

Boards' Inspectors of Schools (E.—1b), and papers relating to proposed changes in some of the regulations made under the Education Act (E.—1c), and to technical education (E.—1d), are also printed in separate papers. The annual reports of the several Education Boards, and the reports of the School Commissioners on their administration of the education reserves vested in them, are printed in the Appendix to this report.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Appendix to this report contains a list (pages 51–64, Table No. 12) of all the public schools in operation within the several education districts during the past year, together with an abstract of the enrolments and the average daily attendance at each school. The following table supplies the more important particulars of the year's attendance in each education district:—

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 left during the Year	Number belonging at End of Year.	Strict Average.		Working Average.			Whole Year.			
					Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.						
							Males.	Females.	Total.				
Auckland	15,365	11,537	8,513	18,389	14,353	14,000	7,696	6,990	14,686	14,446	78.1	77.6	
Taranaki	1,514	1,623	1,024	2,113	1,447	1,399	831	717	1,548	1,536	73.0	70.4	
Wanganui	5,103	2,756	2,232	5,627	4,142	4,127	2,251	2,027	4,278	4,262	75.7	75.2	
Wellington	6,168	4,546	3,319	7,395	5,413	5,454	3,039	2,639	5,678	5,651	76.6	76.8	
Hawke's Bay ..	3,480	2,289	1,659	4,110	3,159	3,076	1,756	1,525	3,281	3,217	78.9	77.2	
Marlborough ..	1,424	669	600	1,493	1,063	1,091	595	511	1,106	1,136	75.2	73.7	
Nelson	4,117	2,303	1,612	4,808	3,542	3,479	1,863	1,778	3,641	3,598	75.8	73.0	
North Canterbury ..	16,506	8,765	6,939	18,332	13,626	13,127	7,516	6,694	14,210	13,929	76.4	73.0	
South Canterbury ..	3,752	1,897	1,582	4,067	3,112	3,003	1,689	1,531	3,220	3,122	77.0	75.0	
Westland	2,932	893	720	3,105	2,318	2,269	1,195	1,178	2,373	2,340	76.2	76.9	
Otago	18,978	9,149	6,713	21,414	17,742	17,296	9,376	8,539	17,915	17,551	82.2	81.3	
Southland	5,544	2,888	2,047	6,385	4,733	4,336	2,578	2,318	4,896	4,603	74.4	75.7	
Totals for 1884 ..	84,883	49,315	36,960	97,238	74,650	72,657	40,385	36,447	76,832	75,391	77.9	..	
Totals for 1883 ..	79,416	47,854	34,794	92,476	70,077	67,373	37,890	34,324	72,214	69,843	76.7	76.7	
Increase in year ..	5,467	1,461	2,166	4,762	4,573	5,284	2,495	2,123	4,618	5,548	1.2	..	
Totals for 1877 ..	..	..	..	55,688	..	..	..	..	41,773	40,837	..	..
Increase in 7 years ..	..	..	..	41,550	..	..	..	..	35,059	34,554	..	..
Average yearly increase .. ..	..	..	..	5,936	..	..	..	..	5,008	4,936	..	..

The following table shows the total number belonging to all the schools, the average daily attendance, and the increase in each year since 1877:—

TABLE A2.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FOR SEVEN 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	..	..	..	..	8,866	7,159
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	3,544	2,410
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	67,373	72,214	69,843	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664	3,926	3,698
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	72,657	76,832	75,391	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284	4,618	5,548

The preceding tables show that the annual increase in the number of children attending the public schools was much greater in 1884 than in any former year since 1880. The increase in the average daily attendance in 1881 was only 1,501; the corresponding increase in 1884 reached 5,548.