

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(Tables A1 and B3.)

The number of public schools open at the end of 1920 was 2,437, as compared with 2,400 in 1919. In the following table the schools are classified according to the yearly average attendance, and the total number of children at the schools in each grade is shown :—

Grade of School.				Number of Schools.	Total Average Attendance.	Grade of School.				Number of Schools.	Total Average Attendance.
0.	(1-8)	..	..	176	1,057	VIB.	(441-480)	..	..	14	6,587
I.	(9-20)	..	..	704	10,591	VIIA.	(481-520)	..	..	12	5,974
II.	(21-35)	..	..	539	14,858	VIIb.	(521-560)	..	..	9	4,865
IIIA.	(36-80)	..	..	578	29,904	VIIc.	(561-600)	..	..	14	8,157
IIIB.	(81-120)	..	..	129	12,415	VIIId.	(601-640)	..	..	15	9,096
IVA.	(121-160)	..	..	52	8,166	VIIe.	(641-680)	..	..	11	7,180
IVB.	(161-200)	..	..	41	7,605	VIIF.	(681-720)	..	..	6	4,118
IVC.	(201-240)	..	..	24	5,829	VIIg.	(721-760)	..	..	8	5,614
VA.	(241-280)	..	..	23	6,921	VIIh.	(761-800)	..	..	3	2,981
VB.	(281-320)	..	..	27	8,220	VIIi.	(801-840)	..	..	1	1,609
VC.	(321-360)	..	..	21	7,268	VIIj.	(841-880)	..	..	1	810
VD.	(361-400)	..	..	19	7,023	VIIk.	(881-920)	..	..	..	..
VIA.	(401-440)	..	..	9	3,947	VIIl.	(921-960)	..	..	1	909

Total, 1920 ..	..	..	..	..	2,437 schools.
„ 1919 ..	..	..	..	..	2,400 „
Increase	..	..	..	..	37 „

For the number of schools in each education district classified according to grade, reference should be made to Table A1.

It will be observed that of 2,437 schools, 1,997 were in Grades 0-IIIa, having average attendances between 1 and 80, and of these 880 had averages ranging from 1 to 20.

Of 181,704 children, 26,506 are in sole-teacher schools with averages between 1 and 35, and 84,358 children are in schools with an average number of pupils of more than 280.

PUBLIC-SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The following table shows the growth of expenditure, &c., in connection with public-school buildings for the last five years :—

Financial Year.				Applications received.	Special Grants approved.	Expenditure.
				£	£	£
1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	69,123
1916-17	..	..	..	95,849	36,973	43,790
1917-18	..	..	..	129,202	66,750	47,106
1918-19	..	..	..	238,817	124,162	80,780
1919-20	..	..	..	496,153	319,225	109,981
1920-21	..	..	..	790,296	380,977	279,476

On the 1st April last the commitments—that is, special grants approved but unclaimed by Education Boards—amounted to £409,409. Most of the works for which grants have been approved are now well under way.

The high cost of erecting schools was considered by a conference of Education Board representatives in January, and all the evidence went to show that where