

attendance so ascertained shall be known as the strict average. But, in order that the capitation allowance may not be unduly affected by bad weather, epidemics, or any unusual occurrence, a second computation shall be made by throwing out of account every morning and every afternoon on which the attendances have numbered less than one-half of the number of pupils belonging to the school, and by throwing out of account the attendances also of every such morning and every such afternoon; and the capitation payments to Boards under "The Education Act, 1877," shall be made according to the average daily attendance as ascertained by this second computation, which average daily attendance shall be known as the working average.

The daily attendance for the year, estimated according to the "working average," is 87,937, and for the fourth quarter 89,589. The corresponding numbers for 1886 were 83,405 and 85,343, the respective increases for the year being therefore 4,532 and 4,246. The estimates for the year were based upon the expectation of a "working average" of 87,500, which has been exceeded by 437. There were 110,919 pupils on the rolls at the end of the year, or more by 4,591 than at the end of 1886. The mean (111,115) of the four quarterly averages of the weekly-roll numbers is greater by 196 than the roll number at the end of the year. The total of the numbers on the rolls of the several schools on the several days of inspection was 107,911, which is less by 2,992 than the roll number at the end of the year, and greater by 1,583 than the roll number in December, 1886.

The strict average for the whole year is 85,637 (less than the "working average" by 2,300), and for the fourth quarter 87,386 (less than the "working average" by 2,203). The increase for the year in the strict average is 4,900, and for the fourth quarter 4,025.

The saving for the present year (1888) by the substitution of the strict average for the working average may be estimated at about £9,000—on 2,400 pupils at the capitation rate of £3 15s. prescribed by the Education Act. A further saving is effected by the abolition of the additional capitation allowance of 5s. formerly granted for incidental expenses. During part of last year (from May onwards) a capitation allowance of 4s. only was paid, and in December the allowance ceased altogether. But, as compared with expenditure on this head at the rate current at the beginning of 1887, the present rate is less by 5s. Assuming that the strict average will be 88,500, and considering that if the "working average" were still recognised this number would be increased to probably 91,000, the saving at 5s. each is £22,750. Taking into account these two sums, and £8,000 saved by the withdrawal of the grant for the training of teachers, the present annual reduction amounts to £39,750.

The varying rates of increase of attendance since the Colonial Government assumed the control of public instruction can be ascertained from Table A.

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR TEN YEARS.

Year.	School Attendance.							Yearly Increase on						
	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.				Average Attend- ance expressed as Percentage of Roll Number.	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.				
			Strict Average.		Working Average.					Strict Average.		Working Average.		
			Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.				Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.	
1877	..	55,688	..	..	41,773	40,837	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1878	50,849	65,040	49,435	45,521	50,639	47,996	..	..	9,352	..	..	8,866	7,159	
1879	59,707	75,566	57,301	53,067	58,738	54,724	76.1	8,858	10,526	7,866	7,546	8,099	6,728	
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	60,625	64,407	62,234	76.6	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558	5,669	7,510	
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	61,822	64,744	63,735	76.4	6,235	1,159	63	1,197	337	1,501	
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	63,709	68,288	66,145	76.4	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887	3,544	2,410	
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	67,373	72,214	69,843	76.7	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664	3,926	3,698	
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	72,657	76,832	75,391	77.9	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284	4,618	5,548	
1885	90,670	102,407	80,183	78,327	81,663	80,302	78.5	5,787	5,169	5,533	5,670	4,831	4,911	
1886	95,377	106,328	83,361	80,737	85,343	83,405	78.6	4,707	3,921	3,178	2,410	3,680	3,103	
1887	99,206	110,919	87,386	85,637	89,589	87,937	79.1	3,829	4,591	4,025	4,900	4,246	4,532	

The most important statistics of attendance for the year are exhibited in Table B.