

that leave one school go to another; but, even so, the change has usually a retarding effect upon their education.

The Inspectors' view of the pupils' attainments is not quite as favourable as that taken by the teachers. The following table compiled from the Inspectors' reports shows the number of children that passed the several standards during the year in all districts except South Canterbury. From South Canterbury the returns have not been received at the date of this report :—

TABLE O.—NUMBERS AND PROPORTIONS OF PASSES IN STANDARDS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Roll (Dec., 1880).	Presented.	Passed.	Passed Standards							
				I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	Total	
All (except South Canterbury)	...	78,895	46·6 p.c. of roll number	72 p.c. of number presented	10·7	10·6	6·4	3·5	1·5	0·6	33·5
Per cent. of Number presented in each Standard.											
Auckland	...	14,939	6,722	4,483	75	69	58	50	62	87	66
New Plymouth	...	1,559	816	453	57·5	61·1	37·3	74·7	76·2	...	55·5
Wanganui	...	4,394	2,217	1,704	83·4	78·7	72·1	57	82·2	90·3	76·4
Wellington	...	6,082	3,595	2,750	79	88	78	68	55	54	76·5
Hawke's Bay	...	3,085	1,560	1,032	68·1	64·8	67	61·1	69·4	...	66·2
Marlborough	...	1,212	643	505	73·4	82·5	85·7	61·5	77·8	95·5	78
Nelson	...	3,950	2,402	1,924	82·1	85·3	77·5	74·9	70·5	85·2	80
North Canterbury I.*	...	16,437	4,288	3,054	88	82·5	55	43·6	55·7	46·1	71·2
North Canterbury II.*	...		3,828	2,463	82	72	48	46	49	50	80
Westland	...	3,143	1,521	1,435	99	97	88	87	95	98	94·3
Otago	...	19,203	6,745	5,148	81	82	69	67	73	84	76·3
Southland	...	4,891	2,580	1,601	81·7	68·6	37·5	40·8	16·3	80	62
Totals	...	78,895	36,763	26,476	80·1	77·7	63·1	59·4	63·5	73·4	72

* North Canterbury I. is Mr. Restell's district; II., Mr. Edge's.

It therefore appears that, although 52·43 per cent. of the pupils on the roll are classified by the teachers as children that have either passed Standard I. (or some higher standard) or are fit to be taught with those who have passed, only 46·6 per cent. were presented during the year to be examined according to standards. The difference may be attributed partly to the fact that the roll was larger at the end of the year than at any time during its currency, while the examinations were held at various times throughout the year; and partly to the absence of some of the children on the days of examination. Again, of the number actually presented for examination more than one-fourth disappointed their teachers, so that the number of passes in all standards during the year was only about one-third (33·5 per cent. exactly) of the number of pupils on the roll at the end of the year. For every thousand children on the roll, 6 passed Standard VI., 15 passed Standard V., and 35 passed Standard IV., giving a total of 56 in 1,000 as the proportion of children who during the year have passed "the standard of education" which secures exemption from the operation of the "compulsory clauses" of the Act; while in Standards III., II., and I. the proportions are 64, 106, and 107 to 1,000. The proportion of those that have not passed is 665 to 1,000.

As to the ages at which the pupils have passed the several standards, there is a larger amount of information than has been available in former years. The following table contains a summary of it :—

TABLE P.—AVERAGE AGES OF PUPILS AT STANDARD EXAMINATIONS.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Average Ages (in Years) for Standard						Mean of Ages.
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	
Auckland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Plymouth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wanganui (as presented)	8·8	10·2	11·7	12·8	13·3	13·8	11·7
Wellington	8·6	9·6	11·1	12·6	13·2	14·1	11·5
Hawke's Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marlborough (as passed)	8·5	10	11	12·1	12·5	14·1	11·4
Nelson	8·2	9·8	11	12·2	13·6	14·3	11·5
North Canterbury	8·8	10·3	11·8	12·8	13·7	14·3	12
South Canterbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Westland (as presented)	8	9·6	11·1	12·6	13·2	14·3	11·5
Otago	9·1	10·5	11·7	12·7	13·6	14·3	12
Southland	9·2	10·9	12	13·3	13·9	13·8	12·2
Mean of the eight returns	8·6	10·1	11·4	12·6	13·4	14·1	11·7
Range (difference between lowest and highest)	1·2	1·3	1	1·2	1·4	0·5	0·8