

The following table summarizes statistics in respect of enrolment at the close of 1910:—

| Classes.        |     |     |     |     |     | Number on Roll. | Present at the Annual Examination. | Average Age of Pupils in Each Class. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                 |     |     |     |     |     |                 |                                    | Yrs. mos.                            |
| Standard VII    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34              | 23                                 | 14 9                                 |
| " VI            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 187             | 173                                | 14 1                                 |
| " V             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 210             | 204                                | 13 1                                 |
| " IV            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 247             | 238                                | 12 4                                 |
| " III           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 284             | 276                                | 11 4                                 |
| " II            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 255             | 240                                | 10 3                                 |
| " I             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 275             | 266                                | 9 3                                  |
| Preparatory     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 801             | 743                                | 7 1                                  |
| Totals for 1910 |     |     |     |     |     | 2,293           | 2,163                              | ...                                  |
| Totals for 1909 |     |     |     |     |     | 2,293           | 2,206                              | 11 6*                                |

\* Mean of average age.

It will be observed that the total roll-number is the same for 1909 as for 1910. Some of the larger schools have fallen off, but small schools have increased. There is either more settlement in the country or the natural increase tends to remain there; but from the closer-settled districts there is much drifting-off to Wellington and other parts of the North Island. It is strange that a land so gifted with natural endowment as Marlborough is should be unable to retain its people. There is evidently a call for statesmanship to discover the causes operating, and their remedy. The following table shows the average roll-number since 1905: 1905, 1,913; 1906, 2,030; increase, 117; 1907, 2,065; increase, 37; 1908, 2,142; increase, 77; 1909, 2,293; increase, 151; 1910, 2,293; increase, 0.

Four private schools furnished returns, showing a total enrolment of 197, with 189 present.

The examination for leaving-certificates continues in the hands of the Inspector. Except in a few remote schools, Standard VI was examined in December. On the roll were 201 pupils; 190 were tested, and ninety-three certificates of proficiency and forty-three of competency awarded. In 1909 the totals were seventy-seven of proficiency and fifty of competency. Twelve certificates of proficiency and four of competency were awarded to pupils of private schools. The "good" schools of the year were: Picton, Waitohi, Ocean Bay, Renwick, Ugbrooke, Separation Inlet, Tua Marina, Marshlands, Spring Creek, Waitaria Bay, and St. Joseph's Girls'. Six schools were classed "weak"; all but one were in Grade 0; their total was thirty-seven.

ATTENDANCE.—For 1910 the standard of duty was 420 half-days. Only thirty schools reached the standard; fifty-two were open 410 half-days; fifty-eight were open 400 half-days. The following table shows the number of schools open 400 half-days: 1904, 34; 1905, 29 (teacher attended winter classes ten half-days this year); 1906, 39; 1907, 38; 1908, 51; 1909, 47 (jubilee year of Marlborough, one week's extra holiday); 1910, 58.

Twelve small schools operated less than four quarters, and a number of others lost time owing to change of teachers. Of schools open 400 half-days, forty-one reached 91 per cent. or upwards of attendance. There were only twenty-six in 1909.

The average attendance for the whole district during 1910 was 89.2 per cent. of the average roll, which is the highest yet recorded. The figures given hereunder summarize the results of the last eight years: 1903, 82.6 per cent.; 1904, 83.9 per cent.; 1905, 84.9 per cent.; 1906, 85.3 per cent.; 1907, 84.6 per cent. (epidemics prevalent); 1908, 87.5 per cent.; 1909, 88.6 per cent.; 1910, 89.2 per cent.

CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHERS.—In December, 1910, the staff were qualified as under:—

| —                                                                                   |    |    |    |    | Certificated. | Licensed. | Uncertificated. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| Head teachers                                                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12            | ..        | ..              | 12     |
| Sole teachers                                                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16            | 1         | 57              | 74     |
| Assistants                                                                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12            | ..        | 6               | 18     |
| Totals                                                                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40            | 1         | 63              | 104    |
| Pupil-teachers                                                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..            | ..        | ..              | 6      |
| Probationers                                                                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..            | ..        | ..              | 3      |
| Cookery and woodwork instructors                                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..            | ..        | ..              | 2      |
| Part-time instructors (agricultural, model-drawing, physical measurements, singing) | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..            | ..        | ..              | 4      |
| Grand totals                                                                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40            | 1         | 63              | 119    |