

in connection with the harbour works. The number of schools in operation at the close of the year was therefore 190. Towards the close of the year the Board sanctioned the establishment of schools at Windsor and Nenthorn, where buildings are now in course of erection. As in the previous year, a large number of applications for the establishment of schools had to be declined owing to the want of funds to provide the necessary buildings.

**ATTENDANCE.**—There are in the district twenty-four schools the average attendance at each of which is under twenty pupils. It has always been the aim of the Board to avoid as far as possible the multiplying of small non-paying schools, and the recent increase in the number of this class of school is due not so much to the establishment of new schools as to the fact that in several of the long-settled districts the children have grown beyond school age, while there are few younger ones growing up to supply their places.

**TEACHERS.**—At the end of the year there were 524 teachers employed—an increase of eleven for the year. The number of male head teachers has decreased by five, while the number of female head teachers has increased by ten. This result is due to a recent regulation of the Board to the effect that female teachers shall be appointed to all schools having an average attendance of less than thirty pupils. The following extract from the annual report of the Inspectors shows that the change is one which is already leading to beneficial results: "The practice of appointing females as head teachers in many of the smaller rural schools is working very well. Female teachers do not move from school to school so frequently as males, and on the whole they conduct schools of this class decidedly better than most of the male teachers who fill such positions."

**PUPIL-TEACHERS.**—There were 149 pupil-teachers in the Board's service at the end of the year. The annual examination took place about the middle of December. The following table shows the number that sat at the examination, the number that passed, and the number that failed:—

				Presented.		Passed.		Failed.
First class	...	...	...	34	...	34	...	0
Second class	...	...	...	41	...	41	...	0
Third class	...	...	...	35	...	33	...	2
Fourth class	...	...	...	37	...	36	...	1

The services of one pupil-teacher were dispensed with for failing twice to pass the examination for promotion to a higher class. From the above table it will be seen that only three pupil-teachers failed to pass the annual examination in December. This satisfactory result is to be attributed mainly to the fact that a better class of candidates is now offering for the office of pupil-teacher. Many of those recently appointed had passed the matriculation examination of the New Zealand University before being appointed, and several have been holders of the Board's junior and senior scholarships. New regulations bearing upon the appointment, education, and training of pupil-teachers were adopted during the year.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.**—The following is an abstract of the attendance at the public schools of this district from the institution of the Otago education scheme in the year 1856 to the present time. At the beginning of 1878 the new education district of Southland was created, and thirty-seven schools were handed over to the newly-formed Board:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Pupils who attended at all in the Course of the Year.			Average Daily Attendance for the Year.			Attendance at the Close of the Year.		
			Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.
1856-57 ...	5	7	...	...	...	115	121	236	...	...	...
1867 ...	56	851	2,216	3,151	4,367	897	2,045	2,942	919	2,436	3,355
1877 ...	173	356	3,191	16,422	19,613	2,176	9,573	11,749	2,585	11,943	14,528
1887 ...	183	511	6,136	22,742	28,878	4,148	15,110	19,258	4,648	18,032	22,680
1888 ...	187	513	5,802	22,779	28,581	3,925	15,038	18,963	4,315	18,108	22,423
1889 ...	190	524	5,652	22,932	28,584	3,938	15,635	19,573	4,365	18,376	22,741

The preceding table shows that in the Dunedin schools 150 fewer pupils were enrolled last year than during the previous year, while the total enrolments in the whole district practically remain the same. The average attendance shows an increase of 610 pupils. The number in attendance at the close of the year shows an increase of 318.

**SCHOLARSHIPS.**—Eighteen scholarships—ten senior and eight junior—were offered for competition at the end of the year. Thirty-nine candidates competed for the senior and sixty-two for the junior scholarships. It is worthy of mention that three out of the ten junior scholarships awarded by the New Zealand University were gained by former holders of the Board's scholarships. For a number of years the Board of Governors of the Dunedin High Schools has granted free education to all who won scholarships, and also to all competitors for senior scholarships who gained 50 per cent. of the marks at the scholarship examination. The High Schools Board has, however, recently intimated that, owing to its financial position, free education to scholarship holders will be discontinued. At present sixty-seven pupils receive free education at the Dunedin High Schools under the scholarship scheme. In Appendix O will be found a return showing the names of those who have held scholarships at any time since the institution of the scheme in 1878 till the end of last year, the date when the scholarship began, the occupation of the parent, the occupation now followed by the scholarship holder, and other information. [Not reprinted.]