

year. In comparing the roll numbers of the various standard classes it appears that the falling-off in the annual increase is most marked in the preparatory classes, S1, S5, and S6; in the two latter classes there is actually a decrease in the roll number as compared with 1915. The increase in the roll number is, as usual, a little greater in the North Island (including Marlborough) than in the South Island, the percentage increases being 1·8 and 1·2 respectively.

The table below shows the mean average roll number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1903, 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 (including secondary departments of district high schools), and the number of teachers employed in the public schools.

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
1183	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	†109,321	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
1903	1,786	134,748	†113,047	83·9	1,270	1,726	2,996	147	552	699
1906	1,921	140,320	†121,958	86·9	1,314	1,887	3,201	153	518	671
1907	1,963	141,946	†120,226	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
1910	2,096	154,756	†135,738	87·7	1,456	2,252	3,708	174	526	\$700
1911	2,166	159,299	†142,186	89·3	1,493	2,351	3,844	179	528	\$707
1912	2,214	164,492	†146,282	88·9	1,555	2,550	4,105	162	476	\$638
1913	2,255	169,530	†151,242	89·2	1,603	2,659	4,262	142	474	\$616
1914	2,301	175,570	†158,134	90·1	1,628	2,820	4,448	139	470	\$609
1915	2,338	181,229	†163,092	90·0	1,591	3,077	4,668	141	485	\$626
1916	2,355	184,056	†163,156	88·6	1,501	3,209	4,710	137	519	\$656

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

An estimate of the actual roll number of all children receiving primary education can be obtained by taking into account children in attendance at public schools (exclusive of secondary departments of district high schools), Native schools, registered private primary schools, and the lower departments of secondary schools. The figures will then be—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER.		
Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)	1915.	1916.
Native-village and Native mission schools	178,827	181,670
Chatham Island schools (included in public schools in 1916)	5,373	5,324
Registered private primary schools	88	..
Lower departments of secondary schools	16,281	17,260
Special schools	417*	466*
	731	579
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars...	201,717	205,299

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(E.—2, Tables B1, B2, and B3.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1915 and 1916 :—

	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1916	163,156	160,980
Year 1915	163,092	160,895
Increase in 1916	64	85
Increase per cent.	0·04	0·05