

58, and the attendance of the year 1890 by 2,426. The principal statistics of attendance from the date of the passing of the Education Act (1877) are given in Table A.

TABLE A.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY INCREASE FROM 1877 TO 1891.

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.	
			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	4,591	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
1890	108,158	117,912	96,670	94,632	79·9	3,239	2,456	2,362	1,258
1891	110,665	119,523	96,264	97,058	80·3	2,507	1,611	[—406]	2,426

Table B exhibits the statistics of attendance for the several education districts. In Otago and Westland there is again a slight decline in numbers, and there is also a decline in the Grey District. In 1891, for the first time, the average attendance of the fourth quarter falls below the average for the whole year. The attendance for the whole colony for the fourth quarter is less by 1,092 than the mean attendance for the other three quarters. There are seven districts in which the attendance of the fourth quarter is below the mean. The Boards of Otago, Southland, and Wanganui refer to influenza as the principal cause of unexpectedly irregular attendance, and the same epidemic, and others, affected the schools of North and South Canterbury. In Otago and Southland it was found necessary to close some of the schools for a time. The low attendance in the Grey District is attributed to a decline in the yield of gold and in the output of coal.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1891.

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—120,882.	
	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.			
									1891.	1890.
Auckland	20,753	9 785	7 609	22,749	9,666	9,014	18,680	18,534	80·7	80·2
Taranaki	2,466	1 108	577	2 997	1 153	1 080	2,233	2,095	72·4	72·3
Wanganui	7 223	3 850	3,058	8 015	3,078	2,816	5,894	6,109	74·7	73·8
Wellington	9 780	5 717	4,339	11 158	4,641	4,132	8 773	9,028	80·1	79·2
Hawke's Bay	5,831	3,001	2,604	6 228	2 559	2,305	4,864	4,992	79·2	79·9
Marlborough	1,822	910	692	2,040	896	764	1,660	1,540	76·2	77·6
Nelson	5 415	1,779	1 365	5 829	2,329	2,243	4,572	4,619	78·7	77·0
Grey	1,682	563	525	1 720	671	685	1,356	1,365	76·6	77·8
Westland	1 665	463	503	1 625	702	663	1,365	1 362	81·7	81·2
North Canterbury	20,327	8,021	7,290	21,058	8 960	8,115	17,075	17,514	81·8	80·5
South Canterbury	4,637	1 881	1 474	5,044	2,081	1 964	4,045	4,039	80·0	79·2
Otago	21 321	7 844	6,692	22,473	9 786	8 920	18 706	19,051	83·3	84·1
Southland	7 923	3,347	2,683	8,587	3,687	3 354	7,041	6,810	78·7	78·1
Totals for 1891	110,665	48 269	39 411	119 523	50 209	46,055	96,264	97,058	80·3	79·9
Totals for 1890	108,158	48 868	39,114	117 912	50,336	46,334	96,670	94,632	79·9	.
Increase in year	2,507		297	1 611				2 426	0·4	
Decrease in year		599			127	279	406	..	.	