

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1896.

Standards.				Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentages for Five Years.				
							1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Preparatory classes	..	..	..	17,335	15,806	32,641	24·91	24·94	24·96	25·37	25·71
Class for Standard I.	..	..	..	8,610	8,000	16,610	12·68	13·01	13·34	14·14	14·26
" " II.	..	..	..	8,931	8,277	17,208	13·13	13·41	13·92	14·04	14·10
" " III.	..	..	..	9,838	9,115	18,953	14·46	14·80	15·09	14·79	14·65
" " IV.	..	..	..	9,315	9,178	18,493	14·11	13·90	13·65	13·18	13·11
" " V.	..	..	..	7,051	6,746	13,797	10·53	10·35	9·70	9·62	9·60
" " VI.	..	..	..	4,531	4,316	8,847	6·75	6·27	6·20	6·09	5·85
Passed Standard VI.	..	..	..	2,173	2,315	4,488	3·43	3·32	3·14	2·77	2·72
Totals..	..	..	..	67,784	63,253	131,037	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The girls outnumber the boys in the class above the Sixth Standard in the proportion of 51·6 to 48·4. In all the other classes the boys are in the majority. The number of pupils in the classes below the class preparing for the Third Standard is to the total as 50·7 to 100. In the previous year the proportion was 51·4* per cent.; thirteen years ago it was 62·9 per cent. Nearly one-fourth of the children are in the preparatory classes; more than two-fifths are in the three lowest standard classes; between 31 and 32 per cent. are in the three highest standard classes; and less than 3½ per cent. in the class above the Sixth Standard. Among the standard classes the Third-Standard class contains more than any other; the Fourth-Standard class is slightly smaller than the third; and above the Fourth Standard there is a rapid decline.

Table E gives for each standard the mean age of the pupils at the time of their passing the examination for the standard. In this respect there is very little change from year to year. On an average, the First Standard is passed at or near the age of nine, and the Sixth at about fourteen, with a mean interval of a year between two standards. The details of this table suggest that the conditions prevailing in different districts are somewhat dissimilar. The concurrence of three conditions—irregular attendance, inefficient teaching, and unusually strict examination—would almost certainly raise the ages for all the standards in any district.

TABLE E.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS AT STANDARD EXAMINATIONS IN 1896.

Education Districts.				Average Ages for Standards.						Mean of Ages.	
				I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	1896.	1895.
				Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.
Auckland	..	..	..	9 1	10 3	11 3	12 4	13 4	14 3	11 9	11 10
Taranaki	..	..	..	9 5	10 7	11 11	12 9	13 7	14 2	12 1	12 2
Wanganui	..	..	..	9 3	10 6	11 8	12 10	13 7	14 5	12 0	12 0
Wellington	..	..	..	8 9	9 11	11 0	12 0	12 11	13 10	11 4	11 4
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	8 11	10 0	11 2	12 5	13 2	14 0	11 7	11 7
Marlborough	..	..	..	8 1	10 0	11 9	12 6	13 3	13 8	11 6	11 9
Nelson	..	..	..	8 4	9 7	10 8	12 0	12 10	13 11	11 3	11 3
Grey	..	..	..	9 1	10 1	11 3	12 6	13 3	14 6	11 9	11 9
Westland	..	..	..	9 2	10 0	11 1	12 5	13 3	14 2	11 8	11 4
North Canterbury	..	..	..	8 7	9 8	10 11	12 0	12 11	13 10	11 4	11 5
South Canterbury	..	..	..	8 8	9 10	10 11	12 1	12 11	14 0	11 5	11 5
Otago	..	..	..	9 1	9 9	11 0	12 0	12 11	13 10	11 5	11 7
Southland	..	..	..	8 9	9 9	11 1	12 4	13 2	13 11	11 6	11 6
Mean	..	..	..	8 11	10 0	11 2	12 4	13 2	14 0	11 7	11 7
Range (difference between highest and lowest)	..	..	..	1 4	1 0	1 3	0 10	0 9	0 10	0 10	0 11
Mean in 1895	..	..	..	8 11	10 0	11 2	12 3	13 3	14 1	11 7	..
Range in 1895	..	..	..	0 11	1 9	1 4	1 8	0 11	0 9	0 11	..

The aggregate number of children reported to the Inspectors as belonging to the several schools on the several days of examination in 1896 was 131,171, and this number is fairly consistent with the average of the weekly totals of pupils on the school-rolls—132,725. In the preparatory classes there were 40,460 pupils; in the class above the Sixth Standard there were 2,222; and 2,694 were absent. There were therefore (out of a total of 131,171) 85,795 to be examined in

* Not 50·4, as printed in the Report of 1896.