

(25) SCHOOL HOSTELS

There is still an unsatisfied demand for accommodation at school hostels. The number of pupils resident in 1946 and 1947 is shown in the following table :—

				1946.	1947.
Secondary	..	..	..	1,583	1,634
Technical	..	..	..	323	376
Combined	..	..	..	967	990
				2,873	3,000

(26) CONCLUSION

May I in this, my last annual report as Chief Inspector of Post-primary Schools, make a brief reference to the growth of the post-primary school system since I first joined the secondary service as a junior master some forty-one years ago. The technical system was then practically non-existent, while the total school roll of the State secondary schools was only some 3,500 and the total secondary salary bill for the whole Dominion just over £45,000. There were a few private secondary schools not yet registered as such. To-day the total post-primary rolls exceed 57,000 and the total annual salary bill for post-primary schools exceeds £1,000,000.

We have now a post-primary system of which we may well be proud, and my visit to Australia during August and September of last year left me very well satisfied with our New Zealand post-primary schools. To this high standard Principals, assistants, and my friends and colleagues on the inspectorate have all contributed. Too often the inspectorate is forgotten in this connection, and I should like to take this last opportunity of thanking them for their helpfulness to me during my period as Chief Inspector. A more effective, loyal, and hard-working team it would be difficult to imagine. I have been indeed fortunate.

May I, too, thank the officers of the Department on the administrative side. Their efficiency and complete co-operation have enabled us to put into effect readily and with ease any plans which we may have formed for the further development of the post-primary system.

I have, &c.,

E. CARADUS,

Chief Inspector of Post-primary Schools.

The Director of Education, Wellington C. 1.