

1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Wellington, 15th June, 1930.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present the report for the year 1930.

The total number of students in part-time day and evening classes was 11,829, of whom 5,994 held junior or senior free places and 5,835 paid fees. Of the total number, 1,210 had been attending primary schools in the previous year. From Table J 8 appended to this report it will be seen that 6,711 students, being 56·7 per cent. of the total, were seventeen years of age or over, while 1,171, or 9·9 per cent., were under fifteen years of age. Of this 9·9 per cent., however, a considerable number, probably at least one-third, were part-time day pupils included among the 1,305 persons of “no occupation” as given in Table J 7 appended to this report.

Tables A and B below give some indication of the way in which attendance at technical schools has changed in recent years.

TABLE A.—NUMBER OF STUDENTS, ACCORDING TO AGES, ADMITTED TO CLASSES AT TECHNICAL SCHOOLS OTHER THAN TECHNICAL HIGH-SCHOOL CLASSES; ALSO PRIMARY SCHOOL “LEAVERS” JOINING TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN THE NEXT YEAR.

Year.	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)
	Under 13 Years of Age.		13–15 Years of Age.		15–17 Years of Age.		Over 17 Years of Age.		Totals.		Students admitted who left a Primary School in the Previous Year.		First-year Junior Free Place Pupils in Technical High Schools.		Totals of Columns Six and Seven.		Totals of Columns Six and Seven
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both Sexes.
1926 ..	170	205	937	728	2,685	1,375	3,979	2,602	7,771	4,910	1,037	616	1,960	1,631	2,997	2,247	5,244
1927 ..	85	68	783	569	2,701	1,462	4,346	2,394	7,915	4,493	857	637	1,846	1,576	2,703	2,213	4,916
1928 ..	59	70	604	516	2,205	1,302	4,138	2,069	7,006	3,957	700	472	2,023	1,663	2,723	2,135	4,858
1929 ..	51	56	621	577	2,342	1,354	4,093	2,093	7,107	4,080	853	591	2,127	1,749	2,980	2,340	5,320
1930 ..	32	45	613	481	2,545	1,402	4,564	2,147	7,754	4,075	791	419	2,387	1,941	3,078	2,360	5,438

NOTE.—The 1928 and 1929 figures show roll at the 30th June in each year.

TABLE B.—STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL CLASSES: NUMBERS ATTENDING FROM CERTAIN GROUPS OF OCCUPATIONS.

Year.	Commercial, &c.					Engineering and Building.						Total, Industrial and Commercial.	Professional.
	Clerical.	Shop and Warehouse.	Dressmaking, Millinery, Tailors, and Tailoresses, &c.	Printers, &c.	Total.	Engineers and Mechanics.	Electricians.	Plumbers and Metalworkers.	Woodworkers.	Painters and Plasterers, &c.	Total.		
1926 ..	2,513	1,016	197	147	3,873	812	488	811	905	190	3,206	7,079	800
1927 ..	2,573	1,063	198	188	4,022	979	444	828	971	193	3,415	7,437	676
1928 ..	2,253	1,090	154	175	3,672	912	375	740	825	218	3,070	6,742	650
1929 ..	2,303	1,165	194	131	3,793	885	302	826	762	246	3,021	6,814	625
1930 ..	2,456	1,249	193	154	4,052	1,180	331	774	919	287	3,491	7,543	614

NOTE.—The 1928 and 1929 figures show roll at the 30th June in each year; the 1930 figures are the roll at 1st July

The enrolment at technical high schools and technical day schools of full-time pupils taking courses under the Regulations for Manual and Technical Instruction was 8,002 at the 1st July, 1930, as compared with 7,536 at the corresponding date in the previous year. The enrolment of 8,002 consisted of 4,395 boys and 3,607 girls. Of the boys 2,278 took industrial courses, 445 agriculture, 837 commercial work, 693 a general course, and 142 an art course. Of the girls 1,142 took the domestic course, 1,944 the commercial, 262 the general, and 259 the art course.

Buildings and equipment have been maintained in good order and condition throughout the year and some necessary additions to buildings have been made.

The question of additional accommodation has become more urgent during the year, the increase of day pupils being 6·2 per cent. on the roll of the previous year. Owing to difficulties of finance, it has been impossible to provide for more than the most urgent cases, and some developments of considerable importance have necessarily been postponed.

The character and quality of the instruction in technical schools and technical high schools is gradually improving, with the gradual improvement in the strength of staffing; but there is little visible alteration from year to year, and the report last year applies substantially to the conditions of the year at present under review.