

to render it unnecessary to call them junior assistants, and they are therefore here classified as pupil-teachers as before.

The proportion of female teachers employed in the public schools is still on the increase ; the addition to their number during the past year having been 127, while only 71 additional teachers of the other sex were engaged. During the three years 1878, 1879, and 1880, the increase was 345 female and 226 male teachers. The relative numbers at the close of 1880 were 956 males and 1,015 females, including 139 male and 433 female pupil-teachers. The increase in the number of male pupil-teachers may be regarded as satisfactory, because it gives promise that eventually the public schools will be to a large extent in charge of skilled and experienced masters, educated and trained in the colony. Experience has proved, however, that a similar expectation need not be entertained as to the permanent retention of the young women who begin their course as public-school teachers, because their services are frequently lost to the schools when they are beginning to prove of the highest value.

The number of certificated teachers is increasing. Since the publication of the official list at the end of June, 1880, new certificates to the number of 75 have been issued. The number of certificated teachers is now 1,005, and there are also 71 persons holding the “license to teach,” and 10 to whom the “district license” has been granted.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

A list of the whole of the schools in operation during the past year, with an abstract of the enrolments and the average daily attendance at each, is appended, (Appendix, page 39, Table No. 10). The following is a summary of the attendance returns furnished by the several Boards for the year :—

TABLE C.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	On School Roll.				Average Daily Attendance.							Percentage of Year's Average Attendance to Average Number belonging.
	Number of Scholars belonging at beginning of Year.	Number admitted during the Year.	Number who left during the Year.	Number belonging at end of the Year.	Strict Average.		Working Average.					
					Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.			Whole Year.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.			
Auckland	12,315	11,374	8,750	14,939	11,508	11,069	6,245	5,594	11,839	11,441	77.4	
Taranaki	1,176	1,082	699	1,559	1,089	1,019	614	533	1,147	1,069	72.0	
Wanganui	3,510	2,796	1,912	4,394	3,319	3,178	1,791	1,612	3,403	3,258	75.1	
Wellington	5,015	4,215	3,148	6,082	4,585	4,569	2,564	2,121	4,685	4,700	76.0	
Hawke's Bay	2,388	2,037	1,340	3,085	2,245	2,161	1,247	1,087	2,334	2,251	74.4	
Marlborough	967	712	467	1,212	841	844	468	415	883	874	74.0	
Nelson... ..	3,416	1,807	1,273	3,950	2,917	2,922	1,545	1,463	3,008	3,004	76.8	
North Canterbury	13,430	10,413	7,406	16,437	11,903	11,228	6,456	5,777	12,233	11,558	72.1	
South Canterbury	3,035	865	394	3,506	2,539	2,408	1,381	1,235	2,616	2,489	72.7	
Westland	2,676	1,186	719	3,143	2,404	2,306	1,231	1,216	2,447	2,365	76.8	
Otago	16,020	10,196	7,013	19,203	15,917	15,411	8,348	7,699	16,047	15,594	81.8	
Southland	4,176	2,611	1,896	4,891	3,679	3,510	1,990	1,775	3,765	3,631	76.4	
Totals for 1880	68,124	49,294	35,017	82,401	62,946	60,625	33,880	30,527	64,407	62,234	76.6	
Totals for 1879	59,707	49,792	33,933	75,566	57,301	53,067	31,262	27,476	58,738	54,724	76.1	
Increase in year	8,417	— 498	1,084	6,835	5,645	7,558	2,618	3,051	5,669	7,510	.5	
Totals for 1877	...	...	...	55,688	...	...	...	...	41,773	40,837	...	
Increase in 3 years	...	...	...	26,713	...	...	...	...	22,634	21,397	...	
Average yearly increase	...	...	...	8,904	...	...	...	...	7,545	7,132	...	

The uniform attendance registers and summaries which the department supplies to all the schools, the method of calculating the attendance prescribed by the regulations, and the quarterly returns required under them for each school, greatly facilitate the collection of full and reliable information of a uniform character respecting school attendance throughout the entire colony. As the grants made to Boards out of the annual appropriation by the General Assembly