

hundred in the average roll, there was a still further fall in the average attendance of considerably over 900. In the third quarter there was a slight recovery, and a much greater one in the last quarter, when the attendance was 2,120 above that in the second.

TABLE A1.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FROM 1877 TO 1903.

Year.	School Attendance.					Yearly Increase on			
	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.		Average Attendance 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	..	..	9,352	..	..
1879	59,707	75,566	57,801	53,067	73·8	8,858	10,526	7,866	7,546
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	60,625	74·6	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	61,822	74·2	6,235	1,159	63	1,197
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	63,709	73·6	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	67,373	74·0	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	72,657	75·1	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284
1885	90,670	102,407	80,183	78,327	76·6	5,787	5,169	5,533	5,670
1886	95,377	106,328	83,361	80,737	76·1	4,707	3,921	3,178	2,410
1887	99,206	110,919	87,386	83,637	77·0	3,829	4,591	4,025	4,900
1888	103,534	112,685	90,849	90,108	79·3	4,328	1,766	3,463	4,471
1889	104,919	115,456	94,308	93,374	80·3	1,385	2,771	3,459	3,266
1890	108,158	117,912	96,670	94,632	79·9	3,239	2,456	2,362	1,258
1891	110,665	119,523	96,264	97,058	80·3	2,507	1,611	[−406]	2,426
1892	112,279	122,620	100,917	99,070	80·6	1,614	3,097	4,653	2,012
1893	114,305	124,686	99,872	98,615	78·5	2,026	2,066	[−1,045]	[−455]
1894	116,819	127,300	107,032	104,996	81·8	2,514	2,614	6,279	4,875
1895	119,900	129,856	108,708	108,394	82·8	3,081	2,556	1,676	3,398
1896	122,425	131,037	110,274	110,517	83·3	2,525	1,181	1,566	2,123
1897	123,533	132,197	111,952	112,323	83·9	1,108	1,160	1,678	1,811
1898	123,892	131,621	109,561	111,636	83·4	359	[−576]	[−2,391]	[−692]
1899	123,207	131,315	109,050	110,316	82·6	[−685]	[−306]	[−511]	[−1,320]
1900	123,416	130,724	111,498	111,747	84·1	209	[−591]	2,448	1,431
1901	122,725	131,351	112,354	111,797	84·1	[−691]	627	856	50
1902	123,456	132,262	111,556	113,711	84·9	731	911	[−798]	1,914
1903	124,095	133,568	114,232	113,047	83·9	639	1,306	2,676	[−664]

Although there was a decline in the number in average attendance in 1903, the returns show that the average of the weekly roll-numbers has at last exceeded that of 1897, which was previously the highest that had been attained. The figures for 1897 were 133,961, and for 1903 134,748. In 1902 they were 133,952, so that the increase for the year was 795. The number on the roll at the end of the year also shows a large increase, being 133,568, or 1,306 above the number enrolled at the end of 1902, viz., 132,262.

The standard of regularity of attendance attained in 1903 is 1 per cent. less than that of the previous year. The variations in the average daily attendances in the several quarters which have already been noted become even more marked when they are expressed as percentages of the average weekly roll-number. In the last quarter of 1902 the percentage was 83·6; in 1903 it was in the first quarter 83·8, in the second 83·0, in the third 84·1, and in the last 84·7: the percentage for the whole year was 83·9. In 1902 it was 84·9. As will be seen from Table A3 this fall is fairly general throughout the colony. Although lower than in 1902, the percentage of 83·9 for 1903 is still a high one compared with the corresponding figures for the British Isles and for the several States of the Australian Commonwealth. As no later figures are available for comparison, the following paragraph extracted from last year's report may be here repeated:—

According to the latest returns which are available the average attendance in primary day-schools in England was 83·6 per cent. of the net enrolment, in Scotland 82·9 per cent., and in Ireland 65 per cent. For the Australian States the numbers were: New South Wales, 72·6; Victoria, 66·5; Queensland, 81·3; South Australia, 79·9; Western Australia, 81·6; Tasmania, 74·4. These returns are for 1901 in the case of Scotland, Ireland, and New South Wales, and for 1902 in all other cases.

In average attendance there was an increase in all districts of the North Island as compared with 1902, and a decrease in all districts of the South Island. The position is shown in the following table:—