

ing to average attendance involves great hardship in times of wide-spread sickness, and that some modification is required beyond that which is afforded by the distinction made between strict average and working average by the Order in Council now in force.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE.

In estimating the cost of each child's education no account was taken of the expenses of the Education Department. These, however, scarcely exceed £2,000 for the year, and one-half of that sum is fairly chargeable to Native and industrial schools, and other subordinate branches of the work of the department.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The several Boards have submitted the reports received by them from their Inspectors. It appears from these reports that 51 per cent. of the number of children on the rolls at the end of the year were presented for standard examination during the year: the proportion for 1880 was only 46·6 per cent. Of those presented, 73·4 per cent. passed, a proportion somewhat larger than that of the preceding year—72 per cent. Table M gives the proportions presented and passed in the several districts, and the proportions of those passed to those presented in the several standards respectively.

TABLE M.—NUMBERS AND PROPORTIONS OF PASSES IN STANDARDS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Roll (Dec., 1881).	Presented.	Passed.	Passed Standards						
				I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	Total.
All ... ..	83,587	51 p.c. of roll number	73·4 p.c. of number presented.	11·0	10·9	8·0	4·5	2·2	0·8	37·4
Per cent. of Number presented in each Standard.										
Auckland ... ..	15,830	7,752	5,469	79·4	71·5	60·5	62·5	69·6	82·5	70·5
Taranaki ... ..	1,709	768	515	60·1	74·4	58·3	69	58·5	33·3	67
Wanganui ... ..	4,488	2,376	1,925	85·7	79	77·9	76·8	90·4	97·7	81
Wellington ... ..	6,147	3,755	2,772	83·1	81·7	58	69	76	76	73·7
Hawke's Bay ... ..	3,206	1,693	1,213	69·1	74·2	69·5	77·6	68·5	77	71·6
Marlborough ... ..	1,321	691	553	85·3	82·5	81·4	70·5	75	70	80
Nelson ... ..	4,062	2,358	1,675	81	77	66·2	57·4	70·5	73·2	71
North Canterbury I.* ... ..	16,051	3,680	2,598	90	70	60	53	58	58	70
North Canterbury II.* ... ..		3,669	2,720	83·1	82·3	62·1	64·1	77	73·2	74·1
South Canterbury ... ..	3,531	1,833	1,346	76·8	85·8	72·6	54·5	39·6	53·6	73·4
Westland ... ..	2,935	1,408	1,162	94	94	74	66	54	91	83
Otago ... ..	19,274	9,972	7,712	83	84	73	70	67	73	77
Southland ... ..	5,033	2,680	1,588	77·9	70·3	38·6	27·5	48·2	71·4	59·3
Totals ... ..	83,587	42,635	31,248	82·1	77·9	64·5	64·3	68·6	74·7	73·4

\* North Canterbury I. is Mr. Edge's district; II., Mr. Restell's.

The total proportion of children that passed some standard during the year was 37·4; and for every 1,000 children on the roll 8 passed Standard VI., 22 passed Standard V., and 45 passed Standard IV.; all the children that passed the fourth or a higher standard being therefore 75 in a thousand.

The arrangement of the children in their classes according to standards at the end of the year is shown in Table N. It relates to a definite time, and represents the judgment of the teachers as to the proficiency of all their scholars; while the statistics given in Table M are compiled from the returns of examinations held at different times, represent the judgment of the Inspectors as to the results attained, and do not include children who did not pass during the year.

TABLE N.—CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO STANDARDS IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1881.

Standards.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentage.	
				1881.	1880.
Too young for line next following ... ..	11,213	10,060	21,273	25·45	26·36
Preparing for Standard I. ... ..	8,997	7,992	16,989	20·32	21·21
"    "    II. ... ..	7,249	6,819	14,068	16·83	17·95
"    "    III. ... ..	7,293	7,030	14,323	17·14	16·34
"    "    IV. ... ..	4,877	4,686	9,563	11·44	10·72
"    "    V. ... ..	2,491	2,296	4,787	5·73	4·99
"    "    VI. ... ..	1,044	949	1,993	2·38	1·90
Passed Standard VI. ... ..	320	271	591	0·71	0·53
Totals for 1881 ... ..	43,484	40,103	83,587	100·00	...
Totals for 1880 ... ..	42,734	39,667	82,401	...	100·00