

TABLE A.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR EACH YEAR OF AGE BETWEEN FIVE AND EIGHT YEARS OLD, (1) IN THE POPULATION, (2) ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS (EXCLUDING MAORIS).

	Age, Years.	December, 1905.			December, 1910.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(1.) Population	5-6	9,487	9,256	18,743	10,748	10,521	21,269
	6-7	9,300	8,841	18,141	10,508	10,051	20,559
	7-8	8,973	8,717	17,690	10,156	9,932	20,088
	5-8	27,760	26,814	54,574	31,412	30,504	61,916
(2.) Attending public schools .. .	5-6	5,719	5,178	10,897	6,725	6,055	12,780
	6-7	7,193	6,539	13,732	8,959	8,132	17,091
	7-8	7,804	7,348	15,152	9,048	8,344	17,392
	5-8	20,716	19,065	39,781	24,732	22,531	47,263
(3.) Number attending public schools (2), expressed as percentage of population	5-6	60.3	55.8	58.1	62.6	57.5	60.1
	6-7	77.3	74.0	75.7	85.3	80.9	83.1
	7-8	87.0	84.3	85.7	89.1	84.0	86.6
	5-8	74.6	71.1	72.9	78.7	73.9	76.3

It is obvious, therefore, that we cannot look to the possible causes (1) and (3) for an explanation of the matter. No. (2) only partly accounts for the increases in the preparatory classes, and it remains to examine No. (4). In December, 1905, there were nearly 3,000 children less in the preparatory classes than there were children under eight years of age attending school (36,823, as against 39,781); whereas in 1910 the number of children in the preparatory classes exceeded the number under eight years of age attending school by over 8,000 (55,563, as against 47,263).

TABLE B.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN BETWEEN FIVE AND EIGHT YEARS OF AGE AND BETWEEN TWELVE AND FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN THE POPULATION AND ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND NUMBER IN PREPARATORY CLASSES (EXCLUDING MAORIS).

	December, 1905.			December, 1910.			Increase per cent., 1905-10.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(1.) Number of population between five and eight years of age	27,760	26,814	54,574	31,412	30,504	61,916	13.2	13.8	13.5
(2.) Number of children attending public schools between five and eight years of age	20,716	19,065	39,781	24,732	22,531	47,263	19.4	18.2	18.8
(3.) Number of children in the preparatory classes of the public schools	19,580	17,243	36,823	29,479	26,084	55,563	50.5	51.3	50.9
(4.) Number of population between twelve and fifteen years of age	26,031	25,526	51,557	29,544	29,084	58,628	13.5	13.9	13.7
(5.) Number attending public schools between twelve and fifteen years of age	16,271	14,382	30,653	18,486	16,676	35,162	13.6	15.9	14.7

From the above table it will be seen that the increases are as follows :—

Population between five and eight	..	..	..	7,142, or 13.5 per cent.
On the rolls between five and eight	..	..	..	7,482, or 18.8 per cent.
In preparatory classes	..	..	..	18,740, or 50.9 per cent.

The average ages of the pupils in Standard I and Standard VI respectively in December of the last five years have been as follows (in years and months) :—

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Standard I	9 0	9 1	9 3	9 2	9 2
Standard VI	13 9	13 10	14 0	13 11	14 0