

TABLE A.—NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, ETC.

EDUCATION DISTRICT.	Number of Schools open in the Year 1879.	Total Average Attendance for Last Quarter of 1879.	Average Attendance per School for each Education District.	Number of Schools in which the Average Attendance for last Quarter of 1879, or when they were closed, was										Number of Half-time Schools included in preceding columns.	Number of Aided or Subsidized Schools included in preceding.	Number of Small Schools closed permanently.
				Under 15 pupils.	15 and under 20 pupils.	20 and under 25 pupils.	25 and under 50 pupils.	50 and under 75 pupils.	75 and under 100 pupils.	100 and under 150 pupils.	150 and under 300 pupils.	300 and under 500 pupils.	500 pupils and upwards.			
Auckland ...	204	10,688	52·4	44	25	28	57	14	12	12	5	6	1	29	8	6
Taranaki ...	27	979	36·2	4	4	2	10	6	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...
Wanganui ...	52	2,850	54·8	3	5	7	20	3	3	7	4	...	...	2	...	1
Wellington ...	42	4,402	104·8	...	6	5	12	3	3	2	6	5	...	2	2	1
Hawke's Bay ...	33	2,020	61·2	4	2	6	7	7	4	1	1	...	1	...	5	...
Marlborough ...	15	884	55·6	2	...	5	3	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Nelson ...	58	2,935	50·6	1	6	6	20	15	2	8	...	...	...	...	5	...
North Canterbury	120	11,380	94·8	4	13	10	37	19	9	15	6	2	5	2	4	...
South Canterbury	29	2,324	80·1	4	4	3	10	3	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...
Westland ...	33	2,241	67·9	5	3	3	13	2	1	2	2	2	...	4	6	4
Otago ...	146	14,637	100·2	1	4	11	56	23	15	12	13	6	5	4	9	...
Southland ...	58	3,448	59·4	1	5	4	29	9	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	3
Totals for 1879...	817	58,738	71·9	73	77	90	274	107	52	66	41	24	13	47	39	16
Totals for 1878...	748	50,639	67·7	76	71	83	243	97	53	59	38	18	9	69	...	17
Increase ...	69	8,099	4·2	...	6	7	31	10	...	7	3	6	4	17	...	...
Decrease ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

A comparison of the preceding table with the corresponding summary on page 3 of last year's report shows that, while the increase (8,099) in the total average attendance for 1879 has been somewhat less than that for the previous year, there has been an increase of 69 in the number of schools in operation. The additional schools established in 1878 were only 18 in number. In last year's report the very large increase (8,866) in the average attendance for 1878 was attributed not so much to the additional number of schools which had been opened as to the enlargement and the better filling-up of existing schools, caused by the coming into operation of the Education Act of 1877. The almost equally large increase in the attendance for 1879 has no doubt been partly owing to the same causes, and also, perhaps in a larger degree, to the opening of 69 additional schools. In the year 1878, the average attendances per school had risen from 57·2 to 67·7. The average for 1879 was 71·9, showing an increase of 4·2 per school as compared with 10·5 for 1878.

The proportion of larger (more numerously attended) schools is still on the increase. The number with a less average attendance than 15 was reduced from 96 to 76 during 1878. It has been still further reduced from 76 to 73 during 1879. The number of schools with attendances of from 15 to 25 pupils has increased by 13. The largest increase (31) has been in the number of schools having attendances of from 25 to 50 pupils. The number of schools with attendances of 50 or upwards has increased by 30. The number of "half-time" schools in operation during the whole or a portion of the year was 47, but some of these have now been converted into "full-time" schools. The number of aided or subsidized schools during the same period was 39. The Auckland Board employs two itinerating teachers—one at Wairoa North, the other at Great Barrier Island. No other Board has as yet employed this agency.

In a number of instances Boards have reported the conversion of half-time into full-time schools, and of aided schools into public schools. The closing of small schools has been owing to such causes as the following: Two weak half-time schools have been closed, and a full-time school erected in their stead in a central locality; or the weaker school has been discontinued, and the stronger converted into a full-time school: in other instances a weak school has been closed because a school has been opened in another part of the district which all the children, or the greater number of them, can attend. In not a few instances such changes are greatly promoted by the formation or the improvement of roads, and by the bridging of streams or rivers.

As, from a purely financial point of view, it is to the advantage of an Educa-