

WESTLAND.

SIR,—

Education Office, Hokitika, 22nd January, 1900.

I have the honour to present the following report on the primary schools of the district for the year 1899. All these schools have been examined and, with unimportant exceptions, inspected. Separate reports have been presented on the examinations of the secondary class of the Hokitika District High School, and of the Catholic schools at Kumara, Hokitika, Kanieri, and Ross.

The following tables state the general results of the examination of the various standard classes :—

EXAMINATION OF CLASS SUBJECTS.

Classes.			Total presented.	Examined in Standards.	Passed.	Average Age of those that passed.	Average Age of passing for New Zealand in 1898.
						Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.
Secondary classes	...	...	26	...	...	...	...
Above Standard VI.	...	...	50	...	...	...	...
Standard VI.	...	...	111	106	89	13 11	14 1
" V.	...	...	106	100	90	12 11	13 1
" IV.	...	...	168	167	146	12 0	12 3
" III.	...	...	174	169	153	10 11	11 1
" II.	...	...	152	148	143	10 0	9 11
" I.	...	...	151	148	140	8 11	8 10
Preparatory	...	...	349	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	1,287	838	761	11 5*	11 6*

* Mean of average age.

The distribution of the number presented for examination in the various classes is expressed in the following percentages of the total roll-number: Above Standard VI., 3·9; Standard VI., 8·8; Standard V., 8·4; Standard IV., 13·3; Standard III., 13·8; Standard II., 12·1; Standard I., 11·9; Preparatory, 27·8. The number of pupils over eight years of age in Preparatory classes is 18·9 per cent. of the class, and 5·2 per cent. of the total roll. The reasons given by the teachers for the retention in the preparatory classes of these pupils is in general satisfactory. The pupils in Standard I. and Standard II. were not examined for a pass by the teachers except in the three larger schools, where due discretion was exercised in making the promotions.

The percentages of failures compared with the total roll is 9·2. The passes in individual subjects both in number and value show considerable improvement. None of the following percentages are below those of last year, and in most there is an increase: Reading, 96; spelling, 87; writing, 98; drawing, 95; arithmetic, 77; composition, 94; geography, 88.

The comparative table relating to the results, expressed by percentages, of the tests in arithmetic issued by the Education Department is continued :—

				Standard VI.	Standard V.	Standard IV.	Standard III.
1894	...	...	...	68	71	82	70
1895	...	...	...	75	49	74	77
1896	...	...	...	66	48	69	86
1897	...	...	...	81	68	75	78
1898	...	...	...	72	65	67	76
1899	...	...	...	69	67	79	72

CLASS AND ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS.

Subjects.	In Schools with more than One Teacher.						In Schools under the Charge of One Teacher.					
	Omitted.	Inferior.	Moderate or Fair.	Satisfactory.	Good.	Excellent.	Omitted.	Inferior.	Moderate or Fair.	Satisfactory.	Good.	Excellent.
Grammar	1	...	3	4	1	1	2	13	6	3	...	...
History	1	...	1	3	5	...	4	12	5	3	...	...
Elementary science (Stand. IV. to VI.)	1	...	...	3	6	...	8	1	2	12	1	...
Object-lessons (Preparatory, and Standards I. to III.)	...	1	1	3	5	...	1	2	15	5	1	...
Mental arithmetic...	...	1	3	3	2	1	...	5	7	8	3	1
Recitation	...	...	...	3	2	5	...	...	7	8	8	1
Drill	2	...	2	3	2	1	24	...	...	...	...	...
Singing	5	...	...	1	...	4	23	...	...	...	1	...
Needlework	...	...	...	1	3	6	8	1	3	6	5	1
Comprehension of reading-matter	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	14	6	3	..