

The following table records the development of the Native village schools since the year 1881, when they were transferred to the control of the Education Department; no account is taken of schools which, as the European element has become predominant in them, have been handed over to the various Education Boards :—

NATIVE VILLAGE SCHOOLS.—NUMBER, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools at End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance: Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll.	Number of Teachers.			
					Teachers in Charge.		Assistant Teachers.	
					Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1881	60	..	1,406	..	54	6	..	4
1886	69	2,343	2,020	86.2	60	9	..	26
1891	66	2,395	1,837	76.7	59	8	1	26
1896	74	2,874	2,220	77.3	64	11	..	61
1902	98	3,650	3,005	82.3	77	20	..	83
1907	99	4,321	3,561	82.4	82	18	2	105
1912	108	4,644	4,042	87.0	86	22	4	122
1917	118	5,191	4,507	86.8	71	45	9	122
1920	119	5,416	4,639	85.7	73	46	9	125
1921	123	5,738	4,988	86.9	72	49	11	131

As mentioned above, Maori children living in European settlements attend the ordinary public schools, the total number so attending in 1921 being 5,577, or 491 more than in the previous year. The majority of these pupils are in the North Island schools, about half of them being in the Auckland District.

The total number of Maori children receiving primary education at the end of 1921, including pupils of Native village schools, mission schools, and public schools, was thus 11,636, the corresponding number for the previous year being 10,134.

Classification of Pupils.

The statistics of the classification of the pupils of Native schools show that a higher percentage of the pupils are in the lower classes than is the case in public schools, and that a proportionately smaller number of pupils reach the higher standards. Likewise, the average age of the pupils in the various classes is higher. The difference, however, is not greater than can be reasonably accounted for by the peculiar conditions of Maori life, and if the comparison were made with public schools of similar size in country districts the difference would be much less marked. A comparison of the classification of Maoris in their own schools and in the public schools shows a much smaller percentage of Maoris reaching the higher classes in public schools, and is fairly conclusive evidence of the superiority of the schools specially instituted for them in meeting the particular needs of the Maori children.

The following table shows in summary form the classification of pupils in Native schools, the percentages of pupils in the various classes in public schools and in the case of Natives attending public schools being also shown for comparison :—

Classes.				Pupils attending Native Schools.	Percentage of Roll.		
					Native Schools.	Public Schools.	Natives attending Public Schools.
Preparatory	..	..	..	2,659	45.7	34.4	54.0
Standard I	..	..	..	718	12.3	12.7	16.2
.. II	..	..	..	673	11.6	12.2	11.3
.. III	..	..	..	617	10.6	12.0	8.7
.. IV	..	..	..	466	8.0	11.2	5.1
.. V	..	..	..	373	6.4	10.0	3.2
.. VI	..	..	..	259	4.4	7.4	1.5
.. VII	..	..	..	57	1.0	0.1	..
Totals	..	..	..	5,822	100.0	100.0	100.0