

Taking the colony as a whole, the regularity of attendance remains the same as in 1900, or 84·1 per cent. of the average roll-number. In the separate districts also the change from last year is in most cases less than 1 per cent. ; but in Grey and Westland, which last year reached the high figures of 89·1 and 87·5 respectively, there has been a falling-off to 85·2 and 86·2 ; thus Grey, which last year had the highest percentage in the colony, is now only fourth on the list. Otago, which last year, with an attendance of 86·9 per cent., stood at the head of the larger education districts, now takes the lead for the whole colony with an average attendance of 86·7 per cent.

The number of Maoris and children of mixed race attending the public schools is shown in the following table :—

TABLE B2.—CHILDREN OF MAORI AND MIXED RACES ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1901.

Education Districts.	Of Maori Race.			Of Mixed Race living as Maoris.			Of Mixed Race living as Europeans.			Total.			Number of Schools attended.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Auckland	332	255	587	38	44	82	299	266	565	669	565	1,234	176
Taranaki	33	19	52	8	3	11	20	12	32	61	34	95	18
Wanganui	111	59	170	16	16	32	13	12	25	140	87	227	34
Wellington	84	56	140	10	10	20	40	35	75	134	101	235	35
Hawke's Bay	228	140	368	33	25	58	71	68	139	332	233	565	36
Marlborough	1	2	3	..	..	..	14	11	25	15	13	28	4
Nelson	5	8	13	..	..	..	5	4	9	10	12	22	7
Grey .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	2	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5	1
North Canterbury	5	5	10	1	..	1	21	13	34	27	18	45	8
South Canterbury	3	4	7	..	..	..	3	2	5	6	6	12	2
Otago	16	11	27	..	2	2	38	35	73	54	48	102	14
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	10	18	28	47	43	90	57	61	118	17
Totals for 1901	820	562	1,382	116	118	234	571	501	1,072	1,507	1,181	2,688	352
Totals for 1900	744	489	1,233	95	108	203	556	530	1,086	1,395	1,127	2,522	338
Difference	76	73	149	21	10	31	15	-29	-14	112	54	166	14

Table B2 calls for no special remark, except in so far as it emphasizes the fact indicated in the Native Schools Report, that the proportion of Maori children receiving education is increasing. There is no doubt that the increase might be still greater, and the attainment of this object—the education of all Maori children as far as possible—is probably one of the best aims towards which the efforts of the Maori Councils can be directed. The School Attendance Act of last session may also produce good results ; but for the present unexpected difficulties have arisen in the framing of the special regulations for the compulsory school attendance of Maori children, some Native-school authorities considering that the same limits of distance should apply to Maoris as to Europeans, while others hold that they should be extended, one Native School Committee even going so far as to suggest that the radius within which children should be compelled to attend a Native school should be extended to fifteen miles.

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1901.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Five and under six years ..	5,342	5,012	10,354	7·9	7·8	7·8	7·7	7·6
Six and under seven years ..	6,991	6,657	13,648	10·4	10·2	10·1	10·1	10·0
Seven and under eight years ..	7,661	7,156	14,817	11·3	11·3	11·1	11·2	11·2
Eight and under nine years ..	7,809	7,157	14,966	11·4	11·4	11·3	11·4	11·2
Nine and under ten years ..	7,720	7,280	15,000	11·4	11·4	11·5	11·4	11·6
Ten and under eleven years ..	7,882	7,185	15,067	11·5	11·5	11·4	11·7	11·5
Eleven and under twelve years ..	7,620	7,077	14,697	11·2	11·2	11·6	11·2	11·1
Twelve and under thirteen years ..	7,194	6,590	13,784	10·5	10·8	10·6	10·5	10·7
Thirteen and under fourteen years ..	5,659	5,108	10,767	8·2	8·1	8·0	8·1	8·3
Fourteen and under fifteen years ..	3,071	2,598	5,669	4·3	4·3	4·5	4·5	4·5
Over fifteen years	1,314	1,268	2,582	1·9	2·0	2·1	2·2	2·3
Totals	68,263	63,088	131,351	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0