

is given as a proportion of the net enrolment, not of the average weekly roll, thus making the figure lower than it would otherwise be.

						Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	90.0
England	..	..	..	..	..	88.7
Wales	..	..	..	..	..	88.3
Scotland	..	..	..	..	..	89.4
Ireland	..	..	..	..	..	71.7
United States	..	..	..	..	..	73.2*
Queensland	..	..	..	..	..	77.0*
New South Wales	..	..	..	..	..	80.9
Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	73.7*
South Australia	..	..	..	..	..	75.8*
Western Australia	..	..	..	..	..	87.4
Tasmania	..	..	..	..	..	80.9

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

The high standard of regularity now attained must be regarded as very satisfactory. The strict enforcement of the law of compulsory attendance is no doubt to some extent responsible for the improvement in the attendance over past years. Other factors bearing on the matter are, however, the more widespread recognition on the part of parents of the value of education for their children, and also the improved conditions of school life which make children more unwilling than otherwise to absent themselves.

The following figures represent the total number of children in average attendance at registered schools giving primary instruction:—

	1914.	1915.
Public schools (excluding secondary departments of district high schools)	156,211	160,895
Native-village and mission schools	4,385	4,745
Chatham Island schools	85	77
Registered private primary schools	14,809	14,366
Lower departments of secondary schools	337	378
Special schools	710	731
Totals	176,537	181,192

CLASSIFICATION, AGE, AND EXAMINATION OF PUPILS.

(Tables CI—C6.)

The classification of school-children has for some years been carried out by the teachers, who have on the whole performed the duty in a wholly satisfactory manner. Experience is, of course, essential for the successful accomplishment of the work, and in the case of young and inexperienced teachers in country schools the assistance and advice of the Inspectors have been necessary to rectify errors of judgment.

The table below, setting forth the ages and classification of the pupils of public schools, demonstrates some interesting facts.

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1915.

Ages.	Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under 6 ..	7,577	6,784	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,577	6,787
6 „ 7 ..	10,100	9,423	118	117	13	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,231	9,545
7 „ 8 ..	9,527	8,596	1,523	1,513	141	161	8	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,200	10,275
8 „ 9 ..	5,063	4,294	4,231	4,144	1,393	1,498	125	144	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	10,826	10,084
9 „ 10 ..	1,693	1,319	3,700	3,313	3,998	3,859	1,320	1,374	167	130	5	6	..	1	..	..	10,883	10,002
10 „ 11 ..	563	395	1,563	1,271	3,474	3,267	3,657	3,588	1,154	1,268	136	116	5	4	..	..	10,552	9,909
11 „ 12 ..	171	121	512	371	1,623	1,368	3,505	3,159	3,332	3,227	1,104	1,149	115	114	..	4	10,362	9,513
12 „ 13 ..	75	58	174	152	626	458	1,794	1,505	3,141	2,917	2,806	2,891	790	909	45	35	9,451	8,925
13 „ 14 ..	36	24	75	66	230	140	794	517	1,679	1,498	2,864	2,818	2,212	2,242	182	198	8,072	7,503
14 „ 15 ..	10	10	24	16	43	32	159	124	520	393	1,362	1,086	1,880	1,761	396	383	4,394	3,805
Above 15 ..	2	1	6	4	6	6	33	14	93	71	341	216	730	576	548	671	1,759	1,559
Totals, 1915 ..	34,817	31,025	11,926	10,970	11,547	10,794	11,395	10,430	10,100	9,508	8,619	8,282	5,732	5,607	1,171	1,291	95,307	87,907