

TABLE A2.—COMPARISON OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, &c.—*continued*.

Districts.	Average Attendance.		
	1905.	1904.	Difference.
Marlborough	1,633	1,629	4
Nelson	4,831	4,712	119
Grey	1,381	1,384	- 3
Westland	901	927	- 26
North Canterbury	16,871	16,671	200
South Canterbury	4,501	4,444	57
Otago	17,438	17,397	41
Southland	8,476	8,319	157
Totals, South Island	56,032	55,483	549
Totals for colony	120,265	116,506	3,759

It will be seen from this table that there has been a very marked increase in average attendance in the Auckland District, placing it well ahead of other districts in this respect. The next largest increases shown are in the Wellington, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury Districts, in none of which, however, is the rate of increase noted in the previous year fully maintained. The calculation of the daily attendance according to the working average came into force in 1894. In that year the attendance for the North Island was 46,830, and that for the South Island was 58,166. During the next five years there was an unbroken (but gradually diminishing) increase each year in the North Island, amounting altogether to 7,000. In the South Island, after an increase in the first two years of 1,515, there was a net falling-off of 1,670. During the subsequent five years the increase in the North Island was 7,193 and the falling-off in the South Island 1,003. For the whole period (1895–1905) the increase in the North Island has amounted to 30 per cent., and the decrease in the South Island to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., of the numbers in 1894.

Table A3 shows the average attendance for the year in each of the education districts of the colony, and also the regularity of attendance of the pupils on the school-rolls.

TABLE A3.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1905.

Education Districts	Roll-numbers.					Average Attendance for Whole Year.			Percentage of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters.	
	Pupils at Be- ginning of Year.	Ad- mitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belong- ing at End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	1905.	1904.
Auckland	29,008	14,325	11,694	31,639	31,673	14,645	12,862	27,507	86·8	84·9
Taranaki	4,532	2,090	1,670	4,952	4,977	2,289	1,963	4,252	85·4	83·9
Wanganui	11,448	5,765	4,727	12,486	12,583	5,692	5,082	10,774	85·6	84·2
Wellington	13,665	7,542	4,952	16,255	16,235	7,453	6,618	14,071	86·7	84·7
Hawke's Bay ..	8,285	3,625	3,040	8,870	8,986	4,026	3,603	7,629	84·9	84·5
Marlborough ..	1,803	654	561	1,896	1,923	864	769	1,633	84·9	83·9
Nelson	5,310	2,000	1,736	5,574	5,639	2,495	2,336	4,831	85·7	84·2
Grey	1,509	553	470	1,592	1,633	682	699	1,381	84·6	83·1
Westland	962	322	260	1,024	1,009	459	442	901	89·3	87·4
North Canterbury ..	18,058	7,238	5,911	19,385	19,568	8,789	8,082	16,871	86·2	85·1
South Canterbury ..	4,888	1,524	1,266	5,146	5,104	2,360	2,141	4,501	88·2	87·5
Otago	18,121	6,502	5,417	19,206	19,436	9,040	8,398	17,438	89·7	88·6
Southland	9,064	3,145	2,611	9,598	9,705	4,439	4,037	8,476	87·3	86·6
Totals for 1905 ..	126,653	55,285	44,315	137,623	138,471	63,233	57,032	120,265	86·9	..
Totals for 1904 ..	125,150	53,298	42,977	135,475	136,282	61,297	55,209	116,506	85·5	..
Difference	1,503	1,987	1,338	2,148	2,189	1,936	1,823	3,759	1·4	..

As regards regularity of school attendance in the several parts of the colony, it is a very gratifying fact that there has been a marked improvement in every district in the colony. Otago, which ever since 1901 has stood at the head of the list, still maintains that position with the fine percentage of 89·7, 1·1 per cent. higher even than last year. Westland, with a percentage of 89·3, and South Canterbury with 88·2 hold second and third places. Auckland, Wellington, and Wanganui have the highest percentages in the North Island. As a whole the South