(calculated, according to the new regulations, upon the number on the school rolls) was 38·2. To compare with last year, however, I give the percentage of passes on the number examined in standards only, omitting exceptions—70·2. In the majority of well-taught schools children appeared to look forward to examination with great pleasure, and the percentage of pupils present increased from 92 in 1885 to 93 in 1886. But some teachers, I am sorry to say, work up their pupils to an unhealthy state of excitement by constantly holding the examination and the Inspector before them in a threatening manner, in place of having the work regularly and well done week by week throughout the year simply because that it should be so done is the bounden duty of teacher and child, irrespective of any passing of standards or of censure or praise from the Inspector. Of the 255 children absent seventy belonged to the three Wanganui town schools. For the whole district the percentage of children absent in each standard was as follows: Standard VI., 12·6; Standard V., 6·7; Standard IV., 8·4; Standard III., 7·2; Standard II., 6·7; Standard I., 5·1. In looking at these percentages, however, it must be borne in mind that bad weather affects the attendance more in the lower than in the higher classes. The majority of absences in Standard I. were due either to this cause or to sickness.

The following table (Table A) gives a condensed summary of the examination results during the past two years, Table B shows the result in each Standard, and Table C (not printed) gives every information with regard to individual schools.

TABLE A.

—	1885.	1886.
Number on rolls on days of examination...	5,834	5,874
Not presented for promotion—		
Preparatory classes	2,180	2,146
Re-presented	110	...
Passed in Standard VI.	33	24
	2,323	2,170
Presented in Standards I. to VI., inclusive	3,511	3,704
Percentage of roll number presented	60·5	63·0
Examined in Standards I. to VI.	3,233	3,449
Absent in standards, although presented	278	255
Excepted	193	249
Failed	974	955
Passed	2,066	2,245
Percentage of passes (roll number)	35·4	38·2
Percentage of failures	32·1	29·8
Percentage of passes on number examined in standards ...	63·9	65·0
Percentage of passes on number examined in standards, omitting exceptions	67·9	70·2

TABLE B.

No. of Schools examined in Standards.	Standard Classes.	Presented.	Absent.	Excepted.	Failed.	Passed.	Average Age of those that passed.	Percentage of Failures in Standards.
							Yrs. mos.	
	S 7	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	S 6	143	18	4	45	76	14 2	37·2
52	S 5	336	23	25	126	162	13 2	43·8
66	S 4	542	46	40	209	247	12 6	45·8
67	S 3	775	56	54	233	432	11 6	35·0
66	S 2	849	57	62	177	553	10 4	24·2
68	S 1	1,059	55	64	165	775	9 0	17·6
	P.	2,146	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals ...	5,874	255	249	955	2,245	*	29·8

* Mean of average age, 11 years 9 months.

I am glad to see that the number below Standard I. is less than it was in 1885, though the number on the rolls is higher; or, in other words, the percentage of the roll number presented in Standards I. to VI., inclusive, is higher than it was in 1885. The percentage of passes for the district on the number examined in standards, omitting exceptions, has increased from 67·9 in 1885 to 70·2 in 1886; or, to put it in another way, the percentage of failures has decreased from 32·1 to