

districts has a steady increase of the roll-numbers been maintained: these districts are Taranaki, Wanganui, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay. Auckland began the year with a largely increased roll-number, but the number admitted during the year was 699 less than during 1897, and the year 1898 ended with a smaller number on the roll than in the December previous. The decrease in Otago was 433 at the beginning of the year, and at the end of the year it had reached 603, or nearly 3 per cent. of the roll-number. Marlborough lost 59, or nearly 3 per cent. of its roll-number, and Westland lost 85, or nearly 6 per cent. In the other districts the decrease of the roll-number was not so large. Such facts seem to correspond to a certain amount of migration from other districts of the colony into the four districts named at the beginning of this paragraph.

Independently of the increased number of Maoris in the Native schools, there is again a slight increase in the number of Maoris attending the ordinary public schools, except in the case of half-castes living among Europeans.

Education Districts.	Pure Maoris.			Half-castes living as Maoris.			Half-castes living among Europeans.			Total.			No. of Schools in which there were Native Children.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Auckland	263	167	430	49	46	95	294	259	553	606	472	1,078	154
Taranaki	24	16	40	1	1	2	19	15	34	44	32	76	19
Wanganui	100	61	161	16	12	28	28	21	49	144	94	238	32
Wellington	85	51	136	9	14	23	24	18	42	118	83	201	27
Hawke's Bay	216	112	328	18	13	31	53	36	89	287	161	448	29
Marlborough	..	1	1	..	..	..	21	5	26	21	6	27	4
Nelson	5	2	7	..	..	..	1	1	2	6	3	9	5
Grey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	10	6	16	..	..	..	3	2	5	13	8	21	3
North Canterbury	7	3	10	1	..	1	11	8	19	19	11	30	10
South Canterbury	7	1	8	..	..	..	1	1	2	8	2	10	4
Otago	14	12	26	2	..	2	32	35	67	48	47	95	13
Southland	1	..	1	6	11	17	54	50	104	61	61	122	18
Totals for 1898	732	432	1,164	102	97	199	541	451	992	1,375	930	2,355	318
Totals for 1897	663	438	1,101	83	74	157	548	454	1,002	1,294	966	2,260	304
Difference	69	-6	63	19	23	42	-7	-3	-10	81	14	95	14

Table No. 1 (Appendix, p. 1) shows the roll-numbers arranged as to age and sex, and Table C presents the same figures in a succinct form. The percentage of boys in the public schools of the colony is about 51·9; of girls, 48·1: these figures are nearly the same as for last year. 51·7 per cent. of the pupils are below the age of ten; 48·3 per cent. are over ten.

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1898.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.
Five and under six years ..	5,303	4,773	10,076	7·7	7·6	7·4	7·4	7·4
Six and under seven years ..	6,924	6,314	13,238	10·1	10·0	9·9	9·8	10·2
Seven and under eight years ..	7,648	7,118	14,766	11·2	11·2	11·2	11·6	11·5
Eight and under nine years ..	7,830	7,196	15,026	11·4	11·2	11·6	11·5	11·5
Nine and under ten years ..	7,742	7,214	14,956	11·4	11·6	11·6	11·6	11·6
Ten and under eleven years ..	7,894	7,517	15,411	11·7	11·5	11·5	11·6	11·9
Eleven and under twelve years ..	7,524	7,233	14,757	11·2	11·1	11·3	11·4	11·1
Twelve and under thirteen years ..	7,226	6,545	13,771	10·5	10·7	10·6	10·5	10·1
Thirteen and under fourteen years ..	5,691	5,040	10,731	8·1	8·3	8·1	7·9	7·8
Fourteen and under fifteen years ..	3,085	2,846	5,931	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·4	4·6
Over fifteen years ..	1,410	1,548	2,958	2·2	2·3	2·3	2·3	2·3
Totals	68,277	63,344	131,621	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Table D, which is a condensed form of Table No. 2 in the Appendix, gives the numbers in the several classes. The proportion in the classes above Standard IV. continues to increase year by year, and the proportion in classes below Standard III. to decrease, which is not at variance with the conjectures made above as to the causes of the diminished roll-numbers.