

NORTH CANTERBURY.

SIR,—

Education Office, Christchurch, 29th January, 1897.

We have the honour to submit our annual return for the schools of the North Canterbury District for the year 1896, as required by section 12 of the regulations under "The Education Act, 1877."

The appended lists give in detail the information in regard to individual schools required by the regulations. In addition, the usual summary tables are here furnished, presenting the general statistics of examination in a form convenient for comparison, and, so far as figures go, providing a means of estimating what has been done in each group of subjects.

At the close of the year there were in operation under the Board's control a total of 194 schools, of which 190 were examined in accordance with the standard syllabus. The remaining four were aided schools, opened or reopened during the year, and therefore not yet prepared for examination. One school examined in the early part of the year was subsequently closed and replaced by another in a more convenient position, which will be taken in its stead at the usual time.

In the 190 schools examined, there were presented 21,318 children, of whom 19,957 were present on the days of examination. In the standard classes I.—VI. 12,212 were reported as satisfying the tests at the different stages, and 2,390 failed. Of the latter number, 384 had made less than half attendances during the three quarters preceding, and under the older regulations would have been returned as "excepted." Some rule of distinction which will mark out cases of bad attendance still seems to us desirable, and accordingly, although a better rule than that formerly in use might probably be found, we have in the school reports continued to distinguish as "excepted" those cases of failure in which the conditions of attendance come within the limits of that rule.

In the classification of the pupils presented, 5,887, or 27.6 per cent. of the total enrolment, were included in the preparatory division. Of this number, 826, or 3.9 per cent. of the school-roll, were eight years of age or more on the dates of presentation, and in these cases generally satisfactory reasons were assigned for the classification adopted.

I.—PASS-SUBJECTS : NUMBERS.

Classes.	Presented.	Present.	Did not Pass.		Passed.	Schools presenting.	Average Age of those that passed.
			Excepted as under Old Rule.	Failed.			
Above Standard VI. ...	308	205	...	...	...	83	Yrs. mos.
Standard VI. ...	1,458	1,403	38	196	1,169	159	13 10
" V. ...	2,214	2,138	81	479	1,578	179	12 11
" IV. ...	2,909	2,777	93	604	2,080	180	12 0
" III. ...	3,226	3,116	101	523	2,492	184	10 11
" II. ...	2,788	2,725	55	136	2,534	181	9 8
" I. ...	2,528	2,443	16	68	2,359	182	8 7
Preparatory ...	5,887	5,150	...	...	...	190	...
Totals for 1896 ...	21,318	19,957	384	2,006	12,212	190	11 4*
Totals for 1895 ...	21,227	20,028	314	1,925	12,373	185	11 5*

II.—PASS-SUBJECTS : NUMBERS REDUCED TO PERCENTAGES.

Classes.	School-roll.		Class-roll.		Passed, 1896.		Passed, 1895.	
	Presented.		Present.	Did not Pass.	School-roll.	Class-roll.	School-roll.	Class-roll.
Above Standard VI. ...	1.4		66.6	...	...	...	...	...
Standard VI. ...	6.8		96.2	16.0	5.5	80.2	5.3	84.4
" V. ...	10.4		96.6	25.3	7.4	71.3	7.6	74.9
" IV. ...	13.6		95.5	24.0	9.8	71.5	10.4	75.9
" III. ...	15.1		96.6	19.4	11.7	77.2	11.4	75.0
" II. ...	13.1		97.7	6.9	11.9	90.9	12.0	90.0
" I. ...	11.9		96.6	3.3	11.1	93.3	11.6	93.6
Preparatory ...	27.6		87.5	...	...	...	...	...
On totals ...	100.0		93.6	15.8	57.3	80.8	58.3	84.7

* Mean of average age.