that many of them are exceedingly delicate infants, are taken into consideration. The sustained prosperity of the colony is having the effect of making it somewhat difficult to find the right class of homes, especially for infants.

During the past five years much greater attention has been paid to the subject of obtaining contributions from parents towards the support of children under industrial-school control. In that time the annual receipts from this source have risen from £1,300 to £3,500, and there is every reason to expect that there will be a proportionate increase in the current year. Last year an average sum of £2 10s. 9d. was recovered from parents for every one of the 1,370 children maintained out of public funds. To bring about such a satisfactory result the closest watchfulness has been necessary. The matter of payments in support of illegitimate children, both by the putative fathers and by the mothers, has received special care. Compositions totalling £180 in two cases have been made during the year by putative fathers, one of these being secured by means of registering the maintenance order against the title of a section of rural land. As showing the importance of co-operation between the Courts, the Police, and the Education Department in this matter, it may be mentioned that in one instance where the Magistrate held the view that undue pressure was brought to bear on parents by the Department, the receipts for a year dwindled to £125 in that centre; but, upon his being succeeded by a Magistrate who strongly holds the view that every person liable to pay for maintenance of a child should be compelled to do so if of sufficient ability, the receipts have steadily risen until they now stand at £520 for the year, and are still increasing.

No. 2.

STATISTICS.

Memorandum for the Hon. the Minister of Education.

In December, 1906, the number on the books of all the industrial schools was 2,075, or 122 more than at the close of the year 1905. On the books of the Government industrial schools there were 1,559, an increase of 139 over the corresponding number for 1905; on the books of the private (Roman Catholic) industrial schools there were 516, or 17 less than at the end of the previous year. Of the total number (2,075) belonging to all schools, 1,370 children were dependent on public funds for maintenance. The remainder (705) may be classified as follows: Licensed to reside with friends, 171; at service, 419; boarded out without payment, 6; adopted, 1; in hospital, 5; in mental hospitals, 6; at the Costley Training Institution, Auckland, under license, 7; in other institutions, 7; in gaol, 1; absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown, 82—namely, 39 from service, 35 from the schools, and 8 from friends.

The following table shows the status of all the inmates at the close of the year:—

Inmates, 31st December, 1906.

Inmates.	Government Schools.											Private Schools.						All Schools.					
	Auckland.		Boy's Training Farm, Weraroa.	Receiving Home, Wellington.		Te Oranga Home.	Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.	Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.	St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Protestant.	Catholic.	Jewish.
	B.	G.	B.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	B.	B.	G.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	G.						
In the schools ..	..	28	126	1	1	49	..	9	106	..	23	41	55	25	108	47	41	382	278	660	308	351	1
Boarded out ..	45	22	18	145	86	..	99	86	4	95	83	..	..	..	..	1	6	406	284	690	615	75	..
With friends ..	2	2	39	9	8	2	6	5	35	3	12	2	1	6	27	8	4	123	48	171	108	63	..
At service ..	2	18	49	13	7	8	34	40	62	5	55	12	26	21	46	16	5	223	196	419	288	131	..
Adopted ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	..	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6	6	..	..
In mental hospitals	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6	5	1	..
In School for Deaf-mutes	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	1	..
At Costley Training Institution	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	19	17	2	..
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions	..	1	..	..	..	8	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	12	12	5	7	..
Under control of orphanage, cottage home, &c.	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6	6	..	..
In gaol ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown	..	..	15	..	..	5	2	..	41	1	1	3	..	..	13	1	..	75	7	82	57	25	..
Totals	69	71	249	170	108	73	145	141	249	106	178	58	83	52	194	73	56	1,240	835	2,075	1,418	656	1
	140			278			286			284		141			267								