

Roll Number.

For each quarter of the year 1909 the average of the weekly roll-numbers showed an increase over that for the corresponding quarter of 1908. The mean of the average weekly roll for the four quarters was 151,142 for 1909, as against 145,974 for 1908, an increase of 5,168, making the total roll greater than in any previous year. Although the additions to the roll were most marked in the North Island, every district showed at least some increase. The increase was most marked in the September quarter of the year. The number on the roll at the end of the year was 152,416, as against 147,428 for the previous year, an increase of 4,988.

Table B shows the mean average roll-number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1898, and for each of the last eleven years; the table gives also the total average attendance for each year, the average attendance as a percentage of the roll, and the number of teachers employed in the public schools.

TABLE B.—SCHOOLS, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance, Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll.	Number of Teachers.					
					Adults.			Pupil-teachers.		
					M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1878	748	..	*48,773	..	707	454	1,161	118	332	450
1883	971	90,859	69,838	76·9	905	656	1,561	159	571	730
1888	1,158	113,636	†90,108	79·3	1,039	887	1,926	219	694	913
1893	1,375	125,692	†100,321	79·8	1,107	1,096	2,203	238	825	1,063
1898	1,655	133,782	111,636	83·4	1,234	1,370	2,604	229	831	1,060
1899	1,677	133,540	110,316	82·6	1,221	1,372	2,593	230	792	1,022
1900	1,707	132,897	111,748	84·1	1,216	1,415	2,631	206	749	955
1901	1,715	132,868	111,797	84·1	1,222	1,446	2,668	184	771	955
1902	1,754	133,952	113,711	84·9	1,272	1,685	2,957	143	604	747
1903	1,786	134,748	113,047	83·9	1,270	1,726	2,996	147	552	699
1904	1,827	136,282	116,506	85·5	1,272	1,797	3,069	144	505	649
1905	1,851	138,471	120,265	86·9	1,302	1,835	3,137	151	528	679
1906	1,921	140,320	121,958	86·9	1,314	1,887	3,201	153	518	671
1907	1,963	141,946	120,026	84·6	1,332	1,955	3,287	172	478	650
1908	1,998	145,974	127,160	87·1	1,331	2,021	3,352	161	476	637
1909	2,057	151,142	132,773	87·8	1,406	2,208	3,614	166	530	696

* Average of three quarters. † Strict average. ‡ Working average. ‡ Exclusive of 25 male and 139 female probationers.

For the details of these facts relating to the several districts, Tables B1, B2, B3, in the special report on primary education (E.-2), may be consulted.

The roll statistics cannot be considered as complete unless there are included all the children for whose primary education the State is responsible. To the above figures we must add the number of pupils in the Maori village schools (called Native schools) and in the schools of the Chatham Islands, which are under the direct control of the Department; the complete roll for all public primary schools for the year 1909 then appears as follows:—

	1908.	1909.
Public schools	145,974	151,142
Maori village schools (Native schools)	4,479	4,308
Chatham Islands schools	85	92
Total	150,538	155,542

Attendance.

As was mentioned in last year's report, the total average attendance for the year 1907, owing to epidemics of sickness in almost all parts of the Dominion, was lower than that for 1906. In 1908 this cause did not exist, and, as has been already pointed out, the roll-numbers were considerably higher than in the previous year; this was true also in 1909; accordingly, it is not surprising to find that the total average attendance in the public schools for 1909 shows a very marked increase on that for 1908, the actual figures being—1908, 127,160; 1909, 132,773: an increase of 5,613. Here, again, an increase is shown in every education district.

The high standard of regularity of attendance—86·9 per cent.—reached in 1905 and 1906, and even slightly surpassed (87·1) in 1908, was still further exceeded in 1909, being 87·8 in the last-named year. Otago (90·2) stands highest in New Zealand, and the Westland District (89·8) second in New