

18. FREE PLACES IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table gives the number of free-place holders in post-primary schools in 1931 and 1932 :—

TABLE R.—FREE-PLACE HOLDERS AS AT 1ST JULY.

	Secondary Schools.		Combined Schools.		Technical High and Day Schools.		Secondary Departments of District High Schools.		Junior High Schools.		Correspondence School.		Maori Secondary Schools.*		All Post-primary Schools.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Junior free places ..	4,570	4,339	781	610	3,828	2,889	1,927	1,618	113	103	139	214	52	64	11,410	9,837
Senior free places ..	3,286	2,314	453	297	1,144	827	811	637	17	17	4	..	5,715	4,092
Totals ..	7,856	6,653	1,234	907	4,972	3,716	2,738	2,255	113	103	156	231	56	64	17,125	13,929
Grand totals, 1932	14,509		2,141		8,688		4,993		216		387		120		31,054	
Grand totals, 1931	16,226		461		8,418		5,223		314		320		143		31,105	
Difference ..	-1,717		+1,680		+270		-230		-98		+67		-23		-51	

Of the 31,331 children in attendance in 1932 at *public* schools providing secondary education, 30,934 held free places and 397 were paying pupils. Ninety-nine per cent. of the children were thus receiving free secondary education.

In 1931 411 out of the 31,053 children in attendance were paying pupils. The percentage of children receiving free education in 1932 remained the same as that of the previous year.

19. SPECIAL CLASSES FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN.

No new special classes have been opened. Those in existence have continued to do good work. Careful records have been kept of the pupils leaving special classes for backward children at or above the age of fourteen, and the following information is available :—

	Per Cent.
Transferred to technical classes for further instruction ..	2
Usefully employed at home	26
In part-time employment	12
In full-time employment	40
Unemployed	20

In view of the present economic position these figures are very satisfactory. In order to make quite sure of their value, a second investigation was made as to the present position of other backward children who had not had the benefit of special-class tuition. The percentage of unemployed proved to be very much higher than in the special-class group. It would appear, therefore, that these classes are fully justifying their existence.

20. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS.

At the end of this year there were eleven junior high schools and departments, one additional to last year. This was the Waihi Junior High School department attached to the district high school already in existence at that town. This constituted a distinct type from those already in operation, the preparatory to Standard IV classes being accommodated elsewhere. The other schools in operation remained as in the previous year, except that at Otahuhu. This school is now regarded as a technical high school with a junior-high-school department attached.

During the latter months of the year arrangements were being made for the opening of intermediate schools at Napier and Wanganui, as well as for an intermediate department attached to the West Christchurch District High School. The pupils in preparatory to Standard IV classes in the last-mentioned school will be transferred to neighbouring schools, thus West Christchurch will have the same classes as Waihi.

The word “intermediate” will now become general in its use when applied to these schools, in substitution for the words “junior high,” this change having been effected by legislation passed in the last session of Parliament. In addition to this change, others were made in the new regulations, mainly in the direction of meeting difficulties which had arisen in applying the old regulations to the different types of schools and departments which have been established or opened since their issue.

There were 2,759 pupils on the rolls of junior high schools and departments at the end of 1932, as compared with 2,689 pupils at the end of the previous year.