

Classification and Examination.

Table D is a summary for the whole Dominion of Table D1, which shows the numbers in the several classes for the various districts. The proportion of pupils in the preparatory class, which has for years past been showing a gradual increase, shows a still further and very marked increase for the year from 34·27 to 36·66 per cent. Although this is partly accounted for by the increase of young children in the Dominion, it seems also to suggest that pupils are being kept too long in the preparatory classes.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1909.

Classes.				Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
							1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Class P ..	..	..	..	29,669	26,203	55,872	28·28	29·36	31·11	34·27	36·66
" S1 ..	..	..	..	9,678	8,990	18,668	12·06	12·08	12·05	11·96	12·25
" S2 ..	..	..	..	9,439	8,580	18,019	11·95	12·18	12·10	11·61	11·82
" S3 ..	..	..	..	8,931	8,350	17,281	12·67	12·17	12·04	11·98	11·34
" S4 ..	..	..	..	8,661	7,768	16,429	12·03	11·79	11·46	11·20	10·78
" S5 ..	..	..	..	7,291	6,560	13,851	10·69	10·59	10·24	9·65	9·08
" S6 ..	..	..	..	5,202	4,798	10,000	8·37	8·24	7·79	6·87	6·56
" S7 ..	..	..	..	1,116	1,180	2,296	3·95	3·59	3·21	2·46	1·51
Totals..	..	..	..	79,987	72,429	152,416	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The following is a summary of the examination statistics for 1909 :—

Total roll at time of annual examination	...	...	...	153,161
Present at examination	...	...	...	145,496
Present in preparatory classes	...	...	...	52,888
Present in classes S6	...	...	...	9,480
" classes S7	...	...	...	1,938
Standard VI certificates gained, viz.,—				
Certificates of proficiency	...	...	6,403	8,465
" competency	...	...	2,062	

Details of these figures for each district are given in Table D2.

S6 Certificates.—The percentage of pupils who gained certificates of proficiency and certificates of competency respectively in the three years 1907–9 are shown below :—

				1907.	1908.	1909.
				Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Gained certificates of proficiency	...	...	...	59·00	61·96	67·54
" competency	...	...	...	23·98	25·29	21·75
No certificate	...	...	...	17·02	12·75	10·71
				100·00	100·00	100·00

The raising of the standard required for a certificate of proficiency, introduced by the regulations of 1908, has not, therefore, apparently had the effect of lessening the number of such certificates awarded.

Average Age.—The average ages of the pupils in the several classes for the three years 1907–9 were as follows :—

				1907.		1908.		1909.	
				Yrs.	Mo.	Yrs.	Mo.	Yrs.	Mo.
Preparatory classes	...	...	...	7	1	7	2	6	11
Class S1	...	...	...	9	1	9	3	9	2
" S2	...	...	...	10	1	10	3	10	3
" S3	...	...	...	11	1	11	3	11	4
" S4	...	...	...	12	1	12	3	12	3
" S5	...	...	...	13	0	13	1	13	0
" S6	...	...	...	13	10	14	0	13	11
" S7	...	...	...	14	11	14	9	15	0
Mean of average ages	...	...	...	11	5	11	6	11	5

Details for the several districts will be found in Table D3.