

The following are the numbers from the Catholic schools :—

Classes.						Number on Roll at Annual Examination.	Present at Examination.	Average Ages of Pupils in each Class.
								Yrs. mos.
Standard VII	..	..	..	..	..	11	11	15 5
„ VI	..	..	..	..	..	69	67	14 4
„ V	..	..	..	..	..	87	86	12 11
„ IV	..	..	..	..	..	81	77	11 10
„ III	..	..	..	..	..	120	119	11 1
„ II	..	..	..	..	..	87	83	10 0
„ I	..	..	..	..	..	99	97	9 2
Preparatory	..	..	..	..	..	358	344	6 10
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	912	884	11 5*

* Mean of average age.

The total number of pupils on the rolls of the inspected schools in the district at the time of the annual examination was therefore 14,877.

Table IB furnishes a comparison with the numbers given in 1908.

TABLE IB.

Classes.						Number on Roll, 1908.	Number on Roll, 1909.	Average Ages, 1908.	Average Ages, 1909.
									Yrs. mos.
Standard VII	..	..	..	..	..	246	273	14 10	14 11
„ VI	..	..	..	..	..	851	912	13 11	13 11
„ V	..	..	..	..	..	1,231	1,242	13 1	13 2
„ IV	..	..	..	..	..	1,451	1,465	12 3	12 3
„ III	..	..	..	..	..	1,637	1,602	11 2	11 4
„ II	..	..	..	..	..	1,583	1,619	10 3	10 3
„ I	..	..	..	..	..	1,644	1,735	9 2	9 1
Preparatory	..	..	..	..	..	5,005	5,117	7 1	7 0
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	13,648	13,965	..	..
Catholic schools	..	..	..	..	..	778	912	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	14,426	14,877	..	..

From this table it will be seen that there is still a steady increase in the number of pupils attending the primary schools in our district. In the last five years there has been an increase of over two thousand pupils.

The average ages in the various classes show very little change, but there is still a somewhat high percentage of pupils in P. classes. In 1908 the percentage for the Dominion was 34.27; in our district in 1909 it was 36.6. In the 1908 annual report of the Education Department it is pointed out that this increase has been general throughout the Dominion for some years past. The percentage in this district, however, is so high that there is little doubt teachers are keeping the pupils too long a time in the preparatory classes. The following table shows where a number of our schools stand in this matter :—

TABLE II.

School.						Percentage of Primary Pupils in Preparatory Classes.	Average Age.	
							Preparatory-class Pupils.	Standard VI.
								Yrs. mos.
Eltham District High	..	..	..	..	..	38.9	7 1	14 2
Hawera District High	..	..	..	..	..	38	7 5	14 7
Queen's Park	..	..	..	..	..	31.1	7 2	13 7
Marton District High	..	..	..	..	..	38.7	7 2	13 8
Feilding District High	..	..	..	..	..	32.1	7 0	14 4
Campbell Street	..	..	..	..	..	35.9	7 0	14 2
Foxton	..	..	..	..	..	38.9	7 5	14 5
Manaia	..	..	..	..	..	36.9	7 7	13 8
Waverley	..	..	..	..	..	33	7 4	13 11
Patea District High	..	..	..	..	..	39.9	7 1	13 5
Taihape District High	..	..	..	..	..	44.9	7 2	14 0
Raetihi	..	..	..	..	..	34.1	7 4	14 2
Apiti	..	..	..	..	..	36.8	7 1	13 11