

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Table No. 10, Appendix, pages 43–56, contains a list of all the public schools in operation within the several education districts during the year, together with an abstract of the enrolments and the average daily attendance at each. The following table shows the more important particulars of the attendance for the year in each of the Board districts :—

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	On School-rolls.				Average Daily Attendance.							Year's Average Attendance as Percentage of mean of the Roll-numbers for the Four Quarters.
	Number of Scholars belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number Admitted during the Year.	Number who Le during the Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Strict Average.		Working Average.					
					Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.			Whole Year.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.			
Auckland	14,038	9,801	7,738	16,101	12,190	11,464	6,595	6,046	12,641	12,223	75·5	
Taranaki	1,456	1,336	807	1,985	1,343	1,233	739	685	1,424	1,332	69·1	
Wanganui	4,212	2,526	1,734	5,004	3,768	3,481	2,025	1,818	3,843	3,613	74·5	
Wellington	5,510	3,758	2,997	6,271	4,225	4,698	2,527	2,090	4,617	4,905	76·6	
Hawke's Bay	2,907	1,874	1,418	3,363	2,567	2,340	1,469	1,164	2,633	2,447	74·0	
Marlborough	1,217	679	482	1,414	1,007	1,009	556	491	1,047	1,049	76·0	
Nelson	3,772	1,970	1,529	4,213	3,110	2,976	1,643	1,579	3,222	3,111	71·7	
North Canterbury	14,693	9,975	7,761	16,907	12,526	11,845	6,825	5,922	12,747	12,186	73·0	
South Canterbury	3,414	2,013	1,574	3,853	2,857	2,656	1,532	1,412	2,944	2,775	74·5	
Westland	2,777	1,004	858	2,923	2,188	2,229	1,119	1,162	2,281	2,313	77·4	
Otago	17,548	9,450	7,333	19,665	16,471	15,918	8,631	7,974	16,605	16,163	82·0	
Southland	4,765	2,667	1,952	5,480	4,174	3,860	2,248	2,036	4,284	4,028	76·5	
Totals for 1882	76,309	47,053	36,183	87,179	66,426	63,709	35,909	32,379	68,288	66,145	76·4	
Totals for 1881	74,359	46,206	37,005	83,560	63,009	61,822	34,150	30,594	64,744	63,735	76·4	
Increase in year	1,950	847	— 822	3,619	3,417	1,887	1,759	1,785	3,544	2,410	...	
Totals for 1877 ... ..	...	...	...	55,688	...	...	...	...	41,773	40,837	...
Increase in 5 years	...	...	...	31,491	...	...	...	...	26,515	25,307	...
Average yearly increase	...	...	...	6,298	...	...	...	...	5,303	5,061	...

The following table shows the total number of enrolments, the average daily attendance, and the increase in each year since 1877 :—

TABLE A2.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FOR FIVE YEARS.

YEAR.	School Attendance.						Yearly Increase on					
	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.				Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.			
			Strict Average.		Working Average.				Strict Average.		Working Average.	
			Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.			Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.
1877	...	55,688	...	...	41,773	40,837	...	...	...	...	...	...
1878	50,849	65,040	49,435	45,521	50,639	47,996	...	9,352	...	...	8,866	7,159
1879	59,707	75,566	57,301	53,067	58,738	54,724	8,858	10,526	7,866	7,546	8,099	6,728
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	60,625	64,407	62,234	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558	5,669	7,510
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	61,822	64,744	63,735	6,235	1,159	63	1,197	337	1,501
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	63,709	68,288	66,145	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887	2,544	2,410

The returns for the year, as also those for 1881, show a much smaller annual increase in the school attendance than those for any of the first three years after the Act came into operation. Some of the causes referred to in the report for 1881, page ii, as accounting for the relatively small increase in the attendance for that year, are still applicable to the past year, and they need not be here recapitulated. Epidemics seem to be now more prevalent and more serious amongst the children of the colony than was the case in former years. Some of the Boards represent the school attendance as having been much affected by