

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1902.

TABLE D.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Education Districts.	Roll-numbers.				Average Attendance for Whole Year.			Average for the Year as Percentage of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters—133,952 for 1902, and 132,869 for 1901.	
	Pupils at Beginning of Year.	Admitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	1902.	1901.
Auckland .. .. .	26,469	11,697	9,582	28,584	12,902	11,574	24,476	84.0	84.5
Taranaki .. .. .	4,118	2,062	1,546	4,634	2,103	1,811	3,914	83.6	82.0
Wanganui .. .. .	10,197	5,032	3,972	11,257	4,990	4,595	9,585	84.4	82.1
Wellington .. .. .	13,782	6,770	5,657	14,895	6,646	5,934	12,580	82.5	83.7
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	7,670	3,487	2,891	8,266	3,719	3,327	7,046	84.5	83.9
Marlborough .. .. .	1,855	654	502	2,007	900	845	1,745	85.0	82.6
Nelson .. .. .	5,305	2,000	1,648	5,657	2,528	2,281	4,809	84.4	82.8
Grey .. .. .	1,486	498	382	1,602	675	705	1,380	85.0	85.2
Westland .. .. .	1,106	305	290	1,121	509	506	1,015	87.9	86.2
North Canterbury .. .. .	18,765	6,533	5,847	19,451	8,736	7,945	16,681	84.4	83.2
South Canterbury .. .. .	5,075	1,506	1,453	5,128	2,347	2,108	4,455	86.9	86.5
Otago .. .. .	18,709	6,541	5,203	20,047	9,176	8,608	17,784	88.1	86.7
Southland .. .. .	8,919	3,119	2,425	9,613	4,310	3,931	8,241	85.9	83.1
Totals for 1902 .. .. .	123,456	50,204	41,398	132,262	59,541	54,170	113,711	84.9	..
Totals for 1901 .. .. .	122,725	49,634	41,008	131,351	58,436	53,361	111,797	84.1	84.1
Difference .. .. .	731	570	390	911	1,105	809	1,914	0.8	..

Taking the several education districts of the colony, an examination of Table B will show that there has been an increase in the average attendance at the schools in 1902 as compared with 1901 in all districts except Wellington, Marlborough, and Westland, where there have been slight decreases. The position is shown in tabular form below (Table B1). The increase in the average for the North Island is 1,162, and that for the South Island is 752, the increase for the whole colony being thus 1,914. The greatest increase (498) is shown in Wanganui, the next being Taranaki, with an increase of 422. The greatest increase for the South Island is in Southland (330).

TABLE B1.—COMPARISON OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, 1901-1902, NORTH ISLAND AND SOUTH ISLAND.

Districts.	Average Attendance.		
	1901.	1902.	Difference.
Auckland .. .. .	24,379	24,476	97
Taranaki .. .. .	3,492	3,914	422
Wanganui .. .. .	9,097	9,585	498
Wellington .. .. .	12,622	12,580	[- 42]
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	6,849	7,046	197
Totals, North Island .. .. .	56,439	57,601	1,162
Marlborough .. .. .	1,759	1,745	[- 14]
Nelson .. .. .	4,734	4,809	75
Grey .. .. .	1,369	1,380	11
Westland .. .. .	1,045	1,015	[- 30]
North Canterbury .. .. .	16,558	16,681	123
South Canterbury .. .. .	4,438	4,455	17
Otago .. .. .	17,544	17,784	240
Southland .. .. .	7,911	8,241	330
Totals, South Island .. .. .	55,358	56,110	752
Totals for colony .. .. .	111,797	113,711	1,914

It will be seen that there has been an improvement in the regularity of school attendance in all the districts of the colony except Auckland, Wellington, and Grey. Wellington, with 82.5 per cent., is the lowest. (It may or may not be a significant fact in this connection that the Wellington District ceased to employ the services of a truant officer.) Otago, South Canterbury, and Westland, which stood at the head of the list in 1901, have each improved their percentage, Otago still remaining at the top with a percentage of 88.1, Westland being next with 87.9, and South Canterbury next with 86.9.

The South Island shows a greater degree of regularity of attendance than the North Island, the respective rates being 86.1 per cent. and 83.8 per cent. of the average weekly roll.