

Standard I. than was the case a few years ago. The Inspector speaks hopefully of the work done during the year, and, although there are wide differences in the standard results between the good and poor schools, the average is satisfactory. The number of standard passes for the year shows a marked increase, and, what is of perhaps more importance, the increase is chiefly in the higher standards. The progress made in the class and additional subjects is not so apparent, although in some schools excellent work appears to have been done. Due attention also continues to be paid to the improvement of the schools in tone, manners, and discipline. The table appended to the Inspector's report contains an interesting summary of the results for each school for the past year, under the heads of "Standard Results," "Manners," "Discipline," &c. The standard passes for the year will be found in the following table, which contains the examination results 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	756	234	215	449	200	175	375	94	98	192	49	49	98	17	14	31	1,901
1885 ...	332	361	693	294	279	573	198	177	375	140	136	276	35	51	86	34	29	63	2,066
1886 ...	368	357	725	240	277	517	224	178	402	134	124	258	80	61	141	32	27	59	2,102
1887 ...	324	329	653	290	294	584	209	211	420	149	121	270	75	100	175	54	38	92	2,194
1888 ...	428	386	814	318	299	617	255	255	510	167	168	335	97	77	174	42	69	111	2,561
1889 ...	...	...	858	...	...	735	...	...	550	...	...	390	...	...	208	...	...	126	2,867

Although the total presentations in standards for the year were only six in excess of those for 1888, the passes show an increase of 306 compared with those for that year. The increase is general through the standards, but is more marked in Standard II. and upwards, where the effects of a good Standard I. are shown by the large proportion of pupils who pass on to a higher standard. In the year 1888 there were 1,132 presentations in Standard I., whilst last year the presentations fell to 1,009, which shows that the demand for thoroughness in the elementary work is having its full effect upon the teaching in the lower departments. The synchronous examination of the pupils in Standards V. and VI. took place in November. As usual, supervisors were appointed for each school where there were pupils to be examined. On the results of Standard VI. scholarships are awarded, and the competition for them has become exceedingly keen between the different schools. Attention was called last year to the growing efficiency of the country schools, and the remarks then made have been more than sustained by the results of the past year. Gisborne and Napier formerly carried off all the prizes offered by the Board, but strong competitors are now found at the Waipawa, Hastings, Port Ahuriri, Woodville, Havelock, Waipukurau, Ormondville, and Te Arai Schools, from each of which successful pupils were sent in for examination in November, and several other schools are promising equally good results.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—In addition to the ordinary scholarships, which are limited to the amount of the capitation allowance received from the Government, the School Commissioners, out of the funds available from secondary reserves, have offered fifteen scholarships for competition to the pupils of the old provincial district, thirteen being non-resident scholarships, and limited to Napier and the surrounding district within a radius of fourteen miles, the other two being resident scholarships, and limited to pupils in the provincial district who are outside of the fifteen-miles radius. These scholarships, when they are in full working, will be tenable for two years; but, being the first year of issue, seven were granted for two years and six for one year, so that in 1890 and in each succeeding year at least six Commissioners' scholarships will be open for competition, in addition to those ordinarily granted by the Board. On the Inspector's recommendation, it has been decided to discontinue the synchronous examinations, and for the future Standards V. and VI. will be examined at the same time as the other standard pupils. The scholarship examination will be held in December, at the same time as for pupil-teachers, and new regulations will shortly be submitted to the Minister, containing the rules, such as the Board may consider to be necessary. Two scholarships have also been instituted by the Caledonian Society, but they are offered for competition to pupils who have passed Standard IV. The same society offered a gold medal to the pupil who gained the highest marks in the scholarship examination, without limit as to school, and the prize was carried off by Hedley Thomson, of the Gisborne School.

GISBORNE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL.—Under regulations duly approved by the Minister this school was constituted a district high school at the beginning of 1888. That year the pupils numbered thirteen, whilst last year there were twenty-nine attending. The fees amounted to £199 16s., which, added to the annual subsidy of £150 given by the Board of Governors of the Gisborne High School, who have no school of their own, provided an income more than sufficient for the maintenance of the school. In December those pupils who had not entered for the matriculation examination were examined by the Inspector, who was assisted by three other gentlemen, and the results were reported as being on the whole very satisfactory. Of the six pupils who entered for the matriculation examination, five passed the requirements—a result which reflects the highest credit upon the soundness of the teaching at this school. It might be further mentioned as one of the rules of the school that no pupil is permitted to take up the "secondary subjects" unless Standard VI. has been passed.