

AGES OF SCHOLARS.

The school age according to section 83 of the Education Act is between five and fifteen years, but, as the payment of capitation grants was not limited by the Act to the average attendance of children within the years mentioned, the Boards were informed in 1878 that Government would pay capitation grants on account of all *bonâ fide* scholars attending public schools, although of ages outside the limits of the school age mentioned in section 83. It has now been resolved that no grants will be paid after the 30th of June, 1881, in respect of the attendance of children under five years, and an intimation to that effect has been given to the Boards.

Table No. 5 of the Appendix shows the ages of the scholars of both sexes who belonged to the schools of the different education districts during the quarter ending 31st December, 1880. The following is a summary of the ages for the whole of the schools :—

TABLE E.—AGES OF SCHOLARS.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentage.	
				1880.	1879.
Under five years	1,312	1,309	2,621	3·18	3·68
Five and under seven years	9,302	8,513	17,815	21·62	21·75
Seven and under ten years	14,998	13,716	28,714	34·84	35·29
Ten and under thirteen years	12,516	11,620	24,136	29·30	28·74
Thirteen and under fifteen years	3,924	3,783	7,707	9·35	8·97
Over fifteen years	682	726	1,408	1·71	1·57
Totals for 1880	42,734	39,567	82,401	100·00	...
Totals for 1879	39,427	36,129	75,566	...	100·00
Increase	3,307	3,538	6,835		

Last year the proportion of scholars under five years of age to the total number of scholars was 3·18 per cent., as compared with 3·68 in 1879. By the positive direction of the Board no children under five years of age were admitted to the Auckland schools last year. Taking the attendance for all the schools, the proportion of scholars over ten years of age has slightly increased, while the proportion of those under that age is somewhat less.

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

The following table shows the number of scholars returned by the different Boards as learning the several subjects of instruction specified in section 84 of the Act during the last quarter of 1880 :—

TABLE F.—SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Numbers belonging.	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	English, Grammar and Composition.	Geography.	History.	Elementary Science.	Drawing.	Object-Lessons.	Vocal Music.	Needlework (girls).	Domestic Economy.
Auckland	14,939	14,939	14,917	14,595	7,676	9,824	5,008	3,957	10,805	12,955	10,469	5,734	1,851
Taranaki	1,559	1,559	1,557	1,419	692	907	518	388	1,127	952	934	401	49
Wanganui	4,394	4,394	4,317	4,189	1,806	2,415	1,566	806	1,731	3,294	2,542	1,312	196
Wellington	6,082	6,082	5,887	5,695	3,007	3,478	2,650	1,195	4,244	4,857	3,919	1,638	427
Hawke's Bay	3,085	3,085	3,085	3,085	1,026	1,483	868	428	1,467	2,547	2,514	995	1
Marlborough	1,212	1,212	1,018	1,008	531	681	468	347	371	471	189	244	93
Nelson	3,950	3,950	3,542	3,311	1,835	2,125	1,625	833	721	1,070	892	1,147	341
North Canterbury	16,437	16,436	15,865	15,313	6,239	8,152	5,494	2,557	10,390	13,280	13,941	5,936	1,056
South Canterbury	3,506	3,506	3,456	3,014	1,367	1,679	1,143	671	2,050	2,542	2,800	1,113	310
Westland	3,143	3,143	3,106	2,986	1,136	1,468	889	446	691	1,944	1,915	894	...
Otago	19,203	19,203	16,797	16,461	8,240	9,896	6,853	4,322	9,648	13,192	14,061	6,146	726
Southland	4,891	4,891	4,771	4,617	2,294	2,925	1,702	939	2,622	3,301	3,529	1,606	51
Totals for 1880	82,401	82,400	78,318	75,693	35,849	45,033	28,784	16,889	45,867	60,405	47,705	27,166	5,101
Totals for 1879	75,566	75,554	69,939	68,451	32,750	39,501	24,147	14,807	36,999	51,784	49,179	24,213	4,676
Increase	6,835	6,846	8,379	7,242	3,099	5,532	4,637	2,082	8,868	8,621	1,474	2,953	425

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF EDUCATION BOARDS.

In addition to the statutory grant of £3 15s. for every child in average daily attendance at the public schools, the General Assembly last session made provision for the following purposes :—