

not show to what extent this is the case. The great majority of the half-time schools are in the Auckland District, where the Board appears to be disposed to extend the method of coupling under a competent teacher two small schools, in preference to employing inefficient teachers for small separate schools.

The distribution of the schools among the several districts is shown in the following table:—

TABLE J.—NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OPEN AT THE END OF 1885.

(In this enumeration every couple of half-time schools is reckoned as one school, except in the column for number of such schools.)

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.				Number of Schools open at End of Year.	Average Attendance for Last Quarter.	Mean Average at each School in each Education District for Last Quarter.	Number of Schools in which the Attendance for the Quarter was—										Number of Half-time Schools open at End of Year.	Number of Aided or Subsidised Schools at End of Year.	Number of Small Schools closed permanently in 1885.
							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..	..	209	15,895	76.1	13	20	3	72	24	13	14	8	8	4	48	7	3		
Taranaki ..	..	33	1,632	49.5	2	6	2	14	6	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..		
Wanganui ..	..	74	4,433	60.0	9	4	6	32	6	2	7	8	..	..	10	1			
Wellington ..	..	62	6,289	101.4	1	5	7	21	6	6	3	6	7	..	2	2			
Hawke's Bay ..	..	39	3,733	95.7	5	1	2	11	4	4	5	5	1	1	6	..			
Marlborough ..	..	30	1,175	39.2	8	5	1	7	4	4	..	1	..	..	12	2			
Nelson ..	..	84	3,844	45.8	12	17	3	22	15	7	5	3	..	..	24	..			
North Canterbury..	..	146	14,863	101.7	3	13	11	49	19	17	13	11	5	5	3	1			
South Canterbury..	..	46	3,340	72.6	2	7	5	17	7	1	2	3	1	1	14	..			
Westland..	..	22	1,516	68.9	5	2	2	6	..	3	1	2	1	..	9	1			
Grey ..	..	16	1,113	69.6	1	2	2	6	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..			
Otago ..	..	175	18,483	105.6	3	8	19	64	27	12	13	10	9	10	8	..			
Southland ..	..	85	5,347	62.9	6	6	8	34	14	5	8	2	1	1	12	..			
Totals for 1885 ..				1021	81,663	80.0	70	96	101	355	135	75	72	60	35	22	58	108	10
Totals for 1884 ..				987	76,832	77.8	64	93	95	369	124	68	68	51	35	20	52	70	11
Difference ..				34	4,831	2.2	6	3	6	14	11	7	4	9	..	2	6	38	1

The number of teachers at the end of 1885 was 2,619, being greater by 172 than the number for 1884. The average number of children in attendance under the care of each teacher in the last quarter of the year was 31.2. As the corresponding number for 1884 was 31.4, it follows that the growing number of scholars is adequately provided for by the appointment of new teachers. The foregoing statement does not include mistresses employed for a few hours in each week to give instruction in needlework; their number at the end of the year was 148, against 161 in 1884. The following table, compiled from the Boards' returns, shows for each district the numbers of teachers of both sexes and different standing, and the proportion between the numbers of teachers and pupils:—

TABLE K.—NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS	Number of Teachers, exclusive of Teachers of Sewing, employed during the Last Quarter of 1885.							8.	9.	10.
	Males.			Females.			7. Totals.	Average Attendance for Last Quarter of 1885.	Average Number of Pupils to each Teacher.	Teachers of Sewing not included in preceding columns.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.				
	Teachers.	Assistants.	Pupil-teachers.	Teachers.	Assistants.	Pupil-teachers.				
Auckland .. ..	171	34	9	46	129	205	594	15,895	26.7	51
Taranaki .. ..	22	1	1	12	12	14	62	1,632	26.3	..
Wanganui .. ..	59	5	10	15	18	29	136	4,433	32.6	..
Wellington .. ..	46	20	11	15	44	67	203	6,289	30.9	13
Hawke's Bay .. ..	30	8	10	10	21	36	115	3,733	32.4	1
Marlborough .. ..	21	2	1	7	6	9	46	1,175	25.6	..
Nelson .. ..	42	8	..	41	46	..	137	3,844	28.0	..
North Canterbury .. ..	135	20	59	95	39	145	493	14,863	30.0	44
South Canterbury .. ..	39	5	11	9	18	30	112	3,340	29.9	13
Westland .. ..	16	3	7	6	9	12	53	1,516	28.6	..
Grey .. ..	15	2	..	1	8	11	37	1,113	30.8	..
Otago .. ..	150	52	39	97	35	104	477	18,483	39.0	14
Southland .. ..	77	6	11	24	5	31	154	5,347	34.7	12
Totals for 1885 .. ..	823	166	169	378	390	693	2,619	81,663	31.2	148
Totals for 1884 .. ..	801	161	168	399	296	622	2,447	76,832	31.4	161
Difference .. ..	22	5	1	21	94	71	172	4,831	2	13