

it is evident that in different districts different views were taken as to the expediency of making the proposed change in one year, and in some districts the work of examining children for passes in Standards III. to V. seems to have been still largely performed by the Inspectors. In the majority of cases, however, the directions of the syllabus appear to have been followed in the spirit, if not in the letter. The promotion of the children from class to class was left without any limitation in the hands of the teachers, and did not necessarily follow the results of the standard pass examinations, whether these were conducted by the Inspectors or by the head teachers. Further, the number of pass-subjects was reduced, and there was some modification of the conditions for securing a pass.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1900.

Standards.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Preparatory classes	18,034	15,965	33,999	26·00	25·09	24·52	24·58	24·91
Class for Standard I.	7,854	7,233	15,087	11·54	12·06	12·32	12·30	12·68
" " II.	8,251	7,757	16,008	12·25	12·44	12·77	12·85	13·13
" " III.	9,261	8,321	17,582	13·45	14·00	14·15	14·30	14·46
" " IV.	9,069	8,406	17,475	13·38	13·65	13·67	14·10	14·11
" " V.	7,562	7,391	14,953	11·44	11·06	11·17	10·90	10·53
" " VI.	5,362	4,984	10,346	7·91	7·63	7·28	7·26	6·75
Passed Standard VI.	2,455	2,819	5,274	4·03	4·07	4·12	3·71	3·43
Totals.. ..	67,848	62,876	130,724	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It will be interesting to consider Table D, which gives the actual classification at the end of the year, with Table E, which shows the passes in standards.

For the whole colony, of those present at examination, there passed in Standard I., 93·3 per cent.; in Standard II., 90·4 per cent.; in Standard III., 84·7 per cent.; in Standard IV., 84·3 per cent.; in Standard V., 81·7 per cent.; and in Standard VI., 76 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1899 were 96·4, 93·4, 81·1, 77·0, 75·5, and 80·3.

It will thus be seen that the percentage of passes in Standards I. and II., which in both years were examined by the head teachers, is less for 1900 than for 1899; and that the percentage of passes in each of the Standards III., IV., V., which were examined by the head teachers for the first time last year, was greater than in the preceding year, the difference being most marked in Standards IV. and V. It is difficult to say how far the higher percentage of passes in these Standards may be set down to the willingness of teachers to pass children more easily than the Inspectors have been accustomed to pass them, and how far it is due to the easier conditions on which a pass may be secured. Probably the latter is the predominant cause, for the reports of the Inspectors of Schools (E.—1B) do not appear to reveal any general desire on the part of head teachers to exercise greater leniency in this respect. For Standard VI., a pass for which secures a "certificate of proficiency," the Inspectors were in both years the examiners, and the lower percentage gained seems to indicate a somewhat greater stringency in the conditions for securing a pass.

TABLE E.—PASSES IN STANDARDS, 1900.

Education Districts.	Present at Examination.						Passes in Standards.					
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.
Auckland	3,228	3,409	3,811	3,568	2,475	1,645	3,039	3,098	3,337	3,034	2,112	1,173
Taranaki	515	579	571	506	302	146	440	459	452	389	220	113
Wanganui	1,238	1,320	1,443	1,263	942	552	1,127	1,229	1,243	1,108	808	461
Wellington	1,650	1,807	2,006	1,781	1,541	973	1,554	1,610	1,625	1,446	1,238	758
Hawke's Bay	997	1,017	1,064	925	627	403	911	916	914	804	527	293
Marlborough	241	268	280	255	223	135	225	249	252	227	200	101
Nelson	652	644	791	694	641	445	539	545	647	522	425	320
Grey	171	166	192	203	170	126	156	161	172	202	150	105
Westland	133	143	155	169	142	90	129	137	133	140	125	78
North Canterbury	2,133	2,342	2,713	2,575	2,121	1,458	2,022	2,099	2,133	2,063	1,621	1,194
South Canterbury	527	593	693	656	577	380	495	560	627	575	481	262
Otago	2,193	2,491	2,635	2,588	1,986	1,422	2,117	2,280	2,277	2,252	1,650	1,030
Southland	1,024	1,184	1,258	1,170	908	603	966	1,093	1,110	1,031	786	477
For the colony	14,702	15,963	17,612	16,353	12,655	8,378	13,720	14,436	14,922	13,793	10,343	6,365
In 1899	15,121	16,149	17,342	16,260	12,694	7,979	14,579	15,085	14,056	12,515	9,582	6,404