

TABLE A2.—COMPARISON OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, 1902 AND 1903, NORTH ISLAND AND SOUTH ISLAND.

Districts.	Average Attendance.		
	1903.	1902.	Difference.
Auckland	24,919	24,476	443
Taranaki	3,957	3,914	43
Wanganui	9,867	9,585	282
Wellington	12,801	12,580	221
Hawke's Bay	7,081	7,046	35
Totals, North Island	58,625	57,601	1,024
Marlborough	1,642	1,745	— 103
Nelson	4,604	4,809	— 205
Grey	1,352	1,380	— 28
Westland	938	1,015	— 77
North Canterbury	16,172	16,681	— 509
South Canterbury	4,280	4,455	— 175
Otago	17,234	17,784	— 550
Southland	8,200	8,241	— 41
Totals, South Island	54,422	56,110	— 1,688
Totals for colony	113,047	113,711	— 664

From the figures set out in Table A2 it will be seen that, whereas in 1903 the number of pupils in average daily attendance at the schools in the North Island increased by 1,024 above that for 1902, in the South Island it decreased by 1,688; so that there was a decrease for the whole colony of 664, as already shown in Table A1. The greatest increase shown (443) was in Auckland, the next being in Wanganui (282), whilst the greatest decreases were in Otago (550) and North Canterbury (509). The attendance in the North Island has for many years shown an unbroken increase, while in the South Island there has been since 1896 a gradual decrease; for that year the attendances were—North Island, 50,836; South Island, 59,681.

Table A3 shows the average attendance for the year in each of the education districts of the colony, and also the regularity of attendance of the pupils on the school rolls.

TABLE A3.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1903.

Education Districts.	Roll-numbers.					Average Attendance for Whole Year.			Percentage of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters.	
	Pupils at Beginning of Year.	Admitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	1903.	1902.
Auckland	26,691	13,428	10,861	29,258	29,518	13,243	11,676	24,919	84·4	84·0
Taranaki	4,377	2,126	1,785	4,718	4,784	2,120	1,837	3,957	82·7	83·6
Wanganui	10,613	5,579	4,390	11,802	11,889	5,172	4,695	9,867	83·0	84·4
Wellington	13,893	7,878	6,263	15,508	15,505	6,757	6,044	12,801	82·6	82·5
Hawke's Bay ..	7,735	3,568	2,877	8,426	8,506	3,741	3,340	7,081	83·2	84·5
Marlborough ..	1,863	671	572	1,962	1,988	853	789	1,642	82·6	85·0
Nelson	5,126	2,329	1,841	5,614	5,588	2,428	2,176	4,604	82·4	84·4
Grey	1,602	570	571	1,601	1,610	651	701	1,352	84·0	85·0
Westland	1,053	310	276	1,087	1,110	483	455	938	84·5	87·9
North Canterbury ..	18,475	6,983	5,879	19,579	19,701	8,477	7,695	16,172	82·1	84·4
South Canterbury ..	4,899	1,468	1,372	4,995	5,057	2,244	2,036	4,280	84·9	86·9
Otago	18,681	6,540	5,717	19,504	19,850	8,960	8,274	17,234	86·8	88·1
Southland	9,085	3,102	2,673	9,514	9,642	4,298	3,902	8,200	85·0	85·9
Totals for 1903 ..	124,093	54,552	45,077	133,568	134,748	59,427	53,620	113,047	83·9	..
Totals for 1902 ..	123,456	50,204	41,398	132,262	133,952	59,541	54,170	113,711	84·9	..
Difference ..	637	4,348	3,679	1,306	796	— 114	— 550	— 664	— 1·0	..

As regards regularity of school attendance in the several parts of the colony, it will be seen that there has been a falling-off in all the districts except Auckland and Wellington. North Canterbury with 82·1 per cent. of the average weekly roll is the lowest. Otago, which stood at the head of the list in 1901 and 1902, has still maintained its position although with the diminished percentage of 86·8. Southland with 85·0 per cent. has ousted Westland from second place, and South Canterbury still remains third, with 84·9 per cent. The South Island shows a greater degree of regularity of attendance than the North Island, the respective rates being 84·3 per cent. and 83·5 per cent. of the average weekly roll. In 1902 the figures were 86·1 per cent. and 83·5 per cent. respectively.