For the whole Dominion, if there are taken into account only the secondary schools that admit free pupils under the Act, we find from Table J5 (E.-6) the following position:—

Total number of pupils, excluding lower departments	4,421
Total net income from endowments (average of three years ending 31st December, 1908)	£11,775
Net income from endowments per head	£2·66
Approximate annual rate of capitation	£10·40
Total available net income per free pupil for salaries and management...	£13·06
Total expenditure on salaries of staff	£45,081
" management	£2,851
" staff salaries, and management	£47,932
Expenditure per head on staff salaries	£10·60
" on management...	£0·64
Total expenditure per head on staff salaries, and management ...	£11·24

The last figure given shows as nearly as may be the actual cost per annum for each pupil, exclusive of those in the lower departments. If we include all the secondary schools this average becomes £13·43 per head. Further details of the income and expenditure of the secondary schools will be found in Tables J6 and J7 of E.-6.

Lower Departments.—The Education Act provides that pupils who have not obtained a certificate of competency in the subjects of Standard V or a higher standard of the public-school syllabus may be admitted to a lower department of a secondary school if they are taught in a separate building or class-room and if no part of the actual cost of their instruction is met out of the endowments of the secondary school. There were lower departments in ten secondary schools during 1909; the total number of pupils in those departments was 189 (114 boys, 75 girls); the total cost of their instruction was £1,476; the total amount of fees received on their account was £1,499.

General Remarks.

Length of Time spent at Secondary Schools.—Table J2 in the special report E.-6 shows the classification of pupils in secondary schools in 1909, according to years of attendance (exclusive of the time, if any, spent in the preparatory departments of such schools). The following is a summary of the returns, so far as they are available, for 1908 and 1909:—

School Age of Pupils in Attendance at Secondary Schools (exclusive of Christ's College) at the End of the Year.

School Age.	1908—28 Schools.			1909—30 Schools.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
First year	951	697	1,648	1,139	792	1,931
Second year	709	517	1,226	682	535	1,217
Third year	368	311	679	424	280	704
Fourth (or a higher) year ...	321	231	552	316	263	579
Total	2,349	1,756	4,105	2,561	1,870	4,431

A careful analysis of these figures, compared with those for the preceding years, shows that out of the total number of pupils entering the upper departments of secondary schools—

25·0 per cent. stay one year,
33·5 " two years,
6·9 " three years, and
34·6 " four years or more.