

The classification according to standards is given in detail at page 2 of the Appendix, and more briefly in Table D.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1887.

Standards.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentages.				
				1887.	1886.	1885.	1884.	1883.
Preparatory classes (P.) .. ..	15,709	13,981	29,690	26·77	27·70	27·49	27·33	27·62
Class for Standard I. .. ..	9,559	8,637	18,396	16·59	17·41	18·14	19·19	19·10
" " II. .. ..	8,678	8,393	17,071	15·39	15·61	16·16	16·14	16·21
" " III. .. ..	8,799	8,274	17,073	15·39	15·48	15·51	15·51	15·80
" " IV. .. ..	6,874	6,613	13,487	12·15	11·57	11·13	11·15	10·94
" " V. .. ..	4,487	4,292	8,779	7·92	7·08	6·85	6·27	6·32
" " VI. .. ..	2,406	2,095	4,501	4·06	3·58	3·28	3·25	2·91
Passed Standard VI. (S. VII.) ..	929	979	1,922	1·73	1·57	1·44	1·16	1·10
Totals.. ..	57,441	53,464	110,919	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The proportion of pupils above the Third Standard has risen during the year from 23·8 per cent. to nearly 25·9. The difference is represented by a decline in the proportion in every one of the lower classes, but chiefly in the preparatory and First Standard classes, which have fallen from 45·1 per cent. to 43·4 per cent. The preparatory class, however, has still a somewhat larger proportion of the pupils now (26·8 per cent.) than it had in 1879 (when it stood at 25·3 per cent.).

The average ages at which the several standards are passed vary very little from year to year. Considering how large a number of children enter between the ages of five and seven, it is strange that the average age on passing the First Standard is so high as eight years and eleven months. The average ages for the several districts are shown in the following table :—

TABLE E.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS AT STANDARD EXAMINATIONS.

Education Districts.				Average Ages (Years) for Standard.						Mean of Ages.	
				I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	1887.	1886.
				Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.	Yrs. Mos.
Auckland	..	..	..	9 2	10 5	11 6	12 9	13 10	14 11	12 1	11 11
Taranaki	..	..	..	8 8	10 2	11 10	13 2	14 8	14 7	12 2	12 2
Wanganui	..	..	..	8 10	10 6	11 9	12 9	13 5	13 11	11 10	11 8
Wellington	..	..	..	9 0	10 0	11 4	12 4	13 3	14 2	11 8	11 7
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	8 9	10 4	11 6	12 6	13 2	14 3	11 9	11 8
Marlborough	..	..	..	8 9	9 11	10 8	12 0	13 1	14 1	11 5	11 4
Nelson	..	..	..	8 7	9 9	10 9	11 11	13 0	14 0	11 5	11 6
Grey	..	..	..	8 5	9 7	10 9	12 6	12 11	14 5	11 5	11 6
Westland	..	..	..	9 6	10 4	12 0	12 4	13 3	14 0	11 11	11 8
North Canterbury	..	..	..	8 11	10 2	11 3	12 5	13 5	14 2	11 9	11 10
South Canterbury	..	..	..	8 7	9 9	11 2	12 8	13 1	14 1	11 6	..
Otago	..	..	..	9 3	9 10	11 4	12 4	13 3	14 1	11 8	..
Southland	..	..	..	9 6	10 5	11 8	12 7	13 6	14 9	12 1	..
Mean	..	..	..	8 11	10 1	11 4	12 6	13 4	14 3	11 8	11 8
Range (difference between highest and lowest)	..	..	..	1 1	0 11	1 2	1 3	1 9	1 10	0 7	0 10
Mean in 1886	..	..	..	8 10	9 11	11 4	12 6	13 5	14 2	..	..
Range in 1886	..	..	..	0 10	1 4	1 8	1 1	1 4	1 4	..	..

The annual inspection report on each school includes a statement of the number of children on the roll of the school on the day of the inspection. The total of the numbers so stated for 1887 is 107,912. Of this number, 39,473 (36·6 per cent.) were not ready for the First Standard examination, and 658 (0·6 per cent.) had already passed the Sixth. The number promoted by passing standards was 48,447 (42·5 per cent.); the number of failures, 12,687 (12·9 per cent.); the number excepted (that is, not passing, but also excused for not passing on account of insufficient attendance), 3,497 (3·2 per cent.); and the number of absentees (among those prepared for passing), 3,150 (2·9 per cent. of the school roll). The classification immediately before and immediately after inspection may be stated thus :—