Over fifteen years	566	623	1,189	1·57
Totals for 1879	39,427	36,129	75,556	100·
Totals for 1878	34,149	31,217	65,366	
Increase	5,278	4,912	10,190	

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

The following table shows the number of scholars returned by the different Boards as learning the several subjects of instruction specified in section 84 of the Act during the last quarter of 1879 :—

TABLE E.—SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Total Attendance.	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	English Grammar and Composition.	Geography.	History.	Elementary Science.	Drawing.	Object-lessons.	Vocal Music.	Needlework.	Domestic Economy.
Auckland	13,959	13,959	13,596	13,300	7,014	8,692	4,777	4,358	7,910	11,359	9,535	5,024	1,633
Taranaki	1,302	1,302	1,288	1,178	551	708	327	246	1,086	799	760	379	96
Wanganui	3,745	3,745	3,641	3,565	1,523	1,967	1,127	501	1,377	2,859	1,973	1,131	193
Wellington	5,633	5,633	5,412	5,000	2,689	3,167	2,246	1,242	3,462	4,528	3,552	1,421	94
Hawke's Bay... ..	2,697	2,697	2,697	2,697	951	1,263	694	381	1,382	2,085	2,254	840	40
Marlborough	1,079	1,079	924	1,021	436	649	390	242	379	767	157	211	63
Nelson	3,737	3,737	3,232	3,094	1,642	1,733	1,323	582	530	421	410	959	5
North Canterbury	15,230	15,229	14,712	14,238	5,852	7,335	4,795	2,627	8,763	11,337	12,288	6,066	1,360
South Canterbury	3,203	3,203	2,667	2,667	1,155	1,503	969	558	1,736	1,893	2,020	781	408
Westland	2,843	2,842	2,750	2,667	1,172	1,302	827	181	140	1,670	1,597	817	...
Otago	17,784	17,784	14,996	15,114	7,953	8,990	5,332	3,231	8,272	11,427	11,833	5,388	717
Southland	4,344	4,344	4,024	4,010	1,812	2,192	1,340	658	1,962	2,689	2,800	1,196	67
Totals for 1879	75,556	75,554	69,939	68,451	32,750	39,501	24,147	14,807	36,999	51,784	49,179	24,213	4,676
Totals for 1878	65,366	65,366	58,933	58,681	31,803	34,864	16,736	7,895	20,027	36,329	33,252	17,020	3,304

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF EDUCATION BOARDS.

In addition to the statutory grant of £3 15s. per annum for every child in average daily attendance at the public schools, the General Assembly made provision for the following purposes :—

(1.) For grants to Boards, at the rate of 10s. per annum for every child in average daily attendance, for distribution amongst the School Committees for local educational purposes. It is required by Order in Council that the whole amount of such grants shall be paid to the School Committees according to a predetermined scale, based upon the average daily attendance at the schools respectively under their charge, and shall form a portion of the school fund to be disbursed by the Committees in terms of the Act.

(2.) For grants to Boards, at the rate of 1s. 6d. for each child in average daily attendance, for the support of scholarships established by them under the provisions of the Act. These are the only payments from the consolidated revenue which Boards can make applicable to scholarships.

(3.) For the distribution amongst Boards of the sum of £4,000 by way of subsidy, with a view to aid and encourage them to make sufficient provision for the efficient inspection of the public schools.

(4.) For grants to Boards for the training of teachers. The amount voted for this purpose was £7,000.

(5.) For a special grant of £175,000 for school-buildings.

The ordinary grants are paid to the Boards monthly, in strict accordance with the ascertained average attendance of the preceding three months, as shown by the summary statements of the quarterly-attendance returns furnished by them in terms of the Order in Council of 28th May, 1878. In the Appendix, a general statement of the income and expenditure of each Board for the year 1879 follows its report. Tables Nos. 1 and 2 in the Appendix contain summaries of the Boards' accounts.