

1947
NEW ZEALAND

EDUCATION OF NATIVE CHILDREN

[In continuation of E.-3, 1946]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

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No. 1

REPORT OF THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF NATIVE SCHOOLS

SIR,—

3rd June, 1947.

I have the honour to present the following report on Native schools for the year 1946 :—

1. SCHOOLS AND STAFF

In 1946 the number of Native schools under the control of the Education Department was 159, an increase of 2 over the number for 1945. New schools were opened at Waipoua Forest, North Auckland, and at Minginui, in the Urewera. The total enrolment at the end of the year was 12,654, an increase of 464 over the figures for December, 1945. The average weekly enrolment was 12,345 (11,800 in 1945) and the percentage of regularity was 86. Of the 12,654 children on the roll at the end of the school year, 11,640 were Maori and 1,014 European. I have commented on the continued growth in our school population in recent reports, and as 5,439 out of our 12,654 children were in the primer classes—i.e., more than 41 per cent.—it seems inevitable that our schools must continue to increase in size.

In addition to the 159 schools mentioned above, there are 10 Native mission schools and convents, with a total roll of 761, in various parts of the North Island, and there are also 5 schools in the Chatham Islands, with a total enrolment of 124 scholars.

At the end of 1946 there were 15,929 Maori children on the rolls of the public schools throughout the Dominion, an increase of 726 over the figures for 1945.

The adequate staffing of the schools presented considerable difficulties during last year. Until fairly recent years most of the schools required only a married couple,