

rapidly-increasing districts like Hastings, Makaretu, Danevirke, Makotoko, Woodville, and Wai-pukurau. For the December quarter the average weekly number of names on the school-rolls was 4,170, and the average attendance was 3,281. Compared with the attendance returns for the year 1883, the year just closed shows an increase of nearly 15 per cent. in the number attending school, and of nearly 17 per cent. in the average attendance. As was the case last year, the average attendance has increased in a greater proportion than the number attending school. For the year the average attendance amounted to 78·7 per cent. of the roll-number. This is 2 per cent. higher than the average for the colony in 1883, and exceeds that of England and Scotland by 5·7 and 2·7 per cent. respectively, the average attendance in England being 73 per cent., and in Scotland 76 per cent. of the roll-number. During the past six years the average attendance in the schools under the Board has increased 112·3 per cent., and the number on the school-roll 128·8 per cent. In the first three years of the Board's work the number of children attending school increased in a greater proportion than the average attendance, but since 1882 the average attendance shows the greater increase. The following table gives the average weekly roll-number and the average attendance in the schools under the Board for each quarter since March, 1878 :—

Year.	AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER ON ROLL.						AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.					
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Per-centage Increase Previous Year.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Per-centage Increase on Previous Year.
1878 ...	1,520	1,797	1,854	1,985	1,789	...	1,259	1,612	1,580	1,649	1,525	...
1879 ...	2,019	2,082	2,510	2,676	2,322	29·9	1,689	1,650	1,871	2,020	1,807	18·4
1880 ...	2,893	2,979	3,003	3,046	2,980	28·8	2,244	2,220	2,204	2,334	2,250·5	24·5
1881 ...	3,224	3,172	3,092	3,170	3,164·5	6·1	2,481	2,386	2,326	2,199	2,348	4·3
1882 ...	3,351	3,184	3,243	3,320	3,274·9	3·22	2,459	2,239	2,457	2,633	2,447	4·3
1883 ...	3,467	3,505	3,609	3,697	3,569·5	9·0	2,649	2,603	2,826	2,940	2,754·5	12·5
1884 ...	3,995	4,109	4,102	4,170	4,094	14·7	3,228	3,176	3,180	3,281	3,216·25	16·8

INSPECTION RESULTS.—The report of the Board's Inspector testifies to the steady progress that is being made in the work of education in the schools throughout the district. The teachers in the majority of the schools are doing satisfactory work, and, though the percentage of passes in the standards is slightly lower than was the case last year, this is to be accounted for, first, by the large increase in the school attendance which took place during the year, and, second, by the inadequacy of accommodation in all the larger centres of population. The following table gives the number of children who have passed the standard examination for each year since 1878 :—

Year.	STANDARD I.			STANDARD II.			STANDARD III.			STANDARD IV.			STANDARD V.			STANDARD VI.			Total Passes.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
1878	272	277	549	61	39	100	57	45	102	7	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1879	228	201	429	224	166	390	95	94	189	43	22	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,073
1880	199	174	373	176	158	334	104	103	207	53	40	93	19	6	25	...	...	...	1,032
1881	225	161	386	202	172	374	154	117	271	69	66	135	22	15	37	10	...	10	1,213
1882	213	177	390	184	166	350	171	156	327	86	70	156	44	26	70	12	9	21	1,314
1883	298	264	562	225	196	421	159	140	299	121	89	210	44	28	72	22	13	35	1,599
1884	396	360	754	234	215	451	200	175	375	94	93	192	49	49	98	17	14	31	1,903

The simultaneous examination of Standards V. and VI., which was attempted for the first time last year, is doing great good in promoting the thorough preparation of the children in the two highest standards. In the early part of the year the Board passed a resolution dispensing with the special examination for scholarships, and it was decided to grant them in future to those pupils who stand highest in the list in Standard VI., and who are of "school age" as recognized by the Act. Under this resolution scholarships were awarded in November last to Rose Chegwidan and Harry Fannin, of the Napier District School; Alice Collinge, of the Hastings School; and Albert Lewis and Maud Farmer, of the Gisborne School; the scholarships to be for two years, and tenable from the beginning of January, 1885. Of those who have held scholarships under the Board, two have distinguished themselves during the past year, Harold Large passing ninth on the list in the higher-grade Civil Service Examination, and Mary Grubb standing *dux* at the Napier High School for Girls.

PUPIL-TEACHERS.—The examination for pupil-teachers was held in July by the Board's Inspector, and the results will be found appended hereto in a special report on the subject. Altogether forty-four pupil-teachers are now employed in the Board schools, forming an important branch of the teaching staff. It has been suggested that Saturday classes should be formed at Napier and Gisborne as centres for the special training of the pupil-teachers in subjects like school-management, singing, and drawing. The Inspector of Schools is of the opinion that a scheme to include these objects could be successfully carried out were a small grant to be made by the Government for the purpose of meeting necessary expenses. The candidates holding scholarships at the Wellington and