

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

Classes.			Presented.	Absent.	Excepted.	Failed.	Passed.	Average Age of those that passed.
								Yrs. m.
Above Standard VI.	...	...	133	...	...	...	...	...
Standard VI.	...	...	369	11	2	41	315	14 4
" V.	...	...	534	20	16	73	425	12 10
" IV.	...	...	731	20	23	110	578	12 4
" III.	...	...	715	19	27	43	626	11 0
" II.	...	...	768	19	12	34	703	10 0
" I.	...	...	684	14	5	27	638	8 10
Preparatory	...	...	1,835	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	5,769	103	85	328	3,285	11 6*

* Mean of average age.

GREY.

SIR,—

Education Office, Greymouth, 19th February, 1892.

I have the honour to present my report upon the examination for 1891.

Twenty schools were examined. The following table gives information as to numbers presented, passes, &c. :—

						1890.	1891.
Roll-number on day of examination	...	...	...	...	...	1,729	1,670
Number of above already passed standard course	...	...	...	...	...	26	28
Number within standard classification	...	...	...	...	...	1,161	1,079
Number enrolled in standard classes present at examination	...	...	...	...	...	1,080	990
Number promoted to a higher standard	...	...	...	...	...	912	843
Percentage of class-subjects—							
History	...	...	...	...	...	49·1	46
Geography	...	...	...	...	...	44·7	43
Elementary science and object-lessons	...	...	...	...	...	64·3	69
Mean percentage	...	...	...	...	...	59·3	53
Average for additional subjects (possible total, 20)—							
Recitation	...	...	...	...	...	14·5	15·3
Drill and exercises	...	...	...	...	...	15	13
Singing	...	...	...	...	...	16·8	17·6
Needlework	...	...	...	...	...	17·4	15·5
Subject-matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	12·5
Mean average	...	...	...	...	...	15·9	14·8

On the whole, the results may be considered satisfactory; though the average percentage of passes in the seven pass-subjects is 78·3, as compared with 85·4 for 1890; for 1889 the average percentage was 76·8; and for 1888, 80·6. Taking into consideration all the circumstances beyond the control of teachers, the result must not be taken as indicating any diminution of effort or efficiency. Taking the percentage of failures as representing approximately the condition of a school, the results are as follows: Less than 10 per cent. of failures, nine schools; over 10 and less than 20 per cent., four schools; 20 to 25 per cent., four schools; three schools respectively 36, 43, and 55 per cent. The average percentage of scholars passing is 51·1, and of failures 15·5. Percentages must not, however, be accepted as infallible guides as to state of efficiency or otherwise. A careful analysis of the work of each school furnishes plenty of material for consideration and comment; and it is not going too far to say that a school having 0 per cent. of failures may be less sound in respect of real education than one having 20 per cent. Irregular attendance is a factor to be considered. There are various causes for this, the principal in this district being bad weather, but want of confidence in the teacher has sometimes an influence.

The experience of the last few years has fully convinced me of the superiority of our young female teachers, trained in the district, in the management of small country schools, to those male teachers who have been engaged from outside. The first are more attentive to their duties and less eager for change, and the improvement they have effected in some of our small schools has been very pronounced. This is no doubt owing materially to the excellent training these young teachers receive in the early stages from the head mistress of the Greymouth School.

READING.—This subject still shows improvement, the number of good readers steadily increasing. Chambers's cards are used with good effect in the infant classes; and the excellent books for Standards