

marks is given to the practical work of the laboratory and the workshop. The attendance, diligence, and progress of the scholars during the year is also taken into consideration. Each district high school was visited by an Inspector, who, in conjunction with the instructor and an assessor—in each case an instructor in the special subject examined—allotted marks to each of the candidates. Although some doubt had been expressed as to the feasibility of awarding marks for practical work in a competitive examination, we found that this method worked satisfactorily. As the rural course had not been in operation one year, no special preparation was made for the examination, and, as was expected, only a few candidates were presented. Next year, however, we hope to see the competition more keen. Details and particulars of all Board scholarships will be found in the appendix [Not printed.]

[Some notes on changes in syllabus omitted.]

CONTINUATION CLASSES.—Under section 18 of the Education Amendment Act, 1910, on the application of a School Committee, the Education Board may, with the concurrence of the Minister, make regulations requiring the attendance at continuation or technical classes of young persons between fourteen and seventeen years of age who are not otherwise receiving a suitable education. This compulsory clause applies only to those persons living within two miles of the centre where such classes are to be held. In making such a provision for compulsory education beyond that of the primary school New Zealand is following in the wake of other countries in the desire to maintain a high standard of national efficiency. We ourselves, in previous reports, have deplored the popular tendency to regard primary education as the terminus, and not as merely a stage in the education of our young people, and we have always advocated the establishment of the technical or the continuation school not only as a means of providing specialization in those subjects required in everyday vocations, but more especially as a means of occupying, with advantage to himself and to the State, that critical period that too often intervenes between the boy's leaving the primary school and his taking up some permanent occupation in life. As there are at several centres in our district well-equipped technical and district high schools, we are strongly of opinion that the Board and Committee should make some effort to give effect to the intention of Parliament as expressed in the Act of last year.

We have, &c.,
T. R. FLEMING,
F. H. BAKEWELL, } Inspectors.
J. S. TENNANT, }

The Chairman, Education Board, Wellington.

HAWKE'S BAY.

SIR,— Education Office, Napier, 16th March, 1911.
I have the honour to submit my report on the schools of this district for the year 1910.

At the end of the year there were 121 Board schools in operation, in addition to which eight Catholic and two private schools were visited and examined, making a total of 132 schools.

During the year four new schools were opened and seven were closed. The schools closed were household schools, having a very small attendance.

There were 10,303 pupils on the roll of the Board schools, 9,901 of whom were present at the annual examination; 869 were returned as attending Catholic schools, of whom 798 were present, and 25 pupils of private schools, all of whom were present, making a grand total of 11,197 pupils attending school in the district, 10,724 of whom presented themselves for examination.

The following table shows the numbers, classes, and average age of the pupils in attendance at the schools:—

Class.	Board Schools.			Catholic Schools.			Other Private Schools.		
	Number on Roll.	Present at Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.	Number on Roll.	Present at Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.	Number on Roll.	Present at Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.
Standard VII	111	104	15.5	8	7	15.6
" VI	568	561	14.0	69	65	14.7	2	2	14.6
" V	947	920	15.2	76	72	13.5	5	5	12.7
" IV	1,034	1,003	12.4	107	97	12.8	4	4	11.3
" III	1,194	1,160	11.5	117	114	11.3	3	3	12.4
" II	1,278	1,239	10.3	111	105	10.7	3	3	10.3
" I	1,322	1,275	9.2	85	81	9.1
Preparatory	3,894	3,639	7.1	296	257	6.11	8	8	6.11
1910	...	10,303	9,901	869	798	...	25	25	...
1909	...	10,194	9,752	747	678	...	110	102	...

* Mean of average age.