ATTENDANCE.

Average atte	ndance for all district			• •	146,282
,,	>>	1913	• •		 151,242
	Increase in 1913				 4,960
	Increase per cent. in	average attenda	ince, 1913		 3.4

The average attendance during the year 1913 increased by 3.4 per cent. as compared with an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the average weekly roll number.

Otago, with the excellent percentage of 91.8, a record for the Dominion, comes first, Grey, showing a percentage of 90.4 is second, and Wellington, with 90.3 per cent. is third.

In the Hawke's Bay District the percentage remained stationary, and all other districts, with the exception of North Canterbury, South Canterbury, and Southland, showed an increase. Taranaki and Grey, each with an increase of 1.8 per cent., showed the most marked improvement. North Canterbury shows the lowest percentage of average attendance—87.9—a falling-off of 0.7 per cent. from last year.

The following figures indicate the attendance per cent. of roll for the last six years:—

			Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
1908	 	 	 87.1
1909	 		 87.8
1910	 	 	 $$ $87 \cdot 7$
1911	 	 	 89.3
1912	 	 	 88.9
1913	 	 	 89·2

It is satisfactory to find that the slight decrease which took place in 1912, has been followed by an improvement in 1913. In both these years the regularity of attendance was affected by epidemic ailments.

The percentage of regularity of attendance continues to be greater in the South Island than in the North. The following comparison is of interest:—

		_		Att	endance per	r Cent. of Roll.	
				No	rth Island.	South Island.	
1908	• •	 			86.7	87.6	
1909		 			87.8	87.8	
1910		 	• •		87.4	88.1	
1911		 • •			88.7	90.0	
1912		 			88.7	$89 \cdot 2$	
1913		 			89.0	89.4	

The percentage of regularity in New Zealand is higher than that in several of the more closely settled English-speaking countries. When it is borne in mind that New Zealand's widely scattered population and lack of facilities for transit in remote districts render it difficult to secure regularity of attendance this must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory.

The following figures are taken from the latest reports in the possession of the Department:—

			Au	endance per
			Ce	ent. of Roll.
New Zealand	 	 		$89 \cdot 2$
Scotland	 	 		89.7
England and Wales	 	 	•	88.7
United States	 A-	 • •		72.5
Ireland	 	 • •		71.3

Conditions in the Australian States closely resemble those obtaining in New Zealand. For this reason a comparison is of more than ordinary interest:—

				Att Ce	endance per nt. of Roll
New Zealand	 				89.2
Western Australia	 				86.3
New South Wales	 				80.0
Tasmania	 				78.0
Queensland	 				75.5*
Victoria	 				72.0*
South Australia	 • •	• •	••		70.3*

^{*}Based on average daily attendance as a proportion of net enrolment, or number of distinct children on rolls during year.