

fourth quarter of the year is greater by 3,459 than the corresponding average of the preceding year; the average of the weekly roll-number is increased by 2,575. For 1889 the numbers are—average attendance for the year, 93,374; average attendance for the fourth quarter, 94,308; average of weekly roll-number for the year, 116,211. Table A contains the principal statistics of attendance from the date of the passing of “The Education Act, 1877.”

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FROM 1877 TO 1889.

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 en Roll-Number.	Number belonging at Beginning of Year.	Number belonging at End of Year.	Average Attendance.	
			Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.				Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.
1877	..	55,688	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1878	50,849	65,040	49,435	45,521	..	..	9,352	..	..
1879	59,707	75,566	57,301	53,067	73·8	8,858	10,526	7,866	7,546
1880	68,124	82,401	62,946	60,625	74·6	8,417	6,835	5,645	7,558
1881	74,359	83,560	63,009	61,822	74·2	6,235	1,159	63	1,197
1882	76,309	87,179	66,426	63,709	73·6	1,950	3,619	3,417	1,887
1883	79,416	92,476	70,077	67,373	74·0	3,107	5,297	3,651	3,664
1884	84,883	97,238	74,650	72,657	75·1	5,467	4,762	4,573	5,284
1885	90,670	102,407	80,183	78,327	76·6	5,787	5,169	5,533	5,670
1886	95,377	106,328	83,361	80,737	76·1	4,707	3,921	3,178	2,410
1887	99,206	110,919	87,386	85,637	77·0	3,829	4,531	4,025	4,900
1888	103,534	112,685	90,849	90,108	79·3	4,328	1,766	3,463	4,471
1889	104,919	115,456	94,308	93,374	80·3	1,385	2,771	3,459	3,266

In the next table (B) the principal facts with respect to the attendance in the several education districts are exhibited. In one district (Westland) an actual decline has taken place in the number of children under instruction, and in some others the increase is very small. The regularity of attendance—as measured by the ratio between the average of the daily attendance and the average of the weekly roll-number—continues to improve, and has now reached 80·3 per cent. for the whole colony. As usual Otago leads the van, with a percentage (higher than ever) of 85·7. The improvement in this respect is participated in by all the districts except Auckland, Taranaki, and Wanganui.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1889.

Education Districts.	Roll-Numbers.				Average Daily Attendance.				Average for the Year as Percent- age of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quar- ters.	
	Pupils at Be- ginning of Year.	Ad- mitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Fourth Quarter.			Whole Year.		
					Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
								1889.	1888.	
Auckland	19,933	9,729	7,978	21,684	9,300	8,479	17,779	17,708	80·4	80·9
Taranaki	2,290	1,044	769	2,565	972	923	1,895	1,851	72·4	73·9
Wanganui	6,405	3,259	2,389	7,275	2,897	2,613	5,510	5,435	74·3	75·5
Wellington	8,480	6,252	4,313	10,419	4,259	4,016	8,275	8,319	79·6	78·5
Hawke's Bay	5,332	3,255	2,618	5,969	2,566	2,284	4,850	4,792	80·0	79·7
Marlborough	1,681	812	639	1,854	758	654	1,412	1,405	78·5	77·6
Nelson	5,219	2,086	1,556	5,749	2,288	2,201	4,489	4,510	78·3	76·8
Grey	1,662	664	578	1,748	723	730	1,453	1,398	77·2	76·5
Westland	1,748	481	533	1,696	735	685	1,420	1,424	78·9	77·7
North Canterbury	19,422	8,637	7,350	20,709	8,920	8,211	17,131	16,653	80·0	77·4
South Canterbury	4,467	1,802	1,465	4,804	1,995	1,855	3,850	3,848	78·6	77·7
Otago	20,770	7,814	5,843	22,741	10,237	9,305	19,542	19,529	85·7	83·8
Southland	7,510	3,261	2,528	8,243	3,490	3,212	6,702	6,502	78·6	76·2
Totals for 1889	104,919	49,096	38,559	115,456	49,140	45,168	94,308	93,374	80·3	79·3
Totals for 1888	103,534	48,687	39,536	112,685	47,641	43,208	90,849	90,108	79·3	..
Increase in year	1,385	409	..	2,771	1,499	1,960	3,459	3,266	1·0	..
Decrease in year	..	..	977	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Included in Table B are Maoris and half-castes to the number of 1,101, as follows :—