

number of entrants noticed in 1918 did not recur in 1919, there being 1,000 more children between the ages of five and seven than in the previous year, and 2,800 more children in the preparatory classes. There were fewer children in S1, S2, and S6 than in the previous year, the decrease in numbers to the extent of over 1,000 in S6 pupils being especially regrettable.

The table below shows the mean average roll number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1908, and for each of the last ten 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 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
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	218	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
1908	1,998	145,974	127,160	87·1	1,331	2,021	3,352	161	476	637
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
1917	2,368	187,954	168,711	89·8	1,383	3,224	4,707	132	517	\$649
1918	2,365	191,382	169,836	88·7	1,366	3,452	4,818	123	523	\$646
1919	2,400	193,655	174,885	90·3	1,606	3,394	5,000	123	503	\$626

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

The above figures relate to public schools. To estimate the total number of children receiving primary education in the Dominion it will be necessary to include 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)	1918. 188,932	1919. 191,153
Native village and Native mission schools	5,223	5,358
Registered private primary schools	20,076*	20,977*
Lower departments of secondary schools	665*	686*
Special schools	252	..
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars	215,148	218,174

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(Tables B1, B2, and B3.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1918 and 1919 :—

Year	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1919	174,885	172,610
Year 1918	169,836	167,601
Increase in 1919	5,049	5,009
Increase per cent... .. .	3·0	3·0

The increase of 3·0 per cent. in the average attendance is greater than the increase in the roll number, owing to the fact that the regularity of attendance in 1919 was better than in the previous year. Taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll it was 90·3—the highest figure for the Dominion yet reached, the previous record being 90·1 in the year 1914. There was an improvement in the regularity of attendance in every education district, the best results being obtained in Otago and Wellington, with percentage attendances of 92·1 and 91·5 respectively. The number of children in the country districts living long distances from school