

Maoris in attendance in 1921 ; thus the total number of schools under inspection at which Native children were receiving instruction in 1921 was—

Native village schools	123
Native mission schools subject to inspection by the Education Department ..	6
Public schools at which Maori scholars were in attendance	620
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Total number of primary schools	749
Native boarding-schools affording secondary education to Maoris	10
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Total	759

Roll Number and Attendance.

The number of pupils on the rolls of Native village schools at the end of 1921 was 5,822, including 5,043 Maoris and 779 Europeans, the latter representing 13 per cent. of the roll. The roll exceeds that of the previous year by 314, 252 of this number being Maoris. The fact that in the last two years the number of Maori pupils in these schools has increased by 500, and that the number of Natives attending public schools shows a corresponding increase, goes to support the evidence of the recent census as to the arrest in the decline in numbers of the Native race. The following figures refer to attendance at Native schools :—

	1920.	1921.
Number on rolls at end of year	5,508	5,822
Average weekly roll number	5,416	5,738
Average yearly attendance	4,639	4,988
Percentage of regularity of attendance	85·7	86·9

The figures in each case continue to show an increase, and the regularity of attendance was better than in the previous year, comparing not unfavourably, considering the circumstances, with that of public schools. One-third of the schools achieved a regularity of attendance of 90 per cent. or over, and 87 per cent. reached a percentage regularity of 80 or over.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the Native mission schools at the end of 1921 was 237, and on the rolls of the Native boarding-schools 488. The total number of children on the roll, at the end of the year, of Native village, mission, and boarding-schools visited and inspected by the Inspectors of this Department was therefore 6,547. The following are the figures for the years 1920 and 1921 in respect of the three classes of Native schools mentioned :—

	1920.	1921.
Combined rolls of Native schools	6,249	6,547
Combined average weekly roll number	6,134	6,464
Combined average yearly attendance	5,277	5,653

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