

WELLINGTON.

SIR,—

Education Office, Wellington, 15th December, 1909.

We have the honour to submit our annual report on the general condition of the primary schools in the Wellington Education District.

The number of schools in operation during the year 1909 was 162—the same as in 1908.

New schools were opened at Maranui, Lansdowne, Petone West, and Homeburn, while those at Toro, Mangaoronga, and Pakowai were closed. It should be noted, however, that while the new schools represent approximately 800 children, the schools closed were aided schools with roll-numbers totalling not more than twenty children.

In addition to the State schools, nine Catholic schools were visited and reported on. The Normal School was examined by the Principal of the Training College. With the exception of two small household schools, established after the commencement of the school year, every school in the district was visited at least twice during the year.

The following is a summary of the numbers, classes, and average ages of the pupils in attendance :—

Classes.					Number on Roll.	Present at the Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.	
<i>Public Schools.</i>							Yrs. mos.	
Standard VII	...	...	...	...	370	358	14	11
" VI	...	...	...	...	1,382	1,366	13	10
" V	...	...	...	...	1,772	1,725	12	10
" IV	...	...	...	...	2,063	2,025	12	0
" III	...	...	...	...	2,034	1,992	11	0
" II	...	...	...	...	2,100	2,072	9	11
" I	...	...	...	...	2,000	1,937	9	2
Preparatory	...	...	...	...	6,040	5,495	7	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	17,761	16,970	11	4*
<i>Catholic Schools.</i>								
Standard VII	..	..	..	..	14	12	15	0
" VI	..	..	..	..	82	82	14	4
" V	..	..	..	..	154	150	13	0
" IV	..	..	..	..	186	178	12	0
" III	..	..	..	..	173	166	11	8
" II	..	..	..	..	136	124	10	8
" I	..	..	..	..	142	138	9	2
Preparatory	..	..	..	..	457	415	6	2
					1,344	1,265	11	6

* Mean of average age.

The following is a summary of the certificates gained by pupils in the Roman Catholic schools :—

—	Roll.	Present.	Certificates.	
			Proficiency.	Competency.
Pahiatua	63	62	1	1
Otaki	80	76	..	..
Hutt	88	87	7	..
Masterton	138	135	3	2
Thorndon	126	114	2	3
Petone	143	138	..	..
Marist Brothers'	202	198	6	6
Dixon Street	207	188	13	6
Newtown	297	267	8	7
Totals	1,344	1,265	40	25

The total number of children on the roll shows an increase of 345 on last year's total. This increase is mainly in the preparatory classes, which is a very healthy sign. For the first time since 1906 there is a satisfactory increase in the numbers of Standard VI—1,382, as compared with