

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FROM 1877 TO 1897.

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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1878	50,849	65,040	49,435	45,521	73·8	8,858	9,352	7,866	7,546
1879	59,707	75,566	57,301	53,067	74·6	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	60,625	74·2	6,235	1,159	63	1,197
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	61,822	73·6	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	63,709	74·0	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	67,373	75·1	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	72,657	76·6	5,787	5,169	5,533	5,670
1885	90,670	102,407	80,183	78,327	76·1	4,707	3,921	3,178	2,410
1886	95,377	106,328	83,361	80,737	77·0	3,829	4,591	4,025	4,900
1887	99,206	110,919	87,386	85,637	79·3	4,328	1,766	3,463	4,471
1888	103,534	112,685	90,849	90,108	80·3	1,385	2,771	3,459	3,266
1889	104,919	115,456	94,308	93,374	79·9	3,239	2,456	2,362	1,258
1890	108,158	117,912	96,670	94,632	80·3	2,507	1,611	[ -406 ]	2,426
1891	110,665	119,523	96,264	97,058	80·6	1,614	3,097	4,653	2,012
1892	112,279	122,620	100,917	99,070	78·5	2,026	2,066	[ -1,045 ]	[ -455 ]
1893	114,305	124,686	99,872	98,615	80·6	2,514	2,614	6,279	4,875
1894	116,819	127,300	106,151	103,490	81·4	3,081	2,556	1,071	3,132
1895	119,900	129,856	107,222	106,622	82·1	2,525	1,181	2,031	2,354
1896	122,425	131,037	109,253	108,976	82·9	1,108	1,160	1,270	2,017
1897	123,533	132,197	110,523	110,993					

The average number of pupils on the rolls of the schools in 1897, taking one week with another, was 133,961, and the strict average attendance for the year was 110,993, so that 82·9 per cent. represents the degree of the regularity of attendance. On reference to the sixth column of Table A it will be seen that this is the highest degree of regularity which has yet been attained. Table B shows that in five districts—Hawke’s Bay, Westland, North Canterbury, South Canterbury, and Otago—the degree of regularity is above the average.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1897.

Education Districts.	Roll-numbers.				Average Daily Attendance.					Average for the Year as Percent- age of the Mean Average Weekly Roll of Four Quar- ters — 133,961 for 1897; 132,725 for 1896.	
	Pupils at Be- ginning of Year.	Ad- mitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Fourth Quarter.			Whole Year.			
					Boys.	Girls.	Total.				
									1897.	1896.	
Auckland .. ..	24,789	12,311	9,417	27,683	11,821	10,792	22,613	22,643	81·0	81·7	
Taranaki .. ..	3,606	1,503	1,264	3,845	1,581	1,437	3,018	3,047	77·8	77·6	
Wanganui .. ..	9,370	4,092	3,272	10,190	4,819	4,033	8,352	8,257	80·4	79·5	
Wellington .. ..	12,458	6,427	4,854	14,031	6,045	5,602	11,647	11,659	82·2	80·3	
Hawke's Bay .. ..	7,007	3,458	2,886	7,579	3,384	3,012	6,396	6,389	84·1	83·3	
Marlborough .. ..	2,069	735	624	2,180	939	884	1,823	1,804	82·7	80·8	
Nelson .. ..	5,723	1,845	1,625	5,943	2,515	2,285	4,800	4,895	80·5	80·5	
Grey .. ..	1,561	445	308	1,698	704	719	1,423	1,385	82·7	80·9	
Westland .. ..	1,488	346	372	1,462	630	633	1,263	1,294	85·3	86·5	
North Canterbury .. ..	20,364	6,434	5,970	20,828	9,145	8,443	17,588	17,753	83·5	81·1	
South Canterbury .. ..	5,076	1,493	1,358	5,211	2,367	2,181	4,548	4,564	86·1	84·7	
Otago .. ..	20,905	6,476	5,594	21,787	9,897	9,231	19,128	19,360	87·4	86·5	
Southland .. ..	9,117	3,191	2,548	9,760	4,157	3,767	7,924	7,943	80·7	80·7	
Totals for 1897 .. ..	123,533	48,756	40,092	132,197	57,504	53,019	110,523	110,993	82·9	82·1	
Totals for 1896 .. ..	122,425	48,729	40,117	131,037	56,826	52,427	109,253	108,976	82·1	..	
Increase in year .. ..	1,108	27	— 25	1,160	678	592	1,270	2,017	0·8	..	

There are only three districts in which there is a decline in the attendance both for the fourth quarter of 1897 and for the whole of the year—viz., Nelson, Westland, and Otago. The Maori children included in the foregoing enumerations of attendance continue to increase. At the end of 1896 the number of such children on the rolls was 2,023; during the year it rose to 2,260. This is altogether independent of the number of pupils on the books of the Native schools (2,864), and the number attending boarding-schools for Natives at Government expense (73).