

At the time of the standard examination the number of children on the rolls was 132,121; of these 40,002 were in the preparatory classes, and 2,678 had already passed Standard VI.; there were therefore 89,441 on the rolls of Standards 1-6. Out of these 72,221 passed one or other of the Standards I. to VI.; 13,324 failed; and 3,896 were absent from the examination.

TABLE F.—EXAMINATION STATISTICS.

Education Districts.	Rolls on Days of Examination.	Preparatory Classes.	Pupils above Sixth Standard.	Present in Standard Classes.	Passed.
Auckland	28,571	9,564	440	17,736	14,496
Taranaki	4,065	1,300	29	2,623	2,057
Wanganui	10,330	3,135	154	6,749	5,533
Wellington	14,973	4,591	516	9,629	8,296
Hawke's Bay	7,683	2,501	51	5,009	4,321
Marlborough	2,099	570	60	1,413	1,189
Nelson	5,907	1,714	206	3,886	2,980
Grey	1,559	480	49	1,008	870
Westland	1,287	349	76	838	761
North Canterbury	20,428	5,264	189	13,583	11,466
South Canterbury	5,102	1,408	150	3,445	2,988
Otago	20,693	6,279	565	13,422	11,839
Southland	9,424	2,847	193	6,204	5,425
For the colony.. .. .	132,121	40,002	2,678	85,545	72,221
In 1898	132,542	40,599	2,641	86,463	74,260

Of the total number on the rolls of the schools 54·66 per cent. passed the various standards; of the number actually examined in the standard classes the failures formed 15·58 per cent. For the year 1898 the corresponding figures were 56·03 and 14·1. The falling-off in the percentage of passes may be traced partly to the smaller proportion of pupils in these classes and to the large number of absentees on the days of examination; the increase in the percentage of failures may probably be set down as a natural consequence of a larger degree of irregularity of attendance rather than as marking any greater severity in the examinations.

From Table G the percentages of passes in the several standards for the different districts might be calculated; as pointed out, however, in last year's report, "the comparison must be largely qualified by the fact that the requirements, though nominally the same in all districts, are not actually the same; and further, by what appears to be true also—namely, that greater attention seems to be paid to the class-subjects in some districts than in others." For the whole colony 96·4 of those present at examination in Standard I. passed; in Standard II., 93·4 per cent.; in Standard III., 81·1; IV., 77·0; V., 75·5; VI., 80·3. Comparing these with the corresponding percentages for 1898, we remark that the falling-off is greatest in Standards IV., V., and VI., there being very little difference in the figures for the two years as regards Standards I., II., and III.

TABLE G.—PASSES.

Education Districts	Passes in Standards.						Present at Examination.					
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.
Auckland	3,040	3,169	2,873	2,340	1,839	1,235	3,148	3,444	3,583	3,407	2,585	1,569
Taranaki	515	478	484	317	173	90	574	562	630	470	259	128
Wanganui	1,239	1,280	1,095	959	637	323	1,316	1,356	1,380	1,259	951	487
Wellington	1,609	1,675	1,560	1,544	1,177	731	1,655	1,822	1,939	1,839	1,471	903
Hawke's Bay	1,017	993	912	689	476	234	1,109	1,070	1,050	832	614	334
Marlborough	264	230	202	207	158	128	267	234	259	291	210	152
Nelson	566	619	549	552	414	280	597	697	765	778	622	427
Grey	150	160	152	166	140	102	157	164	187	221	161	118
Westland	140	143	153	146	90	89	148	148	169	167	100	106
North Canterbury	2,112	2,240	2,238	2,069	1,654	1,153	2,174	2,417	2,796	2,632	2,174	1,390
South Canterbury	572	601	549	585	423	258	578	613	656	726	539	333
Otago	2,252	2,367	2,241	2,000	1,688	1,291	2,266	2,443	2,676	2,470	2,105	1,462
Southland	1,103	1,130	1,048	941	713	490	1,132	1,179	1,252	1,168	903	570
For the colony.. .. .	14,579	15,085	14,056	12,515	9,582	6,404	15,121	16,149	17,342	16,260	12,694	7,979
In 1898	15,030	15,220	14,473	13,261	9,351	6,925	15,493	16,268	17,682	16,763	12,167	8,090