

time schools have been closed and a full-time school erected in their stead in a central locality; or the weaker of two half-time schools has been discontinued and the stronger converted into a full-time school. The Taranaki Board reports the opening of a large central school in New Plymouth, and the closing of several small schools that were formerly scattered throughout that town.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

The number of teachers employed in the public schools during the last quarter of 1884 is returned at 2,447, being 156 in excess of the number engaged during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The number of sewing teachers has increased during the year from 122 to 161. The sewing teachers' duties are confined to the giving of lessons in sewing, knitting, &c., to girls during a portion of the school hours. They are employed almost solely in the smaller schools that have not an attendance sufficient to warrant the employment of a fully-qualified schoolmistress in addition to a master. Table No. 11 of the Appendix, pp. 13-50, contains a nominal return of the teachers employed during the last quarter of 1884. The following table shows the number employed in the several Board districts during the same period; the classification has been made from the Board's returns:—

TABLE E.—NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Number of Teachers, exclusive of Teachers of Sewing, employed during the Last Quarter of 1884.						7. Totals.	8. Average Attendance for Last Quarter of 1884.	9. Average Number of Pupils to each Teacher.	10. Teachers of Sewing not included in preceding columns.
	Males.			Females.						
	1. Teachers.	2. Assistants.	3. Pupil-teachers.	4. Teachers.	5. Assistants.	6. Pupil-teachers.				
Auckland*	169	29	14	77	75	173	537	14,686	27·5	49
Taranaki	21	1	1	17	7	15	62	1,548	25·0	17
Wanganui	53	5	8	21	17	28	132	4,278	32·4	..
Wellington	44	23	8	13	31	63	182	5,678	31·0	12
Hawke's Bay	28	7	14	9	17	30	105	3,281	31·2	1
Marlborough	21	2	1	6	6	9	45	1,106	24·6	..
Nelson	42	8	..	40	44	..	134	3,641	25·9	..
North Canterbury	135	21	54	91	36	133	470	14,210	30·2	40
South Canterbury	36	6	11	10	15	31	109	3,220	29·5	14
Westland	29	5	8	12	12	14	80	2,373	29·7	..
Otago	150	49	42	87	33	97	458	17,915	39·1	14
Southland	73	5	7	16	3	29	133	4,896	36·8	14
Totals for 1884	801	161	168	399	296	622	2,447	76,832	31·4	161
Totals for 1883	763	142	159	337	319	571	2,291	72,214	31·5	122
Increase or decrease	38	19	9	62	—23	51	156	4,618	..	39

* Exclusive of seven Visiting Teachers.

The apparent large increase in the number of head-mistresses, and decrease in that of assistant mistresses, must be accounted for by the circumstance that a reclassification has been made by the Auckland Board, which has returned 77 head-mistresses, and 75 assistant mistresses for 1884, the corresponding numbers for 1883 having been 36 and 98 respectively. Of the whole number of head-teachers and assistants (exclusive of pupil-teachers) there were 962 masters and 695 mistresses; in 1881—three years previously—the corresponding numbers were 843 and 607, the increases being 119 and 88 respectively. At the close of 1881 the number of male pupil-teachers in employment was 176; in 1883—two years afterwards—the number had fallen to 159, being a decrease of 17; during the same two years the number of female pupil-teachers had increased from 461 to 571, or to the extent of 110. The increase in the numbers in 1884 over those in 1883 was nine male and 51 female pupil-teachers. The increase (39) in the number of teachers of sewing in 1884 has been very much larger than in any preceding year.

The increase (156) in the total number of teachers has kept equal pace with that of the average attendance, the average number of pupils to each teacher over all the districts in 1884 having been 31·4: in 1883 the number