

The programme followed in the upper departments of district high schools embraces generally a secondary course in English, mathematics (including arithmetic), and science. Where possible, handwork is also included, and in many cases Latin, French, geography, and history are taken up by a greater or less proportion of the pupils. With few exceptions—the secondary departments attached to the training colleges for teachers in the four chief centres, two other schools in Wellington, one in Christchurch, and one in Wanganui—the schools are really rural schools, situated in the smaller boroughs or in townships without any of the features of urban environment, and it is to be hoped that as opportunities occur every effort will be made to adapt the course of study accordingly. In many cases steps in this direction have already been taken, and with the introduction of more teachers on the staff of these schools who have been trained on modern lines a further extension of the work in the direction of agricultural science for agricultural districts, chemistry, or geology and allied knowledge for mining centres, and some branch of handwork to cultivate manual dexterity in all, could be profitably undertaken.

The difficulty at present experienced of finding suitable teachers who will be content to remain long enough in such a position is undoubtedly great; but that so many are secured well equipped in point of attainment for the work they have to do is already a ground for much gratification. Exclusive of the principals of the schools, some thirty of whom possess University degrees, 64 of those employed are graduates, several holding degrees in both arts and science, 20 have a Class C certificate, and 9 a certificate of Class D, out of a total number of 101.

TABLE K. — DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS: STAFF, SALARIES, ETC., IN SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS, 1907.

Education District.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers (including Head Teachers).	Number of Pupils.			Amounts paid in Salaries during the Year.		
			M.	F.	Total.	From Receipts from Government.	From other Sources.	Total.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	10	25	191	188	379	2,730 16 8	2,730 16 8
Taranaki	1	4	64	29	93	560 4 0	560 4 0
Wanganui	6	15	110	88	198	1,682 18 8	24 0 0	1,706 18 8
Wellington	10	31	226	279	505	4,250 8 4	4,250 8 4
Hawke's Bay	3	8	30	44	74	928 0 5	75 0 0	1,003 0 5
Nelson	4	9	67	73	140	827 10 0	827 10 0
Grey	1	3	16	22	38	355 0 0	60 0 0	415 0 0
Westland	1	3	17	18	35	339 3 4	168 6 8	507 10 0
North Canterbury ..	9	22	219	157	376	2,916 19 6	100 0 0	3,016 19 6
South Canterbury ..	4	10	66	60	126	1,364 8 0	1,364 8 0
Otago	10	24	172	179	351	2,945 4 11	2,945 4 11
Southland	5	11	65	72	137	1,060 0 0	1,060 0 0
Totals for 1907	64	165	1,243	1,209	2,452	19,960 13 10	427 6 8	20,388 0 6
" 1906	61	160	1,331	1,263	2,594	19,070 7 6	466 9 8	19,536 17 2

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The reports furnished by the governing bodies of secondary schools, and detailed information of the scholarships and free places held in these schools, together with a full statement of the staff, salaries, and attendances in connection with the upper departments of district high schools, are contained in a separate paper (E.—12). The following table (L1) gives the customary information of the attendance at the schools and the staff employed, and some proportionate calculations in this connection will also be found in E.—12.

The total number of pupils on the rolls of secondary schools in the last term or quarter of the year was 2,528 boys and 1,668 girls, as against 2,528 boys and 1,742 girls at the end of 1906.