

TABLE showing Number of Children for whom Maintenance is paid by Charitable Aid Boards, &c., at 31st March, 1897, and 31st March, 1898.

	Boarded out.				Paid for in Institutions.				Totals.			
	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.	31st March, 1897.	31st March, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
North of Auckland	2	3	1	...	2	2	...	...	4	5	1	...
Auckland	47	36	...	11	39	38	...	1	86	74	...	12
Coromandel and Thames...	3	9	6	...	19	26	7	...	22	35	13	...
Waikato	3	3	...	...	2	4	2	...	5	7	2	...
Bay of Plenty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cook	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...
Hawke's Bay	9	15	6	...	3	3	...	...	12	18	6	...
Taranaki	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13	...	...
Patea and Wanganui	13	1	...	12	6	15	9	...	19	16	...	3
Palmerston North	1	1	...	...	7	6	...	1	8	7	...	1
Wellington Charitable Aid Board	...	...	...	...	97	105	8	...	184	189	5	...
Wellington Benevolent Trustees	62	65	3	...	19	14	...	5				
North Wairarapa Benevolent Society	6	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	2
Wairau	1	...	...	1	3	2	...	1				
Picton	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	2	1	...	1
Nelson	11	9	...	2	31	31	...	...	42	40	...	2
Buller...	3	3	...	...	5	4	...	1	8	7	...	1
Inangahua	...	...	...	...	10	8	...	2	10	8	...	2
Grey	5	4	...	1	44	42	...	2	49	46	...	3
Westland	18	19	1	...	8	6	...	2	26	25	...	1
Ashburton and North Canterbury...	76	42	...	34	61	69	8	...	137	111	...	26
South Canterbury	60	47	...	13	46	5	...	41	106	52	...	54
North Otago	...	...	...	...	21	22	1	...	21	22	1	...
Otago United	...	...	...	...	218	203	...	15	233	213	...	20
Otago Benevolent Institution	15	10	...	5	...	...	...	...				
Southland	10	12	2	...	16	14	...	2	26	26	...	...
Totals	361	300	19	80	659	620	35	74	1,020	920	28	128

In pursuance of the plan carried out for the last two years, in order to obtain statistics as to outdoor relief in New Zealand, the department again issued the following forms to sixteen local bodies, with a request that the figures be given. Out of this number six have returned the forms filled in, including Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington. The Dunedin Benevolent Society, a separate institution disbursing over £6,000 per annum on outdoor relief, is again unable to supply the information required.

TABLE I.—CAUSES OF POVERTY (CHIEF CAUSES, NOT TRIBUTARY CAUSES).

	Lack of Employment.	Sickness.	Accident.	Insanity of Bread-winner.	Imprisonment of Bread-winner.	Desertion of Bread-winner.	No Male Support.	Intemperance.	Shiftlessness.	Physical Defects.	Old Age.	Causes undetermined.	Transportation.	Total Number of Cases, Year ending 31st March, 1897.	Total Number of Cases, Year ending 31st March, 1898.
Auckland Charitable Aid Board	113	364	5	28	29	126	290	27	...	80	397	9	47	1,548	1,515
Wellington Benevolent Trust	159	184	12	13	11	38	132	20	7	37	73	1	...	779	688
North Canterbury and Ashburton Charitable Aid Board	75	121	11	11	4	44	134	12	7	33	226	52	...	756	730
Greymouth Benevolent Society	1	3	...	...	...	2	6	1	...	3	101	...	...	108	117
Hokitika Benevolent Society	3	5	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	1	62	...	...	73	82
Waipawa and Hawke's Bay Charitable Aid Board	129	75	10	...	...	8	63	20	2	17	69	...	...	400	393