

Education Districts.	Pure Maoris.			Half-castes living as Maoris.			Half-castes living among Europeans.			Total.			No. of Schools in which there were Native Children.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Auckland	73	53	126	39	17	56	173	189	362	285	259	544	84
Taranaki	12	6	18	1	..	1	11	5	16	24	11	35	8
Wanganui	55	14	69	3	3	6	16	14	30	74	31	105	25
Wellington	16	3	19	2	2	4	6	6	12	24	11	35	17
Hawke's Bay ..	56	47	103	11	11	22	19	23	42	86	81	167	23
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	11	18	7	11	18	3
Nelson	7	4	11	..	..	..	2	..	2	9	4	13	5
Grey .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	10	11	21	..	..	..	1	1	2	11	12	23	3
North Canterbury ..	3	10	13	..	1	1	11	9	20	14	20	34	9
South Canterbury ..	8	5	13	..	1	1	7	5	12	15	11	26	5
Otago	11	9	20	..	..	..	32	28	60	43	37	80	12
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	42	85	43	42	85	15
Totals for 1890 ..	251	162	413	56	35	91	328	333	661	635	530	1,165	209
Totals for 1889 ..	233	136	369	40	28	68	330	334	664	603	498	1,101	192
Difference	18	26	44	16	7	23	-2	-1	-3	32	32	64	17

The number of boys on the public school rolls is, as usual, greater than the number of girls, the proportion being exactly the same as it was in 1889. Out of every 1,000 pupils, 516 are boys and 484 are girls. With respect to the ages of the pupils, the distinctions made in the statistics of former years followed the lines indicated in the Education Act, which sets the limits of school age at five years and fifteen years, and of the age of compulsory attendance at seven and thirteen. The statistics for 1890, which are set forth in full in Table No. 1 in the Appendix (p. 1), are more precise, and show the number of pupils of each year, with respect to age, from five to fifteen. Beginning with children between five and six years old, they show that the proportion of such children to the whole number of the pupils on the roll in December was 7·3 per cent. The percentages for the succeeding years in their order are 10·7, 11·8, 11·8, 12, 12·2, 11·1, 9·9, 7·2, and 4·1; and the percentage of pupils above the age of fifteen is 1·9. Table C is a summary of the information contained in Table No. 1.

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1890.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.
Five and under six years ..	4,408	4,164	8,572	7·3	18·0	18·44	17·80	19·77
Six and under seven years ..	6,551	6,050	12,601	10·7	..	..	..	..
Seven and under eight years ..	7,305	6,626	13,931	11·8	..	..	..	..
Eight and under nine years ..	7,125	6,714	13,839	11·8	35·6	36·11	37·00	37·21
Nine and under ten years ..	7,286	6,897	14,183	12·0	..	..	..	..
Ten and under eleven years ..	7,427	6,924	14,351	12·2	..	..	..	..
Eleven and under twelve years ..	6,776	6,336	13,112	11·1	33·2	32·68	33·03	32·28
Twelve and under thirteen years ..	6,010	5,706	11,716	9·9	..	..	..	..
Thirteen and under fourteen years ..	4,413	4,082	8,495	7·2	11·3	10·91	10·56	10·52
Fourteen and under fifteen years ..	2,481	2,391	4,872	4·1	..	..	..	..
Over fifteen years ..	1,069	1,171	2,240	1·9	1·86	1·92	2·20	2·06
Totals	60,851	57,061	117,912	100·0	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It will be observed that the years of age to which the four highest numbers belong—each of these numbers being about 12 per cent. of the total number—are the years from seven to eleven; that the two years with the next highest numbers are the years 11–12 and 6–7, with about 11 per cent. each; and that next to these is the year 12–13, with about 10 per cent. The numbers for the years 5–6 and 13–14 are nearly equal, about 7 per cent. each. Only 6 per cent. of the pupils are above the age of fourteen, and less than one-third of these have passed their fifteenth birthday. There appears to be a decided tendency to a diminution of the proportion of children under the age of ten, the corresponding increase in the proportion of older children showing itself principally in the number of pupils between ten and thirteen, and slightly in the number between thirteen and fifteen, while the number above the age of fifteen shows a tendency to decline.

It is satisfactory to observe that the proportion of pupils that have passed the Third Standard, or standards above the Third, is steadily increasing. It may