

Both in the secondary schools and in the secondary departments of district high schools there is a falling-off in the roll towards the end of the year; but the decrease is less marked in the secondary schools than in the secondary departments of the district high schools: in the latter the total roll at the end of the year was 2,142 in 1908 and 1,891 in 1909. The falling-off in the course of the year is more marked in the case of the boys than of the girls: this is due, no doubt, to the fact that more boys leave school to enter employment.

Besides the head teachers, who generally take some part in the secondary instruction, there were employed in 1908 in the secondary departments of district high schools 102 special assistants—55 men and 47 women—and last year 93 special assistants—namely, 43 men and 50 women. The average number of pupils per teacher was 23·1 in 1908 and 23·3 in 1909.

In addition to those in secondary schools and in the secondary departments of district high schools there should properly be included in the number of pupils under secondary instruction in the Dominion (a) the pupils attending certain day classes in connection with technical schools, which in this regard may be called technical high schools; and (b) the pupils in various institutions for the secondary education of Maori boys and girls.

The total numbers on the roll of technical day schools at any time during the years 1908 and 1909 were as follows:—

					1908.	1909.
Boys	...	...	...	...	307	345
Girls	..	...	...	...	392	501
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		Totals	...	...	699	846
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The following was the average roll of pupils in secondary schools for Maoris (all of whom were boarders) for the respective years:—

					1908.	1909.
Boys	...	...	...	...	136	169
Girls	...	...	...	..	167	191
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		Totals	...	...	303	360
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Summarizing all these figures, substituting in the case of the secondary schools the average roll for the roll at the end of the year, and excluding pupils in the lower departments of such schools, we obtain the following statement of the numbers receiving some form or other of secondary instruction during the year 1909 (as nearly as can be estimated):—

Secondary schools	...	...	...	...	...	4,834
District high schools	...	...	...	...	...	2,163
Technical day schools	...	...	...	...	...	846
Maori secondary schools...	...	...	...	...	...	360
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		Total	...	...	...	8,203
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The corresponding estimated total for 1908 would be 7,742, so that the decrease in the number of secondary pupils at district high schools has been more than balanced by the increases in the three other groups of schools giving secondary instruction, the total net increase being about 460. The population of the Dominion (exclusive of the Cook Islands) was estimated as 1,008,373 at the 31st December, 1908, so that the proportion of persons receiving some form of secondary instruction in publicly recognized institutions during 1909 was thus 81·4 per 10,000 of the population. In 1906 the corresponding proportion was 72·7 per 10,000, so that there has been a considerable development of secondary education in the Dominion during the three years 1906–9. It may be interesting to note that in Württemberg (a typical German State), New York, and Chicago the latest available figures (1905–6) show the corresponding proportions to have been respectively 71·6, 51·8, 66·8 per 10,000 of the population; while in Switzerland the proportion reaches the astonishingly high standard of 203·1 per 10,000.