

been over three years in its service, had failed to obtain certificates of competency, and to inform those teachers who had hitherto obtained only partial classification, as well as those who held only a "license to teach," that, unless they succeeded in obtaining full classification at the next examination of teachers, their services would be dispensed with. The Board was induced to adopt this course by the fact that it was unfair to retain the services of unclassified teachers while fully-accredited teachers were unable to obtain employment.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The following is an abstract of the attendance at the public schools of this district from the institution of the Otago education scheme, in the year 1856, to the present time. At the beginning of 1878 the new Education District of Southland was created, and thirty-seven schools were handed over to the newly-formed Board. [Table abbreviated.—SECRETARY, Education Department.]

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Number of Pupils who attended at all in the Course of the Year.			Average Daily Attendance for the Year.			Attendance at the Close of the Year.		
			Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.
1856-57 ..	5	7	..	..	..	115	121	236	..	..	..
1866 ..	51	71	1,193	2,754	3,947	888	1,680	2,568	934	2,136	3,070
1877 ..	173	356	3,191	16,422	19,613	2,176	9,573	11,749	2,585	11,943	14,528
1884 ..	166	472	6,464	21,663	28,217	4,025	13,610	17,635	4,579	16,835	21,414
1885 ..	175	491	6,317	22,234	28,551	4,039	14,226	18,265	4,513	17,145	21,661

It appears from this table that, while there was an increase of only 334 in the number of pupils attending school during the year, the increase in the average attendance was 630—a fact that indicates a slight improvement in the quality of attendance. In Dunedin there was a decline of 147 in the roll-number, and an increase in the average attendance of fourteen. This decline was, no doubt, owing to the departure of a number of families from the city during the course of the year. The number of Maori and half-caste children attending the schools in this district is shown in the following statement: Maoris: males, 1; females, 4. Half-castes or other children of mixed race living as members of a Native tribe: males, 6; females, 5. Half-castes or other children of mixed race living among Europeans: males, 29; females, 21. Number of schools in which there were Maori or half-caste scholars or those of mixed race, 11.

AGES OF THE PUPILS.—The following table shows the number and ages of the pupils that attended the public schools in the district during the last quarter of the years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.
	1880.				1881.				1882.			
Under five years ..	194	209	403	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	..
Five and under seven years ..	1,993	1,849	2,842	20	2,068	1,869	3,937	20	2,153	2,038	4,191	21
Seven and under ten years ..	3,474	3,340	6,814	35	3,574	3,332	6,906	35	3,660	3,326	6,986	35
Ten and under thirteen years ..	2,992	2,857	5,849	30	3,113	2,912	6,025	31	3,063	2,974	6,037	30
Thirteen and under fifteen years ..	991	913	1,904	10	1,035	991	2,026	10	1,083	971	2,004	10
Above fifteen years ..	177	214	391	2	165	215	380	2	195	252	447	2
Totals ..	9,821	9,382	19,203	100	9,955	9,319	19,274	100	10,104	9,561	19,665	100

	1883.				1884.				1885.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Per Cent.
Under five years ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	..
Five and under seven years ..	2,243	2,023	4,266	20	2,231	2,053	4,289	20	2,012	1,931	3,943	18
Seven and under ten years ..	3,929	3,574	7,503	36	4,126	3,818	7,944	37	4,290	3,968	8,258	38
Ten and under thirteen years ..	3,051	3,060	6,111	30	3,318	3,107	6,425	30	3,485	3,179	6,664	30
Thirteen and under fifteen years ..	1,129	1,073	2,202	10	1,205	1,118	2,323	11	1,234	1,136	2,370	10
Above fifteen years ..	202	261	463	2	194	239	433	2	206	220	426	2
Totals ..	10,554	9,991	20,545	100	11,074	10,340	21,414	100	11,227	10,434	21,661	100

FINANCE.—Appended hereto (see Appendix D) is an audited abstract of the income and expenditure of the Board for the year 1885. The sum paid in teachers' salaries, inclusive of bonuses on classification and bonuses for teaching pupil-teachers, amounted to £60,832 19s. 1d., and the sum paid to Committees for incidental expenses was £6,076 7s. A statement of the amounts contributed by the Board to each school for teachers' salaries and for allowances to Committees in aid of school fund, and of the sums paid for the erection and improvement of school-buildings, will be found in Appendix A.

DRAWING DEPARTMENT.—The report of the head master of the drawing department will be found in Appendix L. The classes were attended by 418 students—viz., 105 teachers and pupil-teachers, 73 students in training, 59 students at the afternoon classes, 181 artisans and other students in the evening—being an increase of 34 over the attendance of the preceding year. The expenditure of the department was—salaries, £587 5s.; other expenses, £23 17s. 7d.: total, £611 2s. 7d. The sum of £142 10s. 6d. was received from fees.

PUPIL-TEACHERS.—The annual examination of pupil-teachers was held on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 11—E.1.