

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(Tables A1 and B3 in E.-2.)

The number of public schools open at the end of 1922 was 2,550, or fifty-two more than in the previous year. 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)	232	1,292	VI _B (441-480)	12	5,257
I (9-20)	755	11,011	VII _A (481-520)	15	7,465
II (21-35)	529	14,411	VII _B (521-560)	13	7,184
III _A (36-80)	568	30,322	VII _C (561-600)	17	9,317
III _B (81-120)	133	13,184	VII _D (601-640)	14	8,762
IV _A (121-160)	50	7,029	VII _E (641-680)	14	9,226
IV _B (161-200)	40	7,322	VII _F (681-720)	8	5,758
IV _C (201-240)	28	6,490	VII _G (721-760)	6	4,434
V _A (241-280)	25	6,646	VII _H (761-800)	1	763
V _B (281-320)	24	7,595	VII _I (801-840)	3	2,455
V _C (321-360)	34	11,684	VII _J (841-880)	1	854
V _D (361-400)	11	4,805	VII _K (881-920)	2	1,777
VI _A (401-440)	15	6,584	VII _L (921-960) .. ..	..	..
Total, 1922 .. ..			..	2,550 schools	
,, 1921 .. ..			..	2,498 ..	
Increase .. ..			..	52 ..	

The increase in the number of schools took place in the low grades, there being eighty-one more schools in Grades 0 and I (1-20 pupils) than in the previous year, and a reduction of twenty-nine in the number of larger schools. Of the whole 2,550 schools, it will be observed that 987 had average attendances ranging from 1 to 20, and 2,084 had averages ranging from 1 to 80, so that the proportion of comparatively small schools is very great.

Of a total of 190,000 children, 26,000 are in sole-teacher schools with an attendance not exceeding 35, and 70,000 are in schools with an average attendance exceeding 400.

PUBLIC-SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The following table shows the expenditure, &c., in connection with public-school buildings during the last eight years :—

Financial Year.	Applications received.	Special Grants approved.	Expenditure on New Buildings for Public Schools.
	£	£	£
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
1921-22	152,335	72,615	328,228
1922-23	394,941	212,811	184,674

The increased amount voted for buildings during the year 1922-23 enabled a larger number of new and previous applications to be dealt with, the grants approved showing an increase of £140,196 on those for the previous year. Of the £212,811 approved as special grants the sum of £100,527 had reference to what may be termed "rural schools"—that is, to schools other than those in the four large cities with their suburbs, and such centres as Hamilton, Napier, Hastings, New Plymouth,