

fully-qualified schoolmistress in addition to a master. Table No. 9 of the Appendix contains a nominal return of the teachers employed in the several schools during the last quarter of 1880. The following summary shows the number of teachers employed in the several education districts during the same period. The classification has been made from the Boards' returns ;—

TABLE B.—NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Number of Teachers, exclusive of Sewing Teachers, employed during the last Quarter of 1880.							8. Average Attendance for last Quarter of 1880.	9. Average Number of Pupils per Teacher.	10. Sewing Teachers not included in preceding columns.
	Males.			Females.						
	1. Teachers.	2. Assistants.	3. Pupil-Teachers.	4. Teachers.	5. Assistants.	6. Pupil-Teachers.	7. Totals.			
Auckland	160	26	4	68	69	86	413	11,839	28·7	53
Taranaki	17	...	1	15	6	5	44	1,147	26·1	...
Wanganui	39	3	5	16	15	24	102	3,403	33·3	...
Wellington	30	14	4	25	11	52	136	4,685	34·5	1
Hawke's Bay	26	4	4	14	7	23	78	2,334	30·0	7
Marlborough	13	2	1	5	6	...	27	883	32·7	...
Nelson	34	2	...	34	27	...	97	3,008	31·0	...
North Canterbury	111	21	40	88	27	104	391	12,233	31·3	33
South Canterbury	29	8	7	9	6	19	78	2,616	33·5	5
Westland	26	4	12	17	4	23	86	2,447	28·4	...
Otago	142	41	54	69	28	77	411	16,047	39·0	19
Southland	60	5	7	13	3	20	108	3,765	35·0	9
Totals for 1880	687	130	139	373	209	433	1,971	64,407	32·7	127
Totals for 1879	659	113	113	278	265	345	1,773	58,738	33·1	110
Increase or decrease	28	17	26	95	—56	88	198	5,669	—·4	17

The average number of scholars to each teacher over the whole of the schools at the close of the year was 32·7. The corresponding average for 1879 was 33·1, showing that the increase in the number of teachers and of scholars for the twelve months had been in about equal proportions. As might be expected, the more sparsely-peopled districts, in which there is of necessity a larger proportion of small schools, show lower averages than the others. As was the case in 1879, the lowest averages last year were in the Districts of Taranaki, Auckland, and Westland; and the highest were in Otago, Southland, and Wellington. The lowest average to each teacher (26·1) was in the Taranaki District; the highest (39) was in Otago. The corresponding numbers for these two districts in 1879 were 25·1 and 40·8. This result is only what might be expected, for, as a rule, the greater the proportion of large schools in an education district, the smaller, within proper limits, is the aggregate number of teachers needed in proportion to the school attendance. In some districts a considerable number of the schools are large enough to admit of the employment in them of two or more teachers. In large schools the classes also are large, and it is evident that a given number of children equal in attainments can be more easily taught in one class than the same or even a smaller number of children of unequal attainments distributed into two, three, or more classes.

The decrease in the number returned as female assistants is due to the fact that many of those formerly ranked as assistants are now classed as full teachers. There is in consequence a large increase in the number entered as teachers in column 4 of the table.

The Auckland Board showed 62 pupil-teachers in its return for 1879, but in last year's return 90 "junior assistants" (4 males and 86 females), who under the former practice would have been ranked as pupil-teachers, were entered as "assistants." The following is the Board's explanation with reference to this change of classification: "The term 'assistant teachers' includes 90 junior assistants under nineteen years of age, all of whom have been classified upon examinations held by the Board for the purpose of testing their qualifications. The 'pupil-teacher' system, as defined by the Act and Government regulations, is not in operation in this district." Since this explanation was written, however, such regulations for the employment of pupil-teachers have been adopted as