

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FROM 1877 TO 1896.

Year.	School Attendance.					Yearly Increase on			
	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.		Average Attend- ance expressed as Percentage of Roll-Number.	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.	
			Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.				Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.
1877	..	55,688	..	45,521	9,352
1878	50,849	65,040	49,435	53,067	73·8	8,858	10,526	7,866	7,546
1879	59,707	75,566	57,301	60,625	74·6	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	61,822	74·2	6,235	1,159	63	1,197
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	63,709	73·6	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	67,373	74·0	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	72,657	75·1	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	78,827	76·6	5,787	5,169	5,533	5,670
1885	90,670	102,407	80,183	80,737	76·1	4,707	3,921	3,178	2,410
1886	95,377	106,328	83,361	85,637	77·0	3,829	4,591	4,025	4,900
1887	99,206	110,919	87,386	90,108	79·3	4,328	1,766	3,463	4,471
1888	103,534	112,685	90,849	93,374	80·3	1,385	2,771	3,459	3,266
1889	104,919	115,456	94,308	94,632	79·9	3,239	2,456	2,362	1,258
1890	108,158	117,912	96,670	97,058	80·3	2,507	1,611	[- 406]	2,426
1891	110,665	119,523	96,264	99,070	80·6	1,614	3,097	4,653	2,012
1892	112,279	122,620	100,917	98,615	78·5	2,026	2,066	[- 1,045]	[- 455]
1893	114,305	124,686	99,372	103,490	80·6	2,514	2,614	6,279	4,875
1894	116,819	127,300	106,151	106,622	81·4	3,081	2,556	1,071	3,132
1895	119,900	129,856	107,222	108,976	82·1	2,525	1,181	2,031	2,354
1896	122,425	131,037	109,233						

The average number of pupils on the rolls of the schools in 1896, taking one week with another, was 132,725. The strict average attendance for the year was 108,976, which number is to 132,725 as 82·1 is to 100 ; so that 82·1 per cent. represents the degree of regularity of the attendance of the enrolled pupils, and this means that on the average more than one-sixth of them are absent. It is satisfactory to notice that in this respect there is a tendency in the right direction, the percentage for 1877 being only 73·8, while the percentage for 1896 is 82·1, the highest yet attained. Table B shows that the attendance is much more regular in some districts than in others, the percentages ranging from 77·6 to 86·5.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1896.

Education Districts.	Roll-numbers.				Average Daily Attendance.				Average for the Year as Percentage of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters — 132,725 for 1896 ; 130,942 for 1895.		
	Pupils at Beginning of Year.	Admitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Fourth Quarter.			Whole Year.			
					Boys.	Girls.	Total.				
										1896.	1895.
Auckland	23,908	11,741	9,042	26,607	11,363	10,623	21,986	21,835	81·7	81·0	
Taranaki	3,588	1,473	1,234	3,827	1,565	1,414	2,979	3,012	77·6	75·8	
Wanganui	9,096	4,168	3,337	9,927	4,083	3,859	7,942	8,053	79·5	76·8	
Wellington	12,101	6,434	4,994	13,541	5,804	5,293	11,097	10,968	80·3	81·1	
Hawke's Bay	6,914	3,299	2,830	7,383	3,310	2,941	6,251	6,256	83·3	81·5	
Marlborough	2,130	642	589	2,183	907	885	1,792	1,802	80·8	82·0	
Nelson	5,574	2,068	1,638	6,004	2,551	2,322	4,873	4,906	80·5	79·4	
Grey	1,649	407	383	1,673	686	731	1,417	1,377	80·9	81·5	
Westland	1,493	381	333	1,541	676	675	1,351	1,353	86·5	84·6	
North Canterbury	20,399	6,879	5,978	21,300	9,308	8,519	17,827	17,503	81·1	81·2	
South Canterbury	5,093	1,524	1,295	5,322	2,402	2,257	4,659	4,558	84·7	84·3	
Otago	21,421	6,468	5,798	22,091	10,074	9,190	19,264	19,502	86·5	85·9	
Southland	9,059	3,245	2,666	9,638	4,097	3,718	7,815	7,851	80·7	79·0	
Totals for 1896	122,425	48,729	40,117	131,037	56,826	52,427	109,253	108,976	82·1	81·4	
Totals for 1895	119,900	48,344	38,388	129,856	55,968	51,254	107,222	106,622	81·4	..	
Increase in year	2,525	385	1,729	1,181	858	1,173	2,081	2,354	0·7	..	

There are four districts in which the “ strict average ” for the whole year was rather lower in 1896 than in 1895, the differences for the several districts being as follows : Marlborough, 3 ; Grey, 23 ; North Canterbury, 8 ; Otago, 105.