

CHATHAM ISLANDS.

During the year 1909 there were four schools in operation in the Chatham Islands—viz., those at Te One, Te Roto, and Matarakau, on the mainland, and a school on Pitt Island.

At the end of 1909 the total number of children under instruction was ninety-two, as compared with eighty-five at the end of the previous year, while the average attendance for the year was ninety-one.

The total expenditure on the schools for the year 1909 was £731 18s. 3d., made up as follows: Salaries and allowances of teachers, £652 16s. 8d.; scholarships, £43 10s.; inspection, £20 3s. 3d.; other expenses, £15 8s. 4d.

The schools at Te One, Matarakau, and Te Roto were examined in the month of December, according to the regulations for the inspection of public schools in New Zealand. The results generally were fair. Pitt Island school was not visited, as time did not permit of any inspection or examination.

One candidate presented himself for an examination in December in connection with the Chatham Islands Scholarship. This candidate satisfied the pass conditions of the regulations, and was accordingly awarded the scholarship.

A. FURTHER DETAILS OF STAFFS, SALARIES, AND ATTENDANCE.

School.	Names of Teachers.	Salaries at End of 1909.	Allowance for Conveyance of Goods.	Attendance.	
				Mean of Average Attendance for Four Quarters of 1909.	Mean of Weekly Roll Number for Four Quarters of 1909.
Te One	Guest, J. J. .. H.M.	£ 200 0 0	25	47	54
	Guest, Mrs. L. R. .. S.	12 10 0	..	..	..
	Ritchie, Miss F. .. Pt. 4	55 0 0	..	..	..
	Lanauze, Miss G. .. Pt. 1	25 0 0	..	..	..
Pitt Island ..	Hutchinson, J. .. M.	90 0 0	15	11	11
Te Roto	Connor, J. .. M.	108 0 0	15	24	26
Matarakau ..	Hough, Miss E. .. F.	90 0 0	..	9	10
Total		580 10 0	55	91	101

II.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

If we examine the Education Reports of the last five years we find certain facts, which may be exhibited as follows:—

Percentage of the roll of public schools in the P. classes	1906. 28·3	1907. 29·4	1908. 31·1	1908. 34·3	1909. 36·4
Percentage of roll of age over 5 but not over 8	29·8	30·0	30·1	30·5	31·1

The figures in the first line are somewhat startling: very definite causes must have contributed to the marked increase in the proportion of pupils in the preparatory classes. The following possible causes immediately suggest themselves:—

(1.) There may have been an increase in the proportion of young children, say, between five and eight years of age in the population of the Dominion during the period in question.

The Registrar-General's figures, however, give no indication of any such increase: in each of the years 1905 and 1909 the proportion of children between five and eight years of age is 6·184 of the European population of the Dominion.

(2.) A larger proportion of children may be entering the schools between ages 5 and 7 than formerly.

That this is the fact appears from Table A: this table shows a general increase, averaging 3 per cent. in the proportion of young children on the rolls, an increase which is largest for boys between five and six years of age.

(3.) A certain proportion of children may be leaving school from the upper classes at an earlier age to go to secondary schools or technical day-schools, or to go to work: this would make the numbers in the lower classes appear relatively larger.